

No. 628,850.

Patented July 11, 1899.

W. R. RATHVON.
DESK ATTACHMENT.

(Application filed Jan. 14, 1898.)

(No Model.)

Fig. I.

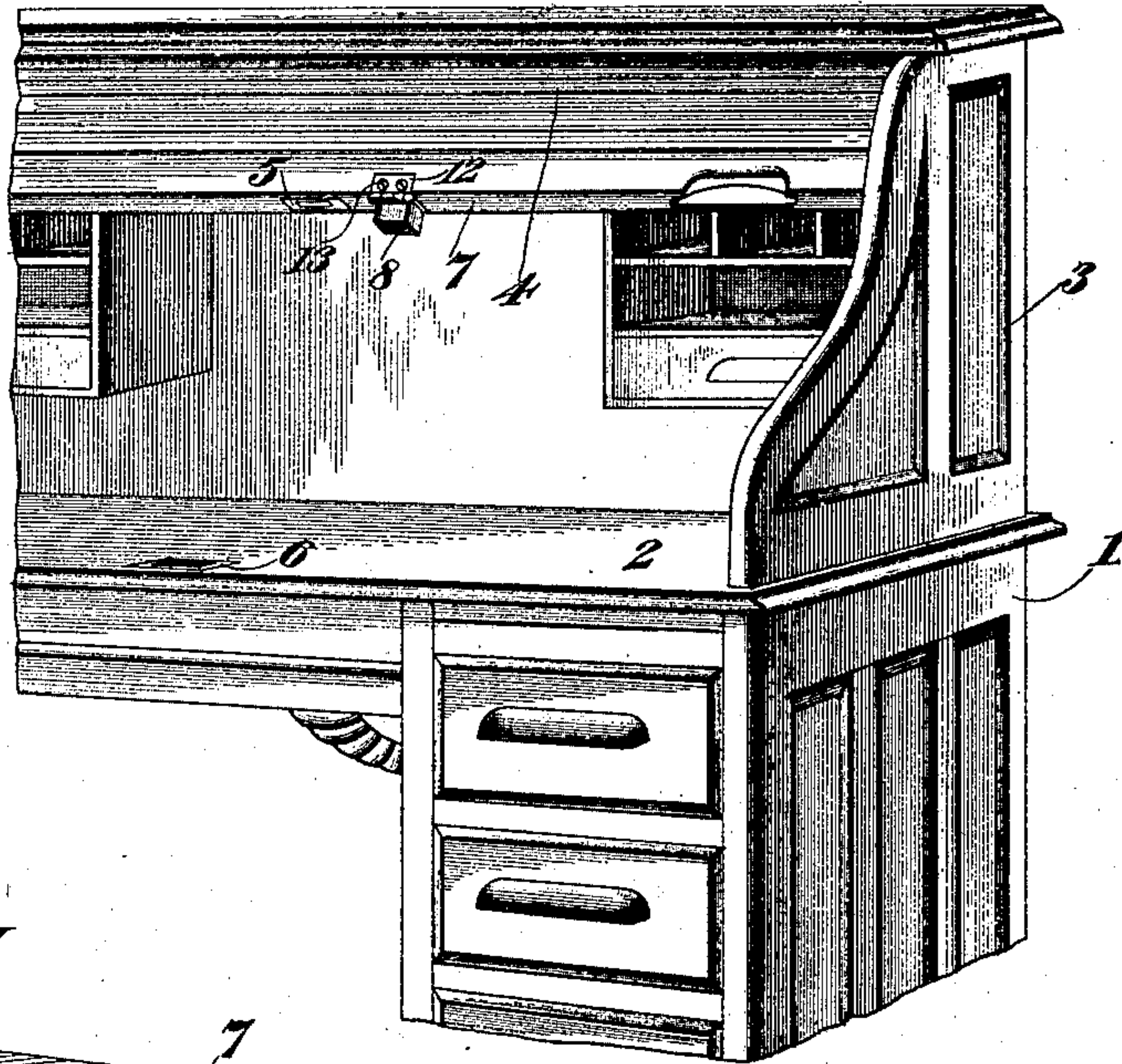


Fig. II.

