

A. H. BURHANS.
MERCHANDISING CAR.

No. 174,409.

Patented March 7, 1876.

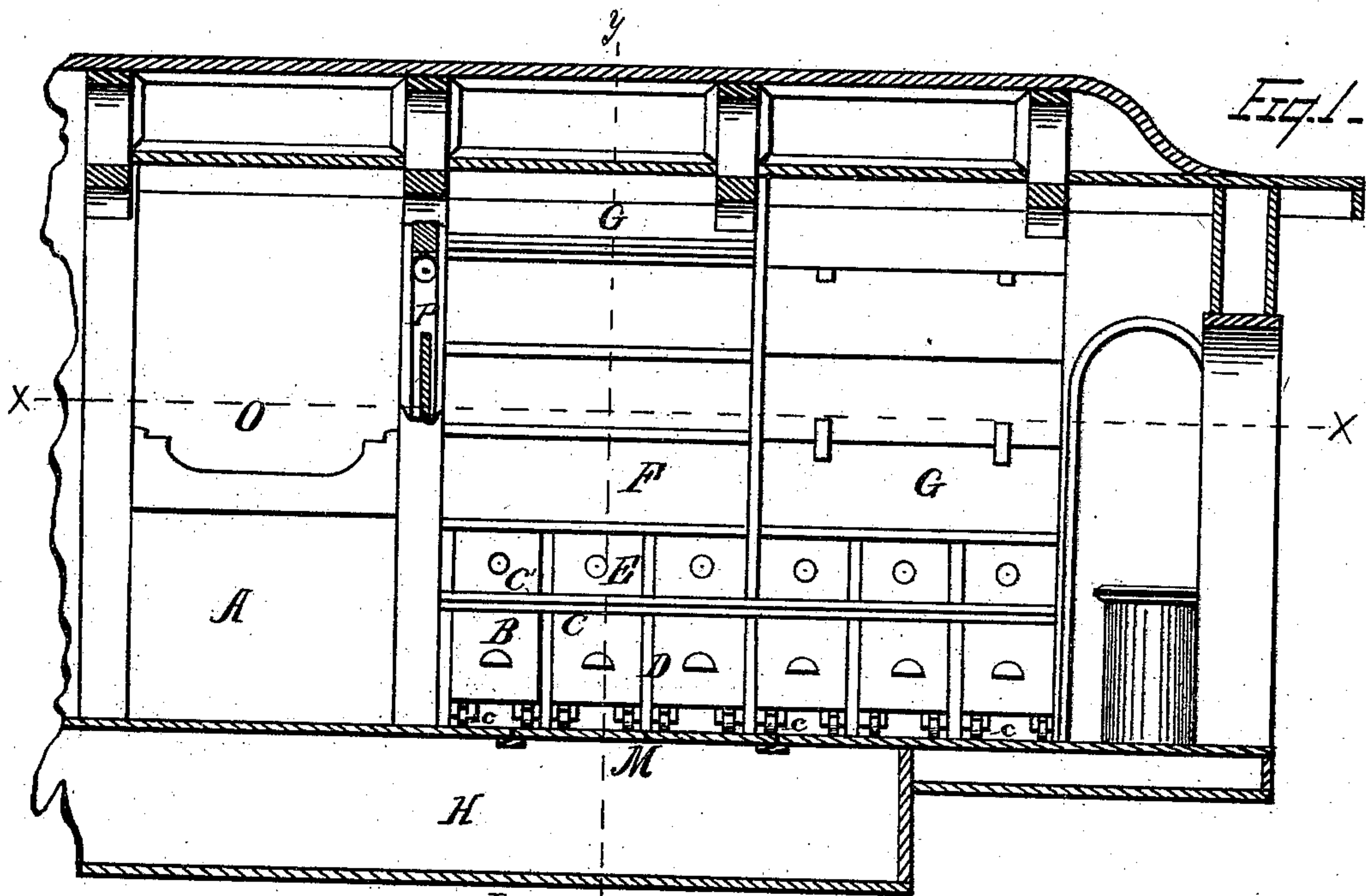
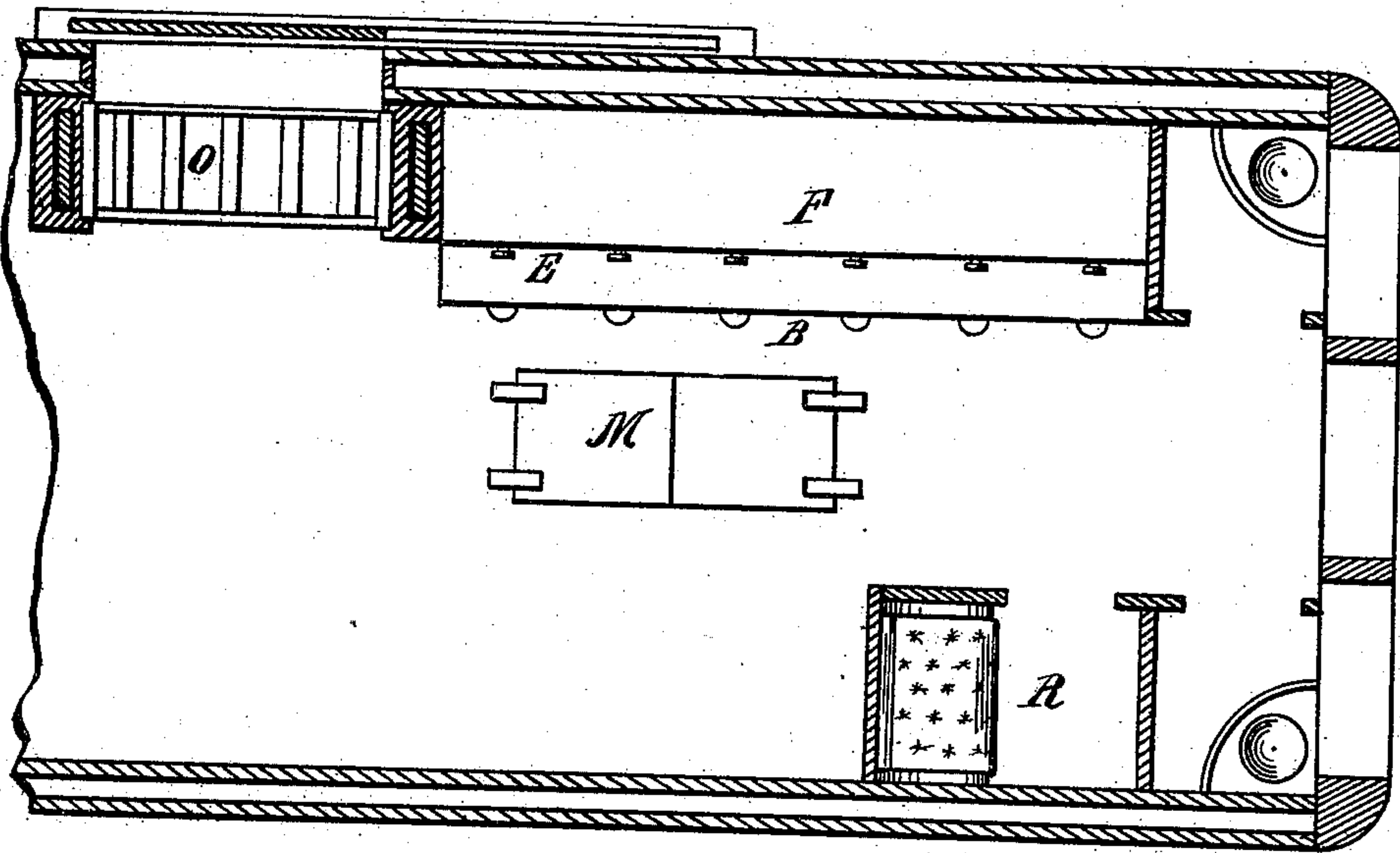


