H. H. HOOPS.

COMBINED SIFTER AND FUNNEL.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 12, 1919.

1,333,419. Patented Mar. 9, 1920.

Fig. 2

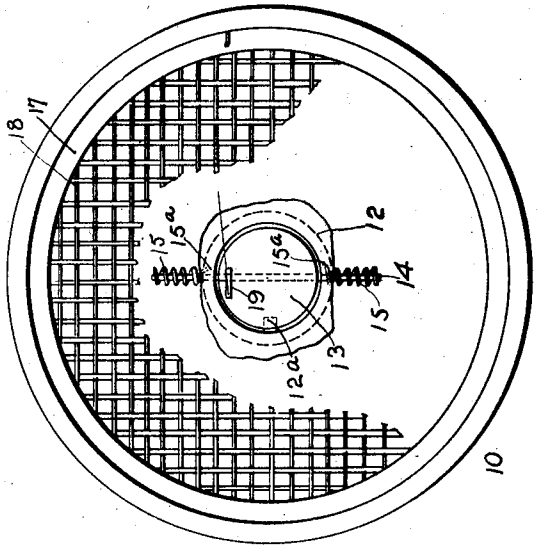
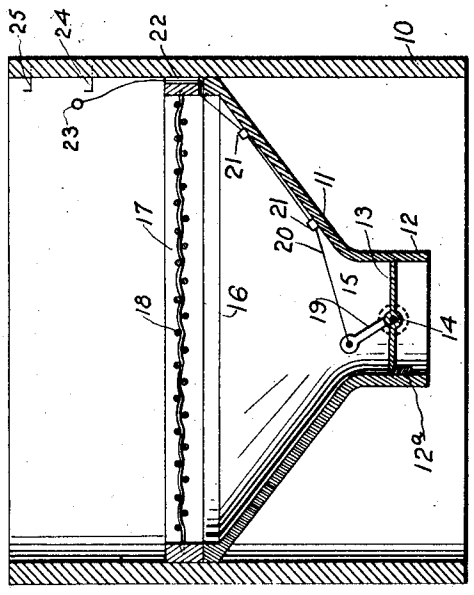


Fig. 1



WITNESSES

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COMBINED SIFTER AND FUNNEL.

1,333,419. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 9, 1920.

Application filed April 12, 1919. Serial No. 289,669.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HERMAN H. HOOPS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of New York, borough of Manhattan, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Combined Sifter and Funnel, of which the following is a description.

My improved device is for use by grocers and more particularly is intended for sifting out grapes from ground cork or sawdust and whereby approximately the desired quantity of grapes with adhering sawdust may be taken from the barrel or other container, the exact amount separated from the sawdust and weighed, any surplus grapes restored to the barrel and the sawdust or as much of it as desired also restored to the barrel on top of the returned grapes, the whole performance being attended with convenience, despatch and cleanliness.

The present methods of handling the grapes do not enable a given quantity to be readily vended and in the operation the sawdust or ground cork is caused to litter the floor.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, it being understood that the drawings are merely illustrative of one example of the invention.

Figure 1 is a longitudinal vertical section of a combined sifter and funnel embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is a plan view with parts broken away to better show the spring means normally tending to hold the valve controlled funnel closed.

In carrying out my invention in accordance with the illustrated example a body 10 is provided, preferably in the form of a plain cylinder and open at the top and bottom. Within the body 10 is a funnel 11 having a central depending contracted neck 12 controlled by a pivoted valve 13 rigid with a rod 14 extending laterally at opposite sides of the valve through said neck 12 to have bearing in the latter. The valve 13 is normally held closed by spring means to thereby normally close the contracted neck 12 of the funnel. In the illustrated example springs 15 are coiled about the ends of the rod 14 with which the valve 13 is rigid, the inner ends of the springs being secured to the neck 12 as indicated at 15^a, Fig. 2, while the opposite ends of the springs are suitably made fast to the rod 14. A stop 12^a in the neck 12 limits the closing movement of the valve under the action of the springs 15.

The upper end of the funnel presents an annular shoulder 16 to constitute a rest for a sifter 17 consisting of a ring and suitable mesh 18. Thus the sifter may be readily lifted from its seat on the shoulder 16 in the cylindrical body 10, whereby to constitute the sifter a tray for restoring any surplus material deposited on the sifter as hereinafter further referred to.

The valve 13 may be opened optionally against the tension of the springs 15 for which purpose I provide a lever arm 19 rigid with the valve and its rod 14 and extend a wire or cord as 20 from the end of said arm through suitable guides 21 on the funnel 11 and upwardly outside of the sifter 17 through a vertical clearance recess 22 formed in the periphery of the said sifter. The terminal of the core 20 preferably is in the form of a ring 23 and lower and upper hooks 24, 25 are provided within the cylindrical body 10 above the sifter. In the closed position of the valve under the action of the springs 15, the ring 23 may be engaged with the lower hook 24 while a pull on the ring 23 and cord 20 will open the valve and it may be held in the open position by hooking the ring 23 over the upper hook 25. With the described construction, the device 10 is placed on the floor or counter adjacent to the barrel or other structure containing the grapes and sawdust and grapes are lifted from the container and are deposited on the sifter 17 in approximately the quantity of grapes desired. Any given quantity of grapes may now be taken from the sifter manually and weighed. The grapes remaining on the sifter 17 may now be restored to the original container and this may be done by lifting the sifter bodily from the cylindrical body 10. The remaining grapes having been restored to the original container, the body 10 is now placed on top of the grape container and the valve 13 opened to permit the sawdust or ground cork to pass from the funnel into said container on top of the grapes. Thus, more or less cork or sawdust can be returned to the original container as desired. It is to be observed in Fig. 1 that the valve 13 and its rod 14 are mounted in the neck or spout 12 of the funnel at such a height above the lower edge of the cylindrical body 10 that the valve 13

will swing in a path above the plane of the bottom of the body 10, the purpose being to prevent injury to the valve 13, even should the body 10 be placed on the floor with the valve 13 in the open position. Furthermore, it will be observed that the neck 12 also terminates within the lower end of the body 10 to prevent damage to the neck and to always insure the structure being seated on the lower end of the body to give firm support.

I would state in conclusion that while the illustrated example constitutes a practical embodiment of my invention, I do not limit myself strictly to the mechanical details herein illustrated, since manifestly the same can be considerably varied without departure from the spirit of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A combined sifter and funnel including a casing, a valve controlled funnel in said casing and having an annular shoulder at its upper end, an annular ring having a mesh therein to form a sifter tray removably seated on said shoulder, and operating means for said valve passing over said shoulder above said sifter tray to a position to be manually engaged.

2. A combined sifter and funnel including a portable tubular body, a valve controlled funnel rigid in said body and presenting an annular shoulder at the upper end, and a sifter tray comprising an annular ring and having a mesh therein, said annular ring being adapted to be removably seated on said shoulder of the funnel and optionally liftable therefrom, whereby said tray constitutes carrying means for any surplus material deposited on the sifter, and an operating cord for said valve passing over said shoulder and upwardly outside of said sifter tray to a position to be conveniently manually engaged.

3. A combined sifter and funnel including a casing, a valve controlled funnel in said casing and having an annular shoulder at its upper end, an annular sifter tray removably seated on said shoulder, operating means for said valve passing over said shoulder above said sifter tray to a position for manual engagement, and means engaged by said operating means for holding the latter in either valve open or closed position.

HERMAN H. HOOPS.