

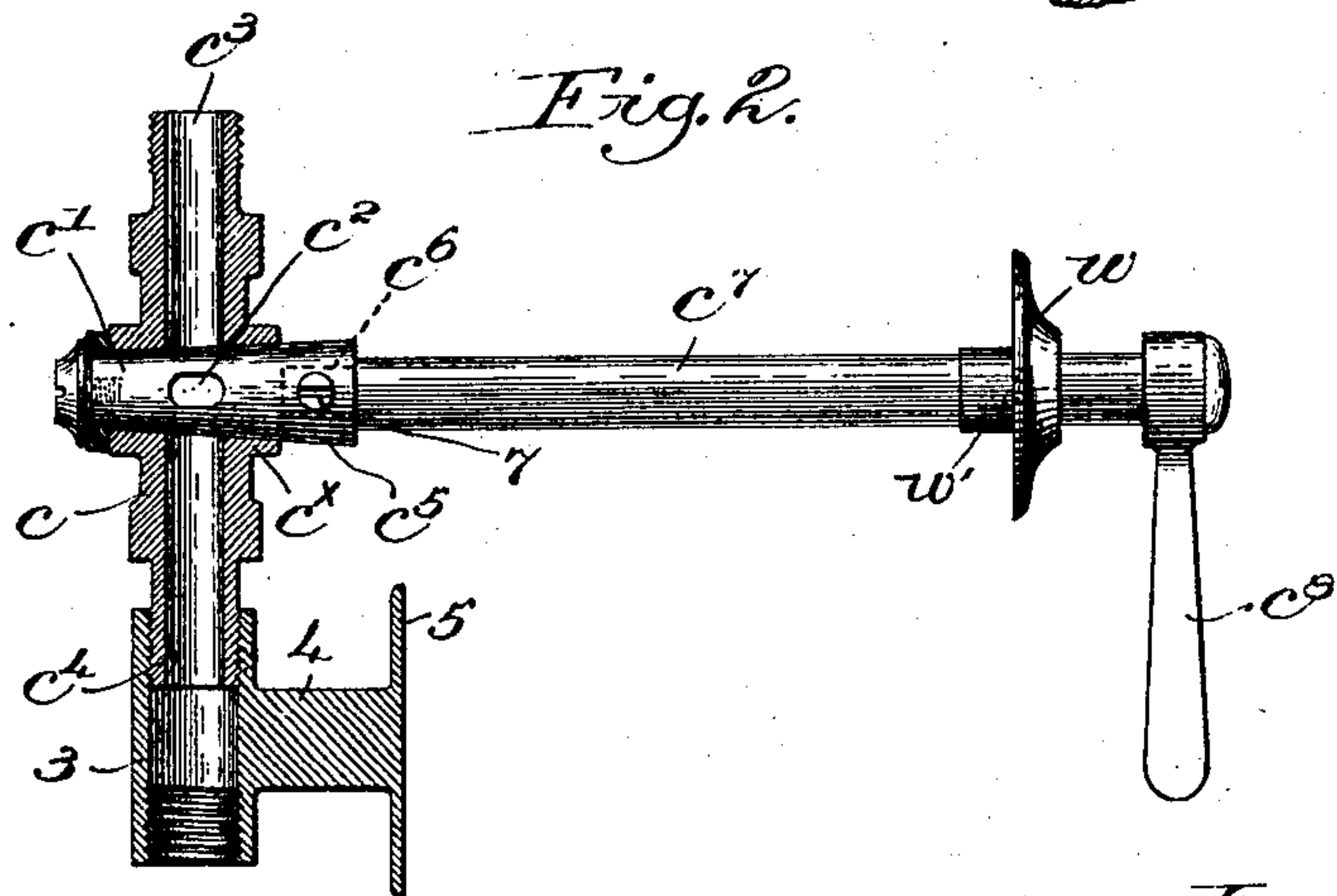
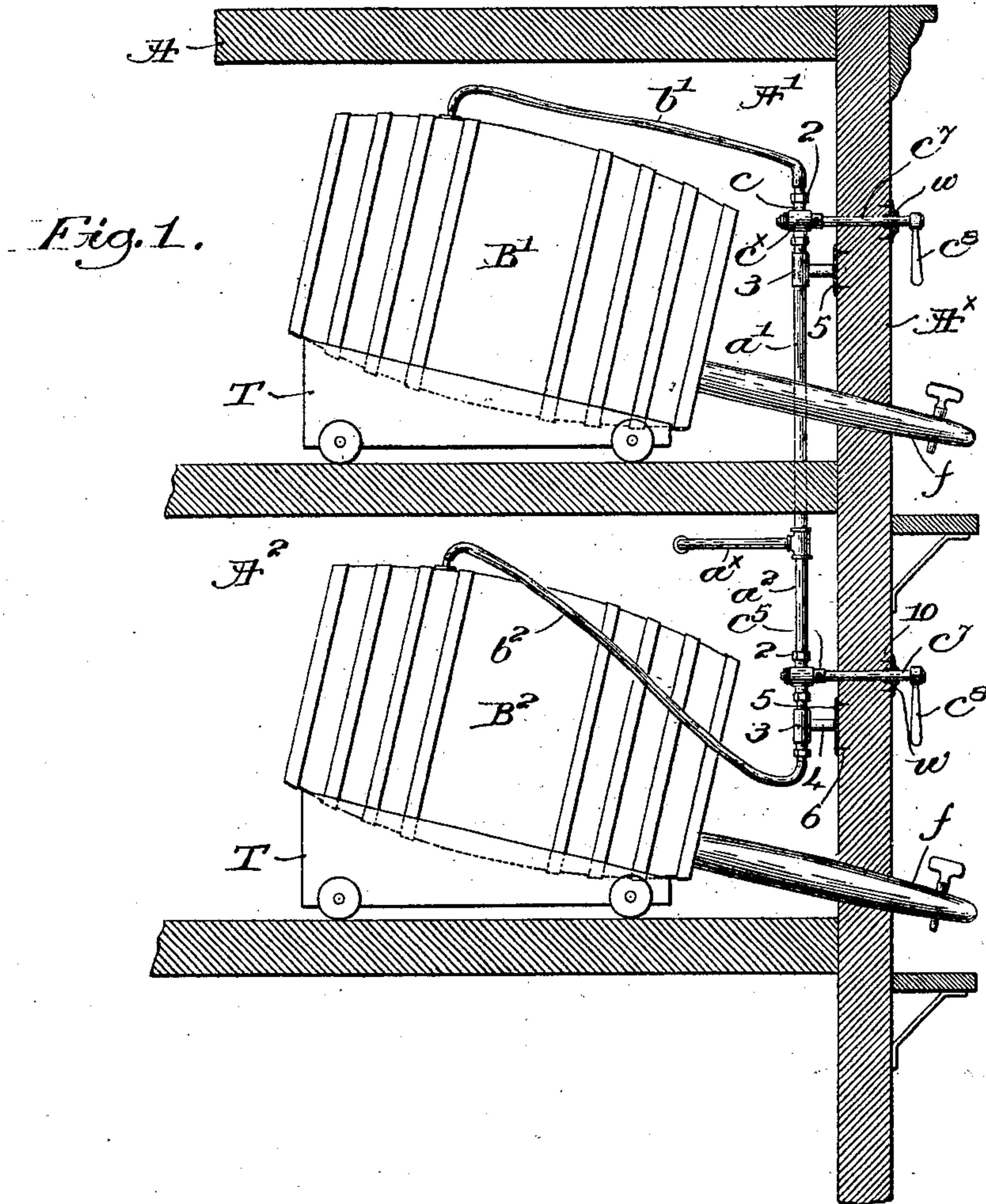
No. 682,766.

