

(No Model.)

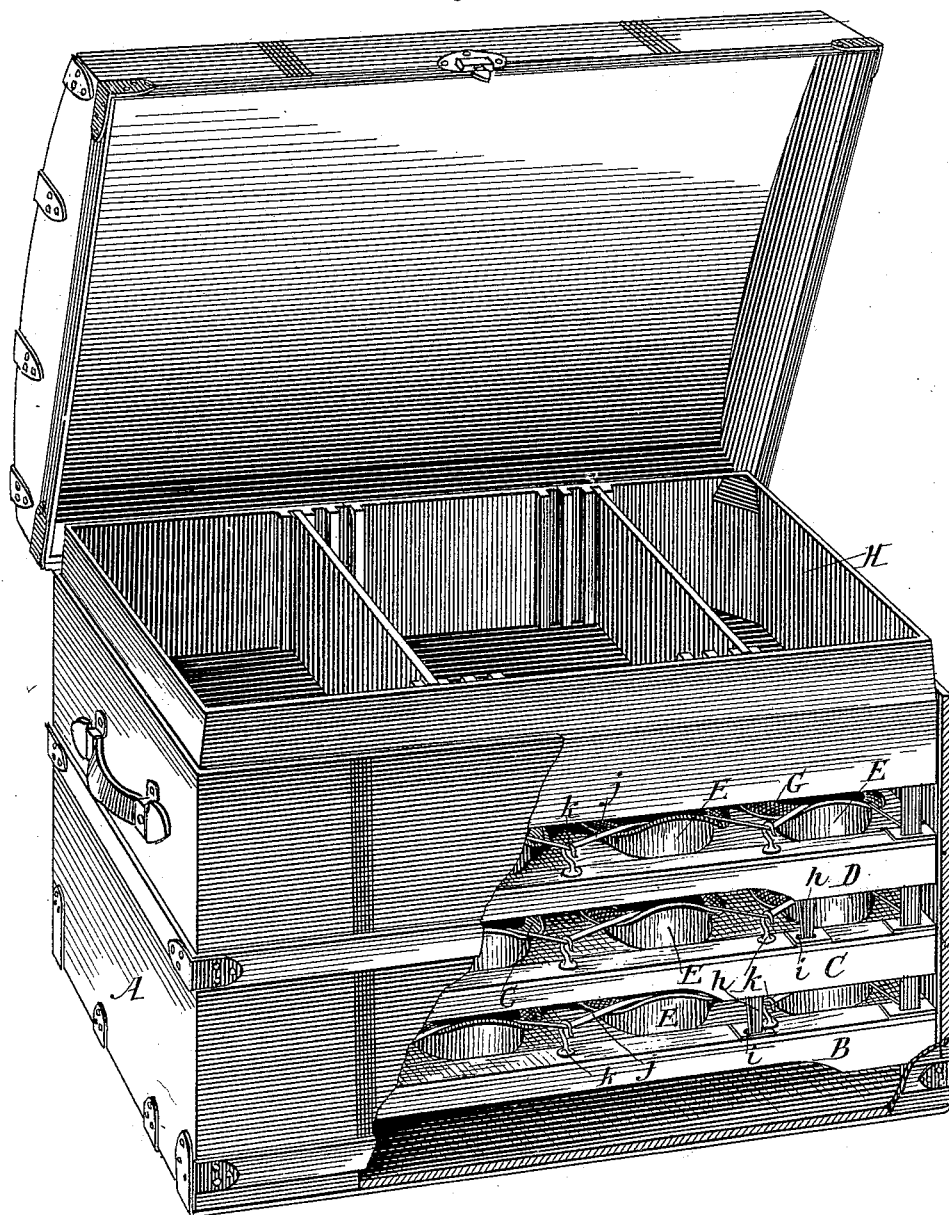
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D. J. BARD.  
CRATE.

No. 420,855.

Patented Feb. 4, 1890.

*Fig. 1.*



Witnesses:  
Albert H. Adams.  
Harry T. Jones.

