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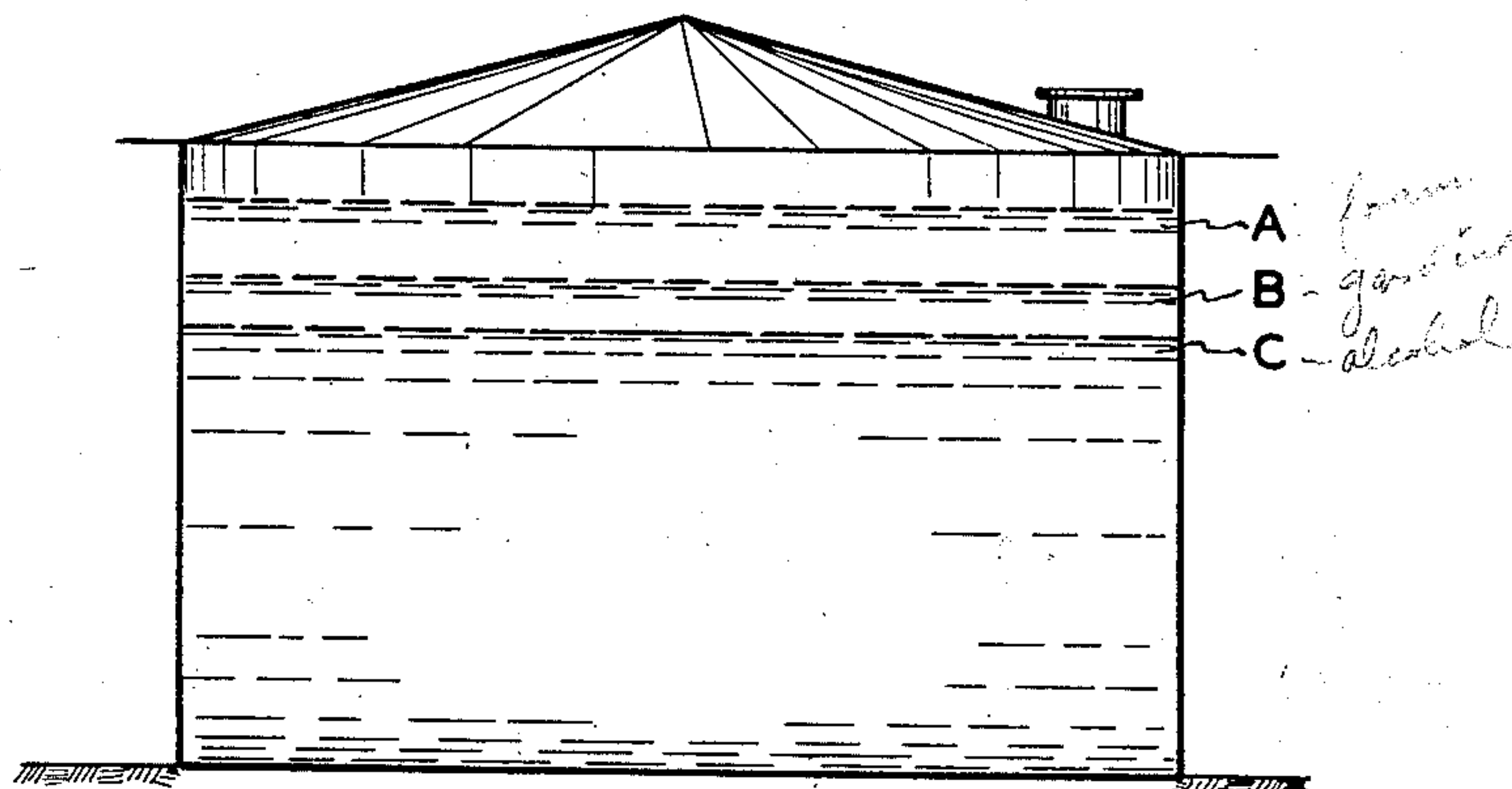
Aug. 20, 1935.

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2,011,946

METHOD OF EXTINGUISHING ALCOHOL FIRES

Filed Aug. 20, 1934

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Patented Aug. 20, 1935

2,011,946

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,011,946

METHOD OF EXTINGUISHING ALCOHOL FIRES

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Application August 20, 1934, Serial No. 740,634

1 Claim. (Cl. 169—4)

The method of extinguishing fires occurring in tanks of petroleum or its product which consists in flowing over the surface of the burning liquid a layer of fire-extinguishing foam is in wide-spread use. As is well known, this foam is generated by mixing a solution of aluminum sulphate with a solution of sodium bicarbonate with ordinarily the addition of a solution of glue, licorice, or some other stabilizing substance.

10 This foam consists to a large extent of water and is useless for application to burning liquids such as alcohol which are readily miscible with water because the foam immediately breaks down and loses its extinguishing value.

15 We have discovered that if an inflammable liquid which is not miscible with water, such as gasoline or one of the light petroleum products, and which is specifically lighter than the water-soluble liquid contained in the tank, be flowed over the surface of the burning water-soluble liquid and the foam then flowed over the surface of the burning gasoline, the fire is extinguished with the same speed and readiness as would be the case if the contents of the tank were gasoline alone.

25 The method may be applied to the protection of tanks containing any water-soluble inflamma-

ble substance such as the lower alcohols, ethers, and other organic liquids, and in place of gasoline we may use any petroleum product which is insoluble or very slowly soluble in the liquid to be protected and which is not miscible with water, and which is specifically lighter than the mixture to be protected.

The attached drawing illustrates a tank protected in the manner above disclosed. In this drawing C is the upper level of the water soluble inflammable liquid, such as alcohol, B indicates a layer of specifically lighter liquid, such as gasoline, and A indicates a layer of fire extinguishing foam.

I claim as my invention:

The method of extinguishing fires occurring in tanks containing inflammable liquids miscible with water which consists in flowing over the surface of said liquid a second liquid specifically lighter than the burning liquid and substantially insoluble in both the burning liquid and in water, and thereafter flowing over the surface of the layer of said second liquid a fire-extinguishing foam.

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