

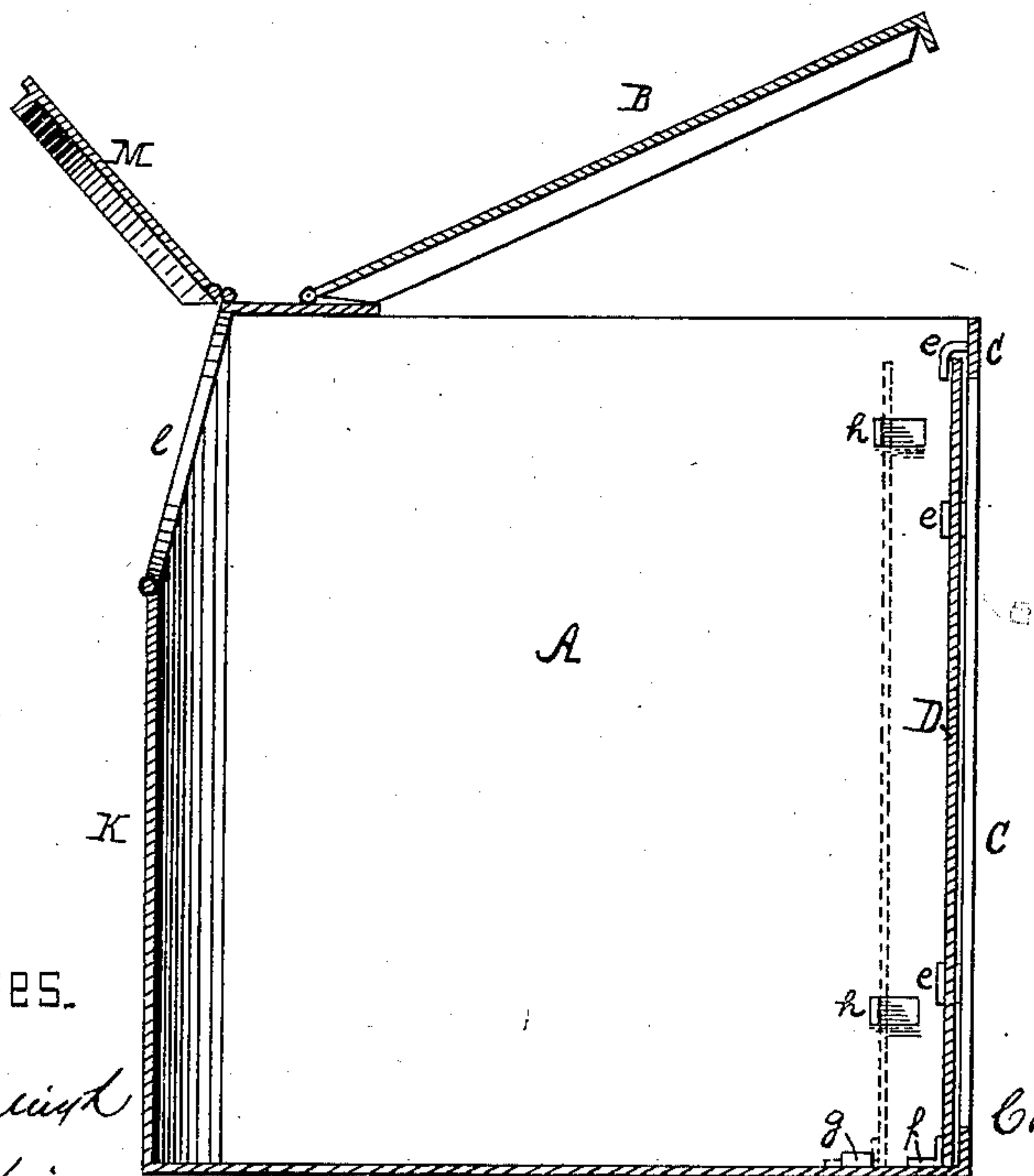
