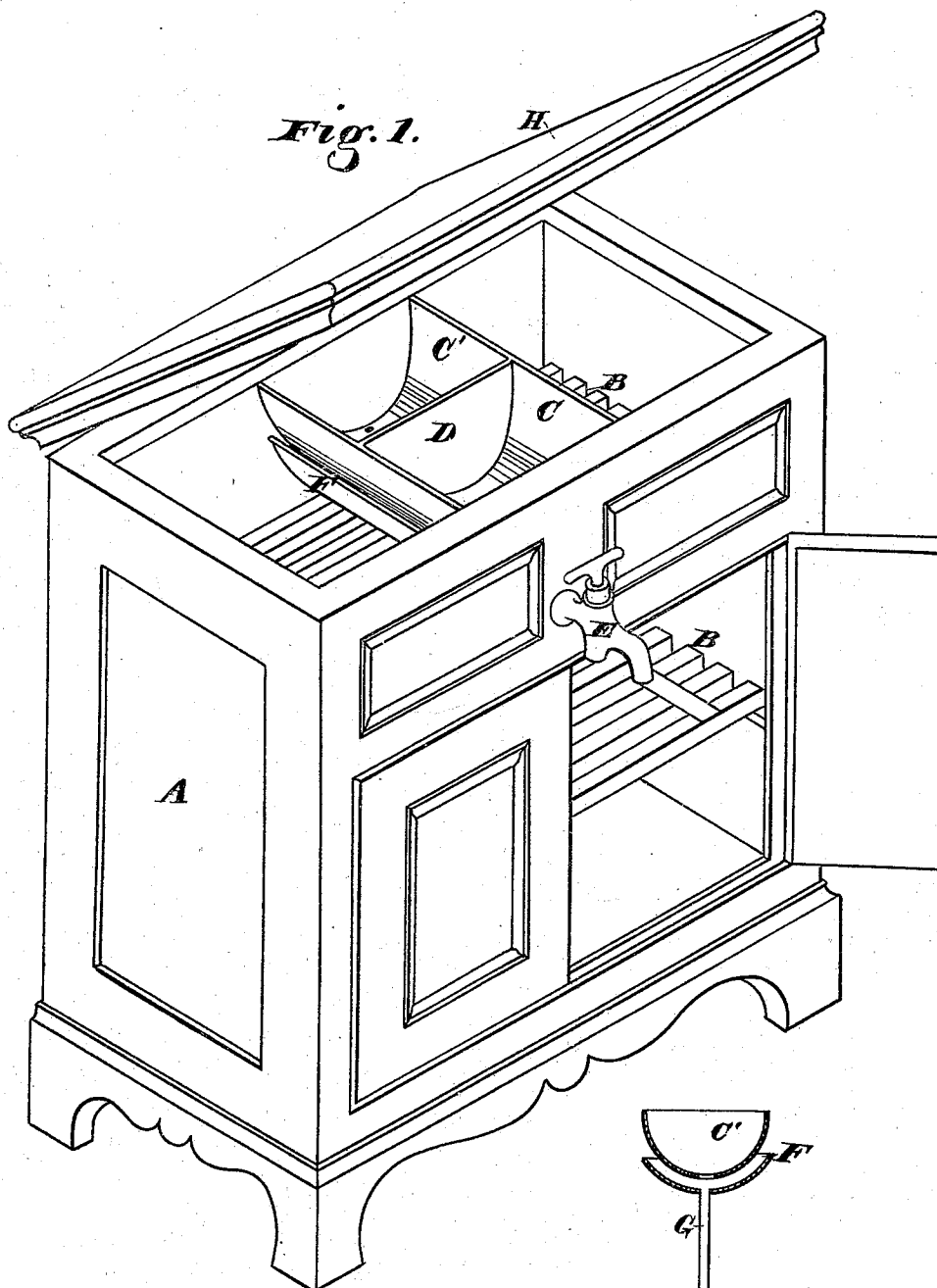


E. K. HOWES.
REFRIGERATOR.

No. 173,791.

Patented Feb. 22, 1876.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD K. HOWES, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN REFRIGERATORS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **173,791**, dated February 22, 1876; application filed August 19, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD K. HOWES, of San Francisco city and county, State of California, have invented an Improved Refrigerator and Water-Cooler Combined; and I do hereby declare the following description and accompanying drawings are sufficient to enable any person skilled in the art or science to which it most nearly appertains to make and use my said invention or improvement without further invention or experiment.

My invention relates to a cabinet or chest which is adapted to be used both for the preservation of meats, fruit, vegetables, and like substances, and as a water-cooler to supply water for drinking purposes.

My invention consists in a simple and convenient arrangement of the ice and water chambers, so that they will be out of the way and not interfere with the space allotted to the articles or substances to be preserved, and by which their contents will be isolated completely from each other and from the contents of the food-chamber. It also relates to the construction and disposition of the ice and water chambers, by which they are rendered more convenient and effective.

Referring to the accompanying drawings for a more complete explanation of my invention, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention.

A is the cabinet or case inside of which the ice and water tanks and shelves are arranged. The lower part of the cabinet or case I provide with as many shelves B as may be desired, and these shelves extend entirely across the case in the ordinary manner of constructing the shelves of a cupboard or kitchen-safe. In the upper part of the cabinet or case, just below the top or cover H, I place the ice and water tank C. This tank is made long enough to extend across the cabinet from the front to the back side, and is placed across the middle of the upper portion of the cabinet, so that it is supported directly above the middle of the shelves, and its bottom is curved to afford more space in the food-chamber and to distribute the frigorific effect of the ice more equally throughout the chamber. The top of the tank C is open, and its upper edges are level with the top edges of the cabinet, so that when the cover H of the cabinet is let down it will also form a tight cover for the tank. This arrangement is very convenient, because it is only necessary to raise the cover of the cabi-

net in order to uncover the tank and permit of the filling of the tank with ice and water.

The tank C is divided into two compartments by a transverse partition, D, which passes across the tank parallel with the front of the cabinet, its upper edge being level with the sides of tank C. The front compartment of the tank C is intended to contain the ice, and, in order to provide for drawing the water from the front compartment for drinking purposes, I connect a faucet, E, through the front of the cabinet with the front compartment, so that the water can be drawn as from a water-cooler. A drip-pan, F, surrounds the tank C, and a pipe, G, extends from the bottom of this drip-pan to any waste-way, so that the water which condenses on the outside of the tank, and any drippings which may occur, will be caught and conveyed away.

One or more holes (not shown) are made through the back wall of the cabinet near the tank C, through which air can enter in order to keep up a constant circulation in the cabinet.

By placing the ice and water containing tank across the middle of the upper part of the cabinet, I not only secure a neat appearance to the cabinet by reason of having the water-faucet in the middle of its front, but also give an equal refrigerating effect to all portions of the cabinet, and afford a space on each side of and close to the ice for articles on upper shelves B. It will be seen that there is no opportunity for communication of the air of either of the ice, or of the water, or of the food-receptacles with any other of the three. Thus the contents of each are unaffected by the contents of any other.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The ventilated case A, having upper and lower shelves B B, and cover H, in combination with the central tank C, having cross-partition D, and curved bottom, and with curved drip-pan F, having pipe G, both the sides of the tanks and the cross partitions being imperforate, and extending upward closely to the plane of the under side of the cover, as and for the purpose described.

EDWARD K. HOWES.

Witnesses:

EDWARD CHATTEN,
JOHN H. B. WILKINS.