Inventor:  
David J. Bard

(No Model.)

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Fig. 2.

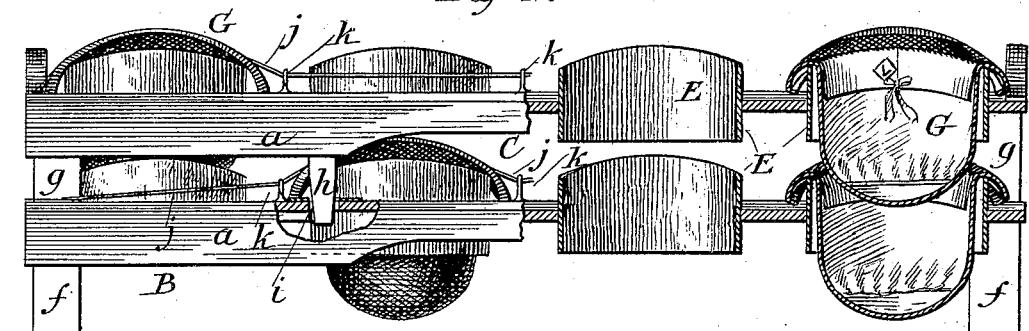
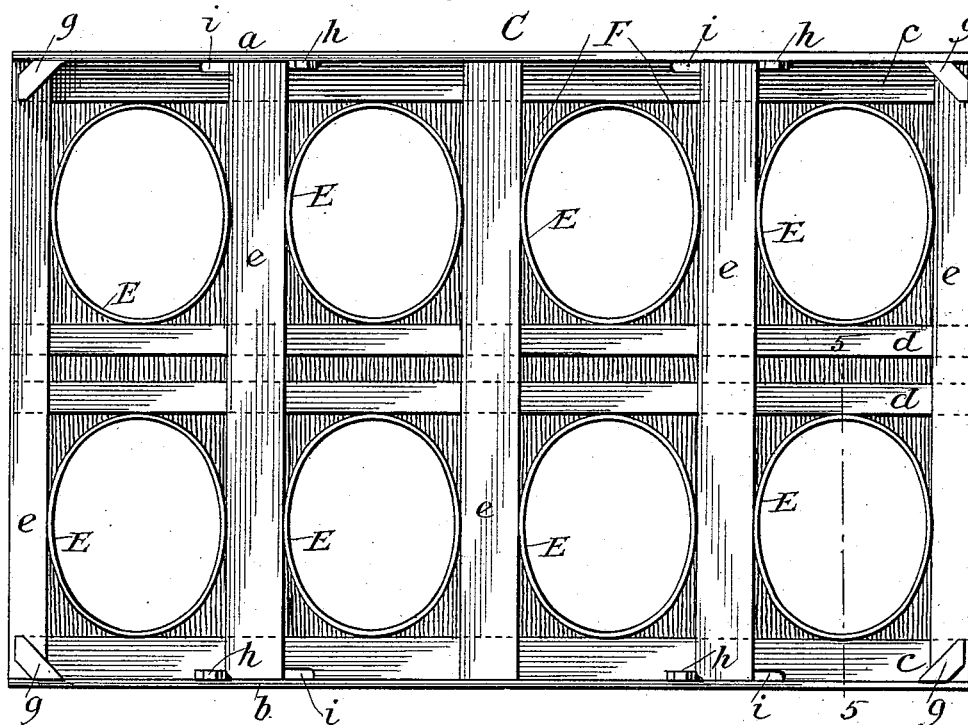


Fig. 3.



