

No. 698,869.

Patented Apr. 29, 1902.

C. SPINDLER.
BEER STORING APPARATUS.

(Application filed Sept. 6, 1901.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

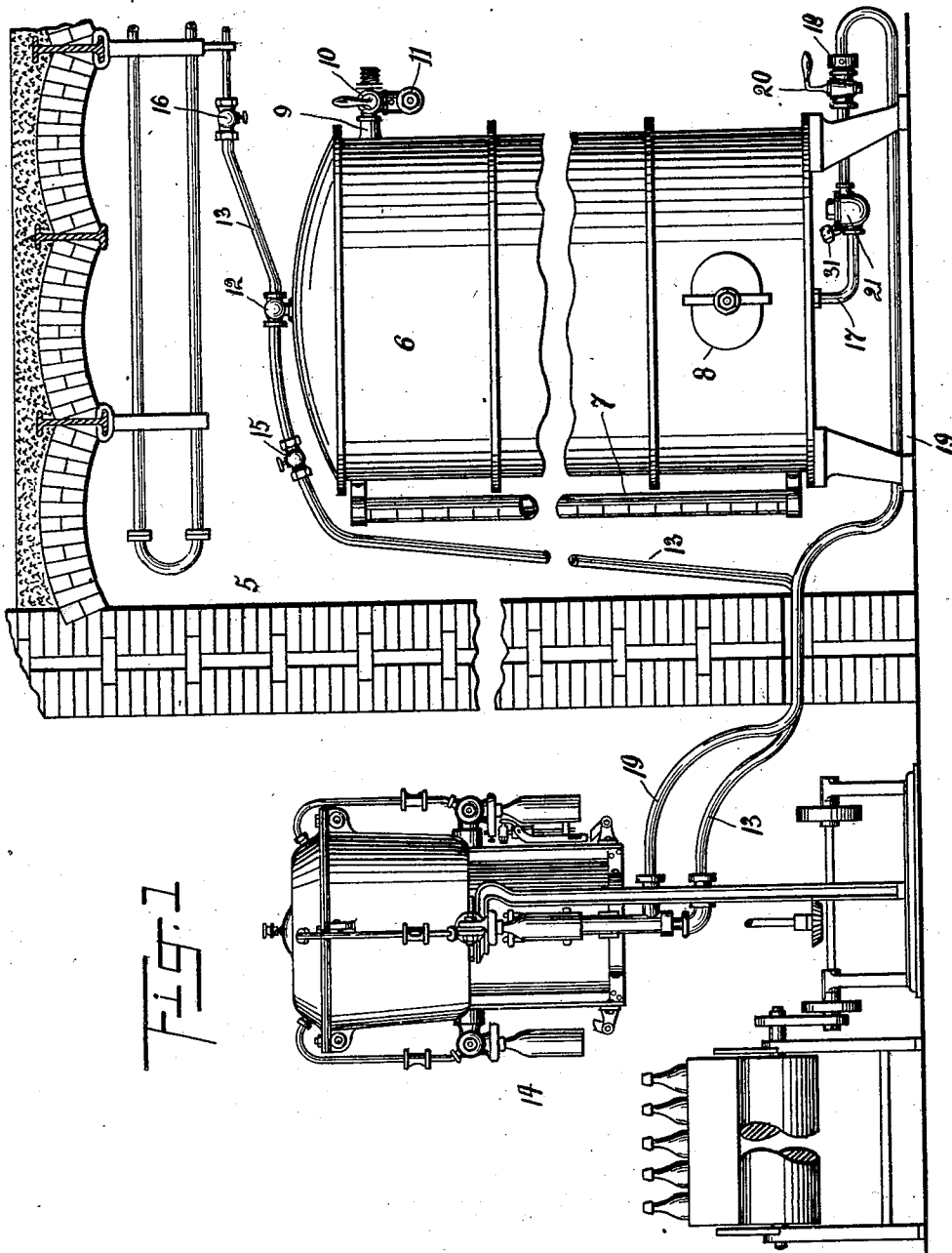


FIG. 1

WITNESSES

H. A. Stewart
F. F. Keller

INVENTOR
BY *Charles Spindler*
Edgar F. Fitch
ATTORNEYS

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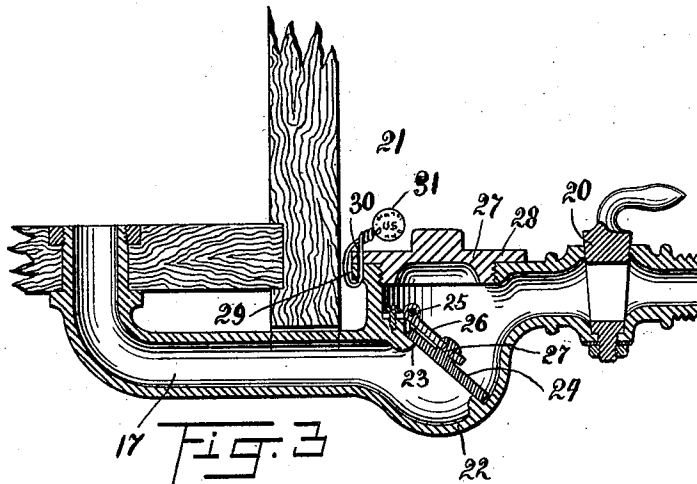
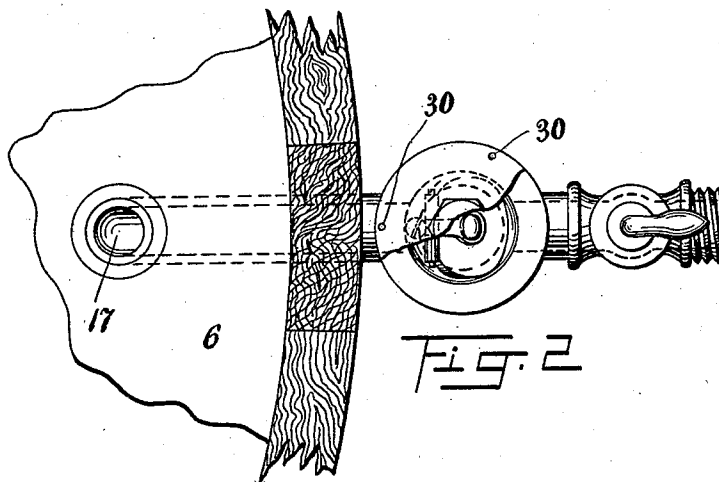
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WITNESSES

F. A. Stewart
F. F. Leeler

INVENTOR
BY *Charles Spindler*
Edgar F. Fitch
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES SPINDLER, OF JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY.

BEER-STORING APPARATUS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 698,869, dated April 29, 1902.

Application filed September 6, 1901. Serial No. 74,495. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES SPINDLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Jersey City, in the county of Hudson and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Beer-Storing Apparatus, of which the following is a full and complete specification, such as will enable those skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

The object of this invention is to provide means to prevent the fraudulent refilling of beer-vats in breweries after they have been sealed by the Government officials and after the contents has been withdrawn or partially withdrawn.

It is customary in breweries where a large quantity of beer is bottled or sold in bulk to erect or provide a refrigerated chamber in which are placed large vats, which are filled with beer in the presence of a revenue officer and sealed by him for the purpose of