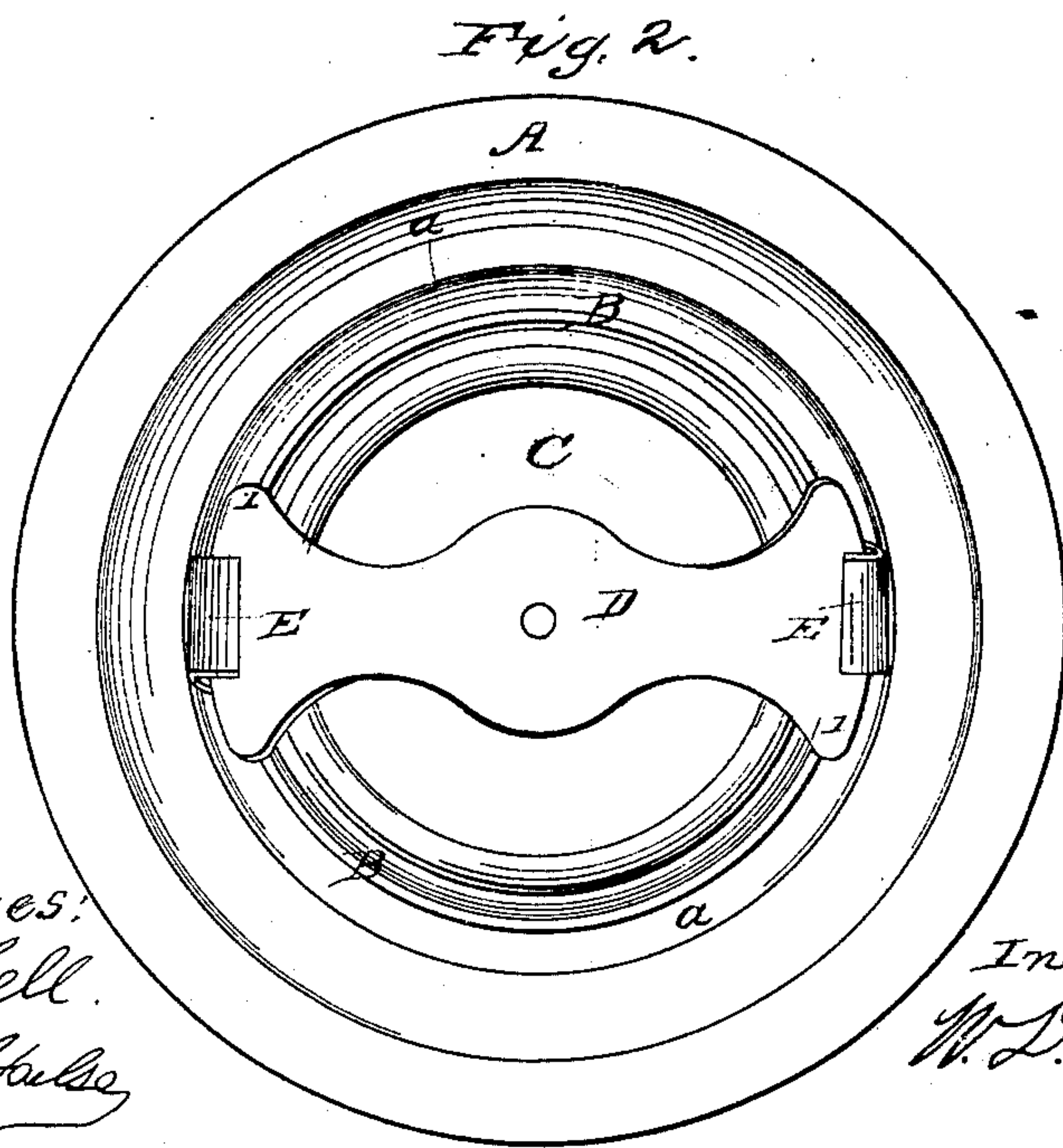
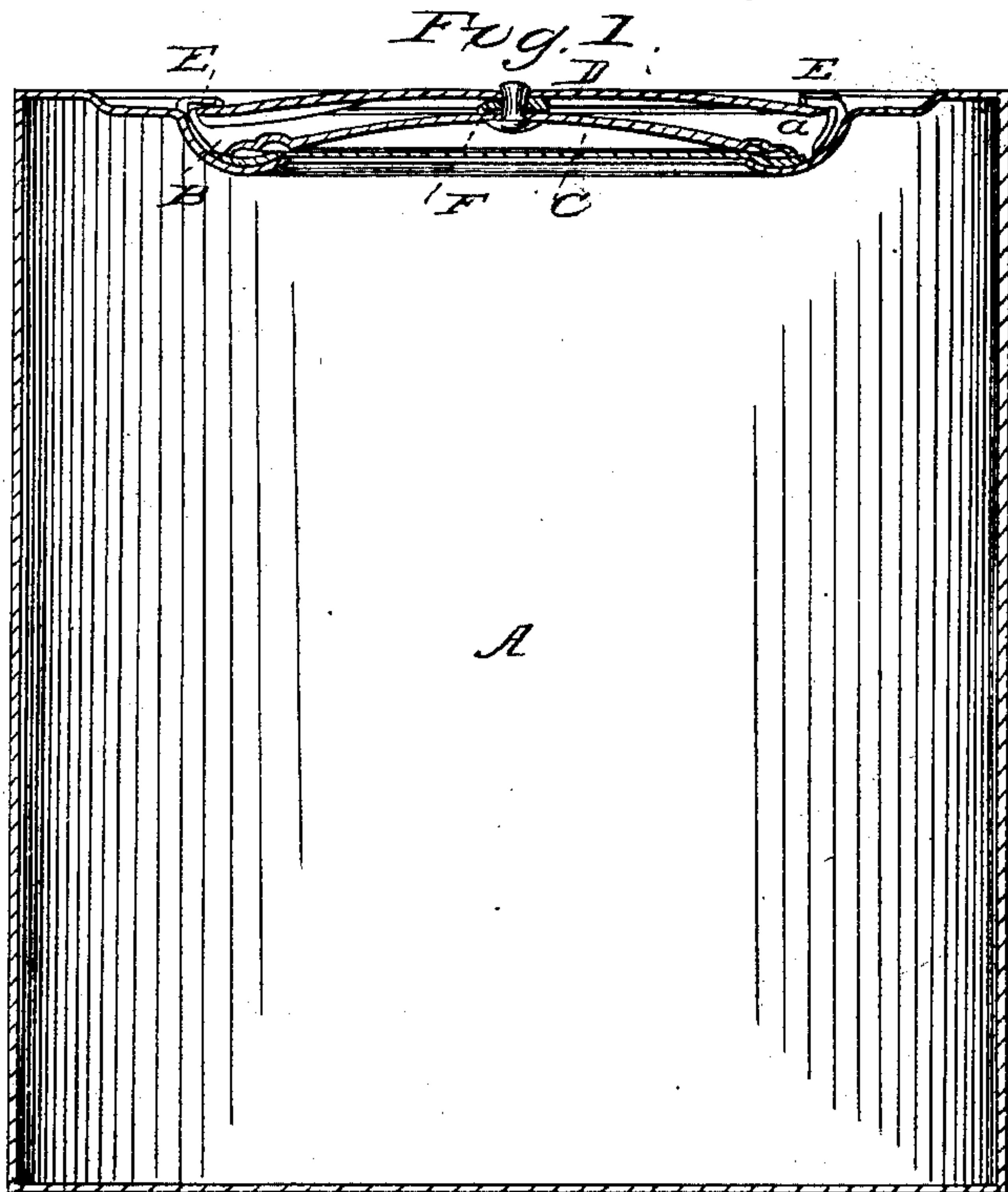