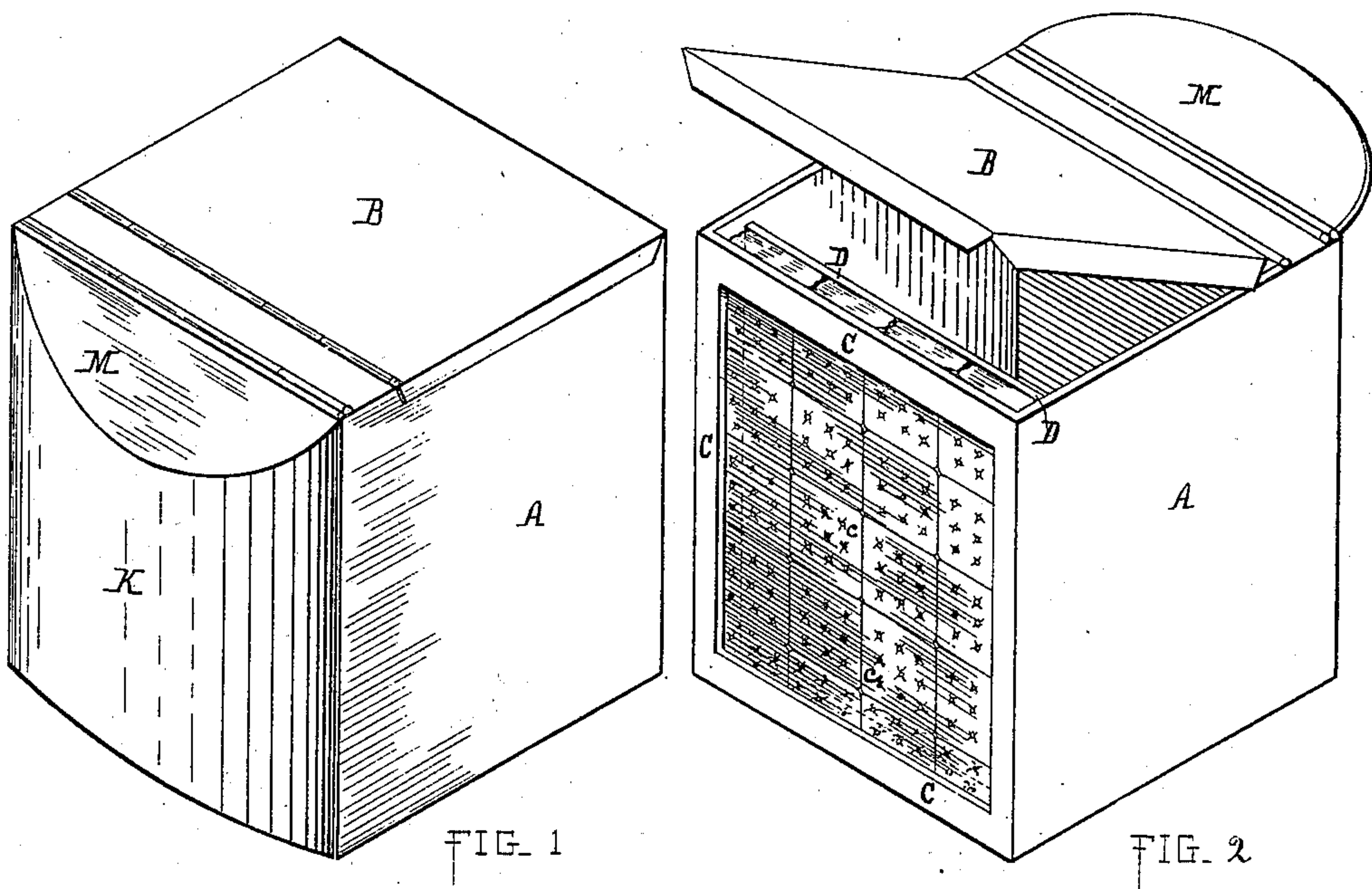
(No Model.)

