

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

G. T. CONINE.
TELESCOPIC VALISE.

No. 566,663.

Patented Aug. 25, 1896.

Fig. 1.

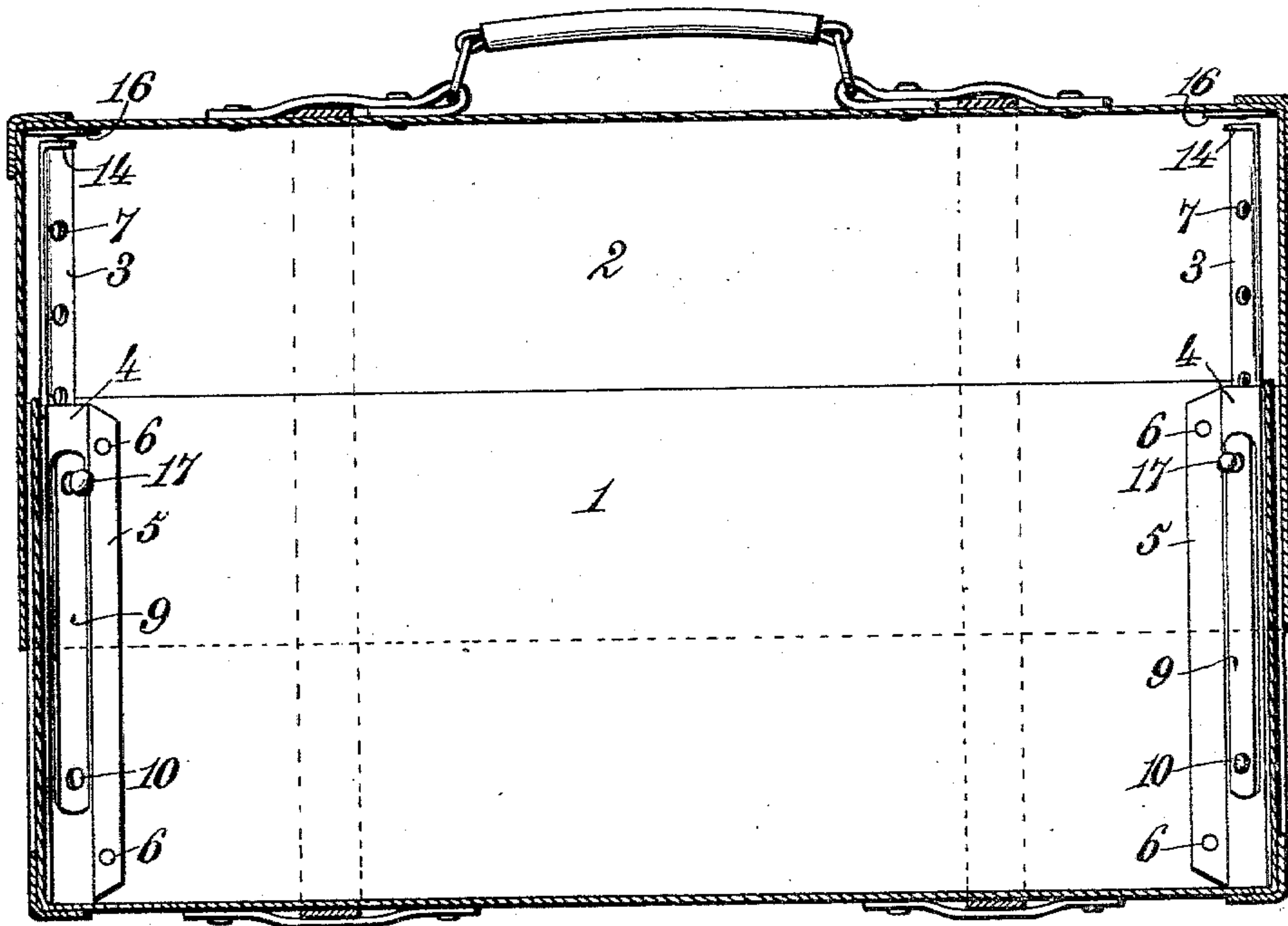
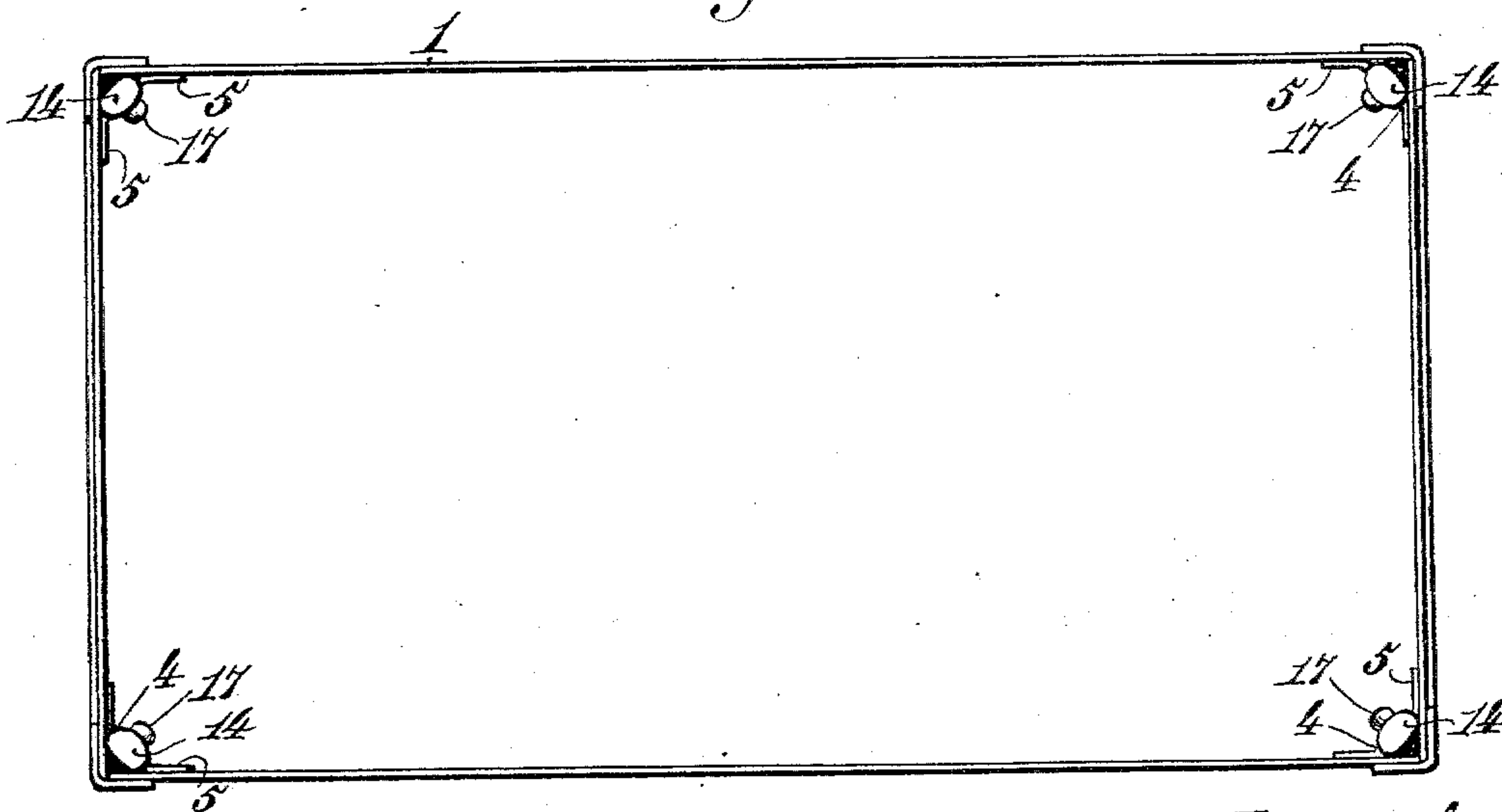