W. D. LUDLOW.

Preserve Can.

No. 24,566.

Patented June 28, 1859.



Witnesses:
Thos M. Bell.
C. H. Hulse

Inventor:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM D. LUDLOW, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

PRESERVE-CAN.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 24,566, dated June 28, 1859; Reissued April 19, 1864, No. 1,656.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM D. LUDLOW, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Sealing Provision-Cans; and I hereby declare the following to be a full and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification.

10 The said improvement consists in a peculiar arrangement and combination of the lugs and keys by which the cover is held down.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is an axial section and Fig. 2 a top view of a can embodying my improvements.

15 A is the can formed with a depression or concavity (*a*) in its top which receives an india rubber gasket B.

20 C is the cover having sufficient external convexity for rigidity and provided with a vertical flange at its periphery adapted to sink into the gasket B so as to form an air tight joint.

25 D, is a key or cross bar pivoted in the center to the cover C, and formed with oblique ends adapted to engage beneath oblique lugs E, E, upon the can.

30 F is a small disk of metal placed beneath the key D, concentrically with its pivot so as to distribute the pressure equally throughout the circumference of the cover and prevent contact between the key and cover near the periphery.

35 To close the can the gasket and cover are placed in the position shown and the key D, rotated so as to pass its depressed corners 1, 1, beneath the lugs E, E, until the wedge like action compresses the cover upon the gasket with sufficient force.

40 The lugs E, are soldered upon the inner face of the concavity *a* in order that the side of the said concavity may form a back or brace to prevent the rupture of the solder by the forcing of the key beneath the lugs.

45 The key D, has sufficient elasticity to permit the escape of steam in the event of undue pressure occurring within the can, which is a well known and prolific source of imper-

fection in the joints of provision cans. Upon the cooling of the contents the external pressure compresses the cover more tightly upon its seat and effectually prevents the ingress of air. The rapidity with which an air tight joint is formed by this arrangement and the facility for retracting the key without removing the cover afford means to test a can previous to using; in the following manner. A piece of lighted paper being placed within the can and the cover quickly closed down in the manner before described, a partial vacuum is formed in the can and if on retraction of the key it is found that the cover remains tightly closed by atmospheric pressure the can is proved to be tight in all its joints. By this means the loss (amounting to many hundreds of dollars annually) which occurs from putting up edibles in cans having unseen imperfections in their joints may be entirely avoided.

It is not essential to this invention that the central bearing F, should be constructed in a separate piece as it may evidently constitute a protuberance upon the key or the cover or both, its office being to prevent an unequal pressure in any part of the periphery of the cover. Neither is it absolutely essential that the key ends and the lugs should both be beveled. The same result can be obtained in an inferior manner by the combination of straight lugs with a beveled key or vice-versa.

I claim as new and of my invention herein—

The described combination of the key D with lugs E attached in the manner shown to the sides of a cavity (*a*), in the top of the can in order to prevent the disruption of the said lugs during the act of closing the can and avoid projections above or beyond its periphery.

In testimony of which invention, I hereunto set my hand.

W. D. LUDLOW.

Witnesses:

JOSEPH RICHTER,
C. S. SEWELL.