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES

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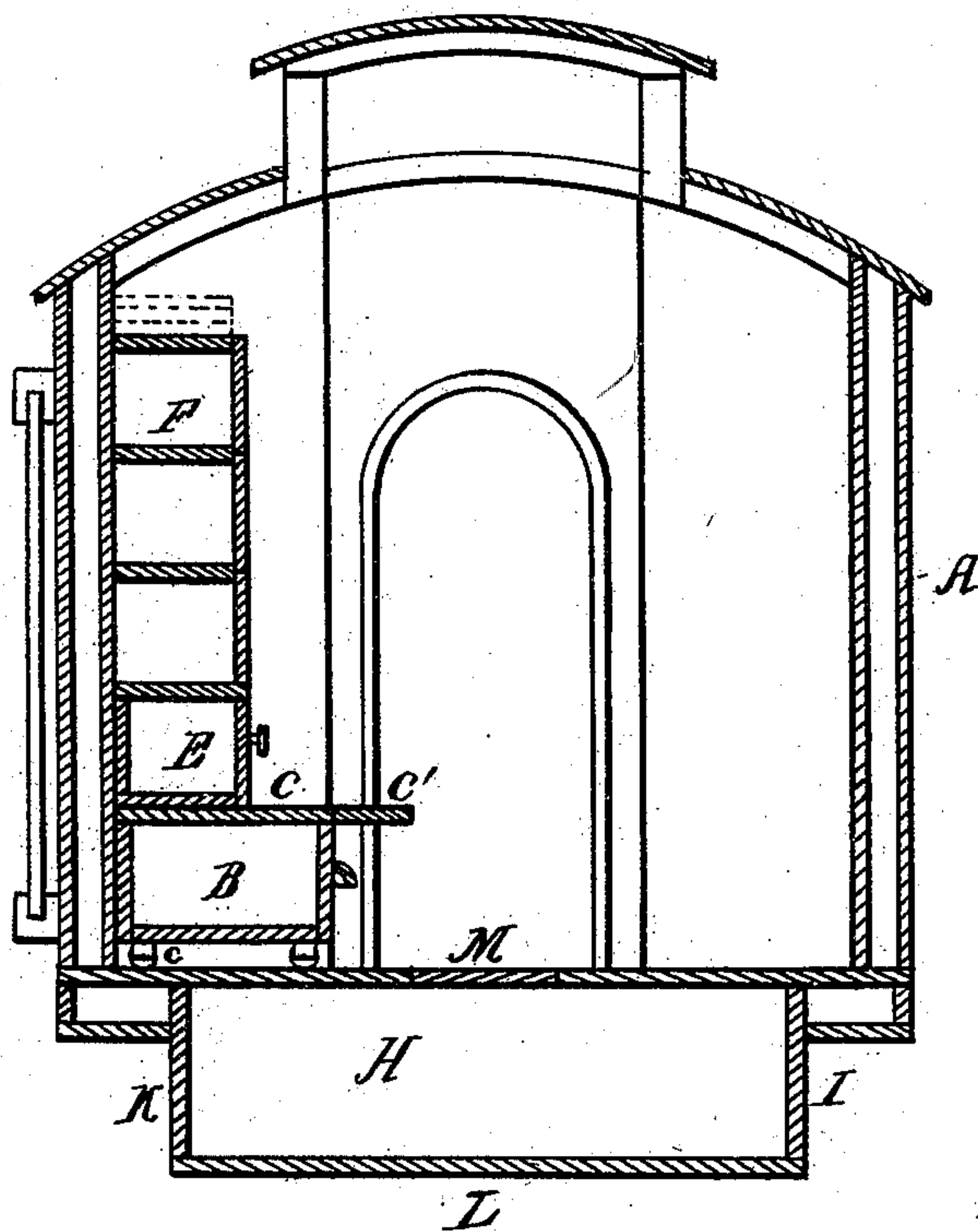
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Fig. 3—



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AUGUSTUS H. BURHANS, OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA.

