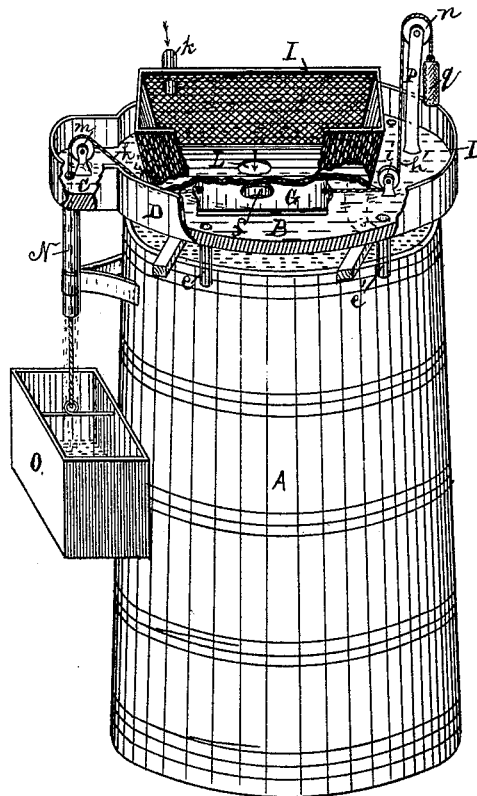


J. A. Le BLANC.
Rain-Water Cut-Off.

No. 220,294.

Patented Oct. 7, 1879.



Witnesses.

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J. AUGUSTE LE BLANC, OF NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.

IMPROVEMENT IN RAIN-WATER CUT-OFFS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **220,294**, dated October 7, 1879; application filed June 27, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, J. AUGUSTE LE BLANC, a resident of the city of New Orleans, parish of Orleans, and State of Louisiana, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Rain-Water Cut-Offs; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and correct description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification.

This invention is especially intended for use in countries wherein the inhabitants depend mainly on rain-falls for their supply of water for drinking and household purposes, and in which the rain is conveyed from the roofs of buildings by suitable conduits to reservoirs or cisterns.

In these countries it is well known that in the dry season considerable quantities of dust and dirt accumulate on the roofs and in the gutter of the buildings, and that the same is naturally carried with the rain into the cistern, causing the water therein to become more or less discolored and unpleasant to the taste, to say nothing of the sickness engendered by the same.

The nature of this invention consists in an arrangement whereby the accumulations of dust and dirt are carried through the conduits and discharged outside of the cistern, the water not entering the latter receptacle until all the dirt from the roof has been discharged outside the same.

On the drawings, A represents an ordinary cistern, the top of which I provide with a water-tight cover, B, having a side projection, C, raised flange or rim D, and outlet-pipes *e e'*, &c. About the center of this cover is an opening, *f*, above which is operated a slide-valve, G, which is likewise provided with an opening corresponding in size and configuration to that in the cistern-cover. To the opposite ends of this valve wire cords *h h'* are secured, whereby it is made to open or close the orifice in the cover, as will be hereinafter fully described.

Above the cover, and resting on suitable legs or stands, is a rectangular box, I, with side pipe, *k*, through which the water from the

roof is introduced therein, and with lower opening, L, through which the water is discharged immediately above the valve G, with less liability to displace the same than if the box were dispensed with.

The cords *h h'* are conveyed in opposite directions through sheaves *i*, placed on a level with the valve. The former, *h*, is next run over a second sheave, *m*, and thence downward through a pipe, N, where it is secured to a receiving-box, O. The other cord is carried upward over a sheave, *n*, which operates on pivots at the top of a standard, P, and has secured to its end a weight, as shown at *q*. This weight should be sufficiently heavy to more than counterbalance the valve G and (when empty) the box O, so that in dry seasons the valve may by reason thereof be drawn back, and thus close the opening in the cover, holding the same in said position until in a rain-fall sufficient water shall pass into the box O to more than balance the same, and thus draw the valve forward to a sufficient extent to fully open it, and thus permit the water contained within the rim, and all subsequently received from the roof, to pass into the cistern.

A sufficient number of discharge or overflow pipes, *e*, should be connected with the cover, in order to convey off the washings of the roof before the filling of the box O and the consequent opening of the valve G.

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

1. The combination, with a cistern, of a top or cover for the same, having suitable outlets arranged beyond the circumference of the cistern, whereby the accumulations of dust and other foreign matter from the roof, &c., are carried off through the said outlets and discharged outside of the cistern before the clean rain-water is admitted to the cistern proper, substantially as described.

2. The combination of a cistern, A, a top or cover, B, for the same, having a side projection, C, with escape-opening, raised flange D, outlet-pipes *e*, and central opening, *f*, and an automatic slide-valve, G, operated substan-

tially as described, and for the purpose set forth.

3. The combination of a cistern, A, a top, B, having a side projection, C, with escape-opening and a central opening, *f*, a slide-valve, G, a receiving-box, O, and the cords *h h'*, passing over pulleys, and connected with the slide-valve and receiving-box, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

4. The combination of a cistern, A, a top, B, having a side projection, C, with escape-

opening, outlet-pipes *c*, and central opening, *f*, an automatic slide-valve, G, and the box I, with side pipe, *k*, and a bottom opening, L, registering with the opening *f* in the top, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name.

J. AUGTE. LE BLANC.

In presence of—

A. BARBARIN,

JNO. S. CARTER.