

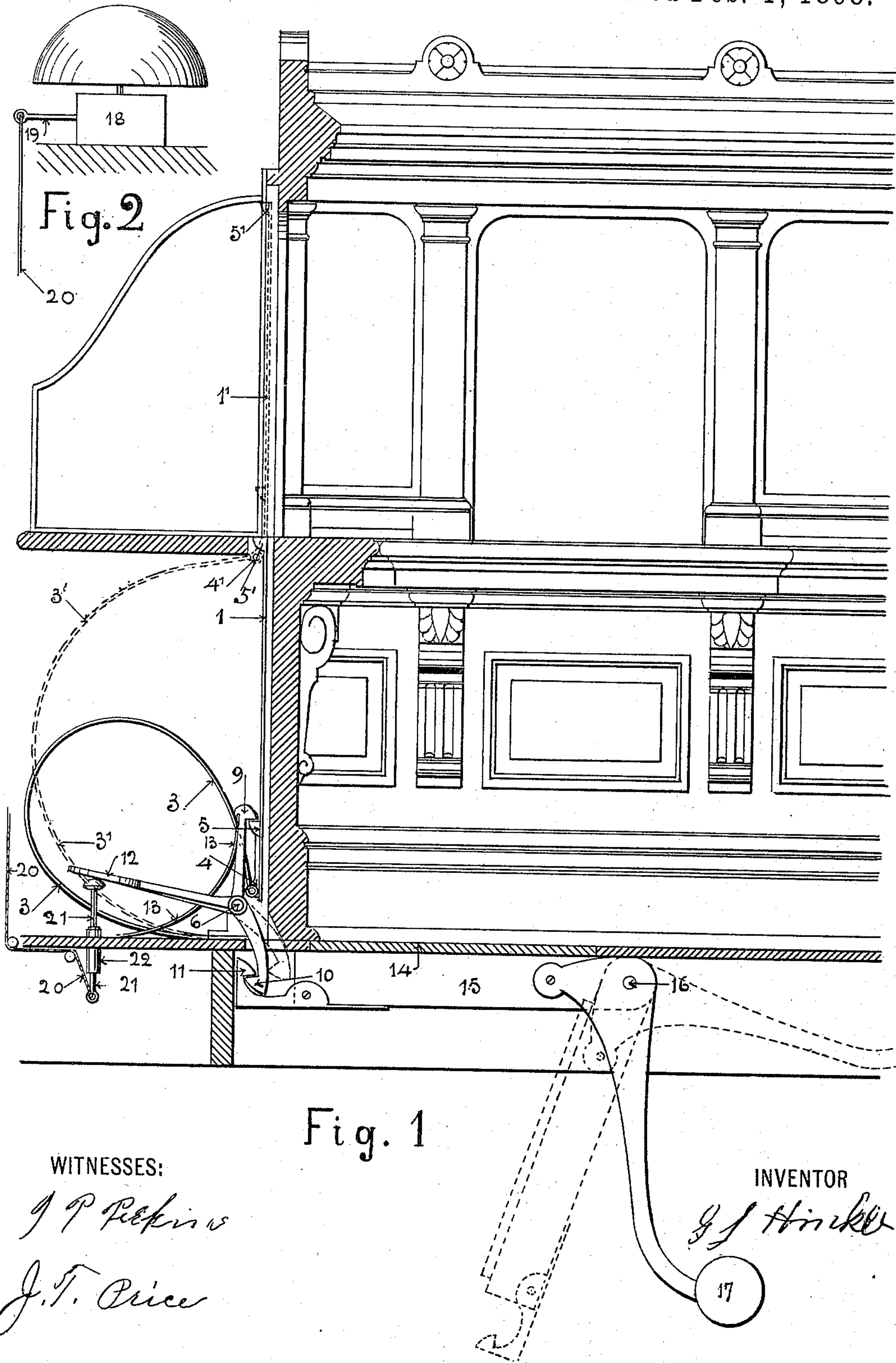
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

G. J. HINKLE.
BANK PROTECTING DEVICE.

No. 598,477.

Patented Feb. 1, 1898.



