No. 617,713. Patented Jan. 17, 1899.

G. A. BRACKETT.

MESS CHEST.

(Application filed Dec. 23, 1897.)

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig 1.

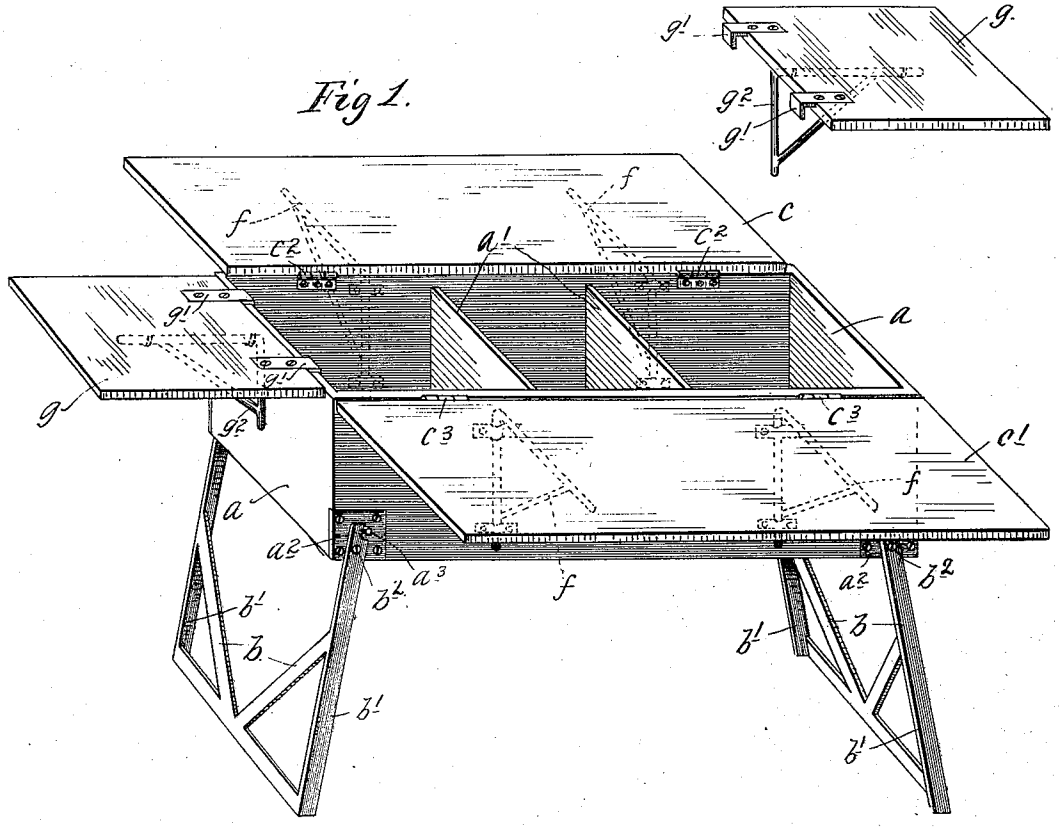
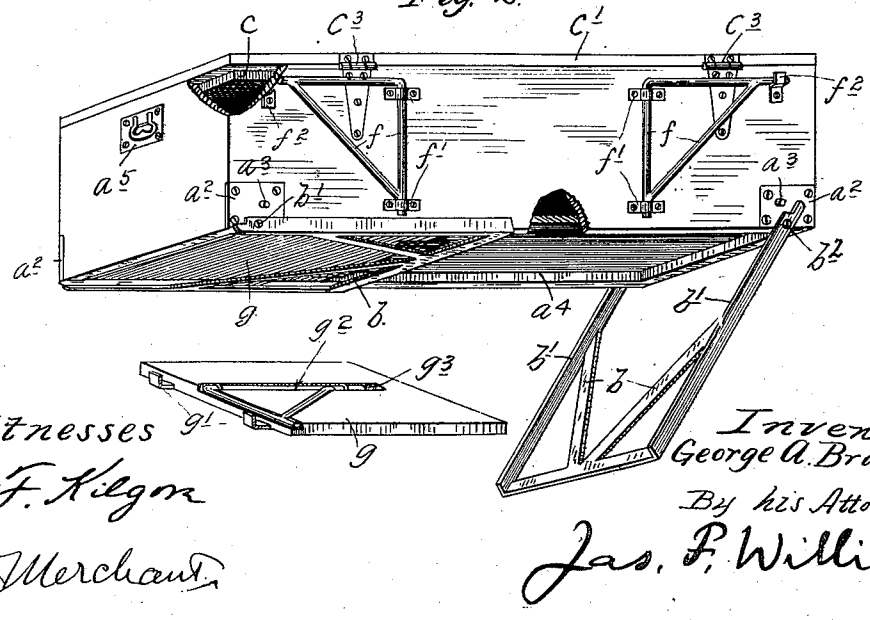


