

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

E. J. BROOKS.
SEAL FOR MAIL PACKAGES, &c.

No. 407,057.

Patented July 16, 1889.

Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

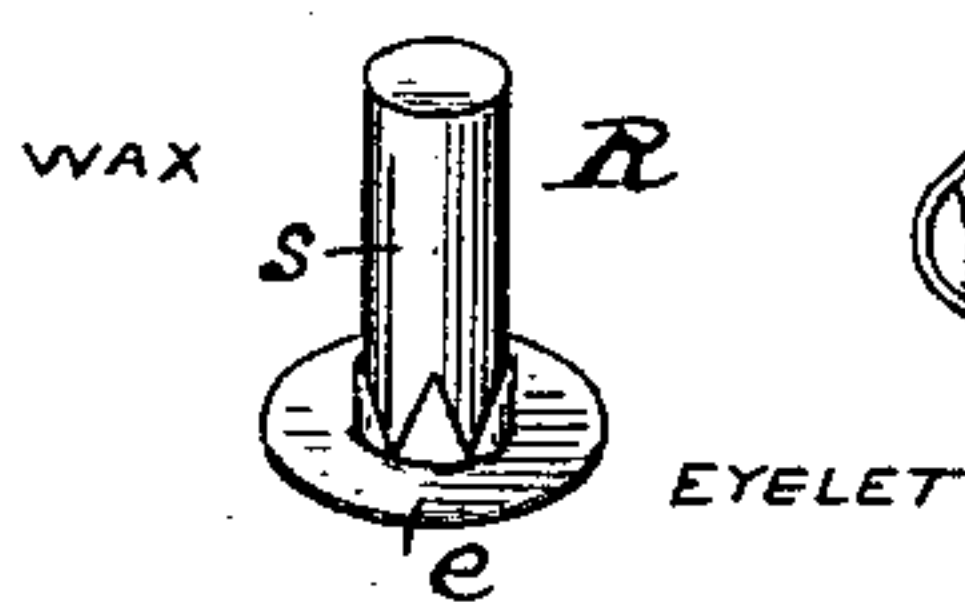


Fig. 3.