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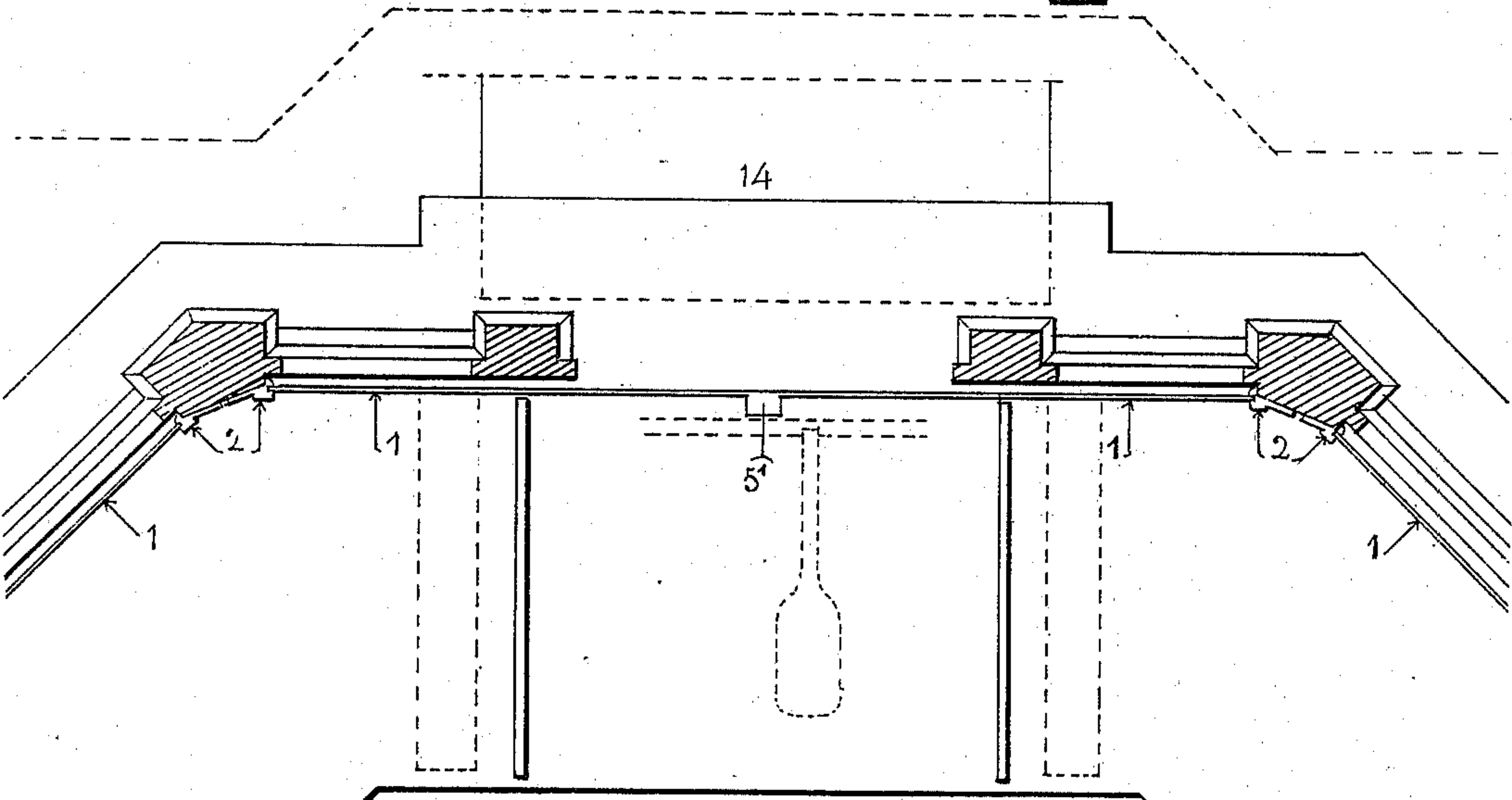
