

(No Model.)

E. L. PRICKETT.
PURSE.

No. 597,325.

Patented Jan. 11, 1898.

Fig. 1.

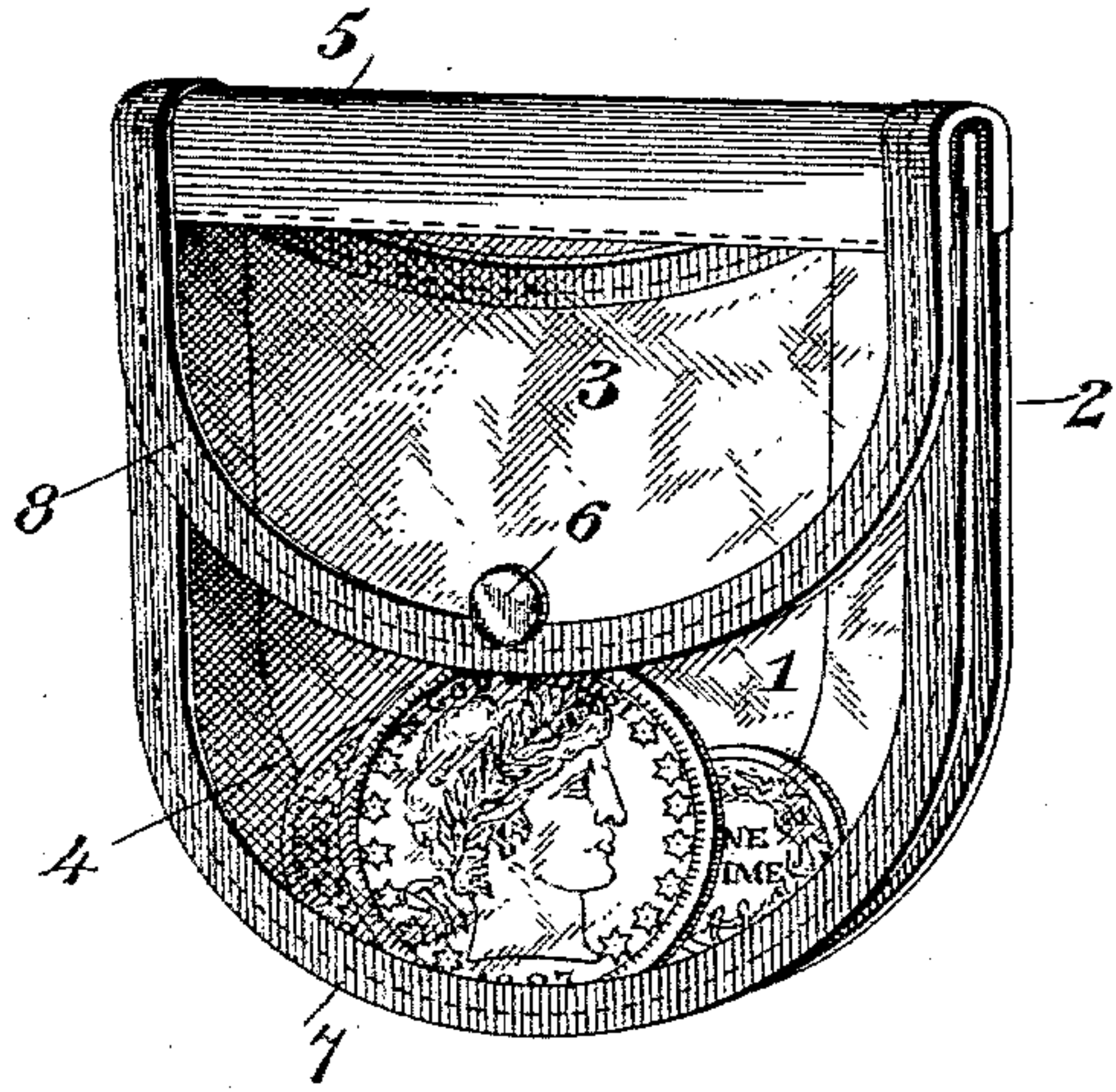


Fig. 2.