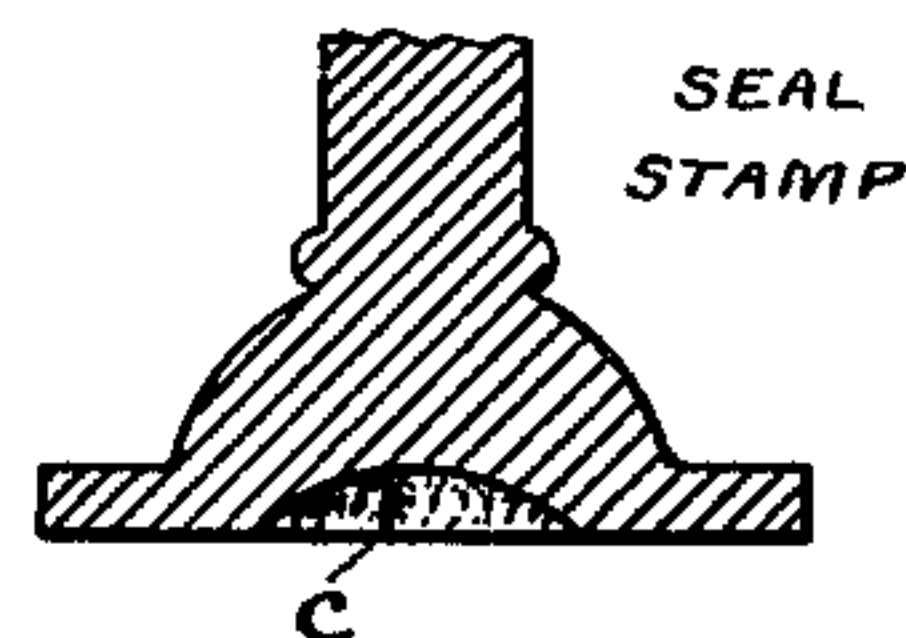
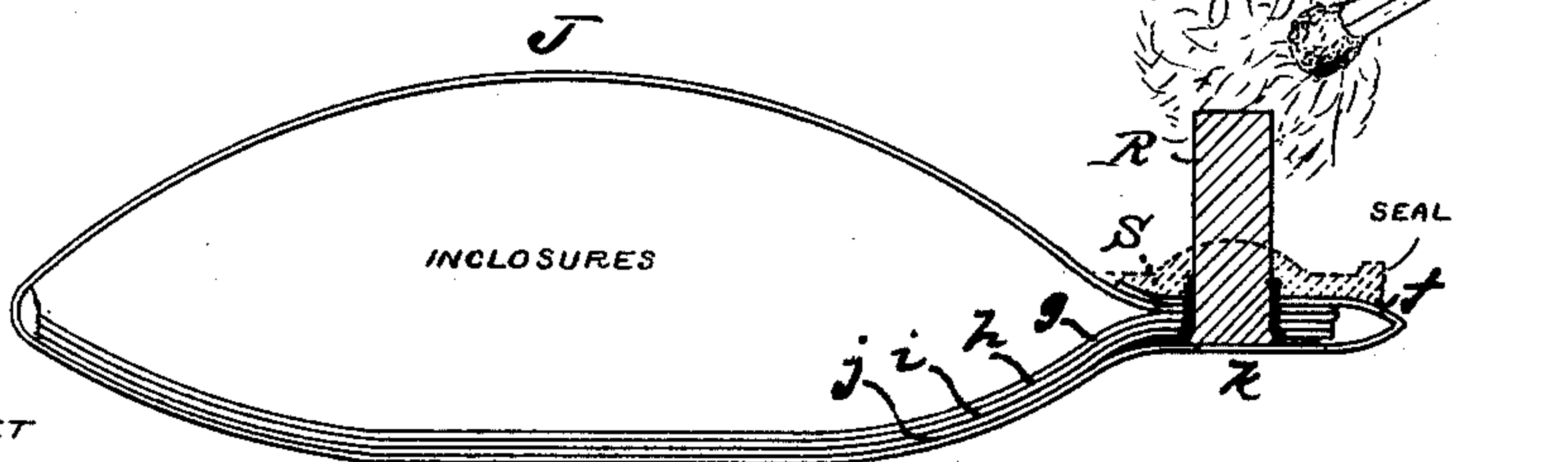


Fig. 4.

