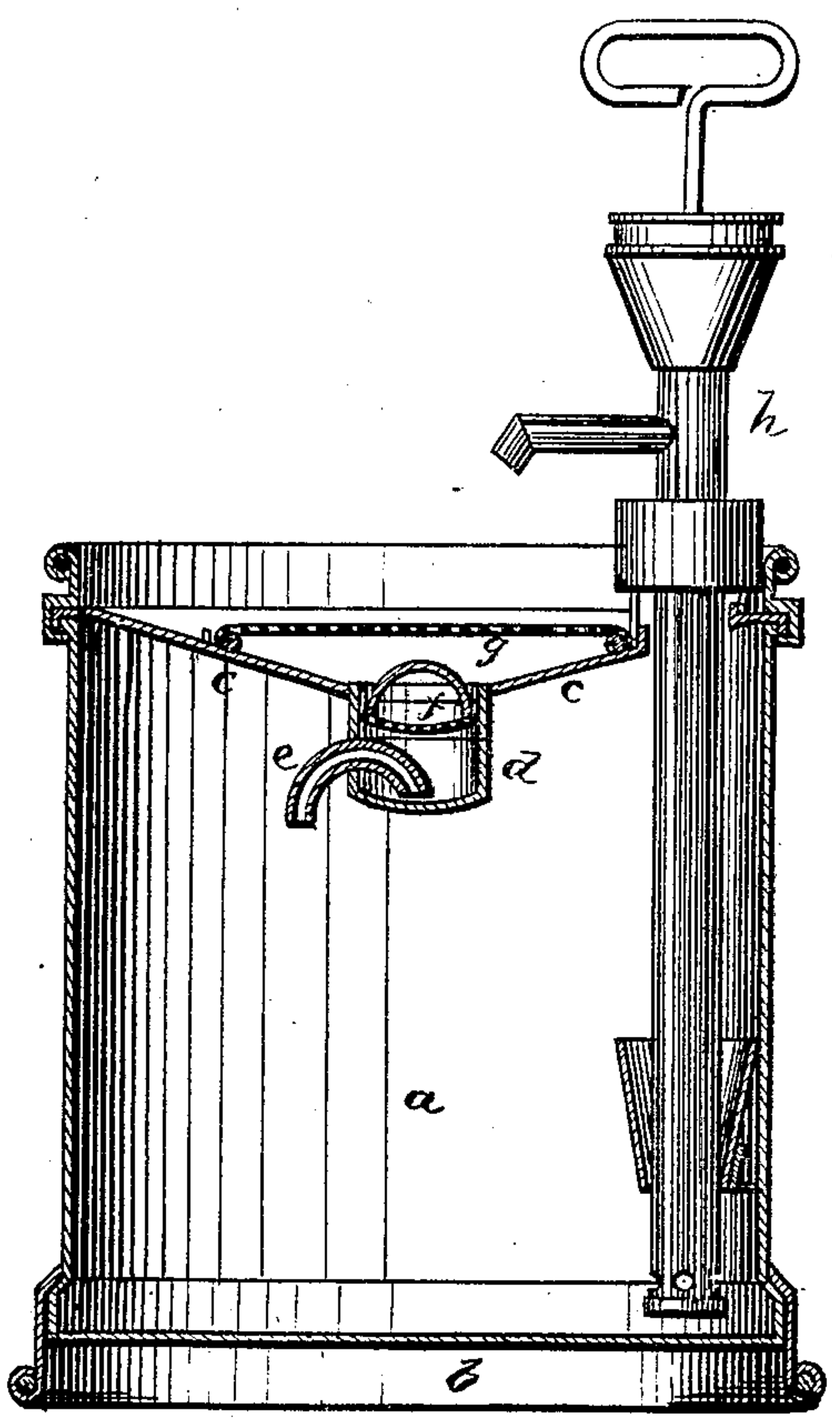
G. R. McCRUM.

OIL-CAN.

No. 177,414. Patented May 16, 1876



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE R. McCRUM, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN OIL-CANS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **177,414**, dated May 16, 1876; application filed February 7, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE R. MCCRUM, of the city of Chicago, Cook county, State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in Oil Cans or Tanks, of which the following is a full description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical section of the can, with the pump in elevation.

The object of this invention is to construct a can or tank for handling oil, which shall be both convenient and safe in use; and the nature of my improvement consists in providing the can with a concave head, having a small chamber at its center connected with a siphon, which will prevent the escape of any gases caused by evaporation, and also prevent the passage of any flame into the can or tank; and in providing the can with a removable strainer, upon which the vessels to be filled are placed.

In the drawings, *a* represents the can; *b*, the bottom flange, which may be filled with wood, to prevent its being injured, and to give an additional support to the can; *c*, the concave head or top; *d*, the central chamber or well; *e*, the siphon; *f*, the secondary strainer or cap; *g*, the primary strainer or platform; *h*, the pump, of any ordinary construction.

In construction, the can *a* is made of any suitable size or form, and is designed, more especially, to be used in retail establishments for storing kerosene or other inflammable oils. This can *a* is provided with a concave top, *c*, as shown, and its center or lowest part is provided with a small well or chamber, *d*, into which any overflow or waste oil runs, and through which the can may be filled.

The chamber *d* is provided with a siphon, *e*, the shorter arm of which is nearly in contact with the bottom of the well or chamber, there being only sufficient space left for the oil to pass into the siphon at that point. The longer arm of the siphon is inside of the can, and passes half an inch, more or less, below the bottom of the well *d*, so that as soon as sufficient oil is accumulated in the well to start the siphon, the oil will continue to flow until it is practically all drawn into the can.

By making the long arm of the siphon only long enough to secure its operation, the oil from the well or chamber *d* will expel the air, so that the siphon will start as soon as sufficient oil has accumulated to reach its highest point. This siphon *e* also forms a trap, which prevents the escape of any gases from the interior of the can, as there is never sufficient pressure in the inside to force out any vapor which may be generated therein. This well or opening *d* may be provided with a strainer-cap, *f*, which can be made finer than the strainer-platform *g*, so that it will catch and hold any dirt that may have passed below the strainer-platform.

In order to provide a level platform for the cans or vessels which are to be filled to stand upon, the can is provided with a platform-strainer, *g*, which passes partly across the concave head *c*, as shown, leaving a sufficient portion of the concave head around it, so that the head will act as a funnel for any oil which may be beyond this platform *g*, as well as for that which passes through it. This platform *g* is perforated so as to act as a strainer to prevent dust and dirt from settling into the can, and it is detachable, so that it can be taken out and cleaned at any time.

The pump *h* is arranged to discharge toward the center of the can, and is made detachable, so that it can be taken out and inserted in the barrel for filling the can, and be replaced, as shown, for filling smaller cans or vessels.

In filling from the barrel the discharge from the pump may enter the can at the opening caused by removing the pump *h*, or it may be pumped into the well *d*, as desired.

It is obvious that the siphon may be applied to a concave head, or head having a depression, without using the well or chamber *d*.

I do not therefore limit myself in the use of a siphon to its combination with said chamber. As the siphon furnishes the vent for the can, the pump will always cause it to operate.

The chamber or well *d* need not be centrally located, as in small cans it will, preferably, be near the side opposite the pump.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is as follows:

1. The combination of the concave head *c*, strainer *g*, well *d*, and siphon *e*, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The combination of the platform-strainer *g* with the secondary strainer *f*, concave head *c*, chamber or opening *d*, and siphon *e*, substantially as specified.

GEORGE R. McCRUM.

Witnesses:

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