

(No Model.)

W. A. EHLEB & D. O. DAUGHERTY.
DISPLAY REFRIGERATOR.

No. 565,969.

Patented Aug. 18, 1896.

Fig. 1.

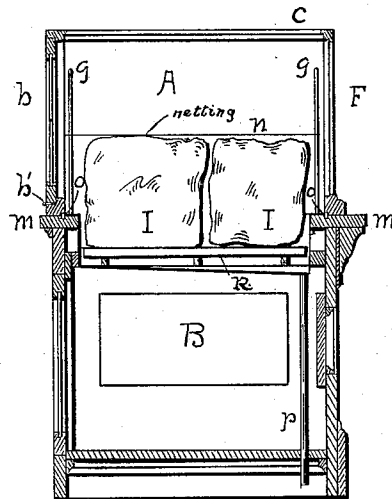
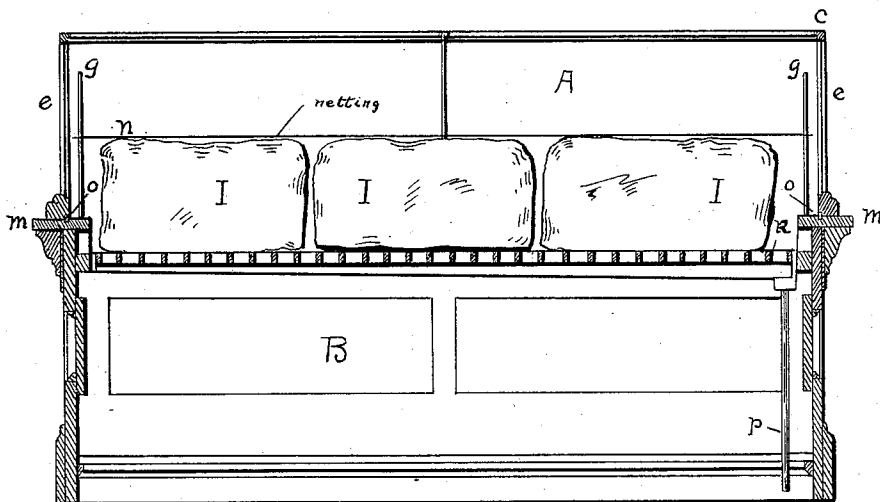


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.

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DISPLAY-REFRIGERATOR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 565,969, dated August 18, 1896.

Application filed December 30, 1895. Serial No. 573,846. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WILLIAM A. EHLEB and DAVID O. DAUGHERTY, citizens of the United States, residing at Rock Island, in the county of Rock Island and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Vegetable-Cases, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to vegetable-cases having transparent sides adapted to display fresh vegetables for sale in the open market or retail stores; and its object is to provide such a case as will preserve green vegetables fresh and crisp for a long time and at the same time be by its construction adapted to display them for sale and keep them convenient for removal when sold. We attain this object by means of the mechanism and construction set forth in the specification and claims and shown in the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings, wherein the same character of reference refers to the same part in both views, Figure 1 is a vertical transverse section of the device. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section of the same.

The case consists of a lower body B and an upper ice-chamber A. The lower portion or body B, preferably constructed of wood, has its top let down so as to form the bottom of the ice-chamber A, and its walls are capped by plates *m m*, projecting inward, so as to form a shoulder extending around the interior of the ice-chamber three or four inches above the bottom. A tongue or flange *o* is rabbeted into the plate *m m* and holds the cover, or case proper, *c*, from slipping off.

The case *c* has its top, ends, and front constructed of glass, and has a door or doors *b* in its back, hinged at *b'*, adapted for taking out and putting in vegetables. The case *c* is lifted entirely off the lower portion B and set to one side whenever it becomes necessary to replenish the ice, and its side and end walls are grooved on the bottom, so as to fit snugly on and over the tongue *o*.

The bottom of the ice-chamber A is lined with zinc or other suitable material and is inclined, so that the water from the melting ice flows to one corner of the box and is discharged through the drip-pipe *p*. A rack R is placed on the bottom of the ice-chamber A, its lower

portion being adapted to correct the incline of the bottom, so that its upper surface is horizontal. Guide-rods *g* of brass, aluminium, or other non-corroding metal or material are set in the shoulder *m* and project upward.

The ice-chamber is kept partially filled with prismatic blocks of ice I, as shown in the drawings. A wire gauze or netting *n* (shown as a line in the drawings) rests upon the ice and is provided at the end and sides with eye-holes adapted to receive the guide-rods. As the ice gradually melts the wire-netting follows it downward, sliding on the rods and resting on the ice. The vegetables are laid upon the netting, thus being constantly in close proximity to the ice without actually coming in contact with it. When the upper surface of the ice is lowered below the shoulders *m*, the downward progress of the wire-netting is arrested. Thus the vegetables are kept in position to be seen through the glass top and sides of the upper chamber. The exterior of the vegetable-case may be finished ornamentally.

The advantages derived from the use of this device are chiefly as follows: The vegetables are kept fresh and crisp for a long period without the liability of spoiling, as is the case when water is used. The refrigerating device serves at the same time as a showcase, enabling vegetables to be conspicuously displayed, and, further, by the use of this device a large part of the handling and consequent injury of the vegetables is avoided.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A refrigerator comprising a lower or base portion having an ice-rack arranged at its upper part but below the plane of its edge an upper cover resting on the lower portion, the guides *g* extending from the base upwardly and the wire-netting movable vertically on the guides *g* to rest on the ice and hold the articles in proximity thereto.

2. In combination in a refrigerator, the casing, the ice-rack, the guides extending upwardly in the ice-chamber and the netting on said guides movable downwardly to rest on the ice.

3. In combination, the base portion having the ice-rack at its upper part and having a

ledge extending inwardly, the upper cover resting on the ledge, the guides extending up from the inner edge of the ledge and the netting resting on the ice and movable on said guides.

5 4. A refrigerating display-case consisting of a lower box B, a case with transparent walls set thereon so as to form an ice-chamber A, a shoulder *m*, guide-rods *g*, *g*, wire-

netting *n*, and means for conducting off waste water from the ice-chamber A, as described.

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Witnesses:

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