C. SCURLOCK.

OIL CAN INDICATOR.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 25, 1910.

980,348.

Patented Jan. 3, 1911.

Fig. 1.

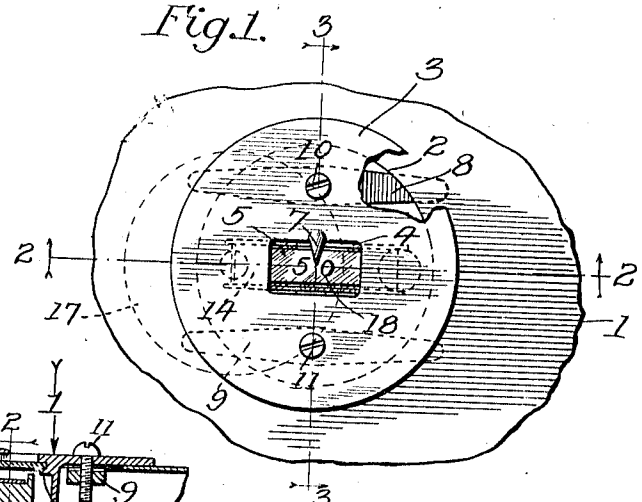


Fig. 3.

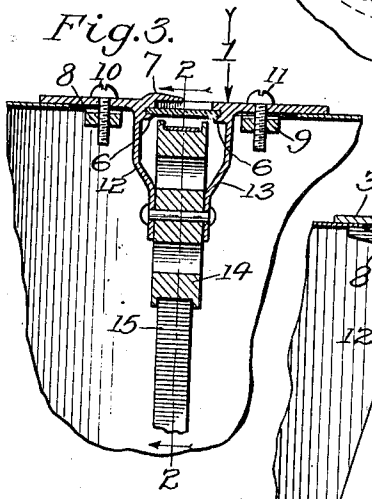


Fig. 2.

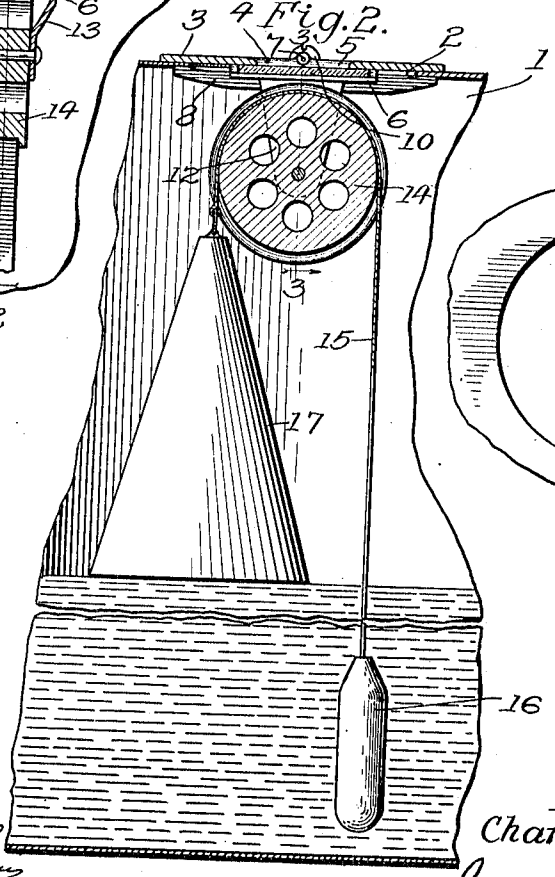
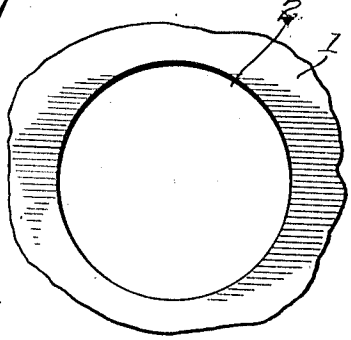


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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OIL-CAN INDICATOR.

980,348. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 3, 1911.

Application filed March 25, 1910. Serial No. 551,566.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES SCURLOCK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pasadena, California, have invented a new and useful Oil-Can Indicator, of which the following is a specification.

My object is to construct an indicator which may be readily applied to large oil cans, and my invention consists of the novel features herein shown, described and claimed.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a fragmentary top plan view of an oil can indicator in use, embodying the principles of my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical section on the lines 2—2 of Figs. 1 and 3. Fig. 3 is a vertical section on the lines 3—3 of Figs. 1 and 2. Fig. 4 is a view analogous to Fig. 1 and showing the opening on the top of the can ready to receive the oil can indicator.

Referring to the drawings in detail my oil can indicator is intended especially to be used in the fifty or one hundred gallon cans kept by retail dealers for carrying a stock of coal oil and the like. These cans have a flat sheet metal top 1 and when it is desired to place one of my oil indicators in position for use a circular opening 2 is formed in the sheet metal top 1 by the use of a can opener or similar means, said opening being large enough to receive the operating parts of the indicator. The cap plate 3 is large enough to cover the opening 2 and a sight opening 4 is formed in the center of the cap plate.

A section of window glass 5 is mounted in a slideway 6 under the cap plate 3 in position to close the sight opening 4, and an indicator finger 7 extends from one side of the opening above the glass plate 5. Clamping plates 8 and 9 are placed in parallel positions upon opposite sides of the sight opening 4, and screws 10 and 11 are inserted through the cap plate 3 and screw seated in the clamping plates. Hanger arms 12 and 13 extend downwardly from the cap plate 3 upon opposite sides of the sight opening 4 and a grooved roller 14 is mounted on the hanger arms in vertical alinement with the sight opening.

A graduated steel tape 15 runs over the roller 14 and has a weight 16 upon one end and a float 17 upon the other end, the weight and float being in such a relation to each other that when there is no liquid in the can the float will overbalance the weight, and go to the bottom of the can, and when there is liquid in the can the float will ride upon the liquid and the weight will sink. Graduations 18 are formed upon the face of the tape 15 zero being located near the end attached to the weight 16 and the highest number being located near the end attached to the float 17, so that when the weight is up and the float down zero will appear through the sight opening 4, and when liquid is placed in the can the float will rise and the graduations will show the quantity of liquid in the can. The device is applied to a can by inserting the weight 16, the float 17, and the roller 14, through the opening 2 in the can and manipulating corresponding ends of the clamping plates 8 and 9 under the edge of the can, the screws 10 and 11 being loose and the cap plate 3 being shoved over far enough to allow the other ends of the clamping plates to pass down through the opening and then the cap plate is backed up to a central position and the screws 10 and 11 tightened, thereby securely closing the opening 2 and holding the indicator mechanism in place.

I desire to call especial attention to the construction whereby the indicator mechanism is entirely housed within the can and is applied to the can from the outside without other manipulations of the can than is necessary to make the opening 2.

I claim:

1. An oil can indicator comprising a cap plate, clamping plates carried by the cap plate so that the clamping plates may be inserted through an opening in a can and clamped in position from the outside, the cap plate having a sight opening therethrough, means forming a guideway a graduated tape running in said guideway by said sight opening, a float upon one end of the tape and a weight upon the other end of the tape.

2. An oil can indicator comprising a cap plate having a sight opening, a glass car-

ried by the cap plate and covering the sight opening, clamping plates carried by the cap plate and adapted to be inserted through an opening in a can and clamped in position from the outside, a roller below the sight opening and forming a guideway, a graduated tape running upon said roller by said sight opening, a float upon one end of the graduated tape, and a weight upon the other end of the tape.

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