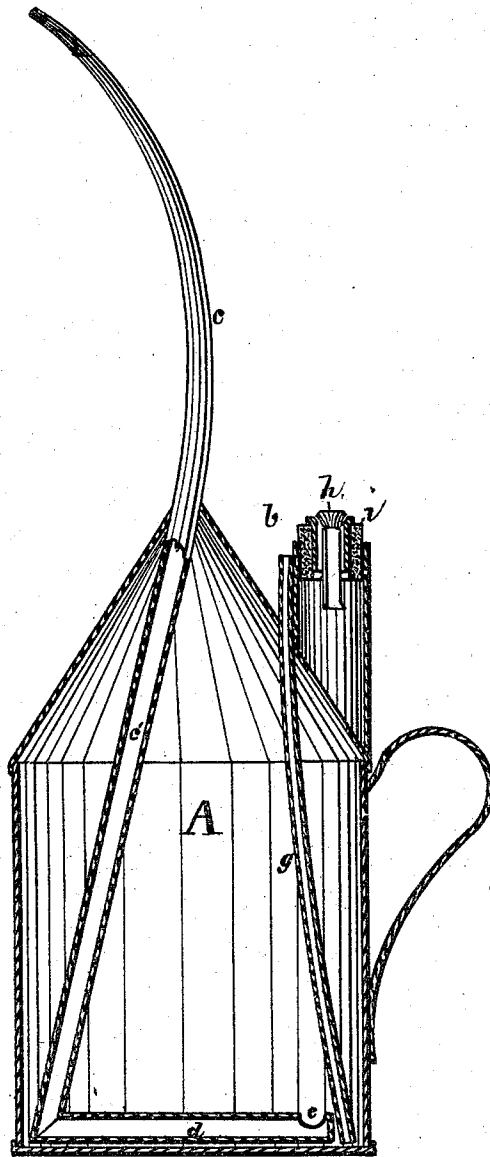


W. A. FOSTER.
Oil-Cans.

No. 143,567.

Patented Oct. 14, 1873.



Witnesses

Geo. T. Smallwood Jr.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. FOSTER, OF FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN OIL-CANS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **143,567**, dated October 14, 1873; application filed August 21, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. FOSTER, of Fitchburg, county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain Improvements in Oil-Cans; and I do hereby declare that the following, taken in connection with the drawings which accompany and form part of this specification, is a description of my invention sufficient to enable those skilled in the art to practice it.

My invention consists in a special construction of oil-can, whereby no more than a given predetermined quantity of oil can be poured out upon a single tipping or upturning of the can.

In the drawings, A represents a can having my improvement applied, *b* being an inlet for supplying the can with the liquid. The discharging-spout *c* extends in the form of a continuous tube, *c'*, into the chamber of the can, reaching as nearly as practicable to its bottom, where it terminates in a measuring chamber or vessel, *d*, made of appropriate dimensions, such that its contents shall not exceed the quantity which it may be desired to pour out at a single discharge. This chamber *d* is entirely closed, excepting only at its mouth *e*, preferably made in its upper side, to admit the oil; this mouth, it will be seen, being in close proximity to the angle formed by the junction of the wall of the can and its bottom.

It will be observed that the chamber *d* is at one side of the tube *c'*, while the spout *c* is turned or bent in the opposite direction.

A vent-tube, *g*, is introduced into the can, as shown, the object of which is to give free vent to the pouring out of the oil from the spout, the act of pouring out causing the oil or liquid in tube *g* to be drawn out of it, and thus leave it free to admit air. Upon turning back the can again, the liquid will, of course, rise in tube *g* to the level of that in the can.

If a handle be applied to the can, it should be on the side opposite the spout.

The can being properly filled, it will now be seen that, upon its being tipped, no more can possibly pass out from the spout than just so much as the chamber *d* and its tube *c* permit, for the reason that, as the can is turned up, the upper level of the oil falls below the mouth *e*, and prevents any more oil

entering the chamber; and this condition continues in any and every position of the can, from the time the spout commences to discharge until the can is again brought back in its upright position.

The same action takes place every time the can is turned to discharge the contents of the chamber *d*; and this, notwithstanding the gradual diminution of the contents of the can, because so long as there remains within the can enough oil to rise to the top line of chamber *d*, and fill that chamber, such oil within it will be discharged upon turning over the can.

The chamber *d* may be sunk down level with or a little below the bottom of the can, in order that it may the better take up and discharge all the oil.

The capacity of the chamber *d* and its tube *c'* may, of course, be varied to suit the particular purpose for which it is intended.

The inlet *b* I prefer to provide with a valve, *h*, inserted in the cork or plug *i* as an air-vent above the oil-level. Any valve closing by its own gravity, and free to be opened by the pressure of the air from within, will suffice.

For all railway and machinery lubricating, this improvement is of great service, as it positively prevents that excessive waste which results from holding the spout of ordinary cans too long inverted, and allowing the oil to run away; and where there is much lubrication needed in factories and elsewhere of machines, each of which needs about a given known quantity at each periodical oiling, the chamber *d* being gaged accordingly, each tilting measures the quantity needed, and limits to just that supply.

The apparatus is applicable for any other liquids as well as oil, if desired.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The improvement in oil-cans consisting in the chamber *d* and tube *c'*, applied to the can, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. In combination with the chamber *d* and its tube *c'*, the vent-tube *g*, having its inner end arranged, relatively to the chamber *d*, substantially as shown and described.

WILLIAM A. FOSTER.

Witnesses:

G. G. RUGGLES,
JOHN H. CROWTHER.