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:
Robert Everett
Jas. W. Rea,

Inventor:
Gamaliel T. Conine.
By *James L. Norris.*
Atty.

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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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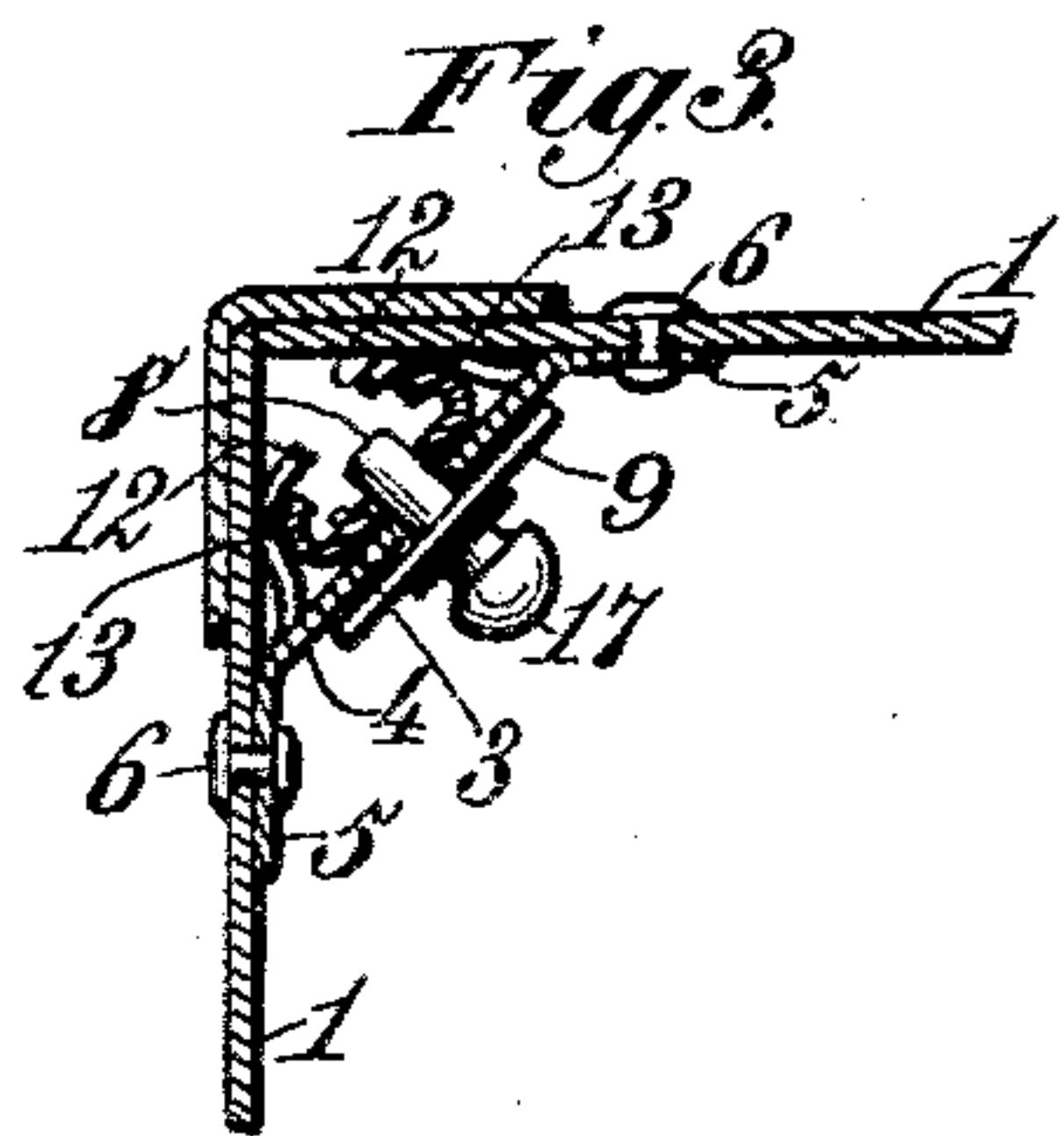


Fig. 7.