C. F. MARKLAND.

COMBINED CRACKER AND GROCER'S CAN.

No. 256,806.

Patented Apr. 18, 1882.



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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COMBINED CRACKER AND GROCER'S CAN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 256,806, dated April 18, 1882.

Application filed October 13, 1881. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES F. MARKLAND, of Pittsburg, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Combined Cracker and Grocer's Can; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 are perspective views, showing different ends of the can; and Fig. 3 is a vertical central section of the can.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts in each.

My invention relates to certain improvements in the cans used for packing crackers for transportation and preservation, its object being to add to its convenience as a cracker box or can, and at the same time form it into a neat and convenient can or caddy for holding teas, coffees, spices, and other groceries.

The cracker-cans heretofore used have been formed of tin to preserve the crackers from dampness, and have generally been provided with a glass face for displaying the contents of the box, and a hinged top lid, which was opened for the removal of the crackers. The cans, when filled, were shipped to any desired place, a separate charge being made for the cans, and as they were only specially useful for crackers they were generally returned, when empty, to the cracker-manufacturer, an allowance being made for the cans when so returned. As the lid of the can was on the top, if several cans were piled on each other, it was always necessary to remove the upper ones to obtain access to one of the lower boxes or cans. By my invention the cans are so arranged that their contents can be reached at the side, and after they are emptied they form a grocer's can, which is more convenient than the ordinary one now in use, so that there is much less liability of their being returned to the cracker-manufacturer.

My invention consists, first, in providing the ordinary cracker-can having a hinged top lid with a hinged side lid or door, so as to give access to it from the side, and render it useful as

a grocer's can by providing it with the ordinary side lid and a top lid for filling and other purposes; and, second, in forming the side of the cracker-can in which the side lid is secured with a bulged or convex face to impart to it a neat and attractive appearance as a grocer's can.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will describe its construction and manner of use.

In the drawings, A represents my improved can, which is provided with the ordinary hinged top lid, B, and open front, C, in which a pane of glass, *c*, is secured to display the contents of the box, the glass being held in place by bending tin cleats *e* over its edges.

D is a tin or other sheet-metal false back or plate, by means of which one or more layers of the crackers are held against the glass face, as shown in Fig. 2, to give the can a full appearance where part of the contents is removed. This false plate is removable, and is secured in place by tongues *f*, which fit into seats *g* on the bottom of the can, as shown in dotted lines, Fig. 3, cleats *h* being bent over and pressed against the false plate after the layers of crackers are secured in place. The opposite end of the can has the bulged or convex face K, which can be ornamented in any desired manner, as is usual in tea-caddies, and is cut out in a downwardly-extending curve from the upper corners to form a side opening, *l*, into the can, thus giving access to it at the side as well as at the top. This side opening, *l*, is closed by the lid or door M, hinged along the top of the box, the lower edge of this lid corresponding in curve to that of the opening *l*, so that when closed it will fit it neatly. This side lid may also be decorated in the usual manner with tea and grocers' cans, and have the name of any particular article marked thereon.

My improved cracker and grocer's can is used in the following manner: The false back D having been secured to the base of the can, one or more layers of crackers are placed next to the glass face C, and the false back is then pressed against the crackers and secured in place by the cleats *h*, which are bent over

against it. The balance of the can is then filled in the usual manner and the can shipped to the grocer or other consumer. Where access is desired to any can in selling the crackers, if the other cans rest on it, as is frequently the case, the crackers can be conveniently removed through the side lid, M, without removing the cans above it, as has heretofore been necessary. When the crackers have all been removed the can forms a convenient grocer's can by simply removing the false back D if a glass back is desired to display the groceries. As, however, the glass is liable to crack or break, a more substantial and lasting back may be obtained by substituting the false back D for the glass pane *c*. This can be easily accomplished by bending back the cleats *e* holding the glass, removing it, and securing the tin back D in its place by bending over the cleats *e*, as seen in Fig. 3, the cleats *h* for holding the false back being bent out of the way against the can. The grocer's can thus formed has the same appearance as the ordinary grocer's can, and, besides the ordinary side lid, M, has the supplemental top lid, B, which is exceedingly convenient for filling or for removing large quantities from the can.

I am thus enabled to form a can which is much more convenient for both crackers and grocers than either the old-style cracker or

grocers' cans, and one which, when emptied of crackers, will in most cases be employed for groceries, so that few are returned to the manufacturer, thus saving the grocer the expense of grocers' cans and the cracker-manufacturer the expense, trouble, and wear on the cans in carrying them back.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combined cracker and grocer's can herein described, provided with a hinged top lid, B, and hinged side lid, M, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. The combined cracker and grocer's can herein described, provided with the hinged top lid, B, the bulged face K, and the hinged side lid, M, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. In a combined cracker and grocer's can having a hinged top lid, B, hinged side lid, M, and open face C, with glass pane *c*, the removable sheet-metal false back D, adapted to be secured in the place of the glass pane *c*, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony whereof I, the said CHARLES F. MARKLAND, have hereunto set my hand.

CHARLES F. MARKLAND.

Witnesses:

S. S. MARVIN,

JAS. W. GILMORE.