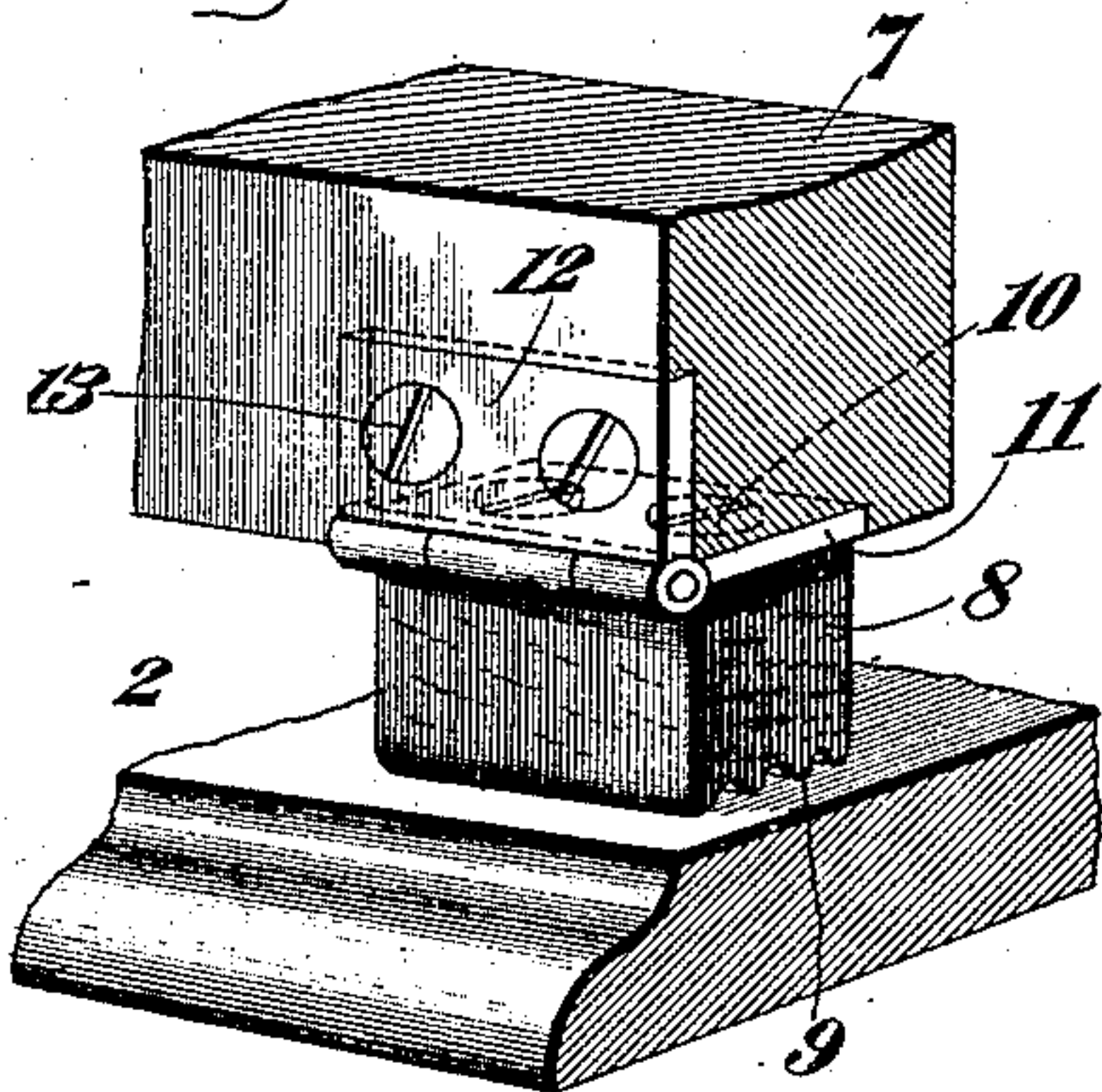


Fig. III.