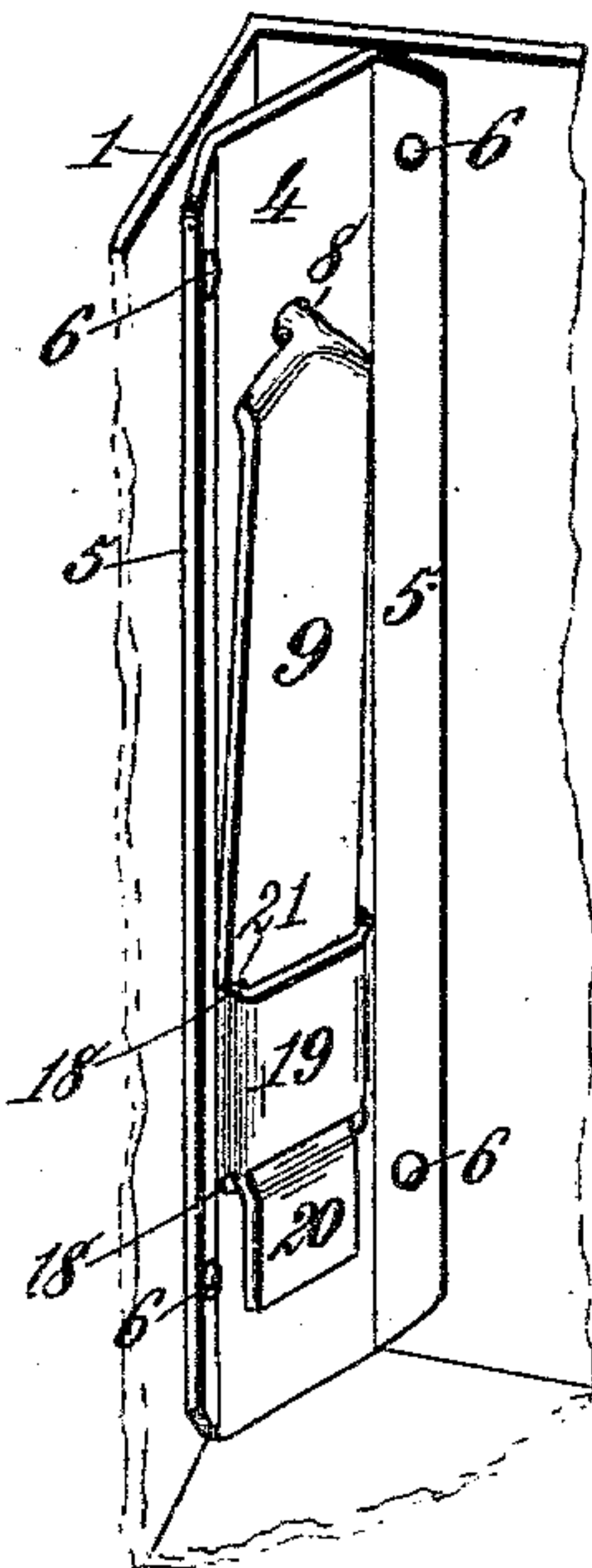


Fig. 4.

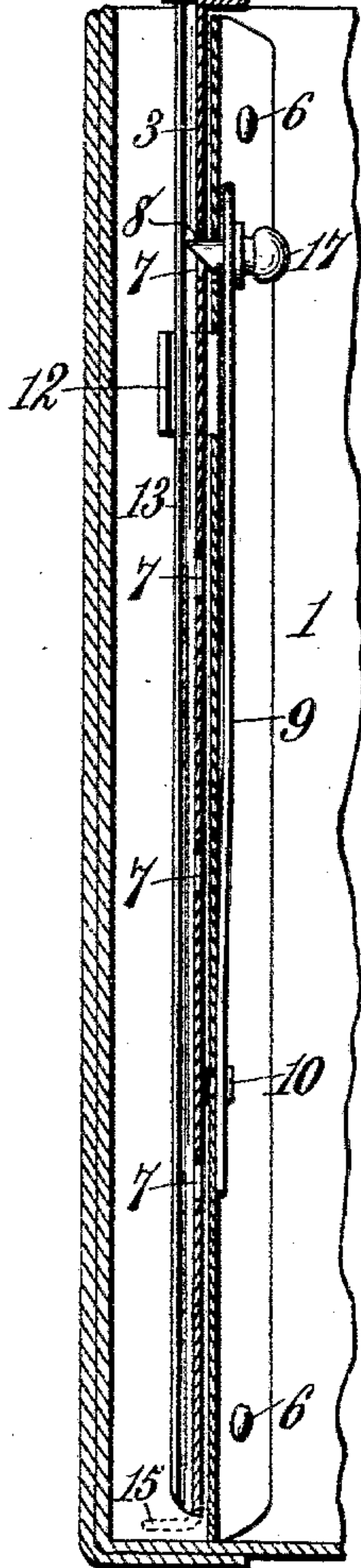


Fig. 5.

