

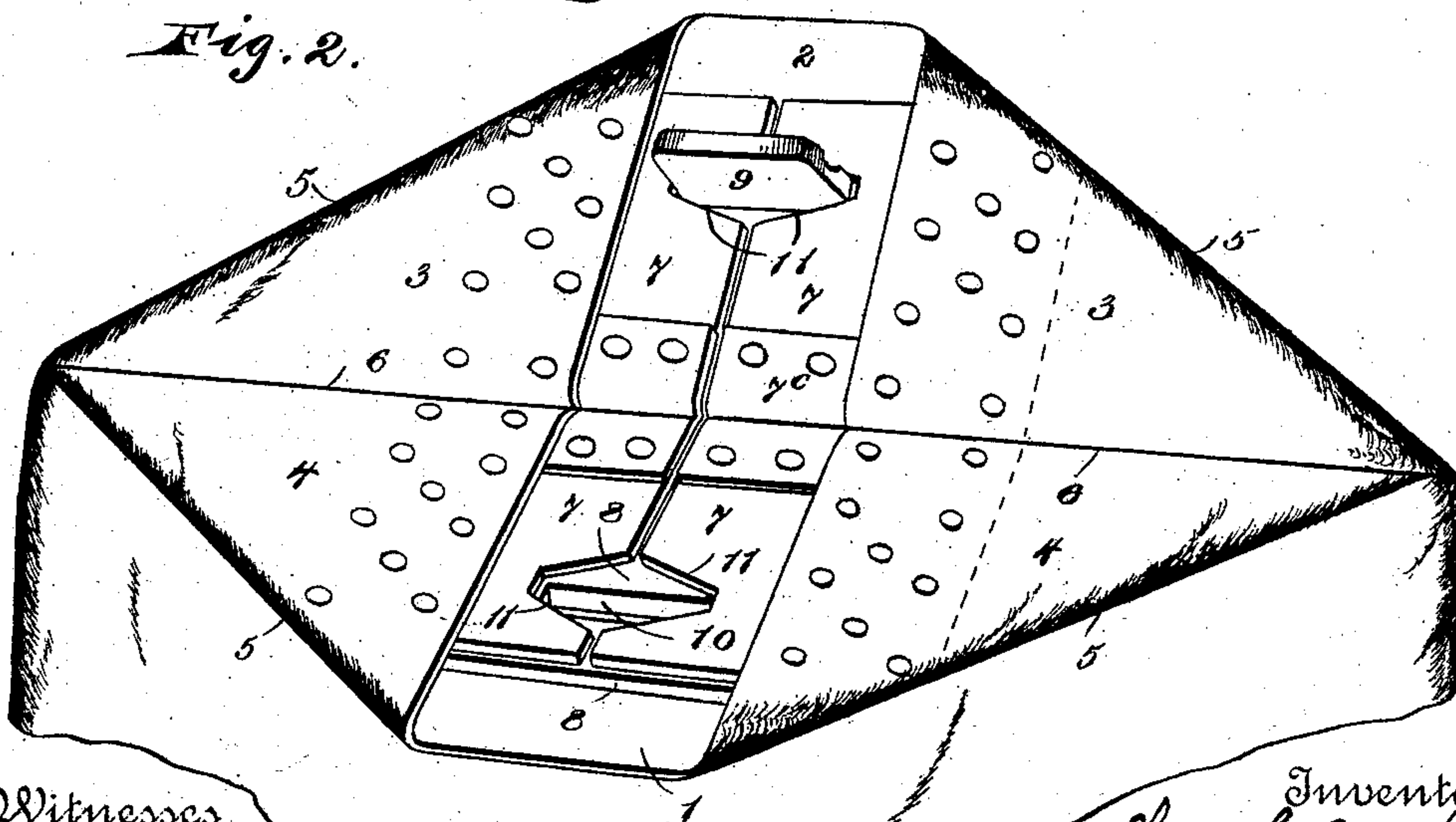
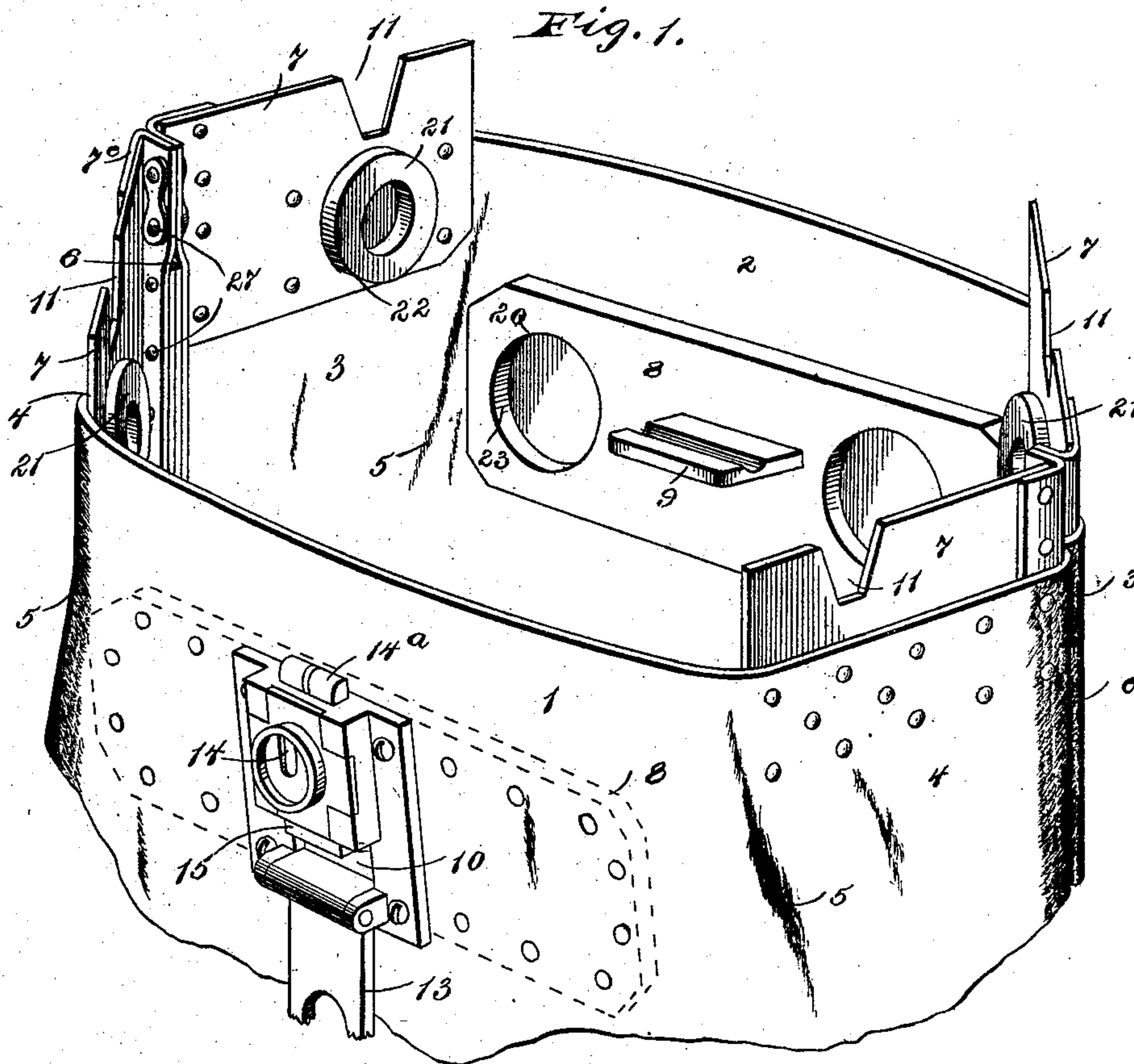
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