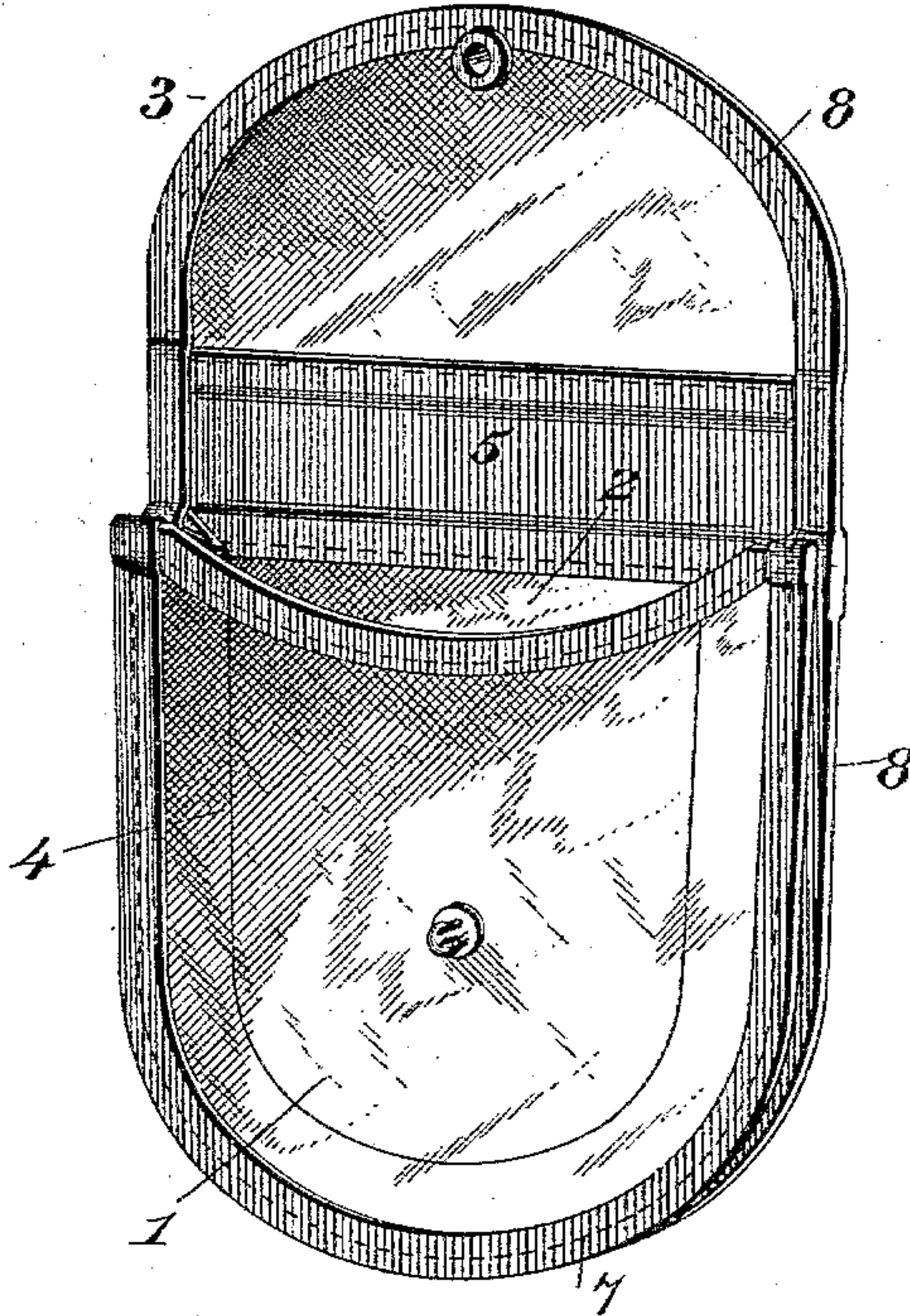


Fig. 3.

