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COOLING CABINET

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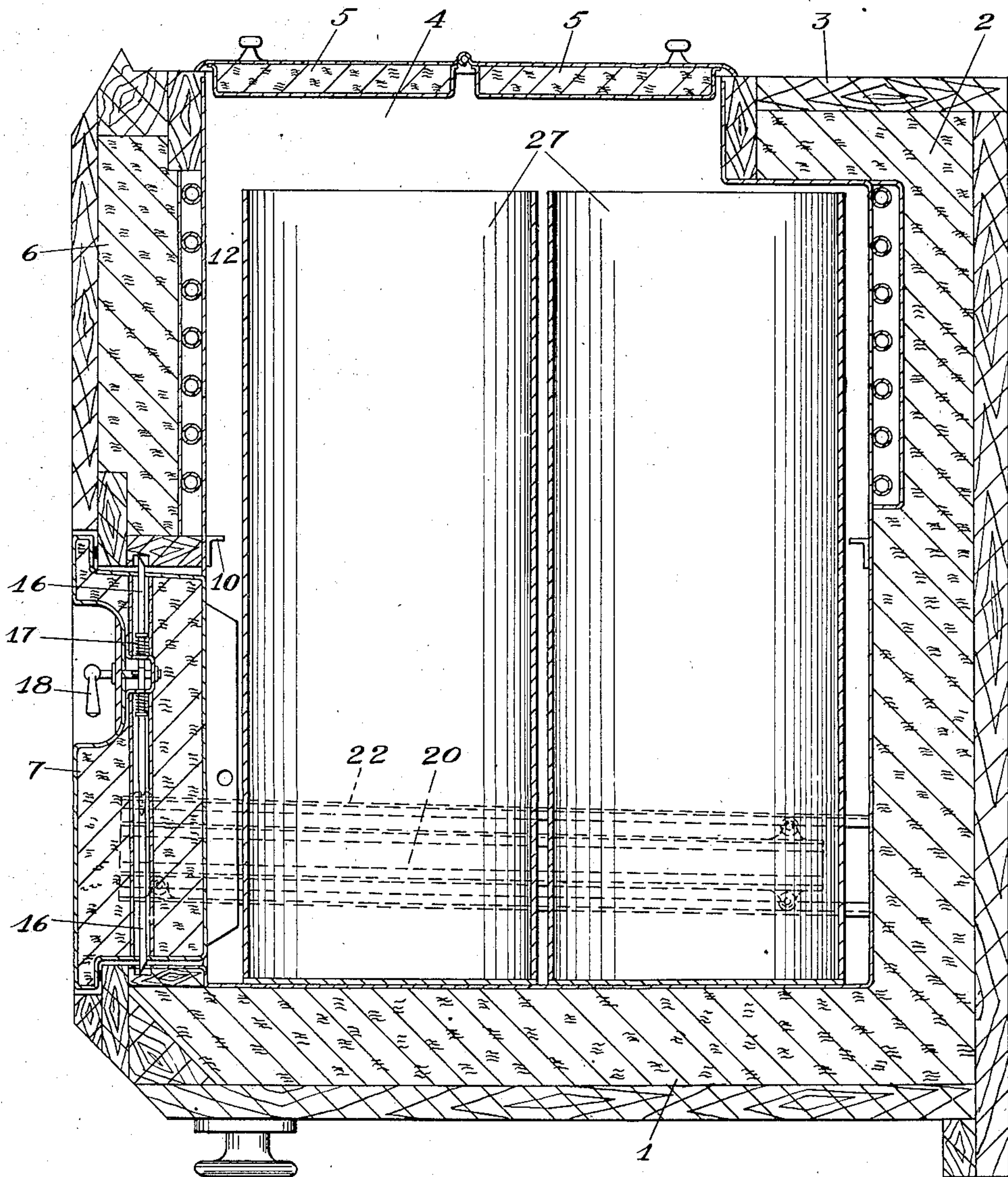


Fig. 2

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## COOLING CABINET

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4 Claims. (Cl. 312-168)

This invention relates to a cooling cabinet, with more particular reference to structures designed for holding ice cream and other frozen products both in bulk and in package form, and has for its object to afford an efficient and practical construction that is readily adaptable to varying needs of different users.