preventing refilling or partially refilling except in his presence. These vats or vessels are generally provided with a sealable inlet and an outlet pipe and also with an air or gas inlet at the top thereof, through which air or gas under pressure is passed, and said vats are usually also provided with a manhole and a water-gage, the latter being designed to indicate the contents or the amount thereof. In such cases the inlet through which the beer is introduced into the vat is sealed by a Government representative; but the outlet-faucet is not sealed, and the brewer or bottler may withdraw at will from said faucet in the operation of bottling or dispensing the contents of the vat, air or gas being forced into the vat through the air-inlet during this process or at any time, so as to force the beer to the bottle-filling machine or for other distributing purposes, and sealing the outlet as well as the inlet of the vat would require the presence of a revenue officer while racking off or bottling the contents of the vat.

In order to provide against fraud and to insure the Government the full tax or revenue and at the same time to secure to the brewer the full benefit of his investment, I provide a special seal and check-valve, which is placed between the vat and the outlet-faucet, so that there is but one way of filling or refilling the

vat with beer, and that through the inlet or inlet-faucet.

My invention therefore consists in providing a seal and check-valve for vats of this class in addition to those heretofore employed and which is located between the outlet-faucet and the vat, whereby when the vat has been once filled and sealed it cannot be refilled or partially filled except in the presence of a revenue officer.