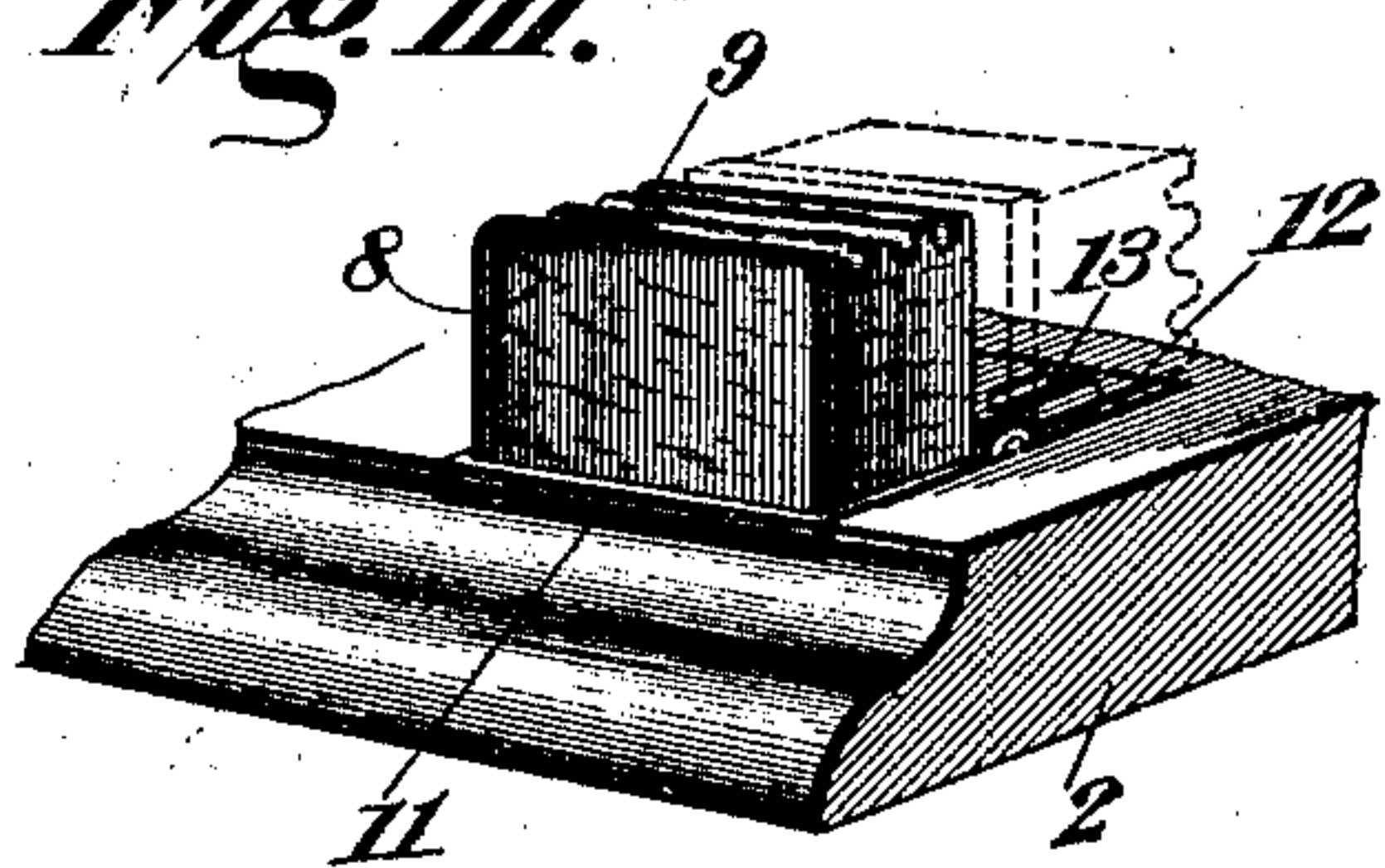


Fig. IV.