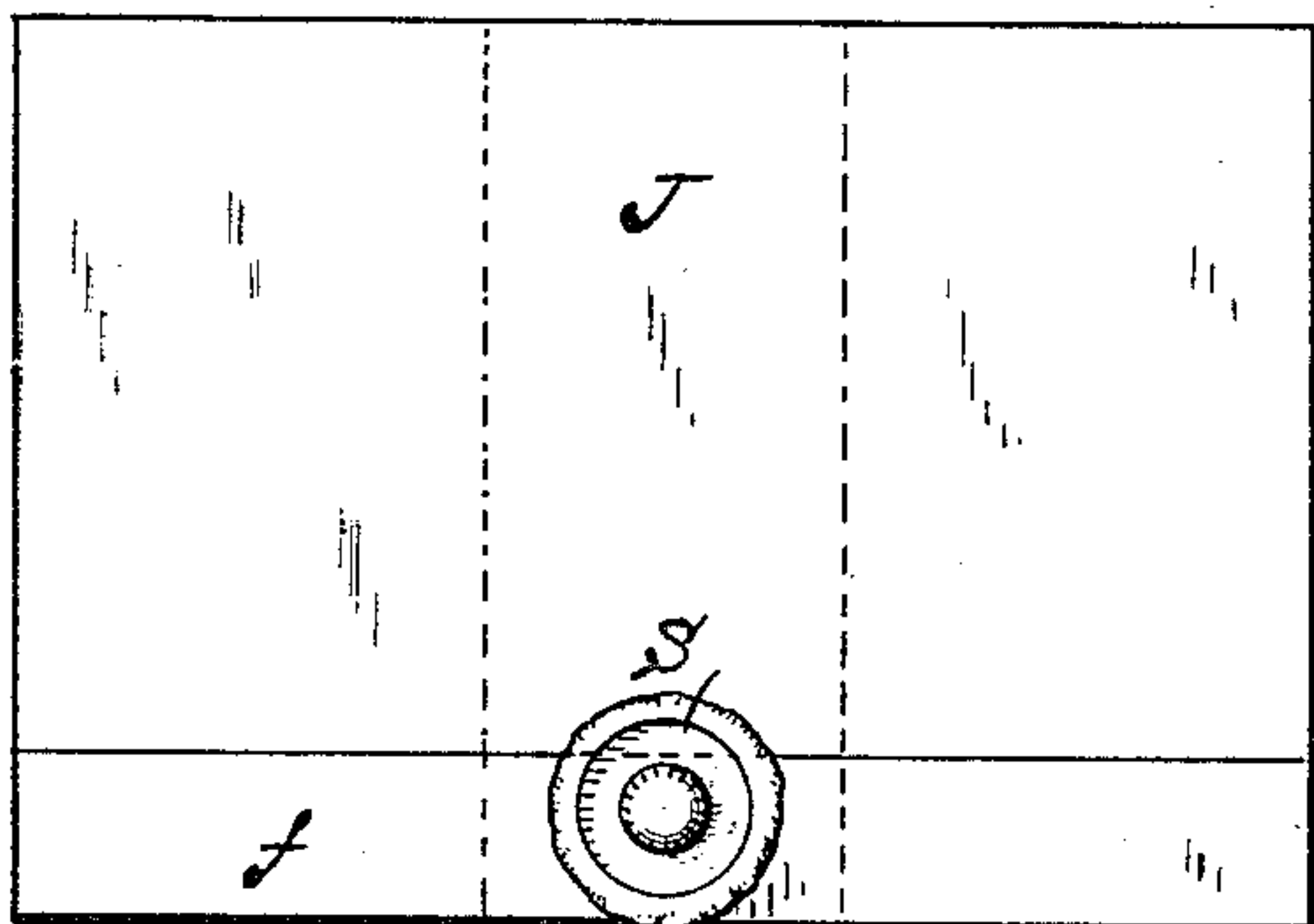


Fig. 5.