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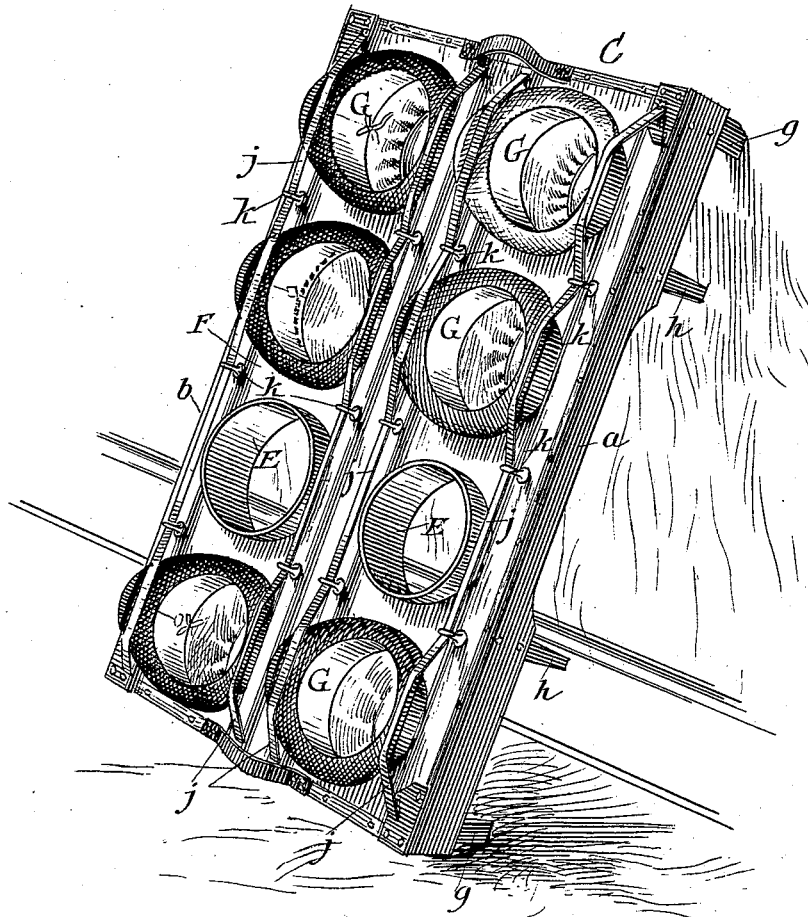
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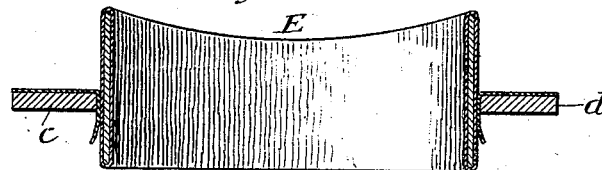
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*Fig. 4.*



*Fig. 5.*



Witnesses:  
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*Harry F. Jones.*

Inventor:  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID J. BARD, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND FRED-  
ERICK F. HAIGH, OF SAME PLACE.

## CRATE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 420,855, dated February 4, 1890.

Application filed November 30, 1889. Serial No. 332,157. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, DAVID J. BARD, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, and a citizen of the United States, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Hat Carriers and Exhibitors, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective showing a trunk with my improved hat carrier and exhibitor therein. Fig. 2 is a detail showing two of the carriers, one above the other, one half being in elevation, the other half in section. Fig. 3 is an under side view of one of the carriers. Fig. 4 is a perspective showing one of the carriers, which is supposed to be standing in an inclined position against a wall or other support. Fig. 5 is a detail, being a section at line 5 5 of Fig. 3, the carrier in this figure being right side up.

My improvement relates to devices for carrying and exhibiting stiff hats. It is customary for traveling salesmen engaged in the business of selling hats to carry a number of samples of stiff hats packed in trunks. Such samples have heretofore been packed for transportation by placing them inside of each other, and they become creased and marred, so that their value for sale is much lessened. Such samples when exhibited have been heretofore placed upon tables, and the hats are liable to become soiled.

The object of my invention is to provide improved devices by means of which a number of stiff hats can be safely, readily, and quickly packed in a trunk for transportation, each hat being so supported that it is detached from the others, so that the hats are not liable to be injured one by the other; also, to provide at the same time better means for exhibiting hats than heretofore, which I accomplish as illustrated in the drawings and as hereinafter described.

