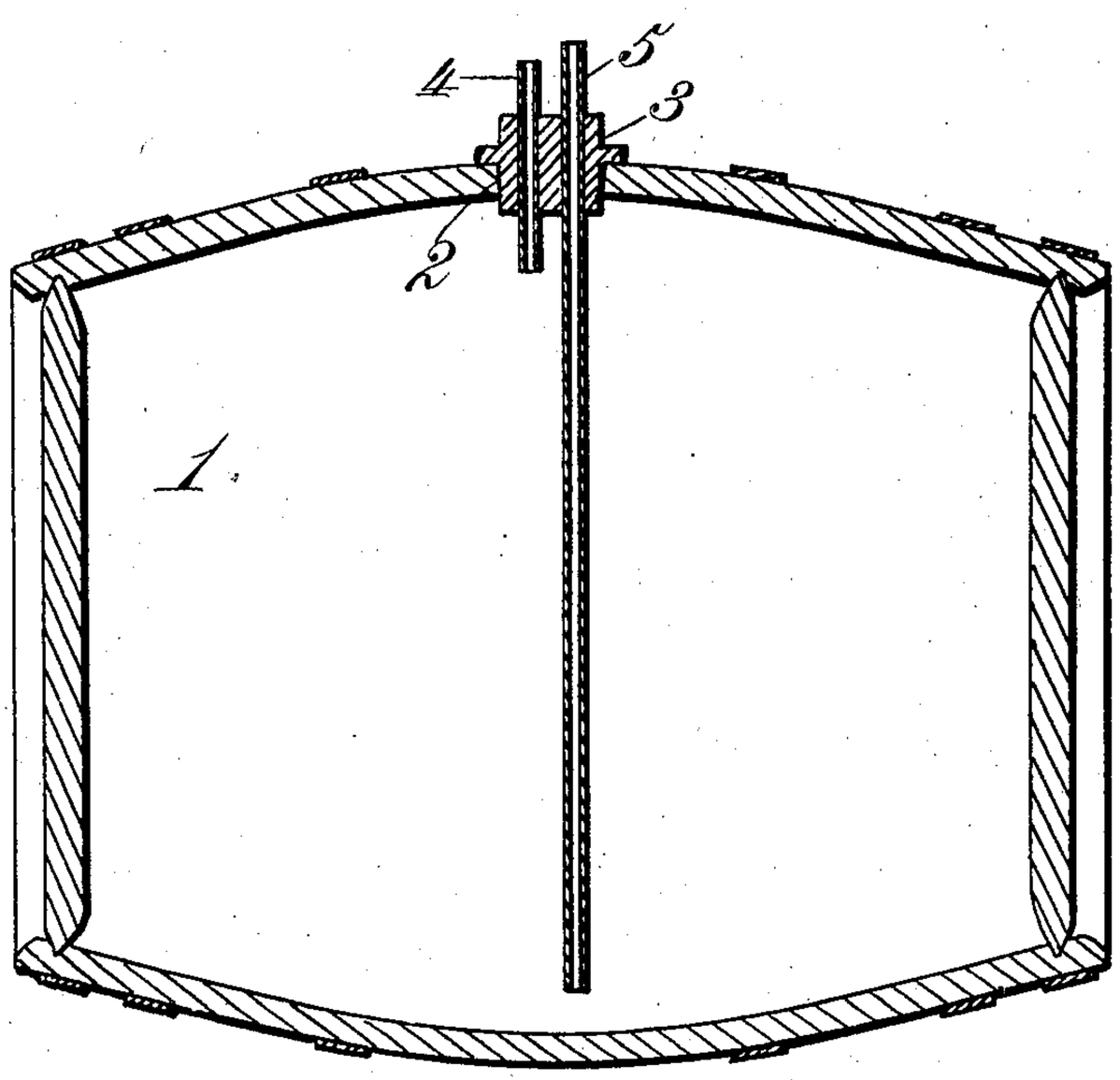
No. 747,740. PATENTED DEC. 22, 1903.

D. MALONE.

PROCESS OF PREPARING WOODEN BARRELS TO RECEIVE SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 17, 1903.

NO MODEL.



Witnesses.
Robert Everett.
James L. Norris, Jr.

Inventor.
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No. 747,740. Patented December 22, 1903.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DANIEL MALONE, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

PROCESS OF PREPARING WOODEN BARRELS TO RECEIVE SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 747,740, dated December 22, 1903.

Application filed January 17, 1903. Serial No. 139,465. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANIEL MALONE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, have invented new and useful Improvements in Processes of Preparing Wooden Barrels to Receive Spirituous Liquors, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a process of preparing wooden barrels to receive spirituous liquors, and more especially whiskies.

According to my process I subject the interior of a wooden barrel or cask to the action of dry heat at a temperature sufficient to bring the tannic acid in the wood to the inside surface of the barrel. The temperature should not be so high as to char the barrel, as in this case the primary object of the invention would be defeated. A temperature of 250° Fahrenheit is a desirable one, although this may be either increased or decreased within certain limits. The tannic acid brought to the inner surface of the barrel by heating the same in the manner indicated will mix with the spirituous liquors introduced into said barrel, and in the case of whisky the same is given a desirable color and in a very much more rapid manner than can be secured by certain existing methods. Besides this the mixture of the tannic acid with the whisky takes from the latter the flat taste always present therein when freshly distilled, and it also brings prominently to the taste the essential oils therein. By heating the inside of the barrel in the manner indicated the pores of the wood are so opened that the evaporation of the spirits is more rapidly secured than with said existing methods.

In the drawing in sectional elevation I show a means for carrying out my process.

Referring to said drawing, the numeral 1 indicates a wooden barrel or cask as received from a cooper, having the usual bung-hole 2.

To carry out the process, I initially close the bung-hole 2, and this may be done by means of the plug or disk 3 or any suitable material fitted in said bung-hole in an air-tight manner. The inlet and outlet pipes 4 and 5, respectively, pass through the plug 3 and into the barrel, they being shown as arranged in parallelism. The inlet-pipe 4 is for the purpose of conducting the dry hot air into the interior of the barrel or cask 1, while the outlet-pipe 5 is to carry off any vapors that may arise while the interior of the barrel is being subjected to the heating. In order that all parts of the barrel may be subjected to a uniform heating action, the inlet-pipe 4 extends just a short distance below the bung-hole, while the entering end of the outlet or discharge pipe 5 is situated at a point diametrically, or practically so, opposite said bung-hole, so that the discharge of all vapors is thereby assured.

The dry hot air may be supplied to the inlet-pipe in any suitable way, none being herein shown, as the same forms no part of the invention. The hot air should be at a temperature of approximately 250°, and the interior of the barrel is subjected to the action of the same for about one hour. This hot air thoroughly heats the wood and brings to the inner surface of the barrel any tannic acid that may be in such wood, so that when newly-distilled spirits are introduced into the barrel the tannic acid mingles with the same, so as to give it a desirable color and to also secure the other advantages hereinbefore mentioned.

Having described the invention, what I claim is—

1. The process of preparing a wooden barrel to receive spirituous liquor which consists in subjecting its interior to a dry heat at a sufficient temperature and for a sufficient time to bring the tannic acid in the wood to the inner surface of said barrel.

2. The process of preparing wooden barrels to receive spirituous liquors, which consists in subjecting their interiors to a dry heat of approximately 250° Fahrenheit for a period of substantially one hour.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

DANIEL MALONE.

Witnesses:
HEATH SUTHERLAND,
GEO. W. REA.