V. A. SMITH.

SAFE.

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952,761. Patented Mar. 22, 1910.

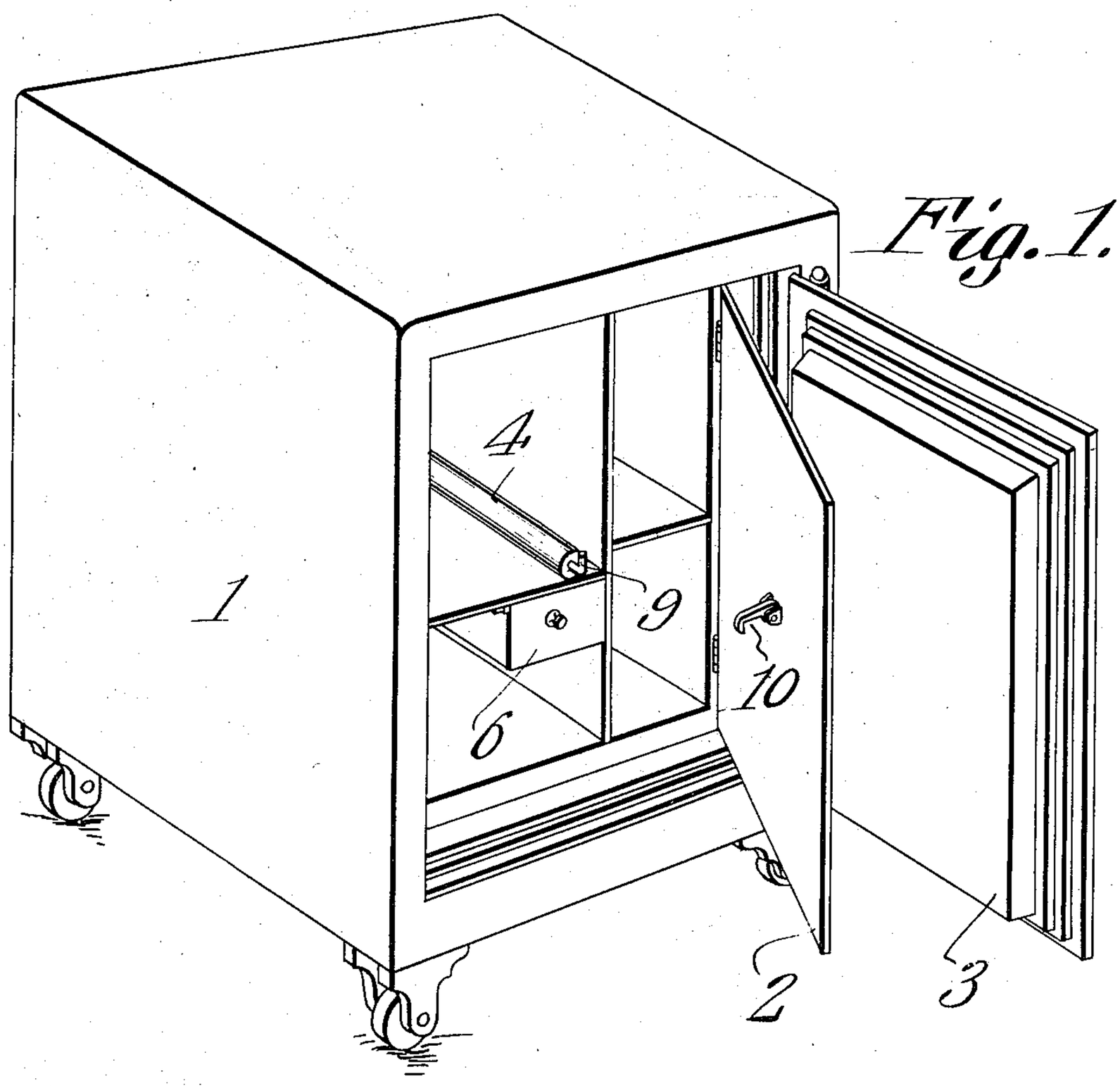

Fig. 1.