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

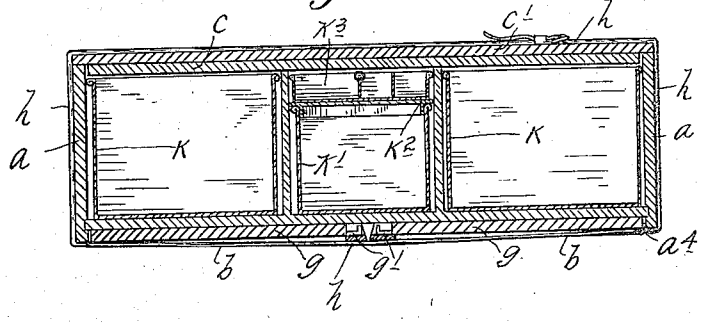
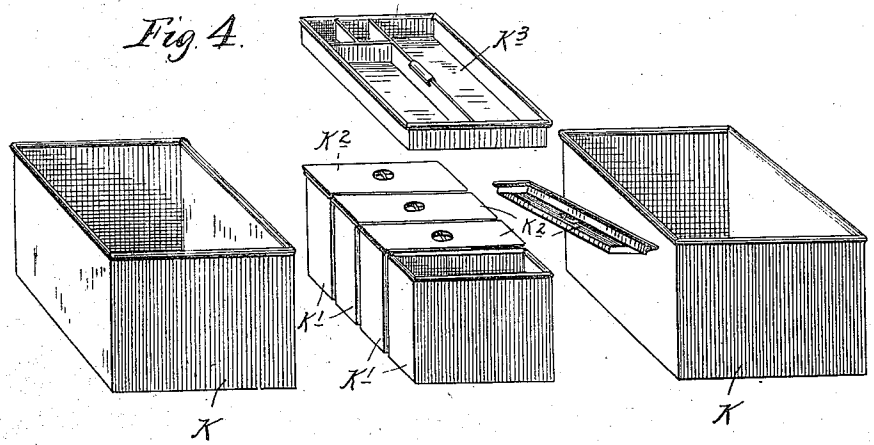


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE A. BRACKETT, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

MESS-CHEST

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 617,713, dated January 17, 1899.

Application filed December 23, 1897. Serial No. 663,171. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE A. BRACKETT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Minneapolis, in the county of Hennepin and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mess-Chests; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention has for its object to provide an improved mess-chest having parts which when spread or opened up adapt the device to be used as a table.

To these ends my invention consists of the novel devices and combinations of devices hereinafter described, and defined in the claims.

My improved mess-chest has been especially designed to meet the various requirements of such persons as, for example, miners, woodmen, and campers or, more generally, persons required to move from place to place or who live in remote districts, where better accommodations are not available.

The preferred form of my improved mess-chest and appurtenances is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein like characters indicate like parts throughout the several views.

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the chest with its leaves opened up, one of said leaves being shown as raised out of working position. Fig. 2 is a perspective view with some parts broken away, showing the chest with all the parts folded except one of the legs and one of the end leaves, said leg being partially opened and said end leaf being removed from its seat in the bottom of the chest. Fig. 3 is a vertical longitudinal section taken centrally through the chest, the parts of said chest being shown as folded or packed for shipment; and Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the cans or boxes with which the chest is adapted to be filled.

a indicates the body of an oblong chest, which, as shown, is divided into compartments by means of partitions *a'*. The chest *a* is adapted to be supported by means of legs in the form of end brackets *b b'*, which are pivoted to the corners of the chest *a*, as shown at b^2, and when folded the leg-flanges *b* embrace the sides of said chest. As shown, the leg-brackets *b* are pivoted at b^2 to corner-irons a^2, secured to the lower corners of the chest, and the chest is provided with stop-pins a^3, against which the upper or projecting ends of the legs strike to limit the spread of the same. These leg-brackets *b b'* are preferably malleable castings.