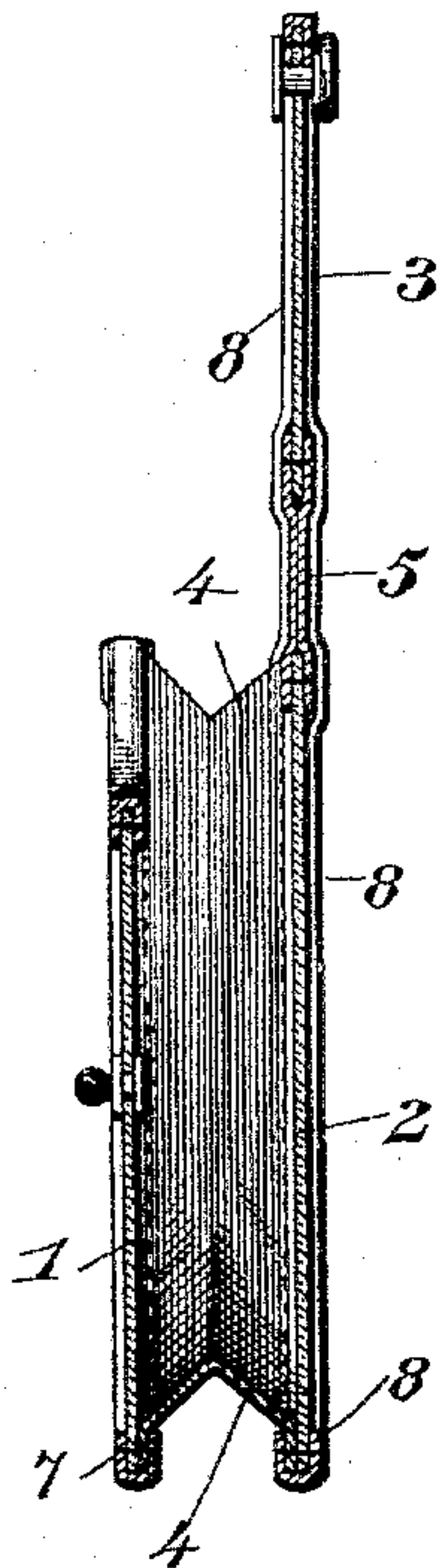


Fig. 5.