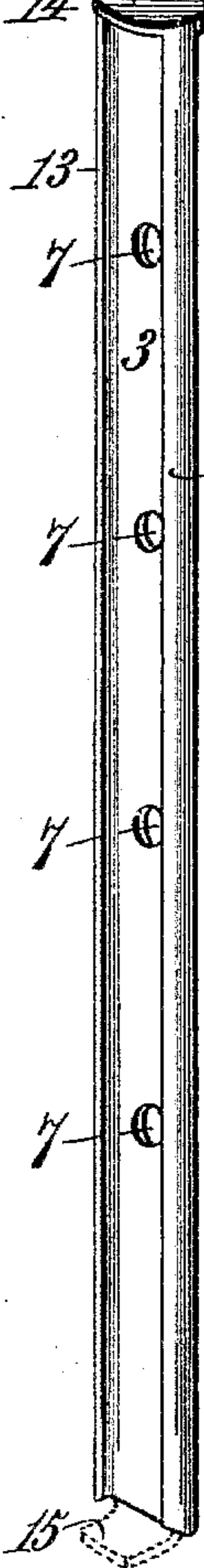


Fig. 6.

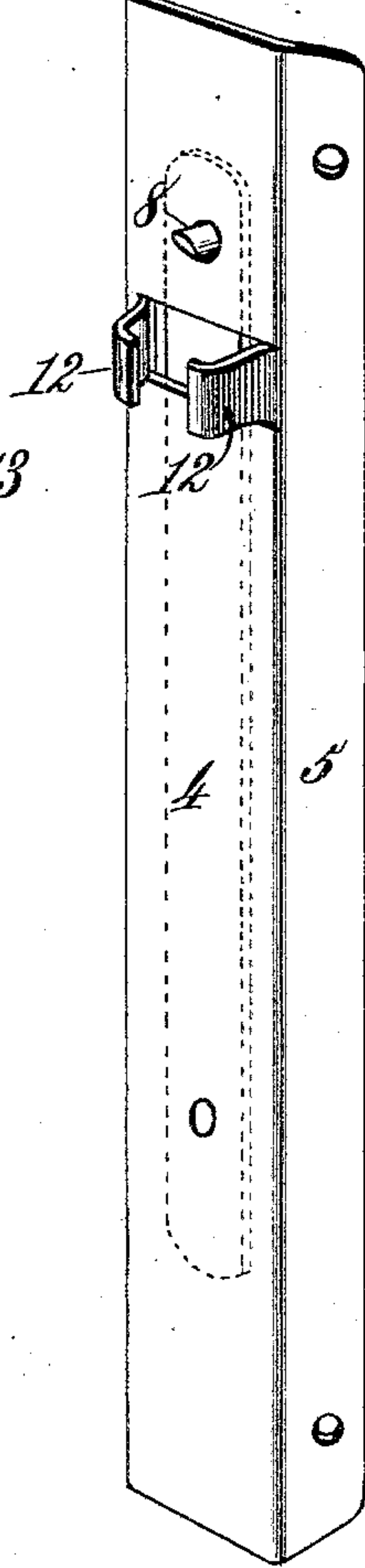
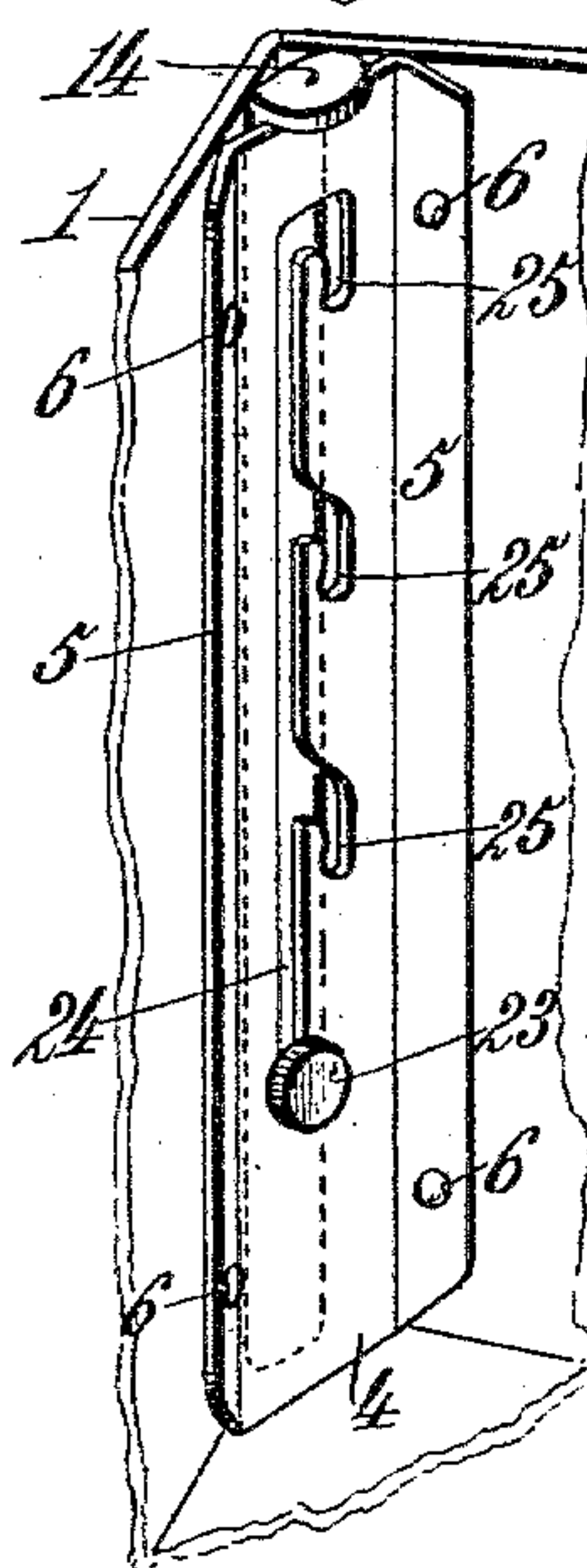