W. F. BEASLEY.  
BAG OR POUCH.

No. 605,068.

Patented June 7, 1898.



Witnesses  
C. Bradway.  
A. J. Hobson

Inventor  
William F. Beasley  
by *Ernest W. Morse*  
his Attorney

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 3.

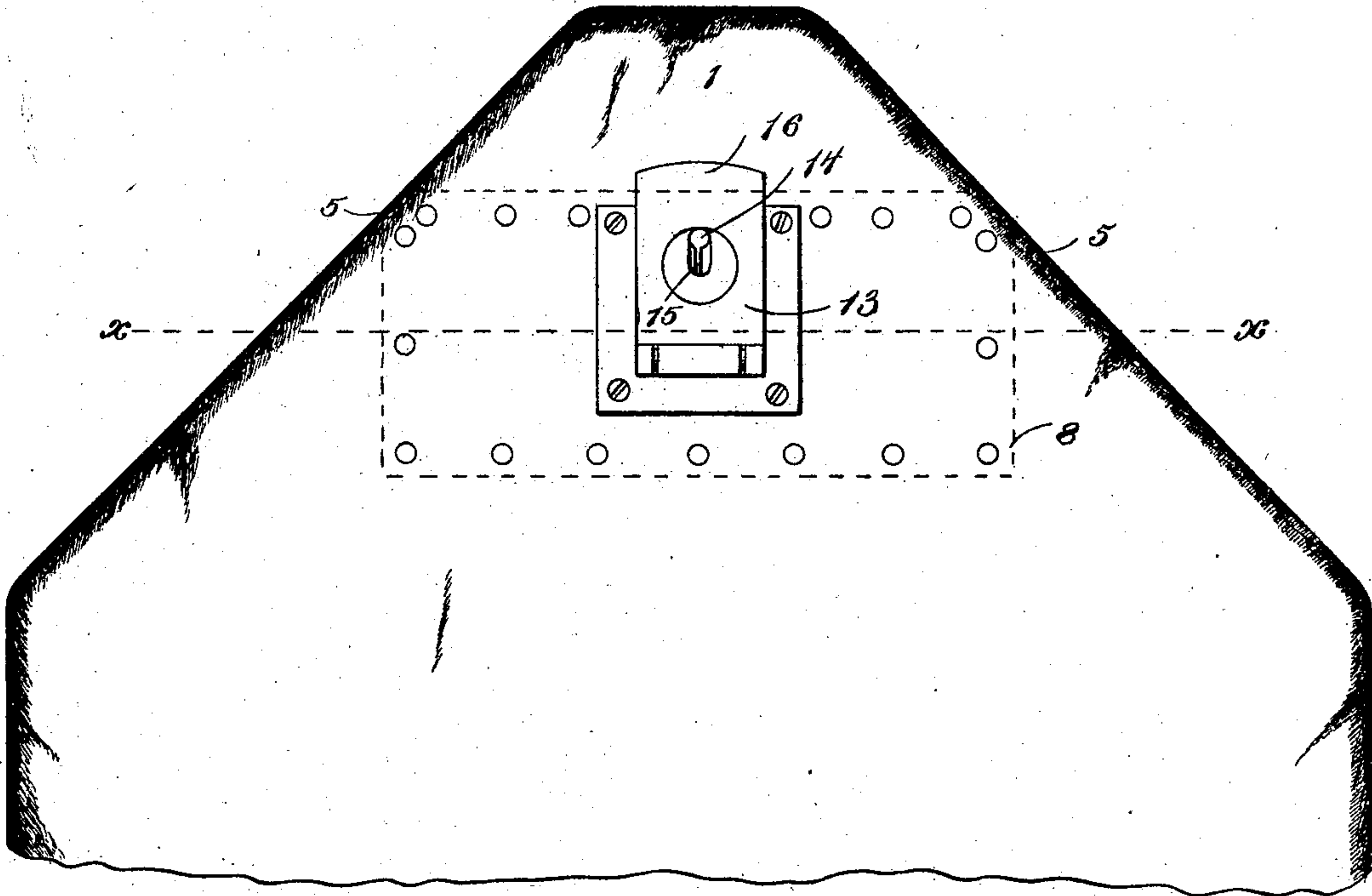


Fig. 4.