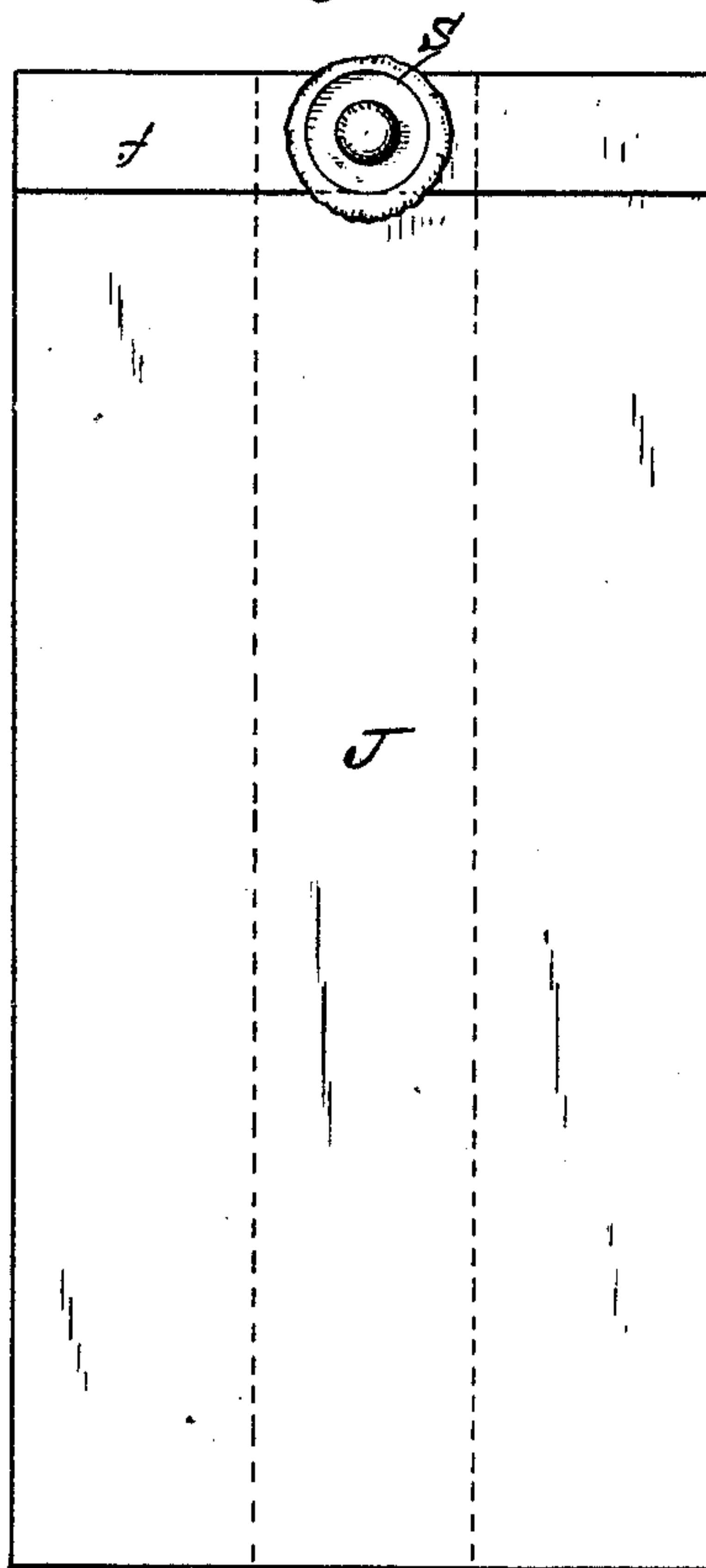