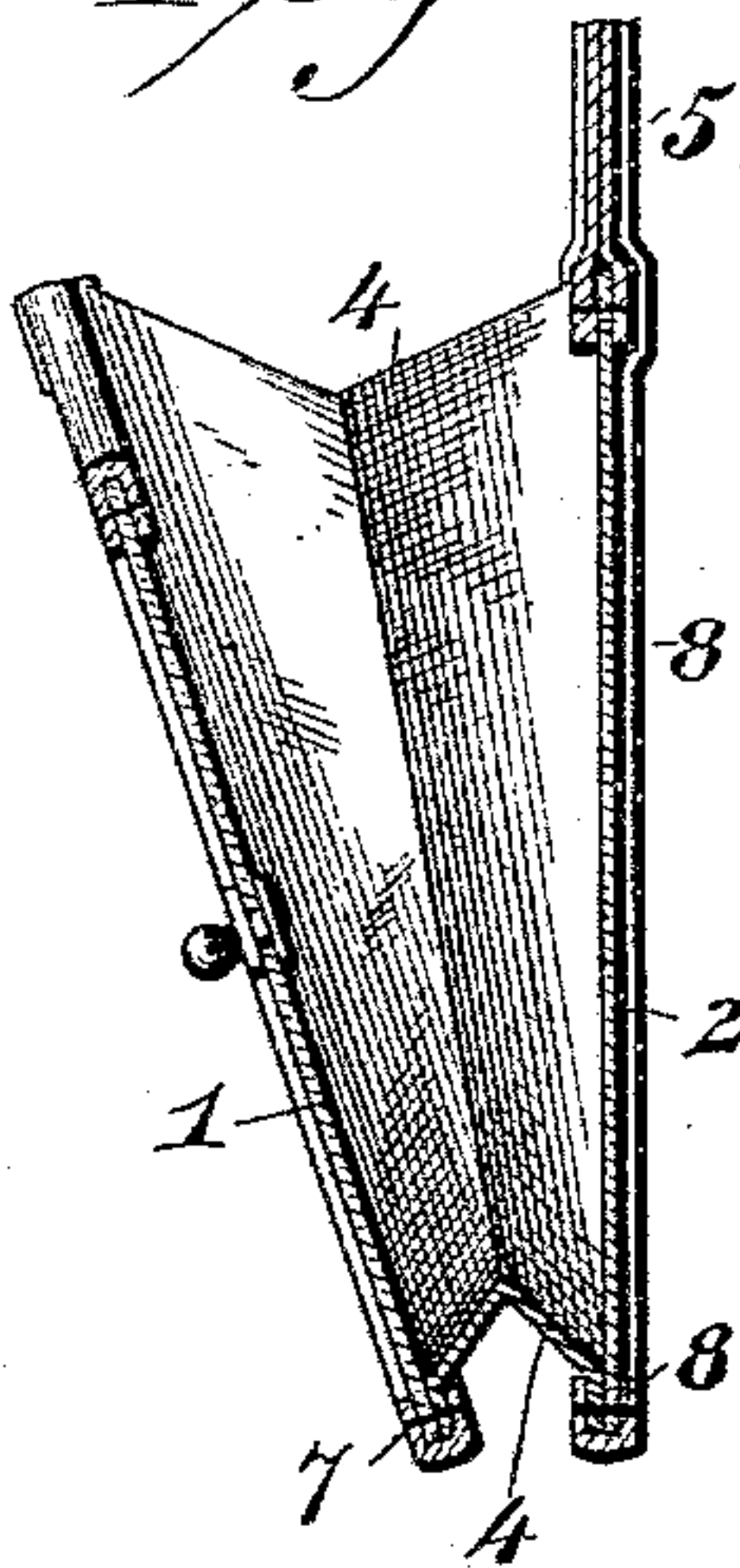
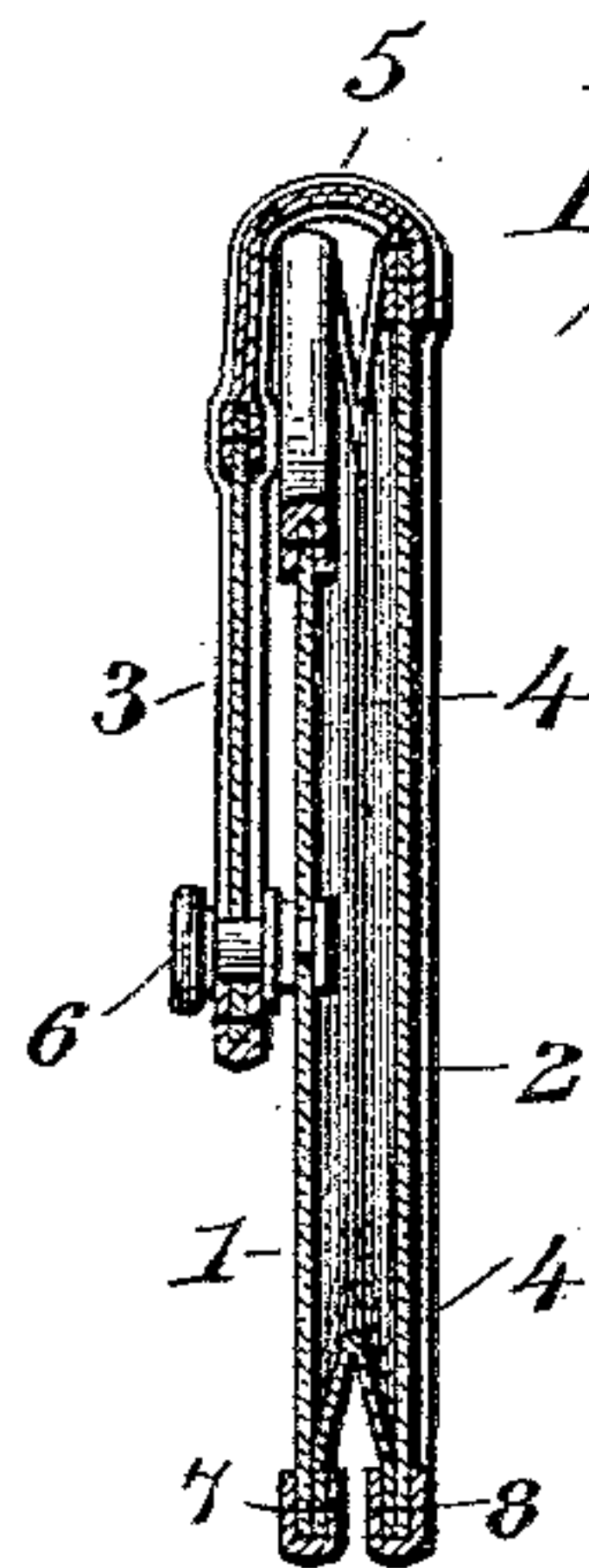