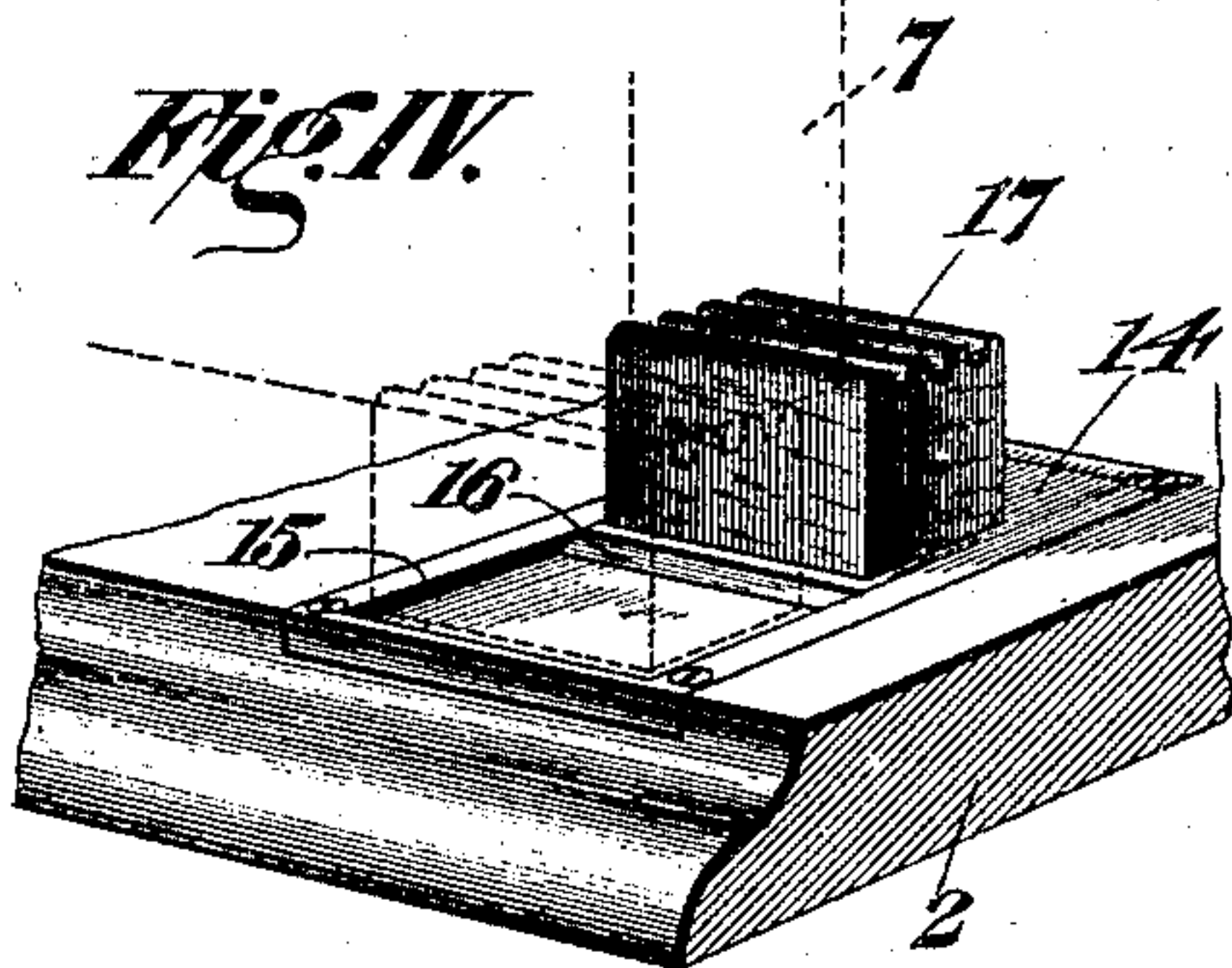