Patented Sept. 17, 1901.

H. STRATER.  
APPARATUS FOR DRAFT BEER OR ALE.

(Application filed May 31, 1900.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HERMAN STRATER, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

## APPARATUS FOR DRAFT BEER OR ALE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 682,766, dated September 17, 1901.

Application filed May 31, 1900. Serial No. 18,566. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HERMAN STRATER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Apparatus for Draft Beer or Ale, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like characters on the drawings representing like parts.

In bar-rooms, restaurants, and other places where beer or ale is kept on draft the latter in a barrel or keg is mounted within an ice-box or cooler and connected with a delivery-faucet which is tightly fitted in the wall of the box. Means are provided for furnishing a supply of air or gas under pressure to the receptacles when necessary to liven up the beer or ale therein, and it has been the custom to so arrange the controlling-cocks that in order to admit or shut off air or gas the attendant has to open the door of the ice-box, thus letting in warm air and lowering the temperature of the interior. With a large ice-box containing several barrels of beer or ale this is a very serious objection, as no two barrels are apt to require the same amount of air or at the same time. Hence the box must be opened frequently to effect the necessary manipulation of the air-cocks. In my present invention I have provided means whereby the air-cocks are accessible from the exterior of the ice-box, so that the attendant has full control of the air under pressure without opening the box, and consequently its full refrigerating action is preserved.

Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view of a portion of an ice-box or cooler for beer or ale on draft with my invention applied thereto; and Fig. 2 is an enlarged detail, partly in section, of one of the controlling-cocks and its actuator.