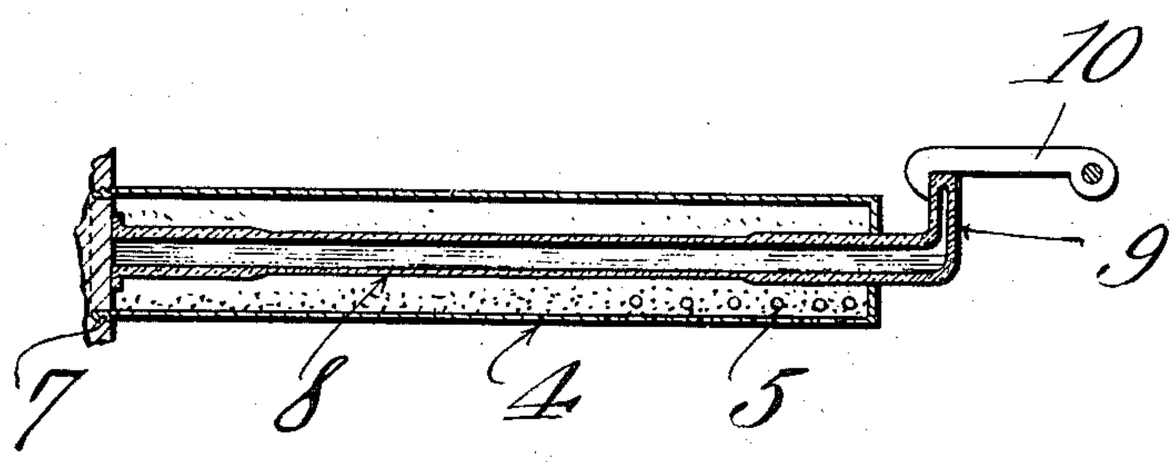

Fig. 2.

Witnesses

E. F. Stevens

R. H. Bishop

Inventor

Virgil A. Smith.

By Cushman & Co.

Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

VIRGIL A. SMITH, OF KENEDY, TEXAS.

SAFE.

952,761. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 22, 1910.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, VIRGIL A. SMITH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Kenedy, in the county of Karnes and State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Safe, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to safes and has for its object the provision of simple and efficient means whereby the safe will be protected from the efforts of burglars to abstract the contents, and which may be readily applied to any type of safe.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings and consists in certain novel features which will be hereinafter first fully described and then specifically claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a safe showing my improved device in position therein. Fig. 2 is a detail longitudinal section of my improved device on a somewhat larger scale.

The safe 1 may be of any desired type and is provided with the usual doors 2 and 3.

In carrying out my invention, I employ a metal tube or cylinder 4 which is provided with perforations or similar openings 5 and is so disposed within the safe as to permit the contents of the tube to escape through the said openings into the money drawer 6 of the safe when the safe has been blown or the door otherwise opened by unauthorized persons. This tube or cylinder 4 is threaded at its inner end and closed at its outer end, the threaded inner end being screwed into the back of the safe, as indicated at 7 in Fig. 2. Disposed within the metal tube 4 is a glass tube 8 which may be cemented or otherwise secured to the back of the safe or to the rear closed end of the outer tube and its front end is turned upward, as indicated at 9, to present the hook which is adapted to be engaged by a latch 10 pivotally mounted on the inner side of the inner door 2, as shown in Fig. 2.

When the tubes are placed within the safe they will be filled with chemicals which, when mixed, will form and liberate a noxious gas which will asphyxiate the burglars and will discolor the money within the money drawer so that should the burglars not be overcome by the liberated gas and abstract the money, the attempt to circulate the money would cause the instant detection of the burglars and result in their arrest. The inner glass tube 8 is intended to be broken by the opening of the inner door and this result may be assured by any convenient or preferred construction, the drawings showing the tube as being made exceedingly thin within the outer tube so that it will be very fragile and a slight pull upon the front upturned end of the same will exert a breaking strain on the inner thin portion. When the inner tube is broken, the liquid chemicals therein will at once flow onto and mix with the dry chemicals within the outer tube and the gas thereby generated will escape through the openings 5 in the said outer tube, as before stated.

The inner tube will, of course, be strong enough to prevent accidental breakage but not so strong that it will not be broken when the safe is blown or forcibly opened. The mixture of the chemicals will produce a dense smoke which will not immediately dissipate so that the burglars will be forced to leave the room in order to avoid being overcome by the generated gas and smoke.

In actual practice, the latch 10 will be extended through the door or otherwise connected with the combination mechanism so that when the safe is opened in the proper manner by a person knowing the combination the latch will be released from its engagement with the upturned end 9 of the inner tube and the safe may be opened without breaking the tube. I have not illustrated this connection, however, for the reason that it does not form a part of my present invention and may be arranged in a great variety of ways.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:—

The combination with a safe having a money drawer, of a tube secured in the back wall of the safe and extending therefrom directly over the money drawer, said tube having closed ends and being provided with perforations in its bottom and containing a

dry chemical, a fragile tube secured longitudinally within the first-mentioned tube and projecting through the front end thereof and containing a liquid chemical adapted to generate gas by combining with the dry chemical within the outer tube, and means on the door of the safe for fracturing the inner fragile tube.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

VIRGIL A. SMITH.

Witnesses:
STEPHEN R. FRANKLIN,
ELBERT H. STEWART.