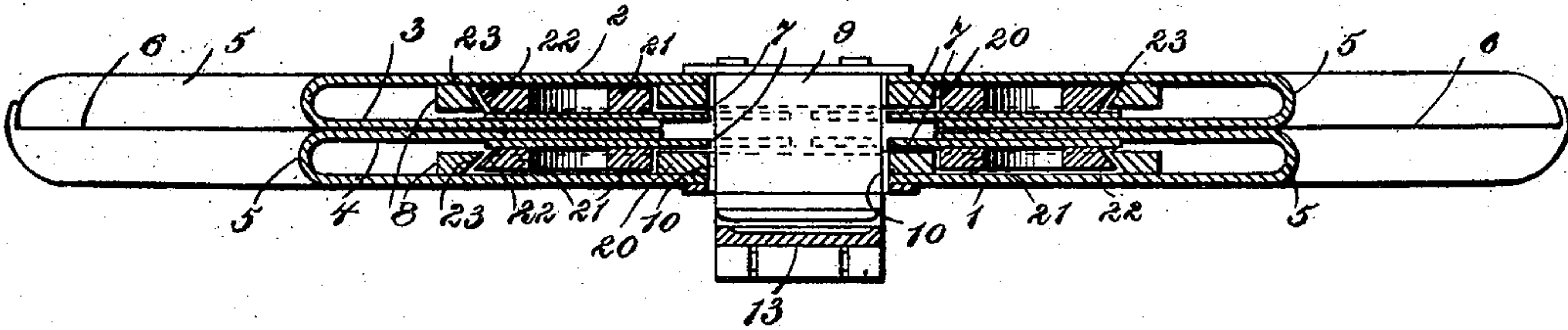
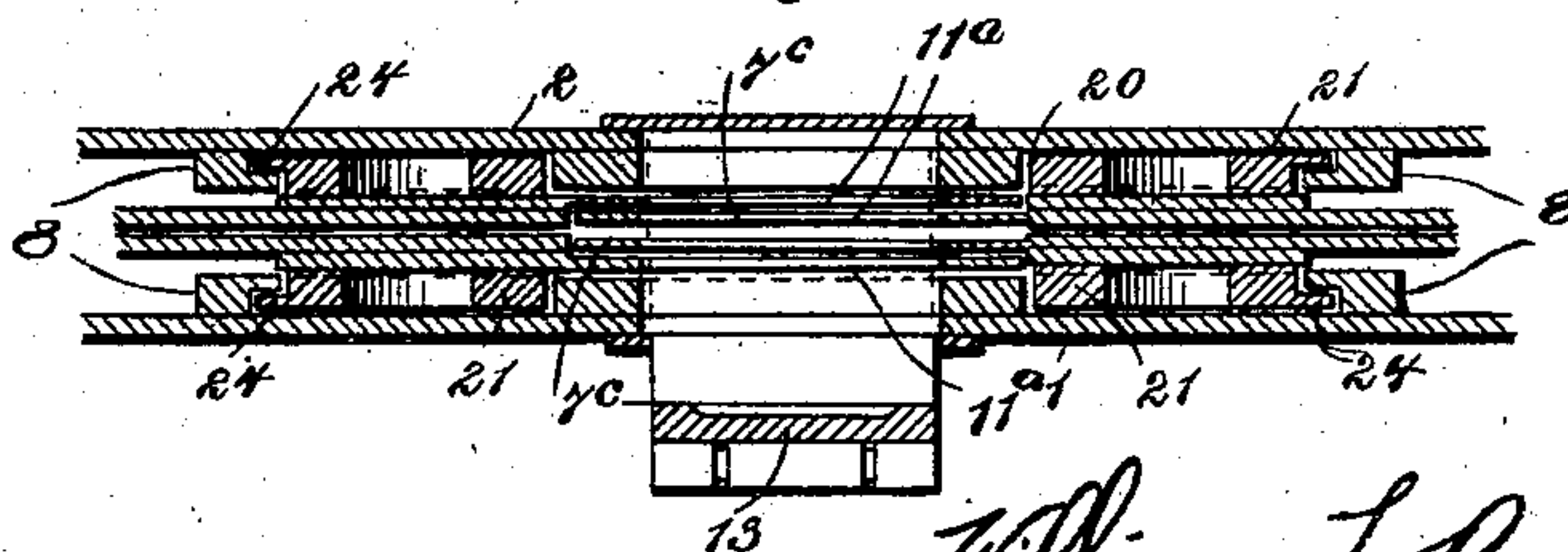


Fig. 5.



Witnesses  
C. Broadway,  
A. J. Hobson

Inventor  
William F. Beasley  
by *James M. H. H. H.*  
his Attorney



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM F. BEASLEY, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

## BAG OR POUCH.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 605,068, dated June 7, 1898.

Application filed November 6, 1897. Serial No. 657,687. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM F. BEASLEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bags or Pouches; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in bags or pouches, such as can be used in the transportation of the mails; and it has for its object to provide an improved mouth-frame or closure therefor which can be readily closed, locked, unlocked, and opened in the shortest time and with the smallest amount of labor and which will at the same time so effectually close the mouth of the bag as to prevent the unauthorized removal of its contents; and for these purposes my invention consists in the construction, arrangement, and combination of the several parts of which it is composed, as will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, in which corresponding parts are designated by similar marks of reference, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bag constructed in accordance with this invention when opened. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the same when partly closed. Fig. 3 is a front elevation of such a bag entirely closed. Fig. 4 is a section on lines *xx* of Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a section similar to Fig. 4, but showing a modified form of mouth.