The chest *a* is provided with a pair of outwardly-opening leaves *c* and *c'*, which are hinged to the opposite sides thereof, respectively, by hinges c^2 and c^3. The leaf *c* is so secured, by means of its hinges c^2, that when it is folded, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, it will be turned inward and will lie flush with or below the upper edge of the chest *a*. When the other leaf *c'* is folded, as illustrated in said Figs. 2 and 3, it will lie in a plane immediately over the folded leaf *c* and will rest upon the upper edge of the chest *a*. To accomplish the ends just noted, the leaf *c* is cut of such size that it will fit within the chest *a*, and the partitions *a'* are set down below the upper edge of the chest approximately the thickness of said leaf *c*, while the leaf *c'* is of a size to cover the chest.

The leaves *c* and *c'* when opened out, as shown in Fig. 1, are supported by means of triangular brackets *f*, which are hinged for horizontal movement to the sides of the chest *a* by means of hinge-irons or keeper-brackets *f'*. As shown, there are two of these brackets *f* thus secured to each side of the chest, and when the same are out of use they are adapted to be turned against the sides of the chest and there held by means of pivoted buttons or catches f^2, mounted on said chest.

g indicates end leaves which are detachably securable one to each end of the chest *a* by means of hook-irons *g'* and folding triangular brackets g^2, both of which parts are secured to said leaves *g*. The triangular brackets g^2 are hinged to the bottoms of the leaves *g*, and when folded are adapted to enter corresponding seats g^3 in said leaves. When the end leaves *g* are held in working position, the hook-irons *g'* engage over the upper edges of the ends of the chest *a*, while the downturned brackets g^2 bear against the

ends of the chest and will retain their vertical or proper working position by gravity.

The chest a is provided in its bottom with a rectangular or oblong recess or seat a^4, formed by extending the vertical walls of the chest downward a short distance below the bottom of the chest. This recess or seat a^4 is adapted to receive both of the end leaves g when their brackets g^2 are folded into the recesses g^3, as shown in Fig. 2. When the leaves g are placed in the seat a^4, the leg-brackets b may be folded over the same to hold them in position, as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3. A suitable flexible connection, such as a strong strap h, is then applied to the chest by passing the same around the chest, endwise of the same, as shown in Fig. 3, for holding all the parts in their folded or packed positions.

In Fig. 4 I have illustrated a multiplicity of cans or boxes which are designed to be placed in the different compartments of the chest a for holding the provisions and cutlery desired. In the particular construction shown k indicates large cans or boxes, each of which is adapted to fill one of the compartments of the chest. k' indicates a series of smaller cans provided with covers k^2, and k^3 indicates a tray adapted to contain knives, forks, spoons, &c., and which, with the cans k', fill the third or central compartment of the chest. Of course these cans or similar devices may take any desired form suitable for their intended use. As shown, the chest is also provided in its ends with handle-plates a^5, by means of which the chest may be carried.

It is important to note that the side leaves c c' and end leaves g may be opened up or spread out, so as to adapt the device for use as a table without requiring the chest to be unpacked. Hence persons sitting at the table may at any time reach any of the different articles in the chest, thus making it unnecessary to spread out the contents of the chest to make them accessible while eating. This is an obvious advantage.

The device above described may be quickly set up ready for use as a table or knocked down and packed ready for transportation. When the parts of the chest are all folded, the side leaves c c' serve as a lid or cover to tightly close the chest. Considering the functions served thereby, the mess-chest herein disclosed is comparatively cheap, light, and compact.

It is of course obvious that various alterations in the specific details of construction above described may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is as follows:

1. A mess-chest provided with a pair of leaves arranged to be opened in opposite directions, and when folded to overlap in different planes and serve as a cover to said chest, in combination with the right-angle brackets hinged to the sides of said chest, for supporting said leaves when opened up, substantially as described.

2. The combination with the chest a provided in its bottom with the seat a^4, of the folding leg-brackets b b' pivoted to said chest, the side leaves c c' hinged to said chest, and the detachable end leaves g, securable to said chest, by means of the hook-irons g' and folding bracket g^2, and adapted to be placed within said seat a^4, substantially as described.

3. The combination with the chest a, of one or more detachable leaves g having the hooks g' the brackets g^2 and the recesses g^3, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE A. BRACKETT.

Witnesses:
J. W. SMITH,
I. M. LONG.