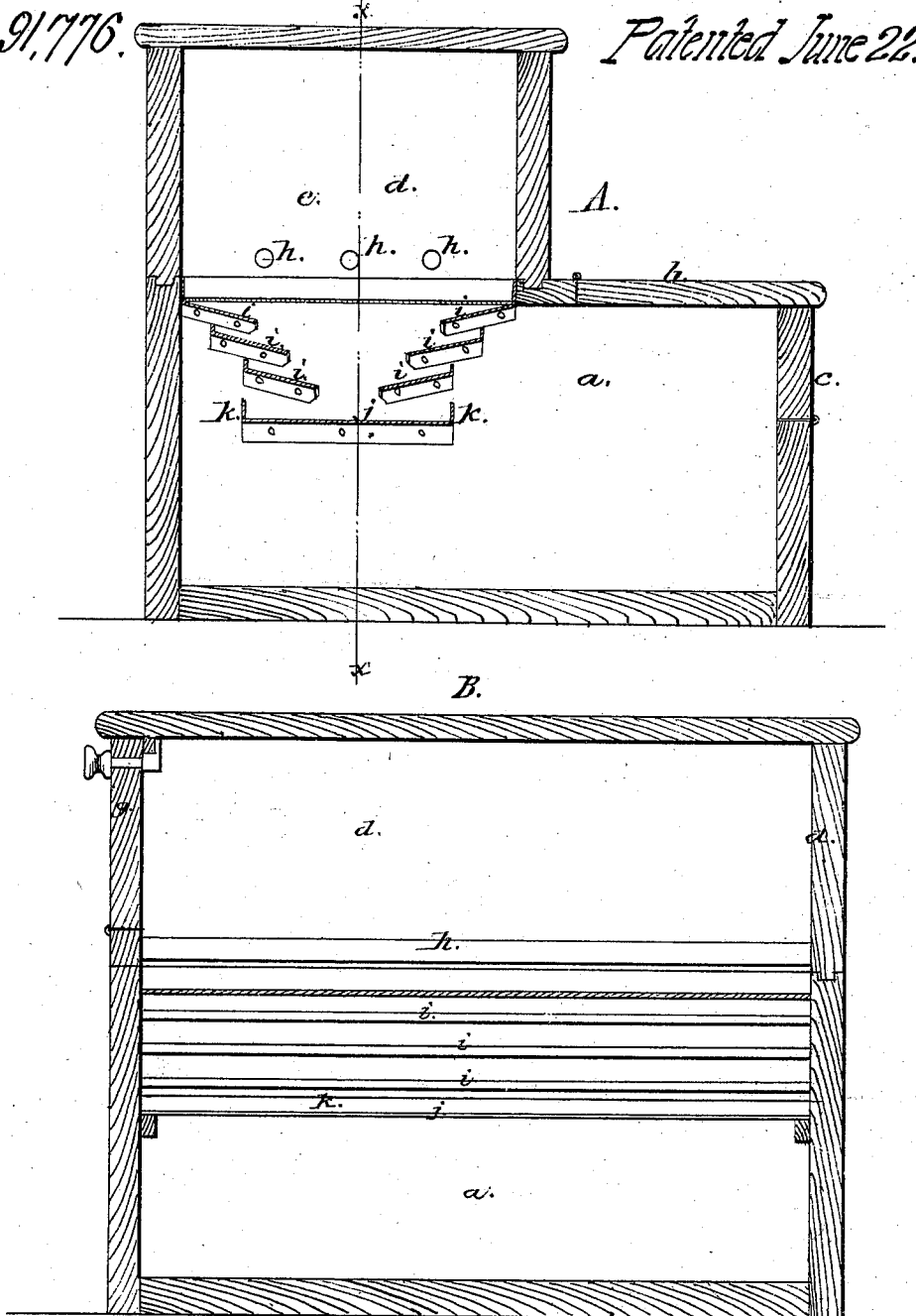


F. S. Sears,

Butter Chest.

No. 91,776.

Patented June 22. 1869.



WITNESSES:
M. W. Frothingham
L. B. Kitter

INVENTOR:
F. S. Sears
by his Atty.
Crosby, Holsten & Gould.

United States Patent Office.

FREDERICK S. SEARS, OF CHARLESTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS.

Letters Patent No. 91,776, dated June 22, 1869.

IMPROVED BUTTER-CHEST.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK S. SEARS, of Charlestown, in the county of Middlesex, and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improved Butter-Chest; and I do hereby declare that the following, taken in connection with the drawings which accompany and form part of this specification, is a description of my invention sufficient to enable those skilled in the art to practise it.

In keeping butter for sale in warm weather, dealers place the butter-containing boxes and firkins in large ice-chests, in which the ice is placed directly upon the bottom of the chest, and as the water from the melted ice is generally imperfectly led off, the butter-firkins and boxes stand in water, greatly to the injury of the butter contained therein, and as the walls of these large chests are generally made of unlined wood, they soon become permeated with water, thereby adding to the impure dampness of the chest.

My invention relates to the construction of such receptacles for butter-containing boxes and firkins, with reference to provision for holding and draining the ice, in such manner as to leave the whole floor-space or body of the chest unobstructed by the ice, which is contained in a chamber over the rear part of the chest, said chamber opening at bottom into the main chamber, through spaces between tiers of draining-shelves, the edges of which shelves overlap, so that if water drips from the edge of one, it falls upon the shelf beneath.

It is in a butter-chest having this construction, that my invention consists.

The drawings represent a chest embodying the improvement.

A shows a vertical cross-section of the chest.

B, a section on the line *x x*.

a denotes a case having a height, in the clear, somewhat in excess of the height of the largest sizes of butter-firkins, and having any desirable length and width in the clear.

At the front part of the top of this case is a lid, *b*, covering an opening, which, when uncovered, freely permits admission and removal of the firkins of butter, a front flap, *c*, being thrown down, if necessary, to facilitate such admission and removal.

Back of the lid *b*, the chest is covered by an upright case, *d*, the space in which forms an ice-containing chamber, *e*, the ice being preferably put into the case through an end opening, *f*, closed by a flap or door, *g*, and resting upon cross-slats or bars *h*.

Below these bars or grid are series of drip-shelves, *i*, each inclining inward, the two inner ones being over a trough or wide shelf, *j*, having at its opposite edges upturned lips, *k*.

The space between the adjacent edges of each two adjacent shelves, allows the air to circulate from all parts of the chest freely against the surfaces of the ice on the grid-bars, and as the cold air descends, it keeps the whole butter-containing chamber frigid or cool, while all the water running from the ice as it melts, drops upon the shelves, and is, by them or by the lower shelf, conducted off through a suitable drain or waste-pipe.

Over the grid-bars a sheet of wire cloth may be laid, to prevent dirt, or other foreign matters upon the ice, from dropping into the butter-containing chamber.

The ice-containing box may be laid upon the chest, (a tongue-and-groove connection enabling the box to be readily removed, and making a sufficiently-tight joint when the box and chest are together,) or the walls of the butter-containing chamber may be extended up, to form the ends and outer side of the same.

I claim the combination of the chest *a*, constructed substantially as described, with the ice-containing chamber *e*, series of dripping-shelves *i*, and trough *j*.

FRED. S. SEARS.

Witnesses:

FRANCIS GOULD,
J. B. CROSBY.