In my prior patent, No. 542,323, dated July 8, 1895, I have shown, described, and claimed a mouth-frame for a bag in which the folds of the several gussets are folded so that the intermediate gussets are folded between the forward and rear ones, the intermediate gussets having a length of not greater than half that of the forward and rear gussets, and in that case I show the gussets with vertical folds, and my present invention differs therefrom in making the gussets turn upon an oblique fold, or, in other words, in turning in the edges of the top of the bag between the forward and rear faces thereof.

As this invention relates only to the mouth-

frame of the bag, I have not deemed it necessary to show in the drawings more than the upper part of the bag.

In the drawings, 1 and 2 indicate, respectively, the front and rear of the bag-mouth, or, as I shall hereinafter call them, the "front" and "rear" gussets. At each end of these and between them are formed two intermediate gussets 3 and 4, the said intermediate gussets being connected to the front and rear gussets, respectively, by the inclined or oblique folds marked 5, the gussets 3 and 4 upon the same side being connected to each other by the fold 6, which is horizontal when the mouth is closed and vertical when it is open. It will be thus seen that these gussets 3 and 4 are formed from the corners of the upper edge of the bag and that the fold 6 is but a prolongation of the side fold in the lower portion of the bag, the direction of the fold being reversed.

As it is desirable that the intermediate gussets 3 and 4 upon each side of the mouth of the bag should both reach the medial line thereof, I form upon the upper edges of the said gussets when the latter are opened prolongations or extensions 7, which form a continuation thereof toward the middle of the bag when its mouth is folded, and by preference I form these extensions of stiff sheets or plates which serve not only to continue the intermediate gussets, as above described, but also to stiffen them and to afford means whereby they may be secured against movement, and for a similar purpose and to receive the locking mechanism I secure similar plates 8 to the interior faces of the forward and rear gussets, these plates being preferably made of vulcanized fiber or similar material. The extensions 7 upon the same side of the bag, or those portions thereof which extend beyond the edges of the gussets of which they form a part, are connected together by a hinge 7<sup>e</sup>, preferably formed of flexible leather, whereby the horizontal fold 6 is extended toward the medial line of the mouth of the bag and the introduction of an instrument between the extensions 7 to remove the contents is prevented. It is obvious, however, that if flexible extensions 7 be used the hinge thereof may be of the material of the extension.

In order to provide means to lock the front



and rear gussets together and the intermediate gussets between them, I secure to the rear gusset and projecting forwardly from the inner face thereof a post which passes through  
 5 a corresponding slot 10 in the forward gusset, upon the exterior of which it may be locked. This post 9 also passes through the recesses 11, formed in the edges of the extensions 7, whereby the extensions and the gussets of  
 10 which they form a part are held against lateral movement so long as the post is contained therein. For the purpose of permitting the rapid closing of the bag and to guide the gussets into place these recesses are generally  
 15 made with flared ends, the recesses upon the corresponding gussets registering with each other when the bag is closed.

For the purpose of locking the bag—that is to say, for engaging the forward end of the post  
 20 9—I by preference use the form of lock shown in another application filed by me in the United States Patent Office on the 6th day of April, 1896, which has been serially numbered 586,412, and as such a lock is claimed therein  
 25 I do not claim it in this application. The essential features of such a lock are a hinged seal-cover 13, which is hinged to the forward gusset and adapted to hold a seal over a suitable keyhole 14, which controls the locking-  
 30 bolt 14<sup>a</sup>, which engages the said cover when the latter is thrown down upon the keyhole. A second locking-bolt is also provided which engages the post 6 and serves to lock it.