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN L. PRICKETT, OF MOUNT HOLLY, NEW JERSEY.

PURSE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 597,325, dated January 11, 1898.

Application filed July 24, 1897. Serial No. 645,839. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWIN L. PRICKETT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Mount Holly, in the county of Burlington and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Purse, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in purses especially adapted for carrying coin, although equally useful for holding other articles; and the object that I have in view is to provide an improved purse the contents of which may be readily and quickly ascertained without opening it for inspection of its contents.

With the ordinary construction of purses made of leather and similar substances it is necessary to open the purse before the contents of the same can be inspected. This involves considerable time and trouble when a person carries dollars, half-dollars, quarters, dimes, half-dimes, nickels, or pennies, or other money or article, because it is necessary to open the purse to determine exactly what change is contained therein. In many instances a person is obliged to hunt through the contents of the purse for a coin which is not contained among the coins therein, and oftentimes the owner dumps or pours the contents of the purse into the hand for the purpose of more conveniently inspecting the coins and selecting the proper coin he desires to pay out. This emptying of the contents of the purse for the purpose of inspection is very objectionable on account of the liability of losing one or more coins, and, taken altogether, ordinary leather purses and purses of similar material are open to several objections which it is the purpose of my invention to overcome.

To the accomplishment of the objects hereinbefore stated my invention consists in the construction and arrangement of parts forming an improved purse, as will be hereinafter fully described and claimed.

To enable others to more readily understand my invention, I have illustrated the preferred embodiment thereof in the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a purse embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a view

in perspective, showing the same opened or distended. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view through the purse in its opened position, (shown by Fig. 2,) and Fig. 4 is a sectional view of the purse in its closed position, as indicated by Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a sectional view showing a tapered form of the gusset.

Like numerals of reference denote corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

In the embodiment of my invention illustrated by the accompanying drawings the purse is constructed to provide a single pocket or receptacle closed by a foldable flap. The purse consists of the front wall or side 1, the rear wall or back 2, a flap 3, a bellows-like connection 4 between the front and back, a hinge-web 5, which unites the flap to the back 2, and a suitable fastener 6 to detachably connect the flap to the front 1 of the purse.

In my purse I construct the front, back, and flap of a flexible and transparent or translucent material, all united or joined together substantially as herein indicated, whereby I am able to produce a purse having the highly-desirable property of permitting inspection of its contents without the necessity of taking the time and trouble to open the purse or empty its contents.

The material which I have found well adapted for the purposes of my invention is celluloid. This material possesses the desirable properties of transparency or translucency, flexibility, and comparative durability or wear, and it is also of such a nature that it can be sewed or otherwise united to the bellows-like connection and the hinge-web to enable the parts to be connected in a permanent manner. I would have it understood, however, that I do not restrict myself to the employment of this material in the manufacture of purses, because I am aware that other materials can be substituted therefor without departing from the principle of my invention.

The walls and flap of the purse are cut or stamped from a sheet of the flexible transparent material to the proper size and shape. I prefer to make the front and back 1 and 2 of corresponding size and shape, except that the top edge of the front may have a slight concave curvature, as indicated by Fig. 2, and

the flap 3 is made of a size and shape to partially cover the front 1 when it is folded over the same to close the purse, one edge of the flap being straight, preferably, to enable the hinge-web 5 to be properly and easily attached thereto.

