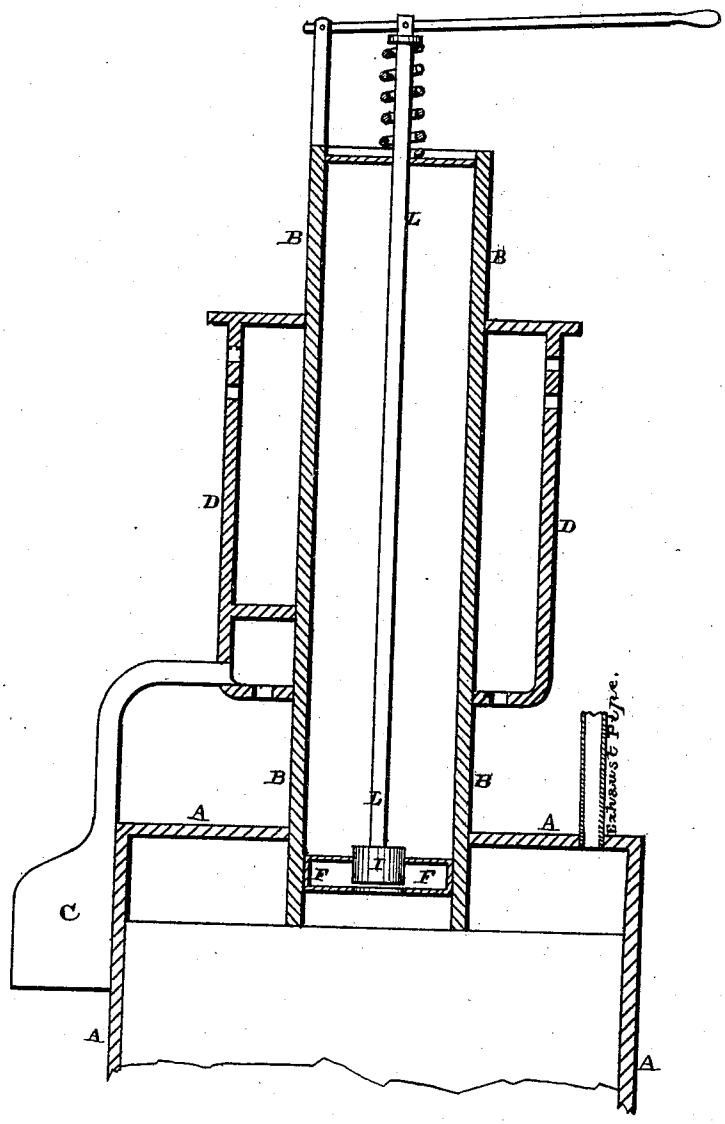
(No Model.)

U. A. WOODBURY.

Apparatus for Sealing Cans.

No. 241,264. Patented May 10, 1881.



Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

URBAN A. WOODBURY, OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT.

APPARATUS FOR SEALING CANS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 241,264, dated May 10, 1881.

Application filed March 16, 1881. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, URBAN A. WOODBURY, of Burlington, in the county of Chittenden and State of Vermont, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Apparatus for Sealing Cans; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, which forms part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in sealing cans; and it consists in the combination of a cone under which the can to be sealed is placed, and having a conduit through which the air may be exhausted from the cone, a vessel secured to the top of the cone for containing the sealing compound, and which compound is kept in a melted condition by means of any suitable heating device, a valve-rod and a measuring-chamber, whereby a specified amount of sealing compound can be dropped upon the top of the cork or other device used for closing the top of the can, and thus hermetically seal the can while in a vacuum, as will be more fully described hereinafter.

The object of my invention is to seal cans, while in a vacuum, by covering the cork or other material used in closing the can with a compound which is impervious to air, and which compound will be always dropped upon the exact spot intended for it, and without the slightest danger of admitting air into the cone or vessel being sealed.

The accompanying drawing represents a vertical section of my apparatus.

A represents the cone, of any desired shape, size, or construction, under or in which the can to be sealed is placed, and from which cone the air is exhausted by means of any suitable exhausting apparatus. Upon the top of this cone, and extending any suitable distance down into it, is secured the vessel B, in which the sealing compound, of any desired composition, is placed, and which compound is kept in a melted condition by means of the lamp C or any other suitable heating apparatus, and the jacket D, which incloses any suitable portion of the vessel B. Inside of this jacket is placed a suitable flange, which directs the heat from the lamp directly against the sides of the vessel B and prevents the heat from rising straight upward, as it otherwise would do. This jacket has suitable perforations made through its bottom for air to enter and support combustion, and suitable openings through its top to allow the products of combustion to freely escape.

In the lower part of the vessel B, and at any suitable distance from its lower end, is formed a measuring-chamber, F, which consists simply of two horizontal partitions placed in the chamber, and which are separated any suitable distance apart, according to the quantity of the sealing compound which is to be dropped upon the cork or cover of the can or other vessel placed in the cone to be sealed. Through the center of each one of these partitions which form this measuring-chamber is made a suitable hole, and passing through these two holes is a valve, I, which is secured to the lower end of the valve-rod L, which extends any suitable distance upward above the top of the vessel B, and which valve is held in such a position, when left free to move, as to close the opening through the upper partition, so as to prevent any of the sealing compound from running into the chamber. This valve snugly fits the two openings made through the two partitions, so that none of the sealing compound can escape from the vessel; but when the valve is depressed it sinks down through both of the projections until its top is just flush with the bottom of the measuring-chamber. While the valve is pressed downward, so that its top sinks below the opening in the top of the measuring-chamber, the sealing compound flows down into the chamber around the valve-rod until the chamber is filled, and then, as soon as the valve-rod is released, the spring raises the valve upward until it again closes the opening through the top of the measuring-chamber, and leaves the opening through its bottom open for the sealing compound to flow out on the top of the cork or cover which closes the can. This compound being impervious to air, and being dropped upon the exact spot intended for it, settles over the top of the cork or cover in such a manner as to make the cork air-tight. After the can has thus been sealed the air is again admitted to the cone, and the can which has

just been sealed is removed therefrom, and another can put in its place to be again exhausted and sealed in the same manner.

Of course a suitable opening is made through the cork or stopper to the can or jar, so that the air can be exhausted from the can at the same time that it is exhausted from the cone.

The sealing composition is preferably made of paraffine and beeswax, which is very dense, and cools almost instantly after it drops from the chamber.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. The combination of an exhausting-cone, a vessel to hold a sealing compound, a suitable means for keeping the sealing compound in a fluid state, a measuring-chamber, and a valve, the parts being combined and arranged to operate substantially as shown.

2. The combination of the cone A, the vessel B, having its open lower end projecting through the top of the cone, the measuring-chamber F, formed in the lower end of vessel B, valve I, and valve-rod L, provided with a spring, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

URBAN A. WOODBURY.

Witnesses:
L. C. GRANT,
C. H. SPENCER.