I have shown in Fig. 1 an ice-box or cooler A, having upper and lower compartments A' A<sup>2</sup> to receive the barrels B' B<sup>2</sup>, containing beer, ale, or the like, supported in any suitable manner, as on trucks T, each barrel having a delivery-faucet *f* extended tightly through the front wall A<sup>x</sup> of the ice-box. Air or carbonic-acid gas under pressure is led

in from any suitable source of supply by a main supply-pipe a<sup>x</sup>, shown as branched at a' a<sup>2</sup> to lead to the two compartments, and said branches are connected, usually by hose-pipe b' b<sup>2</sup>, with the barrels. A controlling device is interposed between the branches and the hose connected therewith, said device serving also as a coupling, as herein shown, and as the two controlling devices illustrated in Fig. 1 are the same in construction only one will be described in detail.

Referring now also to Fig. 2, a tubular valve-case *c* is provided with a seat c<sup>x</sup> for a valve c' of the "plug" type, having a port c<sup>2</sup> and interposed between the passages c<sup>3</sup> c<sup>4</sup>, which serve as inlet and outlet for the fluid. The ends of the case *c* are threaded, and one end is connected by a coupling 2 with the branch a' or a<sup>2</sup>, as the case may be, the branches being shown in Fig. 1 as running vertically parallel to the front wall A<sup>x</sup> of the ice-box, or the coupling 2 may connect the case and hose-pipe, as in the upper compartment A', Fig. 1. The other end is connected by a coupling 3 with the hose or flexible pipe leading to the barrel, said coupling having a laterally-extended stem 4, provided with a base 5, forming a supporting-bracket, which is secured by screws or other suitable fastenings 6 to the inner face of the front wall. This serves to firmly support the valve-case and valve and is permanently secured in place.

As best shown in Fig. 2, the valve c' projects beyond the case at c<sup>5</sup> and has a preferably square socket c<sup>6</sup> therein (see dotted lines) to receive the correspondingly-shaped end of a long cylindrical stem c<sup>7</sup>, the length of the stem depending somewhat on the thickness of the wall of the ice-box. A set-screw 7 retains the stem in the socket, and manifestly rotation of the stem will operate the valve, which is shown closed in Fig. 2. A hole just large enough to snugly receive the stem is bored in the wall of the ice-box and the stem is passed therethrough and then connected with the valve, the outer end of the stem projecting beyond the wall, having a suitable handle c<sup>8</sup> thereon. A thick metal washer *w*, surrounding the stem, is secured to the outer face of



the wall, as by screws 10, Fig. 1, and serves  
 as a bearing for the stem and also adds to the  
 finish, a hub *w'* on the inner face of the  
 washer being forced into the end of the hole  
 5 in the box-wall.

It will be obvious from an inspection of Fig.  
 1 that the air-cock or controlling-valve for  
 each receptacle within the ice-box is operable  
 from the exterior thereof to govern the air-  
 10 supply to said receptacle without necessitat-  
 ing opening of the box, and each actuating-  
 handle *c*<sup>8</sup> is arranged conveniently relative to  
 the delivery-faucet of its corresponding bar-  
 rel. By turning any particular handle more  
 15 or less the attendant can regulate the air or  
 gas in a barrel at will and with great preci-  
 sion, admitting more or less, as may be neces-  
 sary, in a very rapid and efficient manner  
 without disturbing the temperature within  
 20 the ice-box.

My invention is not restricted to the precise  
 construction and arrangement herein shown,  
 as the same may be modified in various par-  
 ticulars without departing from the spirit and  
 25 scope of my invention.

Having described my invention, what I

claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters  
 Patent, is—

An air or gas supply controlling device for  
 ice-boxes, comprising a pipe, flexible connec- 30  
 tions secured to said pipe adapted to connect  
 the same with receptacles for beer or ale within  
 the ice-box, said pipe being provided adjacent  
 said flexible connections with a coupling, said  
 coupling having at one end a passage for the 35  
 flow therethrough of the liquid, and at its  
 other end provided with attaching means for  
 rigidly securing the pipe in permanent posi-  
 tion, a connection from said pipe to a source  
 of air or gas supply, and a valve in said pipe 40  
 for each flexible connection, said valve hav-  
 ing a valve-stem adapted to extend through  
 the ice-box for external operation, said stem  
 being secured detachably to the valve.

In testimony whereof I have signed my 45  
 name to this specification in the presence of  
 two subscribing witnesses.

HERMAN STRATER.

Witnesses:

JOHN C. EDWARDS,  
 AUGUSTA E. DEAN.