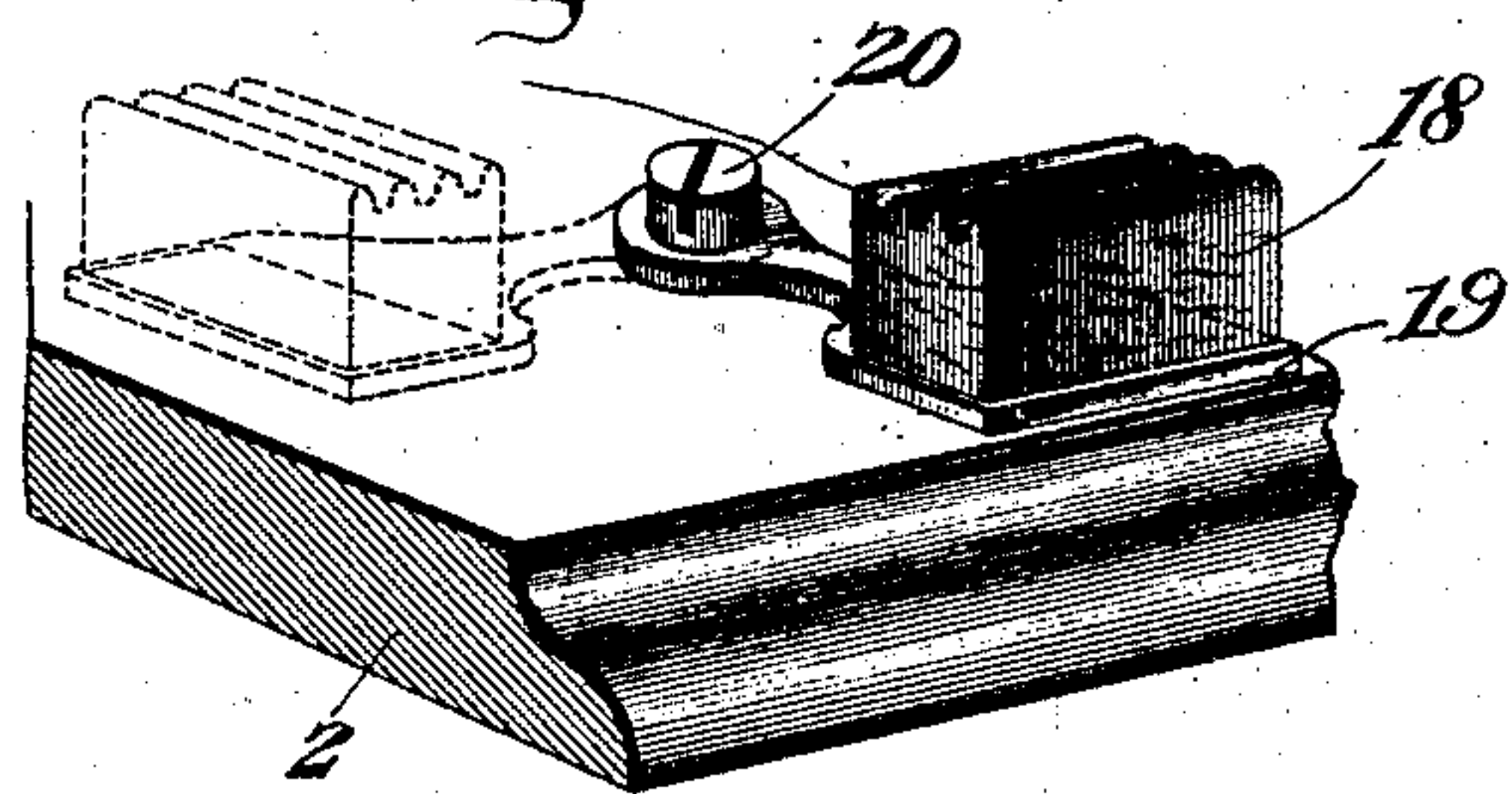