IMPROVEMENT IN MERCHANDISING-CARS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 174,409, dated March 7, 1876; application filed January 8, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AUGUSTUS H. BURHANS, of Hastings, in the county of Adams and State of Nebraska, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Merchandising-Car; 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 pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to certain improvements in railroad-cars for transporting general merchandise from place to place on railroads; and consists in arranging within the cars bins, drawers, shelves, counters, and other conveniences, as hereinafter described and shown, whereby the said cars may also be used when at stations for displaying the goods and for selling them therefrom.

The cars are to be adapted for running on all roads, whether of broad or narrow gage, and to be provided with portable temporary switches and short sections of side track to enable them to be run off the main track at any point where it may be required.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a longitudinal sectional elevation of a part of a car arranged according to my invention; Fig. 2, a horizontal section of the same on the line *x x*, Fig. 1; and Fig. 3, a transverse section on the line *y y*, Fig. 1.

A is the body of the car, which may be substantially the same as the ordinary cars. B represents bins; which I propose to mount on rollers or casters, *c*, and arrange in cells along the sides of the interior of the car, under the shelves C and between the partitions D, so that they may be drawn out and in and used for storing the heavier goods of the stocks. The shelves C are made in two parts and hinged together, so that one, C', may swing outward for use as a counter. Above these bins are arranged drawers E, and above them shelves F. These latter I propose to inclose in front by hinged or swinging doors G, to prevent the lighter goods, which are to be placed on them, from being thrown off by the jarring of the cars while in motion. H is a large cellar or space at the bottom of the car,

which I propose to provide by applying the inclosing-walls I K with corresponding end walls and the bottom L, to which space access is had through the trap-doors M. This space is also to be used for storing goods. A portable counter, which I propose to use with these cars for displaying goods, may be placed on the platform when required for use, or it may be removed to a permanent platform by the side of the car as it stands on the track. Between suitable guides, secured to the sides of the car, the bed O is constructed to be vertically adjustable within the space between said guides. The bed is attached to the free ends of weighted cords, which pass around the pulleys, journaled in the roof of the car. A sliding door, when closed, serves to form the rear wall of the bed-section, and, when opened, the bed is raised against the car-roof, leaving an unobstructed doorway. On the other side, opposite to this bed, or recess thereof, may be another one for a stove and seat, and near one end, say, at R, may be another recess with a seat and desk for the book-keeper or clerk.

These cars will be lighted and ventilated mainly at the top and ends, but any other suitable means may be provided for the purpose.

I also propose to use the outside of the car as an advertising medium for wholesale and retail dealers and manufacturers, by placing in suitable frames or cases large cards, advertisements, &c., to remain a certain time, according to agreement. I propose also to protect these advertisements in bad weather by a canvas or other suitable covering placed over the sides of the car, or the advertisements themselves may be applied or printed on the canvas or on a tarpaulin, which will protect the car in bad weather and while in transit on the road; but I make no claim to the subject-matter relating to advertising in this application, but reserve the right for a separate and distinct application.

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

1. A merchandising-car, having arranged within its interior bins B, drawers E, shelves

C and F, with hinged covers G and cellar H, substantially as and for the purposes described.

2. A merchandising-car, having arranged within its interior, in connection with the bins, drawers, and shelves, the space for adjustable bed O, stove and seat opposite, and space R, with seat for book-keeper or clerk, as described.

3. In a merchandising-car, the vertically-adjustable bed O, in combination with two

guides secured to the sides of the car doorway, as described, said bed being supported by means of weighted cords P, all arranged substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing, I have hereunto set my hand this 22d day of November, 1875.

AUGUSTUS H. BURHANS.

Witnesses:

L. H. RYDER,
T. F. COY.