J. H. THOMPSON & E. S. GOETZ.

MEANS FOR LOCKING CANS.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 21, 1915.

1,190,043.

Patented July 4, 1916.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

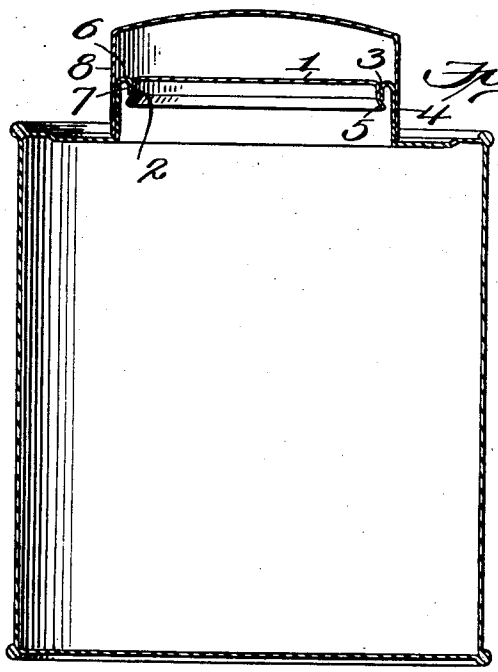



Fig. 1.

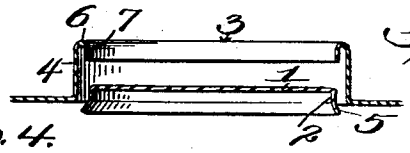



Fig. 2.

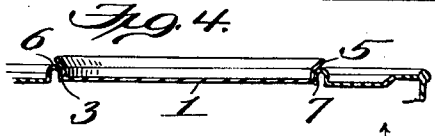



Fig. 4.

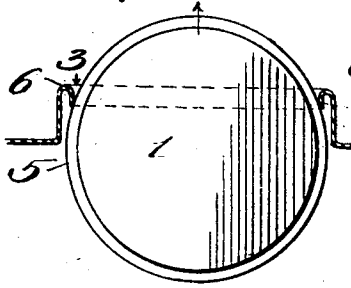



Fig. 3.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 5.

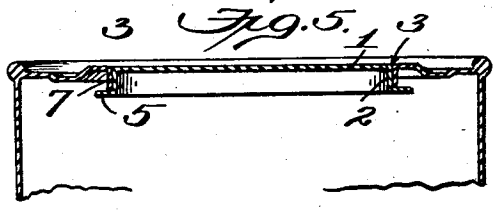



Fig. 6.

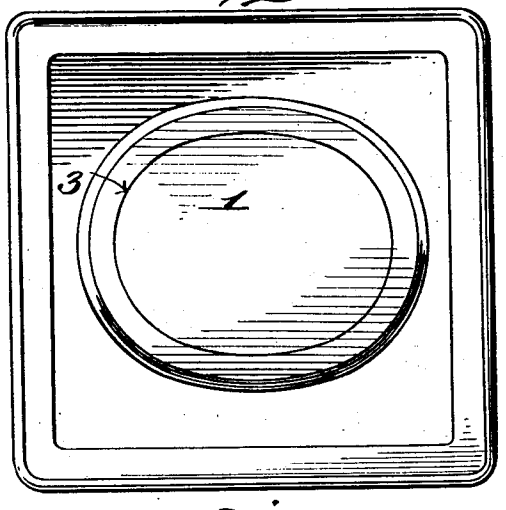



Fig. 7.

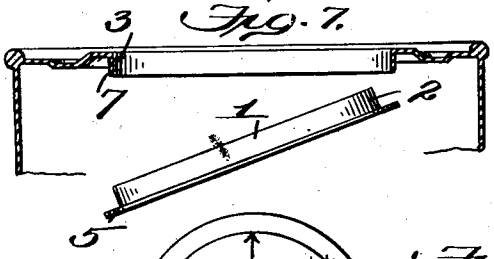
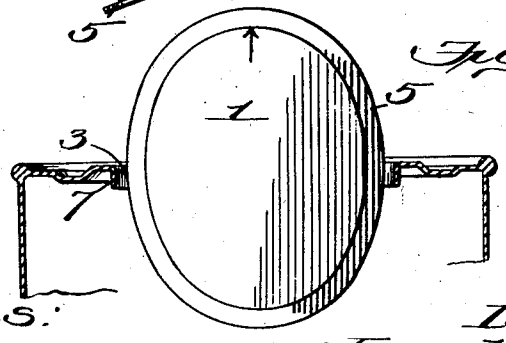



Fig. 8.




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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES HENRY THOMPSON, OF SOUTH MELBOURNE, AND EMIL STEPHEN GOETZ, OF WEST MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA, ASSIGNORS TO RANDAL JAMES ALCOCK, OF MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

## MEANS FOR LOCKING CANS.

1,190,043. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 4, 1916.