That which I claim as new will be pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, A represents a trunk.

B C D are three of my hat carriers and exhibitors, each, as shown, being adapted to receive eight hats. Except as hereinafter mentioned, these three carriers are alike. Each

carrier consists of a frame and receptacles for the hats. Each frame, as shown, consists of two vertical side pieces *a b*, longitudinal strips *c d*, and a number of cross-pieces *e*. As shown, the longitudinal strips *c* are secured to the vertical pieces *a b*, and the cross-pieces *e* are secured to the under side of the longitudinal strips.

E are strips or rings of pasteboard or other suitable material, which strips or rings are secured in vertical position to the longitudinal strips and the cross-strips, as seen in Figs. 2 and 3. Each of these vertical strips or rings is designed and adapted to receive the body of a stiff hat G. The upper end of each ring extends above the upper surface of the frame, and is so shaped that the brim of the hat rests thereon. The rings E may be covered with cloth.

F represents cloth which covers the upper surface of the frame and fills the spaces outside of the rings E. The lowest carrier B has legs *f*, one at each corner, of such length that the crowns of the hats will not touch the bottom of the trunk. Each of the other carriers is provided with legs *g*, one at each corner, which, when in the trunk, rest on the top of the carrier immediately beneath it, which legs are not as long as the legs *f*, because the crowns of the hats in these two carriers partly enter the hats below. Each of these carriers C D is also provided with four other legs *h*, which are a little longer than the legs *g*, so that when the receptacle is removed from the trunk and placed on a table or floor the crowns of the hats therein will not come in contact with such table or floor. When these receptacles are in place in the trunk, these legs *h* enter holes *i* in the strips *c* of the frame next below, thus saving some space in the trunk.

*j* are elastic straps which are provided for each frame. The ends of these straps are secured to their appropriate frame, and are arranged to pass over the brims of the hats to hold them in place.

*k* are hooks secured to the several frames between two adjoining hats, beneath which hooks the straps *j* can be placed when the hats are in place, and from which hooks the straps can be released easily when the hats

are being placed in or removed from the carrier.

When the hats are to be exhibited, the carriers are to be removed from the trunk, and they can be placed upon a table in an inclined position, as shown in Fig. 4, or they can be placed in a horizontal position. If desired, when exhibiting the hats, the carriers being in a horizontal position, the hats can be removed from the rings E and placed on their sides, the crown or brim of each hat resting on one of the rings E.

H is a tray designed to receive and hold goods other than the stiff hats G.

I do not limit myself to the use of frames constructed exactly as described; but I know of no more convenient way of making them. The carriers may be of such size as to be adapted to receive a less number of hats than eight.

I have shown three carriers in Fig. 1. A greater or less number may be used.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is as follows:

1. A hat-carrier consisting of a horizontal frame or support having a number of openings therein, each adapted to receive the crown of a hat, in combination with vertical hat-supporting rings E, secured one within each of said openings and projecting upward above the surface of the said frame, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

2. A hat-carrier consisting of a horizontal

frame or support having a number of openings therein, each adapted to receive the crown of a hat, in combination with vertical hat-supporting rings E, secured one within each of said openings and projecting upward above the surface of the said frame, straps *j*, arranged to pass over the brims of hats, and hooks *k*, secured to the frame or support, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

3. A hat-carrier consisting of a frame, in combination with vertical strips or rings E, secured to the frame, legs *g*, and legs *h*, longer than the legs *g*, all of such legs being attached to the frame, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

4. A hat-carrier consisting of a frame and vertical strips secured thereto, legs *g*, and legs *h*, longer than the legs *g*, in combination with a second carrier provided with holes *i* in its frame to receive the legs *h*, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

5. The combination of a trunk and a series of hat-carriers, one above the other, each carrier consisting of a frame provided with legs, and a series of hat-supporting strips or rings E, secured to the frame, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

DAVID J. BARD.

Witnesses:

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