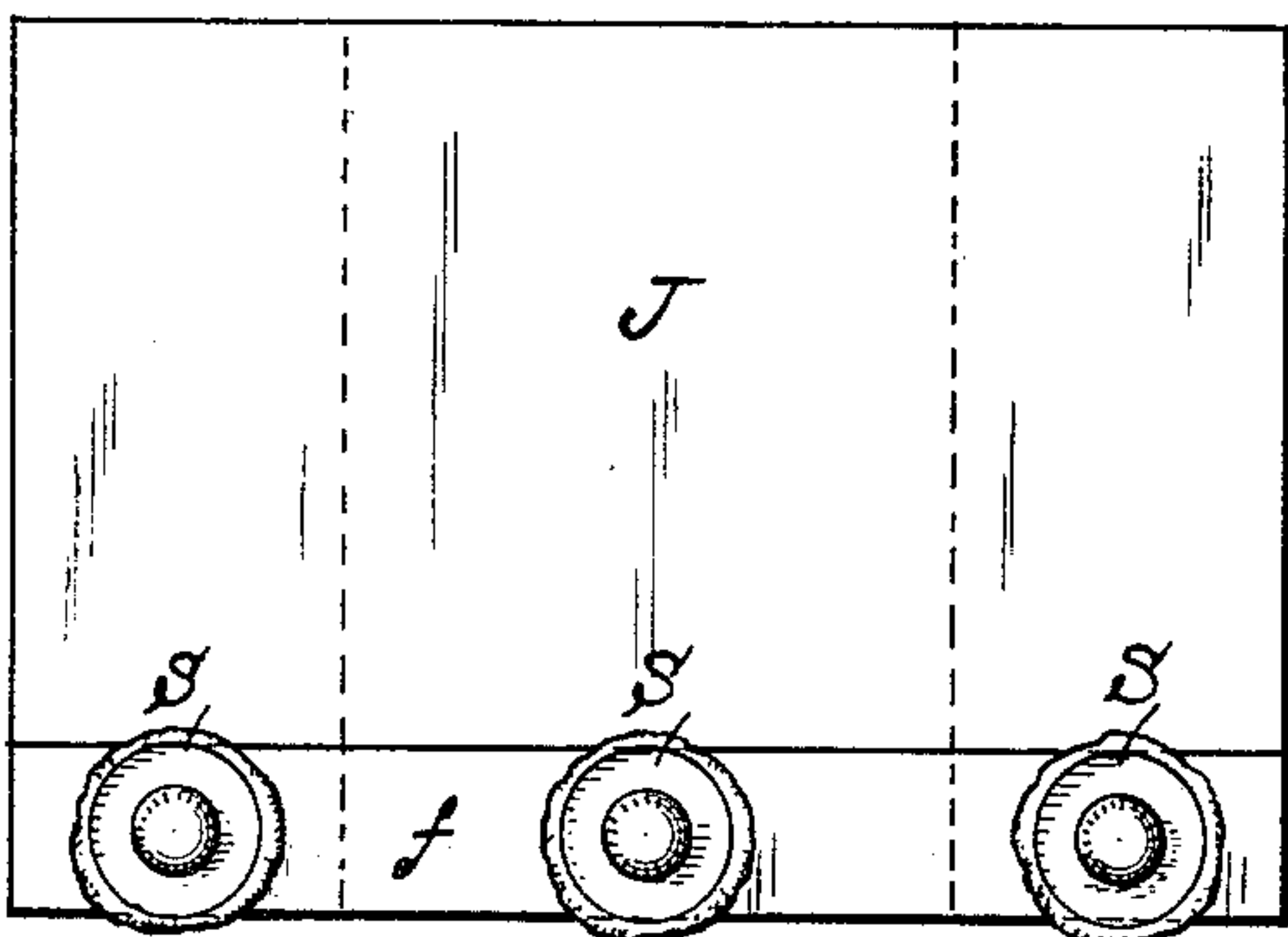