Cooling cabinets of this general character include compartments for holding bulk ice cream or other frozen products in cans, and other compartments for holding frozen products in small packages, such as ice cream in paper containers, frozen suckers or the like, and it is one of the purposes of the invention to afford a cabinet for housing all these types of products without wasting any space within the cabinet, and while at the same time permitting quick and ready access to either the bulk or packaged goods.

A further object of the invention is to provide a cabinet which can be readily adapted or changed by the user so as to house more bulk frozen products in cans and less in small packages, in cases where the business of the user requires a relatively larger supply of such goods in bulk form, so that a single type of cabinet is sufficiently flexible to meet the requirements of many different users.

In a more particular aspect, the invention is designed to afford a cooling cabinet having an opening in a top wall through which a can or container is positionable and accessible, and an opening in a front wall through which a receptacle or drawer is slidably positionable and accessible, the sliding receptacle being located beneath the can or container, and when removed from the bottom of the chamber, permitting the locating of a deeper can through said top opening to occupy the bottom as well as the top portion of the compartment.

To these and other ends, the invention consists in the construction and arrangement of parts that will appear clearly from the following description when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, the novel features being pointed out in the claims following the specification.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a transverse vertical sectional view of a cooling cabinet constructed in accordance with one embodiment of the invention, and showing a sliding receptacle or drawer in closed position, and

Fig. 2 is a similar view with the sliding receptacle or drawer removed, the floor portions re-

moved, and deeper cans or containers in operative position.

Referring more particularly to the drawings in which like reference numerals refer to the same parts throughout the several views, the cabinet includes in general a bottom wall 1, rear wall 2, and a top wall 3 affording a chamber provided with openings 4, and hinged closures or covers 5, also a front wall 6 having an opening opposite the lower portion of the chamber, adapted to be sealed by a closure 7.

The upper part of the cabinet is adapted normally to receive cans or containers 8 of two and one-half gallon or other conventional capacity for holding bulk ice cream. These cans rest upon floor portions or sections 9 which are supported on lugs or ledges 10 at the front and rear of the chamber, the floor portions 9 being removable and of a width that permits there being taken out through the openings 4 at the top when the covers 5 are raised. The chamber is surrounded by a conventional metal lining 11, and 12 designates cooling coils or other suitable cooling instrumentalities located around the upper portion of the chamber.

The lower part of the chamber is adapted to be occupied by a sliding receptacle or drawer 13 which receives small packages of frozen goods, these being accessible by sliding the drawer 13 forwardly from the chamber. The drawer 13 is movably associated with a closure 7 by means of cooperating parallel flanges 14 arranged respectively on these parts and connected by a pin 15. The pin 15 is intended to have a slight play with relation to the flanges 14 so as to permit close and accurate fitting of the closure 7 in its opening, irrespective of any slight vertical movement of the receptacle 13 to which the closure is connected. The closure 7 is held in its innermost position by any suitable locking mechanism such as the vertically movable bolts 16 actuated by springs 17 and adapted to be released to open the closure by a handle 18, which when turned retracts the bolts 16, as usual in locking devices of this character.

The drawer or receptacle 13 carries rollers which travel in guides 20, and the guides 20 carry upper and lower rollers which engage the upper and lower portions of tracks 22 that are stationarily mounted on the walls of the cabinet.