Application filed May 21, 1915. Serial No. 29,574.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, JAMES HENRY THOMPSON, a subject of the King of Great Britain, residing at Clardendon street, South Melbourne, in the State of Victoria, Australia, manager, and EMIL STEPHEN GOETZ, a subject of the King of Great Britain, residing at 399 Batman street, West Melbourne, Victoria aforesaid, engineer, have invented Improved Means for Locking Cans, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to the locking or closing of tin cans or canisters and has been devised in order to provide a convenient means of closing and locking the cans in such a manner that after being unlocked a can cannot be relocked by the original means, whereby any tampering with the contents of the cans may be readily detected.

Briefly stated a locking lid of circular elliptical or rectangular shape is pressed into the neck or mouth of the can from the inside or underside (before the construction of the can is completed) so as to be approximately flush with the top of the neck or mouth and said top is capable of being pushed inward, turned and withdrawn but cannot be replaced in the original manner.

The invention is illustrated by the accompanying drawings whereof—

Figure 1 is a vertical section of a can with the improved locking means as applied to a can formed with a circular mouth. Figs. 2 and 3 are sectional views (broken) illustrating the removal of the locking lid. Fig. 4 is a section view (broken) illustrating the means of using the locking lid after removal as a closure lid. Fig. 5 is a section. Fig. 6 a plan and Figs. 7 and 8 sections showing the application of the invention to a can having an elliptical mouth and lid.

According to this invention the locking lid 1 is formed with a downwardly projecting flange 2 adapted to neatly fit the mouth 3 of the can or the mouth 3 of a neck 4 thereon and said flange is flared at the lower edge or formed with a lateral projection 5 the diameter of which is greater than the mouth of the can.

The mouth of the can is formed with an inwardly projecting lip 6 (which may be formed into a bead or roll) against which the lateral projection on the lid may abut when the latter is pressed into its locking position but by preference this lip is formed with a downwardly bent flange 7 as illustrated.

In using this invention the top or bottom of the can is left incomplete. The locking lid is pressed into the mouth of the can from the underside of the top and the can filled after which the remaining top or bottom of the can is secured in position.

In order to open the can, the lid, when of circular shape, is pressed down as in Fig. 2 and turned vertically as in Fig. 3 when it is drawn out of the mouth, there being sufficient flexibility in the metal to permit the projection 5 on the lid being drawn through said mouth.

When the lid is elliptical as in Figs. 5 to 8 the removal of the lid does not depend on the flexibility of the metal as it is turned so that its smallest diameter is opposite the greatest diameter of the mouth of the can when it is simply lifted upwardly. In this construction the lateral projection 5 on the lid may be substantially greater than the mouth of the can.

The foregoing description as to elliptical lids applies also to any shapes other than circular.

In either form of the invention it is practically impossible to replace the lid in its original position by reversing the action as the lid cannot be drawn approximately flush with the mouth of the can as in Fig. 1.

If desired the locking lid may be reversed for subsequent household use and pressed downwardly into the mouth of the can like an ordinary lever lid as illustrated in Fig. 4, and in order to prevent fraud the then outside of the lid may be stamped with words such as "This can has been opened". The neck of the can may be dispensed with altogether as in Figs. 4, 5, 7 and 8 and the mouth and lip formed by pressing and bending the top plate of the can into the shape illustrated.

In some cases the neck of the can may be provided with a cap 8 in the manner usual with canisters which cap may be used to

close the canister after the locking lid has been removed or when the latter is used as a closure lid.

We claim—

1. Improved means for locking cans consisting of a locking lid formed with a downwardly projecting flange, a lateral projection extending from the flange, said lid being adapted to be pressed into position into the mouth of the can from the underside of the top before the can is completed and a lip on the mouth formed with a downwardly projecting flange against which said lateral projection abuts.

2. Improved means for sealing cans formed with a discharge mouth, comprising a sealing lid formed with a downwardly projecting flange, a lateral projection extending from said flange, said lid being adapted to be pressed into the mouth of the can from the underside of the top before the can is completed, and a lip on the mouth formed with a downwardly projecting flange against which said lateral projection on the lid abuts, said lid being depressible within the can to unseal the latter.

3. Improved means for locking cans consisting of a locking lid formed with a downwardly projecting flange with a lateral projection and adapted to be pressed into the mouth of the can from the underside of the top of the can before the latter is completed, and a lip on the mouth formed with a downwardly projecting flange against which said lateral projection on the lid abuts, said locking lid being depressible within the can to unseal the latter and when removed from the can, adapted to be reversed and used as a closure lid applicable from the outside of the can.

4. Improved means for sealing cans having elliptical mouths comprising a downwardly projecting flange on the mouth, an elliptical lid formed with a lateral projection and adapted to be pressed in sealed position into the mouth from the underside of the top to seal the can, said lid being adapted to be depressed to unseal the can and turned vertically so that its smallest diameter is opposite the greatest diameter of the mouth of the can when the lid is to be removed.

5. A fraud-preventive closure for vessels comprising a sealing closure applicable in sealing position only before the vessel is completed, and means formed on the closure for preventing the latter from being withdrawn from the vessel out of sealing position, while permitting the closure to be depressed into the vessel to unseal the latter, said closure being removable from the vessel when unsealed to provide a cover for the latter applicable from the outside thereof.

Signed at Melbourne, this fourteenth day of April, 1915.

JAMES HENRY THOMPSON.
EMIL STEPHEN GOETZ.

Witnesses:
ARTHUR JAMES WATERS,
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