Fig. 8.



Witnesses.
Robert Everett.
Jos. W. Rea.

Inventor.
Gamaliel T. Conine.
By *James L. Norris*
Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GAMALIEL T. CONINE, OF PRATTSBURG, NEW YORK.

TELESCOPIC VALISE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 566,663, dated August 25, 1896.

Application filed January 15, 1896. Serial No. 575,643. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GAMALIEL T. CONINE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Prattsburg, in the county of Steuben and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Telescopic Valises, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to that class of telescopic valises, traveling-bags, portmanteaus, and analogous packing-cases in which the top or lid of the valise, trunk, or other case is constructed to slide telescopically upon the body of the case in opening or closing the same and to increase or diminish its carrying capacity. In extension packing-cases of this character, whether portable by hand or not, it is desirable to provide simple, inexpensive, and readily-adjustable props for supporting the lid or top of the case at varying heights, according to the bulk of contents placed in the valise or packing-case and so that none of the packed articles will be subjected to crushing from weight or pressure of the lid, especially when it is fastened down.

It is among the objects of my invention to arrange the vertically-adjustable lid props or supports in the corners of the packing-case body so that the lid will be supported uniformly at each of these points; also to provide for each corner-prop a guideway that will at the same time materially brace and strengthen the corners of the packing-case body, which body is often made altogether from light and somewhat flexible material.

Further, it is an object of my invention to furnish in direct connection with each adjustable corner-prop and its guideway a very simple and inexpensive fastening that will not be liable to get out of order; and, furthermore, it is another purpose of my improvements to so locate and arrange the lid-props that they will be accessible for ready adjustment after the valise, trunk, or case is packed without disturbing any of its contents.

In the annexed drawings, illustrating the invention, Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal section of a telescopic valise or packing-case provided with my improvements. Fig. 2 is a plan of the packing-case with lid removed. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section through one corner of the packing-case. Fig. 4 is a vertical section through one corner of the valise-body,

lid-prop, guide, and adjustable prop-fastening. Fig. 5 is a view of an adjustable lid-prop detached. Fig. 6 is a view of one of the plates to brace the corners of the valise-body and provide a guideway and keeper for the lid-prop. Fig. 7 is a view illustrating a modification in the form and attachment of a spring-fastening for an adjustable lid-prop. Fig. 8 illustrates another modification in the adjustment of the prop.