The front 1 of the purse has its edges reinforced by a binding 7, which extends continuously around the same and which is stitched or otherwise united to said front. The flap 3 and the back 2 of the purse are joined together by a transverse hinge-web 5, of leather or other appropriate material, and this hinge-web is stitched or otherwise united to the adjacent straight edges of the back and the flap to allow sufficient space in said hinge-web to provide for the proper opening and closing of the flap. The edges of the flap and the back, as well as the end edges of the hinge-web, are reinforced by a continuous binding 8, which extends all the way around the edges of said back, the flap, and across the ends of the hinge-web. This continuous binding is also stitched or otherwise united to the back, flap, and hinge-web, and it is arranged to inclose the edges of said parts to protect them from chafing due to the wear of the purse while it is carried in the pocket. The employment of these bindings gives a neat and finished appearance to the purse, and they also protect the flexible transparent material from wear.

The bellows-like connection or the gusset 4 is arranged between the front and back of the purse to connect the parts together and provide a means whereby the purse may be expanded or distended to contain more or less coin without straining or injuring the connection between the front and back. This gusset 4 consists of a strip or length of folded or creased leather or other pliable material, which is adjusted between the front and back, at the side edges thereof, and the edges of the gusset are fitted between the bindings and the front and back, to be united therewith by the stitches which fasten the bindings to the front and back, all as will be readily understood. I construct this bellows-like gusset of uniform width throughout the length thereof, and said gusset extends continuously around the edges of the front and back of the purse. Such gusset thus maintains the front and back in uniform parallel relation to each other, because the gusset is of uniform width and extends around the closed edges of the purse from side to side of the open end of said purse.

The described construction of the gusset permits the front and back of the purse to be pressed outward or expanded by the contents thereof, and the flexible transparent walls of the purse are thus relieved to a certain extent from undue pressure and from injury or damage by the contents of the purse.

The fastener 6 may be of any suitable construction; but I prefer to employ a small compact fastener which is adjusted to the purse

to detachably attach the flap to the front in a manner to avoid interfering with the view of the contents of the purse. In the drawings I have shown the fastener as of that style known to the art as the "ball-and-socket" fastener, in which one member is attached to the front 1 of the purse, while the other member is attached to the flap near the edge thereof; but I would have it understood that I do not restrict myself to the employment of this particular style of fastener, as other kinds of fasteners may be substituted therefor.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the drawings, it will be evident that I have provided an improved purse which from the nature of its walls and flaps enables the owner to readily inspect the contents of the purse without opening the flap or emptying the coin into his hand. The transparent walls and flap expose to view the contents of the purse, and the uniting medium for the various parts are so arranged or assembled that they do not obstruct the view of the interior or the contents of the purse. At the same time the flap can be opened with ease and facility to provide for access to the interior of the purse, and it may be securely closed and fastened to prevent escape of the coin or other article in the pocket. The parts of the purse subject to wear are all protected by the bindings and the gusset, and the purse presents a neat and finished appearance. It is a very useful and convenient device of the class to which it relates, in that it can be carried in the pocket with comparative safety, being very compact and flexible, and the device is of such simple construction that it can be manufactured and sold for a comparatively low figure.

It is evident that the size and form of the purse may be varied and that gussets of different sizes may be used to give the desired capacity to the device. In lieu of a leather gusset and the pliable bindings I may employ a purse-frame or a metal frame such as is now used on leather purses; but these changes are such as will readily suggest themselves to a skilled mechanic.

In the construction shown by Figs. 1 to 4, inclusive, I have shown the gusset or bellows connection of uniform width; but this is not material, as I may make the gusset of the tapering form shown by Fig. 5 in order to permit the mouth of the purse to be opened quite wide to facilitate the removal of the contents of the purse.

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

As a new article of manufacture, a purse comprising the front, back and flap of transparent, flexible material, a bellows-shaped gusset of uniform width extending continuously around the side and bottom edges of the front and back and united thereto, a transverse hinge-web united to the gusset at the back and to one edge of the flap, and a fastener

for confining the free edge of the flap to the front; said gusset and the hinge-web being joined to the front, back and flap to expose the same and permit a practically unob-
5 structed view of the contents of the purse, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as

my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

EDWIN L. PRICKETT.

Witnesses:

J. L. JAMISON,

W. H. MASON, 3d.