Fig. 6.



Witnesses

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(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 7.

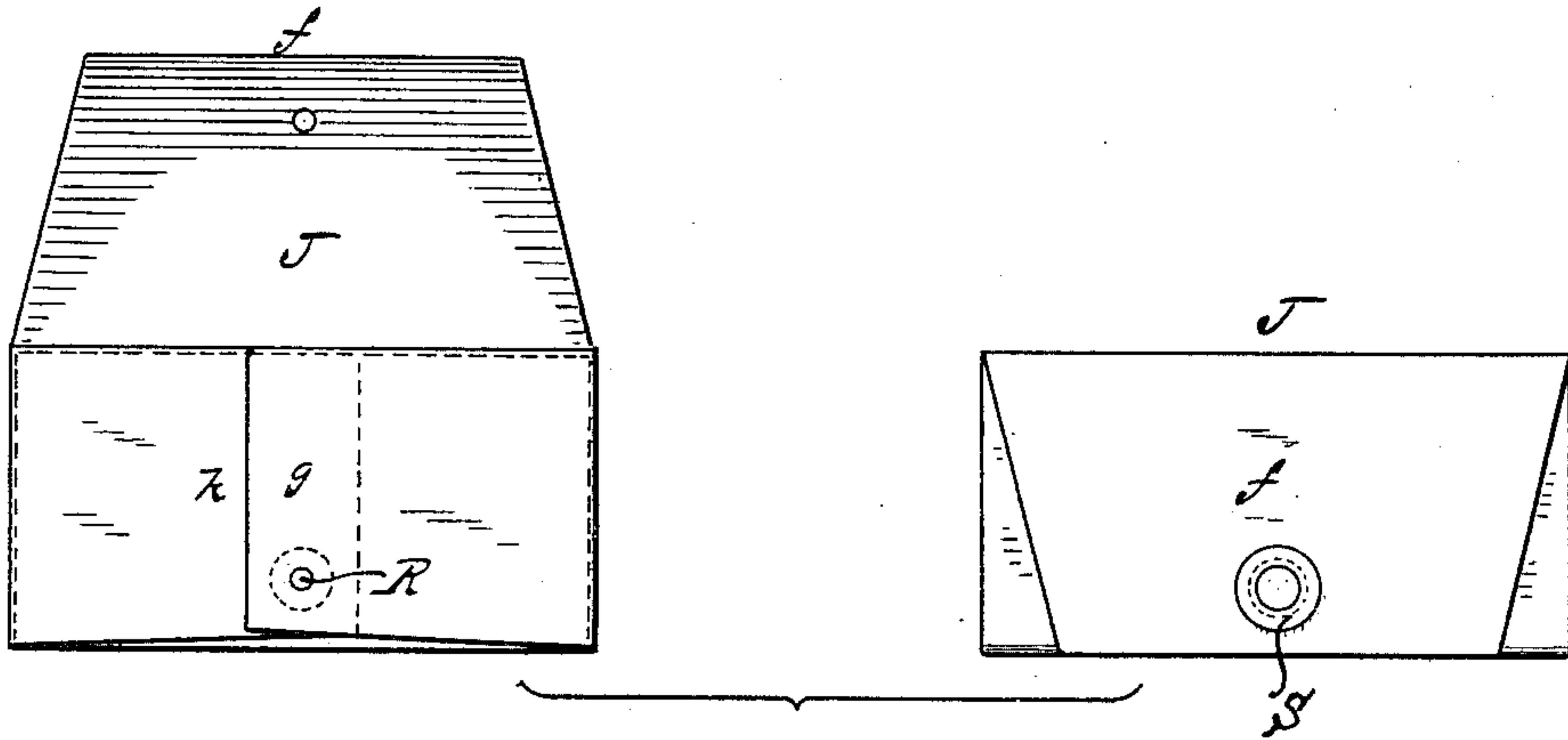


Fig. 8.

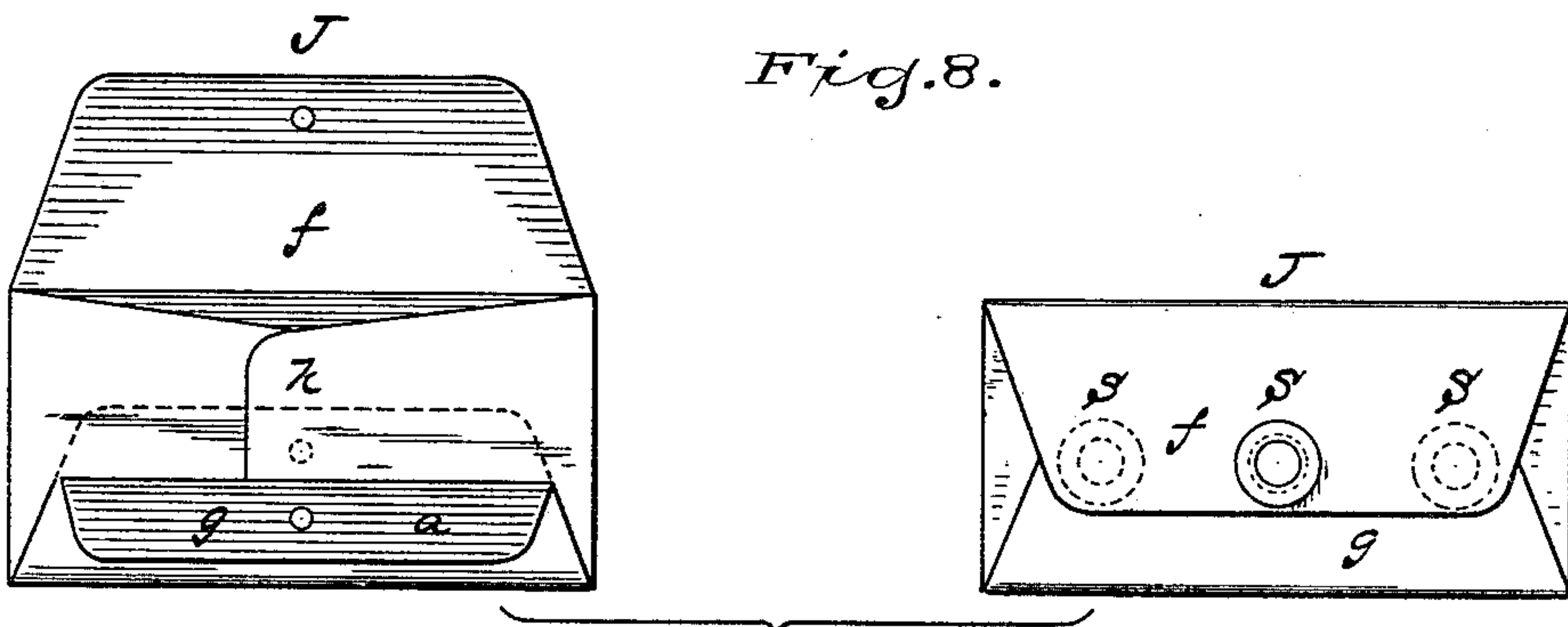


Fig. 9.