Normally, the drawer 13 is positioned and operates as shown in Fig. 1, being utilized to contain small packages of frozen products while the bulk goods is arranged in the small containers 8 located thereabove and accessible from the top of



the cabinet. When a dealer desires to store a greater amount of bulk goods, and less of the package products, the drawer 13 can be removed from the cabinet. The closure 7 can then be separated from the drawer by removing the pin 15, or a separate closure can be provided for the opening in the lower part of the chamber. After removing the small cans or containers 8 through the openings in the top of the cabinet, the floor portions 9 can likewise be removed through the openings in the top, following which the larger containers 27, see Fig. 2, are positioned through the openings in the top and extend to the bottom of the cabinet, these being of greater capacity than the containers 8 previously alluded to and occupying the space at the bottom of the cabinet that would normally be occupied by the slidable receptacle.

In this way, a cabinet is afforded that has considerable flexibility of use and can be utilized with half of its capacity devoted to bulk frozen products and half devoted to package frozen products, or can be quickly changed over so as to devote more of its capacity to larger cans with bulk frozen goods. The structure has the further advantage that all of the interior space is utilized, there being no blank space as in some cabinet structures to permit movement of carriers and access to portions beneath, this being avoided in the present arrangement by the disposition of openings in the top to permit access to the bulk containers in the top of the chamber and openings in the front wall to permit access to the sliding receptacles at the bottom of the chamber, and utilization of the bottom portion by larger cans accessible from the top if desired.

While the invention has been described with reference to a certain detailed embodiment, it is not confined to the exact form and arrangement shown, and this application is intended to cover such changes or departures as may come within the purposes of the improvement or the scope of the following claims.

We claim:

1. A cooling cabinet for ice cream and the like including a chamber having front and top walls, the top wall having a vertical opening permitting access to the lower part of said chamber by a vertical movement from the top, and the front wall having an opening opposite the lower portion of the chamber permitting access to said lower portion of the chamber from the front, a movable cover for said vertical opening in the top wall, a floor portion removably positioned above the lower portion of the chamber whereby an ice cream container may be supported on said floor portion in the upper part of the chamber or a deeper ice cream container may be inserted through said vertical opening in the top wall and supported on the bottom of the chamber when the floor portion is removed, supporting means for

said floor portion, and a movable cover for said opening in the front wall.

2. A cooling cabinet for ice cream and the like including a chamber having front and top walls, the top wall having a vertical opening permitting access to the lower portion of said chamber by a vertical movement from the top, and the front wall having an opening opposite the lower portion of the chamber permitting access to said lower portion of the chamber from the front, a movable cover for said vertical opening, a receptacle slidably arranged in said lower portion of the chamber and removable therefrom, a floor portion removably positioned above said receptacle whereby an ice cream container may be supported on said floor portion or a deeper ice cream container may be inserted through said vertical opening in the top wall and supported on the bottom of the chamber when the slidable receptacle and floor portion are removed, supporting means for said floor portion, and a movable cover for said opening in the front wall.

3. A cooling cabinet for ice cream and the like including a chamber having front and top walls, the top wall having a vertical opening permitting access to the lower portion of said chamber by a vertical movement from the top, and the front wall having an opening opposite the lower portion of the chamber permitting access to said lower portion of the chamber from the front, a movable cover for said vertical opening in the top wall, a receptacle slidably arranged in the lower part of the chamber and removable through said opening in the front wall, and removable means for supporting an ice cream container above the slidable receptacle when the latter is in the chamber whereby an ice cream container may be supported on said removable means when the slidable receptacle is in the cabinet and a deeper ice cream container may be inserted through said opening in the top and supported on the bottom of the chamber when said removable means and slidable receptacle are removed.

4. A cooling cabinet including a chamber having front and top walls, the top wall having a vertical opening permitting access to the lower portion of said chamber by a vertical movement from the top, and the front wall having an opening opposite the lower portion of the chamber permitting access to said lower portion of the chamber from the front, a receptacle slidably arranged in said lower portion and movable through the opening in said front wall, slidable supports for said receptacle removably arranged in the chamber, a floor portion removably positioned above said receptacle, supporting means for said floor portion, and a closure for said opening in the front wall pivotally and detachably connected with said sliding receptacle.

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