The valise-body 1 and its lid or cover 2 may be made from any suitable and, preferably, light material. In telescopic or extensible articles of this character the body and lid are usually made of light material, such as paste-board or the like, covered with canvas, or of light leather or other flexible material not adapted to withstand external pressure, and consequently the valise and its contents are ordinarily liable to injury from crushing. It is one of the purposes of my invention to avoid this objection. To this end the vertically-adjustable lid-props 3 and their guideways 4 are arranged in the corners of the valise or packing-case, where they will materially assist in bracing and strengthening both the body and the lid of the case.

The lid-props 3 are preferably constructed as metal bars, though they may be made from hard wood. There is diagonally placed in each corner of the packing-case body 1 a vertically-elongated metal guide-plate 4, having along each vertical edge a lip or flange 5, through which the said plate is secured by rivets 6 to the end and side walls of the packing-case or valise body.

As shown in Figs. 1, 4, and 5, the vertically-adjustable lid-props 3 may each be provided with a series of perforations 7, adapted to engage a locking pin or stud 8, Figs. 3, 4, and 6, carried by a spring 9, attached to one side of the corner-plate 4. In the construction illustrated by Figs. 1 to 6 the spring 9 is attached to the plate 4 by a rivet 10 at or near the lower end of the spring, and in the upper portion of the plate 4 there is provided a suitable opening for passage of the locking pin or stud 8 to permit its engagement in some one of the locking-perforations 7 of the vertically-adjustable prop.

For the purpose of holding the vertically-movable prop 3 close to the corner guide-

plate 4 there is provided on said plate a keeper 12, Figs. 3, 4, and 6, which can be cheaply formed by stamping out a portion of the plate 4, as shown. By providing a keeper 5 12 the prop 3 will be maintained in vertical position close to the guide-plate 4, so that the prop cannot get out of parallelism with the guide-plate or become accidentally disengaged from the locking-pin. It is preferable 10 to construct the side edges of each vertically-adjustable prop 3 with beaded or concavo-convexed flanges or ribs 13, that strengthen the prop and serve to facilitate its movement up or down in the keeper.

15 On the upper end of each vertically-movable prop 3 is a head 14, which can be grasped by the fingers for lifting the prop to any elevation required within its appropriate range of movement. To prevent a prop from being 20 drawn wholly out of its guideway, the lower end of each prop may be formed with a lug or bend 15 to abut against the under edge of the keeper 12, which will thereby retain the prop and prevent its entire withdrawal when 25 raised to its highest required elevation.

By reference to Fig. 4 it will be observed that the locking pin or stud 8 is beveled on its under portion, so that it will readily click back, with the yielding of the spring 9, to 30 permit disengagement and upward movement of the prop 3 when it is desired to adjust the props for increasing the capacity of the valise or packing-case. In lifting a prop 3 the constant pressure of the pin or stud 8 thereon, 35 under tension of the spring 9, will cause immediate locking reengagement of the prop and pin as soon as the upward movement of the prop is arrested with one of its perforations 7 opposite the spring-carried locking 40 pin or stud. When the props 3 are at rest at any required degree of elevation with a perforation 7 of each prop in engagement with its appropriate locking pin or stud 8, each prop will afford a firm support for one corner 45 of the telescopic lid or cover, so that its weight or pressure cannot come upon the articles contained in the packing-case or valise.

If desired, there may be fastened in each corner of the lid or cover 2 a metal wear- 50 plate or buffer 16, Fig. 1, each in position for bearing contact with the head 14 of a prop 3 to protect the corner of the lid from injury, especially if the lid is constructed of light or somewhat frail material, as usual.

55 When it is desired to lower the props 3 for the purpose of diminishing the capacity of the valise or packing-case, it will be necessary to withdraw the locking-pin 8 of each prop, and for this purpose there may be pro- 60 vided on each spring 9, near its upper end, a small handle or knob 17, Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4, which will enable the springs 9 to be readily retracted a sufficient distance to disengage the several locking pins or studs 8 from the 65 perforations 7 of the respective props, whereupon they can be easily pushed down to change their adjustment and decrease the

packing-space of the valise, as required. The knobs 17 are placed on the upper ends of the springs 9, so that they are readily accessible 70 at the top of the packing-case body when the lid or cover is removed. Each spring 9 is of such tension or strength as to hold its attached locking pin or stud 8 firmly in one of the prop-perforations 7 without liability 75 of being jolted or jarred out of place.