The invention is fully disclosed in the following specification, of which the accompanying drawings form a part, in which the separate parts of my improvement are designated by the same reference characters in each of the views, and in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of a beer-vat provided with my improvement and showing part of a refrigerated chamber in which a vat is placed and also a bottling-machine in connection with said vat; Fig. 2, a plan view of the outlet-faucet provided with my improved seal and check-valve and showing a part of the vat in section, and Fig. 3 a sectional side view of the device as shown in Fig. 2.

In the drawings forming part of this specification, reference being made to Fig. 1, I have shown at 5 a part of a refrigerating-chamber such as is usually employed in beer-bottling breweries, and in this chamber is placed a tank 6, which is provided at one side with an ordinary gage 7 in order to determine the amount of beer within the vat, and said vat is also provided with the usual manhole 8 and at or near the top thereof with an inlet pipe or faucet 9, in which is placed a valve 10, provided with a sealing device 11. The vat 6 is also provided, in the top thereof, with an air-inlet 12, with which is connected an air-supply pipe 13 and which also communicates with the bottling-machine 14. The pipe 13 is provided between the tank-inlet 12 and the bottling-machine 14 with a valve 15 and on the opposite side of said inlet 12 with another valve 16, and connected with the bottom of the vat is an outlet-pipe 17, with which is connected at 18 a pipe 19, which is also connected with the bottling-machine 14. A valve 20 is placed in the end of the pipe 17, and this device may consist of an ordinary faucet and be of any desired construction, and between the valve 20 and

the tank 6 is placed my improved or additional seal and valve 21, which is shown in detail in Figs. 2 and 3. The pipe 17 is provided between the faucet-valve 20 and the tank with an enlarged valve-chamber 22, in which is formed a diagonal valve-seat 23, provided with a valve 24, which is pivotally connected at 25 with the valve-casing by means of an arm 26, which is connected with the central portion of the valve at 27, and the top of the valve-chamber 22 is provided with a removable cover 27, having an annular flange or rim 28, which rests upon a corresponding annular flange or rim 29 at the top of the valve-chamber, and in these flanges or rims 28 and 29 are formed holes or openings 30, by means of which any suitable sealing device 31 may be secured thereto, so as to prevent the removal of the cap 27.

In practice the vat 6 is filled in the presence of a revenue officer and the inlet-pipe and cap 27 are sealed by him, and if at any time it is desired to rack off or bottle the contents of the vat this may be done in the usual manner by merely turning the valve 20 and allowing the contents of the vat to be discharged. It will be apparent that no beer can be introduced through the pipe 17 into the vat by reason of the valve 24, which securely closes this pipe against such operation; but the valve 24 will open outwardly, so as to allow the beer to pass from the vat. If at any time it is necessary to refill or partially refill the vat, the revenue officer must be summoned, as the seals can only be broken by him. The bottling-machine 14 may be of any desired construction and is only partially shown, the illustration in Fig. 1 being simply intended to show any sort of a bottling-machine, the machine indicated, however, being that described and claimed by me in an application for Letters Patent of the United States filed March 20, 1901, Serial No. 51,996.

My invention is not limited to any definite form of seal for use between the faucet-valve 20 and the vat nor to any particular form of check-valve, the only object in this connection being to provide any suitable seal and any suitable valve for this purpose.

Although I have described the vat 6 as a beer-vat and my invention is applicable to vats of this class, it will be apparent that the same may be applied to ale-vats or any other vats from which beer, ale, or other liquids are taken for bottling or other purposes after the same have been sealed, as hereinbefore described.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A beer or other vat provided with a sealable inlet and a discharge-pipe provided with a discharge faucet or valve and a seal and check-valve located between the discharge faucet and valve and the vat, substantially as shown and described.

2. A beer or other vat provided with an air-inlet in the top thereof, a sealable inlet for beer or other liquids, a discharge-pipe at the bottom thereof provided with a valve, and a seal and check-valve placed between said discharge-pipe valve and the vat, substantially as shown and described.

3. A beer or other vat provided with an air-inlet in the top thereof, a sealable inlet for beer or other liquids, a discharge-pipe at the bottom thereof provided with a valve, and a seal and check-valve placed between said discharge-pipe valve and the vat, said air-inlet and said discharge-pipe being also provided with pipes which are in connection with a bottling-machine, substantially as shown and described.

4. A discharge-pipe for beer and other vats, provided with a discharge-valve, and a seal and check-valve placed between the discharge-valve and the end of the pipe which communicates with the vat, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name, in presence of the subscribing witnesses, this 27th day of August, 1901.

CHARLES SPINDLER.

Witnesses:

M. BONNET,
E. JACKSON.