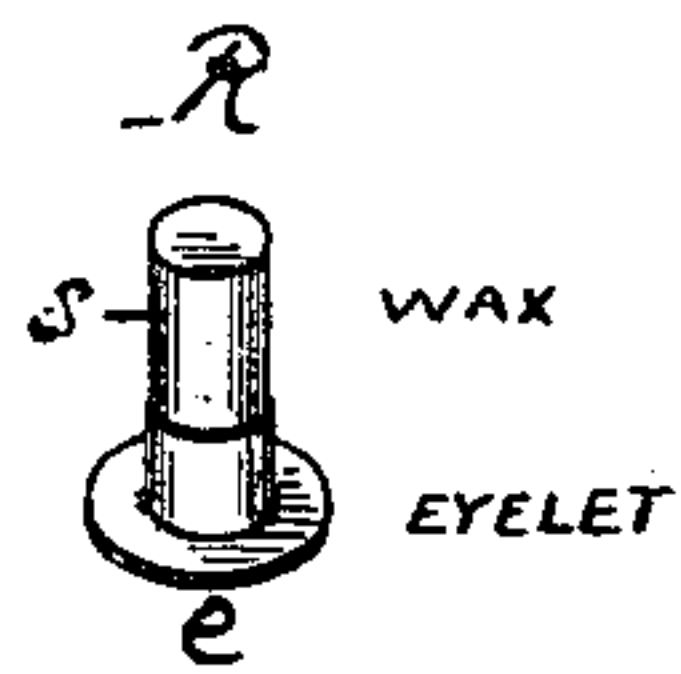
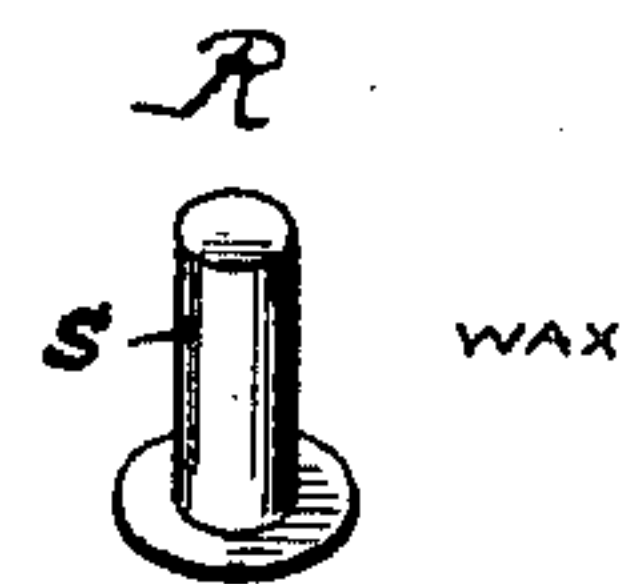


Fig. 10.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SEAL FOR MAIL-PACKAGES, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 407,057, dated July 16, 1889.

Application filed June 19, 1889. Serial No. 314,803. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD J. BROOKS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of East Orange, in the State of New Jersey, have
5 invented a new and useful Improvement in Seals for Mail-Packages, &c., of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to means for sealing packages of registered mail, similar express
10 packages, and the like, having wrappers or "jackets," as they are hereinafter termed, in the form of envelopes. Heretofore superficial seals of sealing-wax have been most commonly employed for this purpose. In forming
15 this kind of seals, in post-offices and express-offices especially, large quantities of the somewhat expensive wax are needlessly used by ignorant and careless persons, and sticks of the wax are readily carried off by thieves.
20 Moreover, such seals, especially when they are unduly thick and on some kinds of paper, are easily so removed and replaced as to escape detection.

The objects of the present invention are,
25 first, to facilitate making of wax seals without waste of wax and their preliminary and secure attachment to such package-jackets, and, secondly, to preclude the removal of the stamped seals without such defacement
30 thereof or of the jackets as to insure quick detection.

This invention consists, primarily, in a novel sealing-rivet having a rigid head at one end and a normally hard and brittle but fusible
35 stem, the latter composed of suitable ignitable wax, and, secondly, in the combination of a rivet-stem of wax and a metallic eyelet in which the wax is conveniently cast fast, so that the rim of the eyelet serves as the
40 head of the rivet and its tube or crown precludes cutting off the superficial portion of the stamped seal.