As an additional means for holding the intermediate gussets firmly against displacement I form female members in the exterior gussets and male members in the intermediate gussets by cutting apertures or recesses in the plates 8 and placing the material so  
 40 removed therefrom on the plate 7 and in a corresponding position, as is seen in the apertures 20, and I by preference overhang the bosses, as shown in 22, and undercut the apertures, as shown in 23, whereby when the bag  
 45 is folded the overhung portions of the former will be in positive engagement with the plates 8, whereby the separation of the exterior gussets from the intermediate ones will be prevented. It is obvious that instead of over-  
 50 hanging one of the bosses, as before described, I can secure or form upon the top thereof a locking-plate 24, which will enter between the mouth of the bag and the exterior surface of the plates 8. This modification is  
 55 shown in dotted lines in Fig. 5. In any case the boss is made of such a size as to prevent the introduction of an instrument between the outer and intermediate gussets and upon one side of the post, these coöperating with  
 60 the horizontal folds 6 and the extensions thereof in the hinges 7<sup>c</sup> to assure the safety of the contents of the bag.

I have shown in the annexed drawings the folds 6 as formed by a seam. This is not  
 65 necessary; but I have found that by placing a series of rivets 27 along such a fold it is

rendered difficult to abstract the contents of the bag, which might otherwise be done by the use of some sharp instrument to slit the folds 6.

The open position of the bag is shown in Fig. 1. In folding it the intermediate gussets 3 and 4 are first folded down along the folds 5, as shown in Fig. 2, and the exterior gussets are brought together, the interme-  
 75 diate gussets folding now upon the folds 6. When the exterior gussets have been fully closed, the post 9 will be engaged by the main locking-bolt 15 and the locking mechanism closed by the insertion of a seal and the throw-  
 80 ing down of the cover over it.

In Fig. 5 a form of the bag is shown in which the extensions 7 are sufficiently prolonged to project past the medial line of the mouth when the bag is closed, and in this  
 85 case instead of forming recesses in the said extensions I form holes 11<sup>a</sup> therein, through which the locking-head passes, and reduce the thickness of the plates forming the said extensions where they overlap, as at 7<sup>e</sup>, thus  
 90 permitting the parts to fold compactly. It will be seen that by passing the posts through the holes 7<sup>c</sup> the former lock the intermediate gussets against lateral movement.

Having thus described my invention, what  
 95 I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A bag having a series of gussets around its upper edge, the intermediate gussets being formed by folding in the edges of the bag  
 100 and being provided with stiffened extensions toward the medial line of the mouth, and folding flat between the exterior gussets, substantially as described.

2. The combination with a bag having a  
 105 series of gussets, around its upper edge, the intermediate gussets being formed by folding in the corners of the bag and folding flat between the exterior gussets, the said intermediate gussets being stiffened, of male mem-  
 110 bers upon two of the gussets upon each side of the bag, and female members upon the gussets opposite thereto, substantially as described.

3. The combination with a bag having a  
 115 series of gussets around its upper edge, the intermediate gussets being formed by folding in the corners of the bag and folding flat between the exterior gussets, the intermediate gussets having stiffened extensions thereon  
 120 projecting toward the medial line of the bag, of means for locking the exterior gussets together passing through the extensions on the intermediate gussets, substantially as described.

4. The combination with a bag having a series of gussets around its upper edge, the intermediate gussets being formed by folding in the corners of the bag and folding flat be-  
 125 tween the exterior gussets, of male members on two gussets on each side of the bag, and female members upon the gussets opposite to  
 130



the gussets having the male members, whereby the intermediate gussets are held against lateral motion and means for locking the exterior gussets together, substantially as described.

5 5. A bag having a series of gussets around its upper edge, the intermediate gussets being formed by folding in the corners of the bag and folding flat between the exterior gussets, the intermediate gussets having plates thereon extending toward the medial line of the mouth and projections on the said plates adapted to form a positive engagement with the exterior gussets, substantially as described.

15 6. A bag having a series of gussets around its upper edge, the intermediate gussets being formed by folding in the corners of the bag, and folding flat between the exterior gussets, of undercut shoulders and overhanging shoulders upon the opposite gussets whereby they are held against lateral displacement, in combination with means for locking the ex-

terior gussets together, substantially as described.

25 7. A bag having a series of gussets around the upper edge thereof, the intermediate gussets being formed by oblique folds uniting them with the exterior gussets and being connected to each other by a fold that is horizontal when the bag is closed, the intermediate gussets folding flat between the exterior gussets, each of the intermediate gussets having a stiffened extension projecting beyond the edge thereof, the extensions upon the adjoining gussets being connected together beyond the edge of the latter by a continuation of the horizontal fold, substantially as described.

35 In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM F. BEASLEY.

Witnesses:

VERNON M. DORSEY,  
J. D. COUGHLAN.