There is illustrated in Fig. 7 a modification in the form and attachment of the springs 9 for locking the vertically-adjustable props. In this construction the lower portion of each 80 corner guide-plate 4 is stamped out or otherwise formed with a pair of transverse slots 18 and an intermediate offsetting portion 19, constituting, with said slots and adjacent body portions of the plate 4, a friction-clasp 85 for firmly holding a narrowed lower portion or attaching-tongue 20 of the spring. The lower portion of the spring 9, in this case, may be formed with shoulders 21 to limit its insertion into the friction-clasp, and below 90 said clasp it may have a transverse bend 22, that will prevent its withdrawal after proper attachment. The locking pin or stud 8 may be formed directly on the upper end of the spring, and the knob or handle 17, before 95 described, may be omitted, as the upper portion of the spring will afford sufficient hold for the fingers in effecting withdrawal of the pin or stud to permit lowering the prop.

In Fig. 8 is shown a construction in which 100 the perforations of the prop are dispensed with, and also the spring and locking-pin thereon. For the purpose of obtaining a vertical adjustment of the corner-props in this form of construction, each prop may carry a 105 headed pin or stud 23, normally engaged in a vertical slot 24, with which each corner guide-plate 4 may be provided. The vertically-elongated slot 24 communicates at intervals with a series of notches or short slots 110 25, with either of which the headed pin or stud 23 may be readily engaged by raising or lowering the vertically-movable prop and shifting it slightly sidewise. Any required adjustment can be thus imparted to the verti- 115 cally-movable corner-props according to the height at which it is desired to support the lid or cover to vary the capacity of the valise or packing-case.

To secure the lid of this packing-case or 120 valise the usual straps may be provided or any other suitable fastenings.

In adjusting the vertically-movable props 3 to support the lid or cover 2 at any required elevation for increasing or decreasing the ca- 125 pacity of a valise or packing-case it will not be necessary to at all disturb whatever may have been already placed within the body portion of the case. By means of their heads 14 the props 3 are each readily accessible 130 from the open top of the case to permit lifting each prop, and should it be required to manipulate the springs 9, for permitting a lowering of the props, the upper ends of said

springs, or their knobs 17, are also within easy reach from the top. The location of the props 3 and their guide-plates 4 in the corners of the valise-body affords the important advantage of bracing and strengthening the packing-case at the very points where such additional strength is most required, and by this arrangement also the support for the elevated lid or cover 2 is more equally distributed. 10 The props and their means for adjustment are of a very simple and inexpensive character, so that the cost of a valise provided with the described attachments will not be greatly increased.

15 What I claim as my invention is—

1. In a telescopic valise or packing-case, the vertically-sliding and adjustable lid-props located in the corners of the valise or packing-case body, whereby they are adapted to 20 also brace the corners of the packing-case and its lid or cover, in combination with means for locking said props at required elevations, substantially as described.

2. In a telescopic valise or packing-case, 25 the combination with vertically-adjustable lid-props, of guide-plates for said props located in the corners of the packing-case body, and means for locking said props at required elevations to vary the capacity of the packing-case, substantially as described. 30

3. In a telescopic valise or packing-case, the combination of guide-plates secured vertically in the corners of the valise or packing-case body and adapted to brace the same, 35 vertically-adjustable lid-props located in said corners adjacent to said guide-plates and

each provided with a series of perforations, and springs attached to said guide-plates and provided with locking pins or studs to engage the perforations of said vertically-adjustable 40 props and support them at required elevations to vary the capacity of the packing-case, substantially as described.

4. In a telescopic valise or packing-case, the combination with vertically-adjustable 45 lid-props, of vertical guide-plates for said props located in the corners of the valise-body and adapted to brace the same, means for locking said props at required elevations, and wear-plates secured in the corners of the va- 50 lise lid or cover for contact with the upper ends of said vertically-adjustable props, substantially as described.

5. In a telescopic valise or packing-case, the combination with vertically-adjustable 55 lid-props each having a series of perforations and each provided at its upper end with a head and at its lower end with a stop-lug, of vertically-arranged guide-plates secured in the corners of the packing-case or valise-body 60 and each provided with a keeper for one of said props, and springs having locking pins or studs to engage the perforations of the props to support the said props at required elevations, substantially as described. 65

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GAMALIEL T. CONINE.

Witnesses:

J. A. CONROY,
JAS. H. DE PUE.