No. 15,357.

J. DODGE.
Machine Gun.

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Patented July 15, 1856.

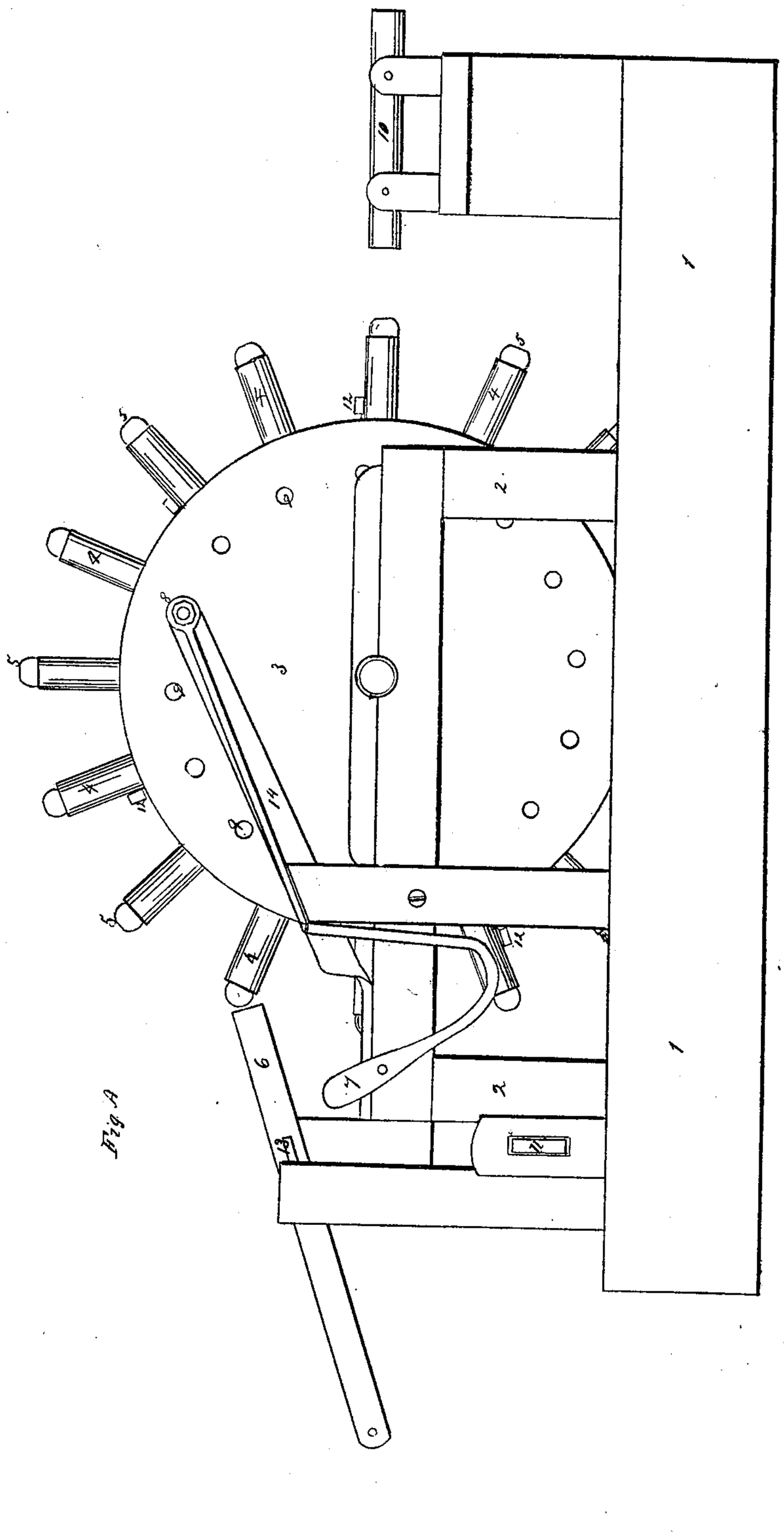

Fig 1

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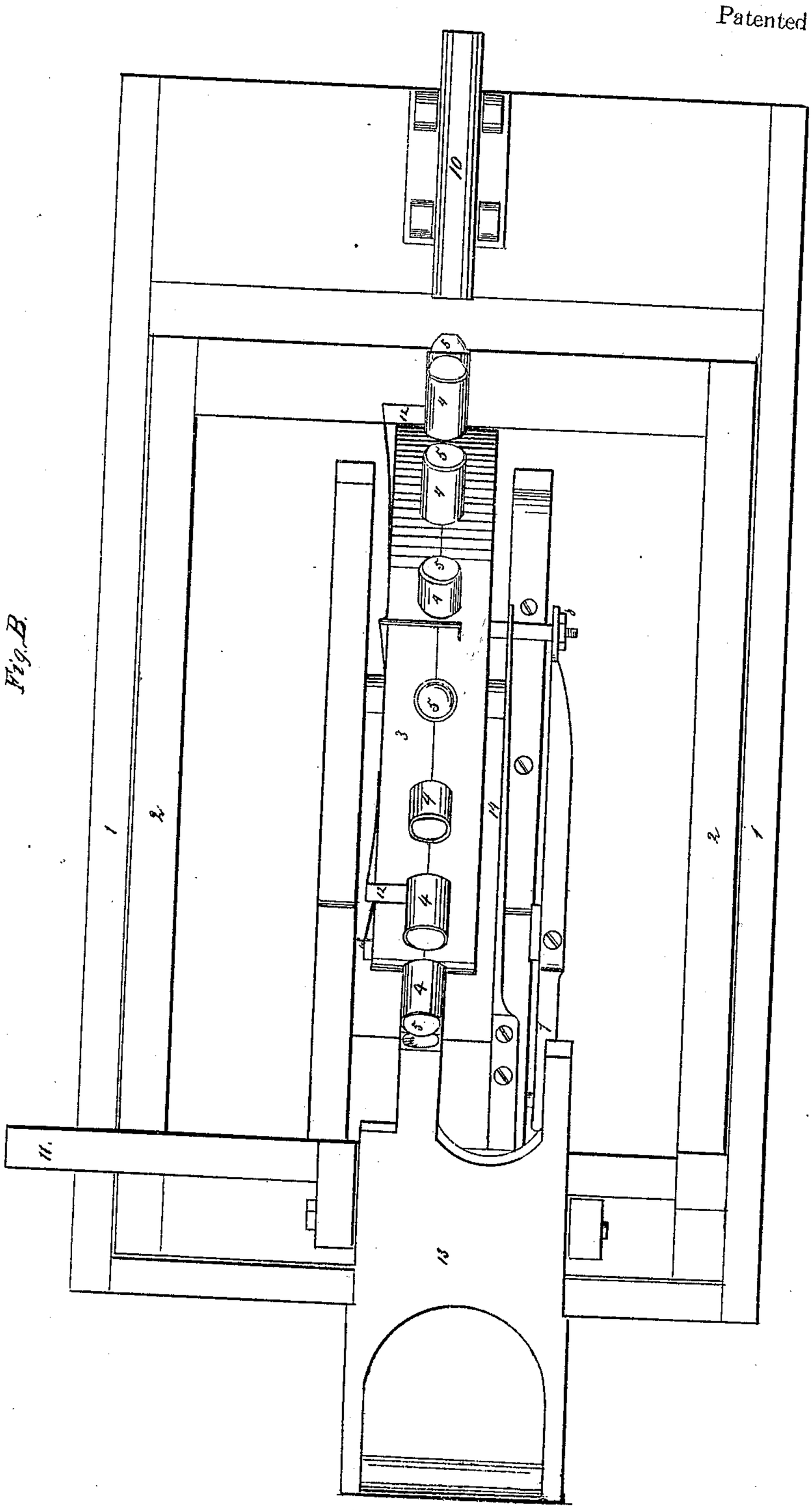
Fig. B.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSIAH DODGE, OF DUMMERSTON, VERMONT.

IMPROVED MODE OF CHARGING CANNONS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **15,357**, dated July 15, 1856.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSIAH DODGE, of the city of Dummerston, in the county of Windham and State of Vermont, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Charging Cannons; and I do hereby declare that the following is a clear and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and figures of reference marked thereon, and made to form part of this specification.

The nature of my improvement consists in the arrangement of the mechanism employed in placing the charge in or opposite the bore of the cannon.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my improvement, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

Figure A represents a side elevation of the apparatus, and Fig. B a plan or top view of the same.

1 1 represent the frame of the machine, which can be mounted on wheels for moving from place to place.

2 is a sliding frame, on which the different parts of the apparatus are mounted, partly consisting of a wheel, 3, made to revolve, and provided with sockets or tubes 4 on its periphery for receiving the charges 5. This wheel is revolved by the mechanism hereinafter mentioned, and frame 2 slid along the main frame 1 1 for the purpose of bringing the tubes 4 against the end of the cannon-barrel 10, and is then held to this position during the time of firing the charge by means of the lever 11, which is provided with a catch that is made to pass into a notch in the frame 1, and thereby hold the apparatus firmly to the cannon-barrel 10 during the time of firing the charge.