Two sheets of drawings accompany this specification as part thereof. Figure 1 of
45 these drawings is a perspective view of the special eyelet preferably employed. Fig. 2 is a like view of a loose sealing-rivet complete. Fig. 3 is a sectional view illustrating the application of the same to a package-jacket.
50 Fig. 4 is a small-scale face view of the package represented in Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a like

view of a similarly-sealed package open at the end. Fig. 6 is a like view of a package-jacket of a different pattern sealed with like seals. Figs. 7 and 8 are small-scale face views, each
55 showing a package-jacket open and another of like pattern sealed; and Figs. 9 and 10 are perspective views of detached sealing-rivets illustrating modifications.

Like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

In carrying this invention into effect I apply one or more of my sealing-rivets R to a package-jacket J, of any suitable flexible material, having a perforated flap or flaps *f* and
65 one or more perforated thicknesses *g h i j* underlying the same, through which the stem of the rivet is passed preparatory to applying the seal-stamp, Fig. 3, to spread the superficial seal portion or seal proper S, Figs. 3 to
70 8, and impress the same with its distinguishing-marks.

The sealing-rivets R have, in either of their forms, a normally hard and brittle but fusible stem *s* of ignitable wax, such as ordinary sealing-wax, containing sufficient turpentine, so
75 that after the jacket-flap *f* is applied thereto a lighted match may be applied to fuse the stem, as illustrated by Fig. 3, or it may be otherwise ignited or heated, after which the
80 seal-stamp is at once applied to produce the seal proper S, as above. A seal-stamp, Fig. 3, having a central concavity *c* in its face, so as to produce a corresponding convexity on the seal, is peculiarly applicable to wax seals thus
85 produced; but ordinary seal-stamps may be employed.

In the preferred arrangements illustrated by Figs. 7 and 8 the head of the sealing-rivet R is located between a perforated portion *g*
90 of the jacket J and an imperforate portion *k*, underlying the same, and to which it is cemented, so that the rivet is rigidly and inseparably attached to the jacket before the sealing operation. The particular jacket represented in Fig. 8 is adapted to be furnished
95 by the maker without attached rivets. Consequently its said perforated portion *g* is originally in the form of a loose flap, (shown by full and dotted lines in two positions,) and it is
100 provided with a special adhesive coating *a* to facilitate cementing the portion *g* in its dotted

position to attach the rivet. Two or more sealing-rivets R may be attached in like manner, as illustrated by additional seals S in dots at the right hand in Fig. 8.

5 The preferred sealing-rivets represented, respectively, by Figs. 1 and 2 and by Fig. 9 have the wax cast fast within metallic eyelets e, which are preferably stamped for the purpose from thin tin-plate or "taggers tin," as
10 indicated in Figs. 1 and 2, with the metal displaced from the center in the form of a serrated crown, which surrounds the stem portion of the wax and precludes cutting through the same behind the stamped seal portion or
15 seal S, while the flange or rim of the eyelet forms the head of the rivet. Ordinary commercial eyelets, as in Fig. 9, will answer substantially the same purposes, but are more expensive.

20 In the arrangements illustrated by Figs. 3, 4, 5, and 6 the sealing-rivets R are not attached to the jackets J except by the sealing operation. In the arrangement illustrated by Fig. 7 the sealing-rivet R is inseparably
25 attached to the jacket J at the factory. In the modification illustrated by Fig. 10 the sealing-rivet R is made wholly of wax.

The perforations through which the stems

of the sealing-rivets extend, or those in the flap f, at least, may preferably be re-enforced 30 with eyelets or the like, in customary manner. Other like modifications will suggest themselves to those skilled in the art, and details which have not been specified may be of any approved description. 35

Having thus described the said improvement in seals, I claim as my invention and desire to patent under this specification—

1. A sealing-rivet having a rigid head at one end and a normally hard and brittle but fusible stem; the latter composed of ignitable wax, whereby the same is adapted to be preliminarily and securely attached to the package-jacket and to be ignited so as to prepare it *in situ* for the sealing operation, substantially as
15 hereinbefore specified. 40

2. A sealing-rivet having a stem of wax and a head formed by the rim of a metallic eyelet, the crown of which surrounds the adjoining portion of the stem, substantially as herein-
50 before specified. 50

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Witnesses:

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