A. E. GARDNER.
Oil-Can.

No. 209,037. Patented Oct. 15, 1878.

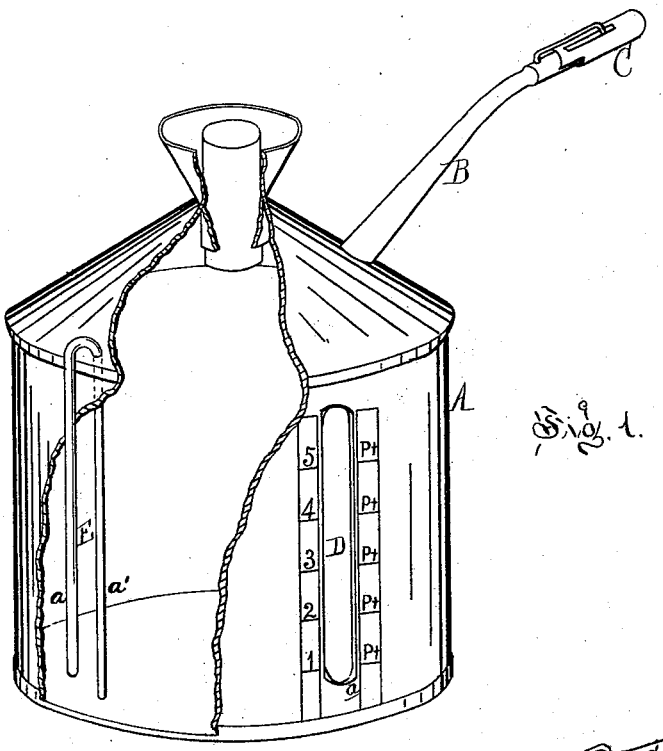

Fig. 1.

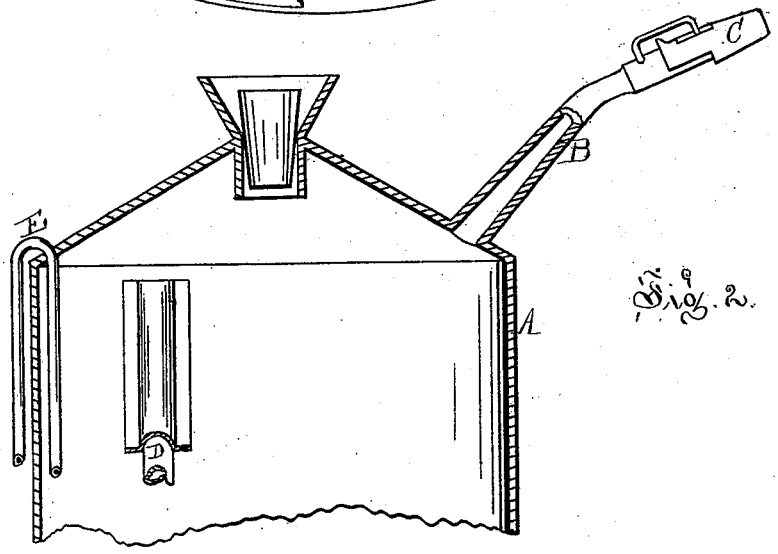

Fig. 2.

Witnesses:
H. L. Aulls
Charles J. Hunt

Inventor:
A. E. Gardner
By Atty
Thos. L. Sprague.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ADDISON E. GARDNER, OF MILAN, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF HIS RIGHT TO NATHAN C. PUTNAM, OF YORK, MICHIGAN.

IMPROVEMENT IN OIL-CANS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **209,037**, dated October 15, 1878; application filed March 7, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ADDISON E. GARDNER, of Milan, in the county of Washtenaw and State of Michigan, have invented an Improvement in Oil-Cans, of which the following is a specification:

The nature of my invention relates to an improvement in the construction of oil-cans; and it consists in providing the can with a peculiar vent-pipe, which is doubled upon itself near its center, and enters the can at the top of the same, one part of the pipe being inside of the can, with its open end near the bottom thereof, while the other leg of the pipe is entirely outside of the can, and terminates near its bottom, so that air will be admitted to the space at the bottom of the can while liquid is being poured from the same.

In the drawing, which represents my invention in perspective, with a portion broken away to show interior arrangements, A represents an oil-can provided with the usual delivery-spout B, which, in turn, may be provided with a stopper, C.

In the side of the can I cut a slot, *a*, back of which, and within the can, is properly secured a glass tube, D, as shown, open at both ends. This tube may be graduated as may be desired, or as the various sizes of cans may require, to show how much liquid the can contains. If preferred, the graduations may be made upon the outside of the can. In the top of the can is secured a funnel-shaped neck adapted to receive a cork or stopper. In the can at the side opposite to that in which the delivery-spout is secured I secure a vent-pipe, E. This vent-pipe is made from a single small tube, which is bent upon itself at or near its center, and forms two legs or parts, *a a'*, which may be of equal length; but the part *a'* is preferably somewhat longer than the other, as shown. The leg *a'* is passed through the top of the can, and projects down near the bottom of the same and close to the side of the can opposite to the spout, while the other leg, *a*, extends down on the outside of the can, close to the same.

It will be seen that when the can is tipped up to pour the liquid out of the spout an air-space is formed in the lower corner of the can, just where the open end of the inner part of the vent-pipe terminates, and by this form of vent-pipe the pouring of the liquid is facilitated even when the can is quite full.

The inner part of the vent-tube, projecting down into the liquid, will become partly filled with the oil, and when the can is tipped the oil will flow in this tube toward the bend in the same and into its outer part, *a;* but as soon as a vacuum is formed in the can the heavy weight of the whole body of oil in the can as compared to the very small quantity in the vent-pipe will create a sufficiently-perfect vacuum to cause the oil in the vent-pipe to be driven into the can by air-pressure, and the can to be automatically vented.

By this construction of can the person filling the same can at all times see how much liquid has been poured in by looking at the graduated gage, while the funnel-shaped neck greatly assists in the operation.

When it becomes necessary to pour from the can the cork or stopper does not have to be removed for venting, as air finds ingress into the can through the vent-pipe.

What I claim as my invention is—

The vent-pipe E for oil-cans, bent upon itself into two parallel parts, *a a'*, the part *a'* being entered into the top of the can on the side opposite to the delivery-spout, and terminating near the bottom and close to the side of the can, constructed and arranged substantially as described and shown.

ADDISON E. GARDNER.

Witnesses:
EDWIN ALCHIN,
A. B. HANSON.