6 represents a forked lever, one prong used for drawing the guide-pins 8 from the openings 9 made in the side of the wheel by actuating the springs 7 and 14, while the other fork of the lever is furnished with a socket-shaped end and used for revolving the wheel 3 to the proper points for presenting the ends of the tubes 4 to the cannon-barrel 10 by prying the wheel around with the lever 6, which lever is made to act on the end of tubes or charges in revolving the wheel, and when revolved to the right point the guide-pin 8 slips into one of the openings 9, which gives the tube 4 the right position to be presented to the cannon-barrel 10, and is then effected by sliding the frame 2 until the tube comes in contact with the barrel, and is then held to its place during the time of firing by means of the lever 11, as before stated. The lever 6 has end-play for the purpose of allowing it to accommodate itself to the motion of the end of the tubes on the wheel 3 when being revolved.

12 are springs attached to the wheel 3, and made to cover the touch-holes made in the tubes 4 to prevent any part of the charge from running out. The instrument for firing the charge will be made of a suitable shape to raise the spring when the charge is to be fired.

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

The arrangement of the springs 7 and 14, guide-pin 8, openings 9, and forked lever 6, for the double purpose of revolving and guiding the tubing on the periphery of the wheel at the end of cannon-barrel, as before mentioned.

JOSIAH DODGE.

Witnesses:
MARTIN BENSON,
W. I. ROSS.