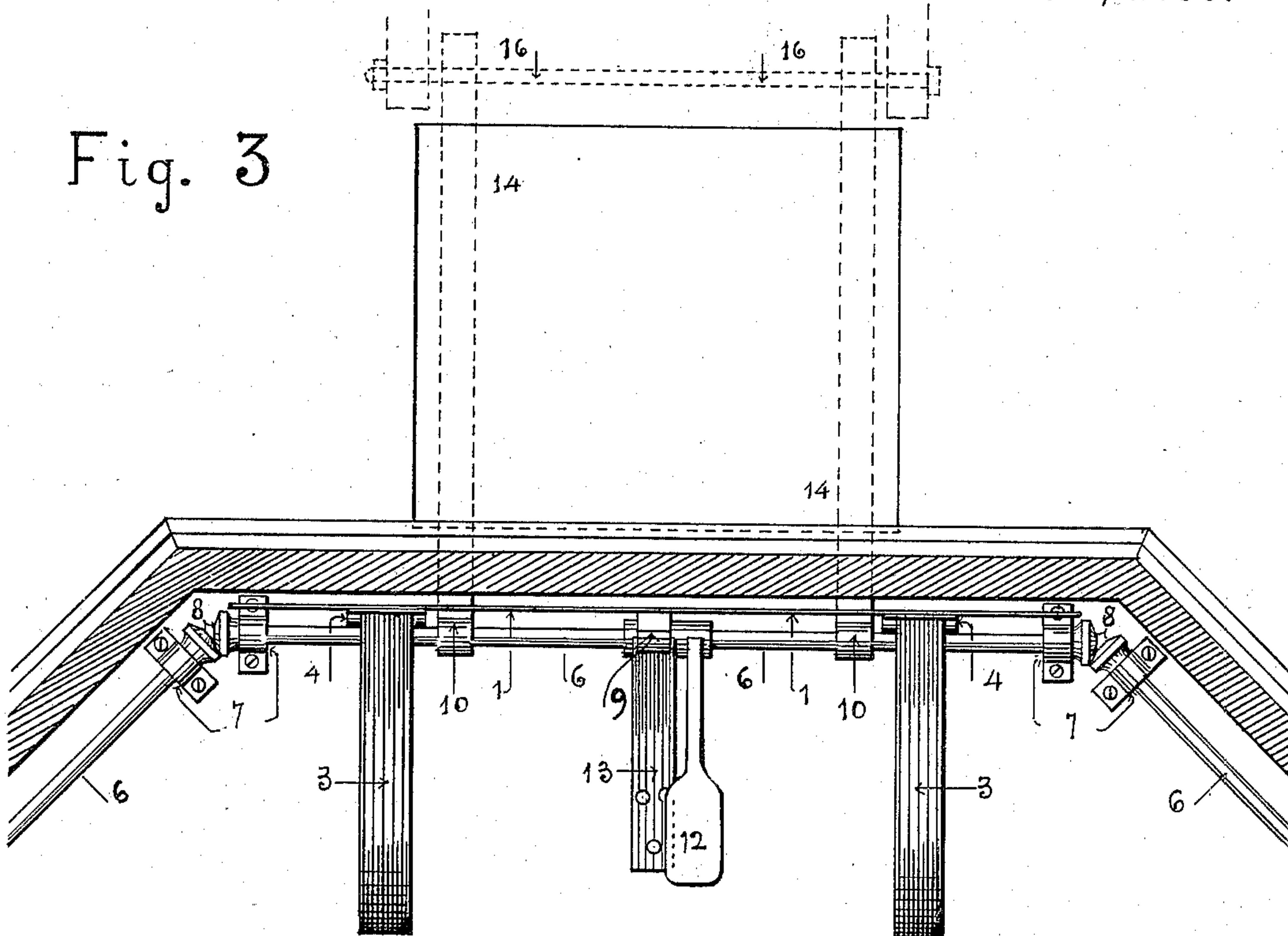
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Fig. 3