Fig. V.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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DESK ATTACHMENT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 628,850, dated July 11, 1899.

Application filed January 14, 1898. Serial No. 666,680. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM R. RATHVON, of Florence, in the county of Fremont, State of Colorado, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Desk Attachments, of which the following is a complete specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

The object of my invention is to produce a simple and inexpensive but effective device for preventing, whenever desired, the locking of a desk-top when the desk is closed.

Covered desks generally are provided with spring-locks which operate automatically to secure the tops when closed. This is a feature of no inconsiderable convenience when one wishes to lock the desk, but it frequently occurs that a business man desires to close his desk for a few moments to prevent disturbance of his papers or inspection of their contents by the overcurious in his absence. It is a source of annoyance, however, for one who has frequent occasion to leave his desk to find it locked whenever he returns. My invention provides simple and convenient means for sustaining the desk-top in the unlocked position whenever required, but which is adapted to be instantly thrown out of operation, so as to permit the locking of the desk in the usual manner.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure I is a perspective view of a portion of a desk provided with the preferred form of my attachment, showing the desk open. Fig. II is a similar view of the same, on an enlarged scale, of a fragment of the table and with the top closed, but supported in the unlocked position by my attachment. Fig. III shows the form of embodiment of my attachment illustrated in Figs. I and II applied to the table instead of to the top of the desk. In this figure the device is illustrated in full lines in the operative position and in dotted lines in the inoperative position. Fig. IV is a perspective view of a modified form of my invention applied as illustrated in Fig. III, showing the operative position in dotted lines and the inoperative position in full lines. Fig. V is a perspective view of a further modification applied as in Fig. III, the operative position being illustrated in full lines and the inoperative in dotted lines.

Referring to the figures on the drawings, 1 indicates a desk of any desired pattern, shape, and dimensions provided, as usual, with a table 2, side pieces 3, and with any suitable top or apron that may serve as a cover for the table—for example, the roll-top 4.

5 indicates the male lock member, and 6 the female lock member, the former being secured to the lower edge or bottom rail 7 of the top 4 and the latter being countersunk in the face of the table 2.

The foregoing elements are those which ordinarily appear in roll-top or other covered desks in general use.

My attachment consists of a supporting member movably secured to the desk in such a manner as to permit of its ready interposition between the top or rail 7 and the table, so as to prevent the lock members from operative engagement and its equally ready displacement from that position when it is desired that the locking members shall make operative engagement.

The preferred form of embodiment of my invention is illustrated in Figs. I and II, in which 8 indicates a supporting member, which is preferably made of rubber, but which may be made of cork, felt, or other suitable elastic, semi-elastic, or yielding substance. The member 8 is, as illustrated, preferably provided upon its bearing-face with corrugations 9 and may be secured by any suitable means—for example, screws 10—to one leaf 11 of a hinge, whose other leaf 12 is secured, as by screws 13, to its required position. The shape of the hinge, like that of the member 8, may be varied at will, and any preferred ornamentation or mode of applying the hinge in practice may be employed.

I prefer to secure my attachment to the desk top or rail 7 at a point in front of the rail and adjacent to the lock. It is preferably located in front in order that one may see whether it is in the operative or inoperative position and preferably located adjacent to the lock in order to equally support both ends of the rail and prevent its sagging at one end. It is not essential, however, particularly in certain types of desks, that it should be so applied, and it may be secured to the table instead of to the rail, if preferred. When secured to the table, the attachment is

preferably located at one end thereof in order that it may be out of the way.

5 In Fig. III the form of attachment illustrated in Figs. I and II is shown as applied to the table 2, the leaves of the hinge being preferably countersunk therein.

10 In Fig. IV a modified form of the device is shown in which a frame 14 is countersunk in the table 2. It is provided upon opposite sides with dovetail recesses 15, within which works a slide 16, upon which is securely mounted the supporting member 17. In that figure the slide 16, with the supporting member, is shown in dotted lines as moved in the path of the rail 7 (indicated by dotted lines) and is shown in full lines as slipped back out of the way of the rail.

15 In Fig. V the supporting member 18 is illustrated as secured to an arm 19, that is pivotally fastened, as by a screw 20, to the face of the table 2. The mode of operation of that form of device is similar to that of the form shown in Fig. IV, except that the swinging arm 19 takes the place of the slide 16.

20 What I claim is—

25 1. In a desk attachment, the combination of one member adapted to be secured to a

desk, a second member movably united to the first-named member, and a supporting member secured solely to the second member and adapted by the movement of the second member to be interposed between the desk and its top, substantially as set forth. 30

2. In a desk attachment, the combination of one member adapted to be secured to a desk, a second member pivotally united to the first-named member, and a supporting member secured solely to the second member and adapted by the movement of the second member to be interposed between the desk and its top, substantially as set forth. 35 40

3. In a desk attachment, the combination with a hinge, of a supporting member secured to one leaf of the hinge, the other leaf of the hinge being adapted to be secured to the desk, substantially in the manner and for the purpose specified. 45

In testimony of all which I have hereunto subscribed my name.

WILLIAM R. RATHVON.

Witnesses:

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