WITNESSES:

INVENTOR

J. P. Perkins
J. T. Price

Fig. 4

G. J. Hinkle

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE J. HINKLE, OF DENISON, TEXAS.

BANK-PROTECTING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 598,477, dated February 1, 1898.

Application filed March 5, 1897. Serial No. 626,130. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE J. HINKLE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Denison, in the county of Grayson and State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Bank-Protecting Device, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates, first, to a protecting-shield which is thrown up just behind the railings of counters in front of cashiers, tellers, and other clerks in case of an attempted hold-up; second, to a trap-door in the floor in front of the counter so arranged that when the shield is thrown up that trap-door is suddenly opened and lets the attacking party down into a cell, and, third, to an alarm-bell situated on the outside of the building and which is sounded when the shield and trap-door are thrown.

I attain the objects of my invention by the mechanism and devices illustrated in the accompanying drawings, of which the following is a brief description:

Figure 1 is a vertical section on a bank-counter with part elevation of same. Fig. 2 is a side view of an alarm-bell. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section of bank-counter below top. Fig. 4 is a horizontal section of bank-counter above top.

In the accompanying drawings the same reference-numbers designate similar parts.

The protecting-shield and its mechanism are constructed of iron, steel, or other suitable metal and are composed of the following parts:

The shield 1 is made of steel thick enough to stop a bullet and slides up and down through the counter-top in a groove and is guided at the sides by ways 2, fixed to the railing of the counter. The shield is fastened near the bottom to springs 3 by means of hinges 4. The shield has a projection 5 secured to it some distance from the bottom and another one 5' at the top to close up the opening in the counter-top for the passage of projection 5. Bars or rods 6, turning in proper supports 7 and connected by bevel or other gearing 8, receive and properly maintain, first, a hook 9, which keeps the shield down on bent springs by engaging projection 5 of the shield; second, hooks 10, that work under the floor and engage catches 11, fixed to the trap-door; third, a pedal 12, which by being depressed releases

the hooks of shield and trap-door. The spring 13 keeps the hooks in place when engaged by pressing against the back of hook 9. 55

The trap-door 14 is placed in the floor in front of the openings in the railing of the counter and is composed of flooring 14, secured to a proper frame 15, which is pivoted on a bar 16 and provided with counterweights 17 to bring the trap-door up to position after it has been thrown down. The frame and door are kept in place by the catches 11, secured to the frame and engaging the hooks 10. 60

The alarm-bell 18 is started by depressing the lever 19 by means of the wire 20, which is pulled by the rod 21, working inside of a cylinder 22, in which is fixed a spiral spring to keep the rod up. By lowering the pedal 12 the rod 21 is pushed down and it thus pulls 70 on the wire 20.

The different parts of my invention being thus described, I will now explain its working.

The trap-door is concealed by a piece of matting and the robber steps on it to reach the cashier's or teller's window. The bank officer being told to hold up his hands complies with the order and at the same time places his foot on the pedal and throws his weight on it. This turns the rods 6 below the counter in front of him and all the rods along the whole counter. This disengages the hooks 9 from the projection 5 on the shield, and by the unbending of the springs 3 the shield is thrown up above the counter and the shield and springs take the position indicated by 1' 1' and 3' 3'. The turning of the rods has also released the trap-door catches 11, and the weight of the robber overcoming the balance-weight 17 the trap-door opens and he is precipitated down an inclined floor into a cell, where he can be captured. The shield is bullet-proof and would have stopped any missile had the robber succeeded in shooting before being despatched below. The pedal has also worked the alarm and outside help would be coming instantly. 75 80 85 90 95

The protecting-shield can be worked without the trap-door arrangement, and in that way could be used in any kind of office and in express-cars, where a number of cross-partitions can be thrown up, if desired. 100

Having described my invention and explained its working, what I claim as new, and

desire to secure by Letters Patent, is as follows:

1. In a bank-protecting device, the combination with a movable panel adapted to be automatically interposed between the outside and inside of a bank-counter and of flat springs fastened at one end on the floor and at the other on the movable panel, of a system of rods 6 following the lines of the counter and geared together so as to turn simultaneously, such rods being fastened on the floor, and having secured to them pedals 12 for turning the rods, and hooks 9 and 10; substantially as described and for the purposes set forth.
2. In a bank-protecting device the combination with a system of rods following the lines of the counter and geared together to turn simultaneously and provided with pedals 12 to turn them, of a rod 21 working inside of a cylinder 22 and adapted to be depressed by the lowering of the pedal, substantially as described and for the purposes set forth.

3. In a bank-protecting device the combination with a system of rods 6 geared together and having pedals 12 to turn them simultaneously and provided with hooks 10 of a trap-door hinged at the farthest side from the counter and having catches 11 to engage hooks 10 and provided with balance-weights 17 fixed to its under side beyond the hinging-point; substantially as described and for the purposes set forth.

4. In a bank-protecting device the combination with a system of rods geared together and having pedals to turn them simultaneously and provided with hooks 9 of a spring 13 having one end fast and the other pressing against the back of hook 9; substantially as described and for the purposes set forth.

Denison, Texas, February 27, 1897.

G. J. HINKLE.

Witnesses:

J. P. PERKINS,
J. T. PRICE.