

No. 630,694.

Patented Aug. 8, 1899.

D. R. HERING.
MAIL BAG OR POUCH.
(Application filed May 8, 1899.)

(No Model.)

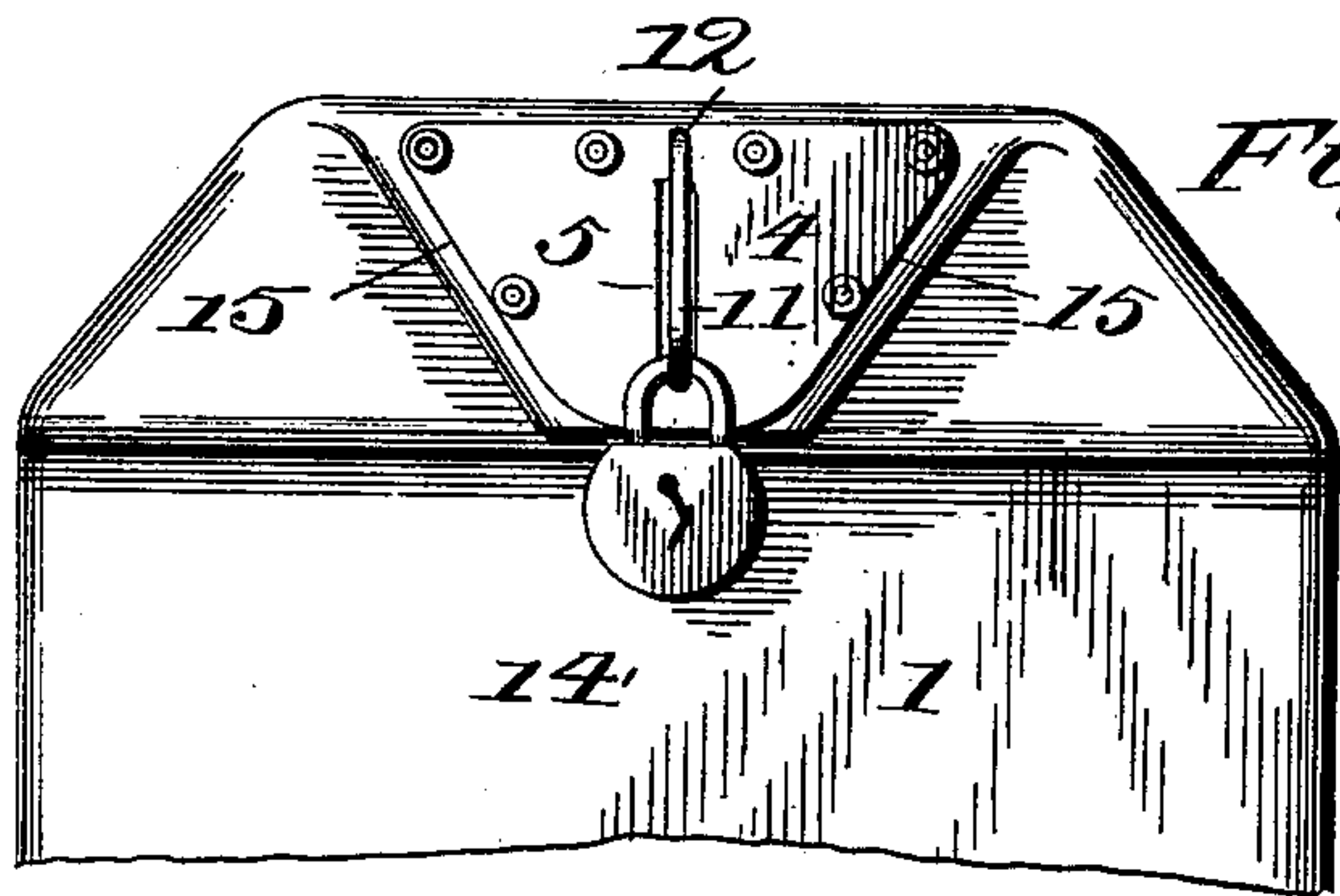


Fig. 1.

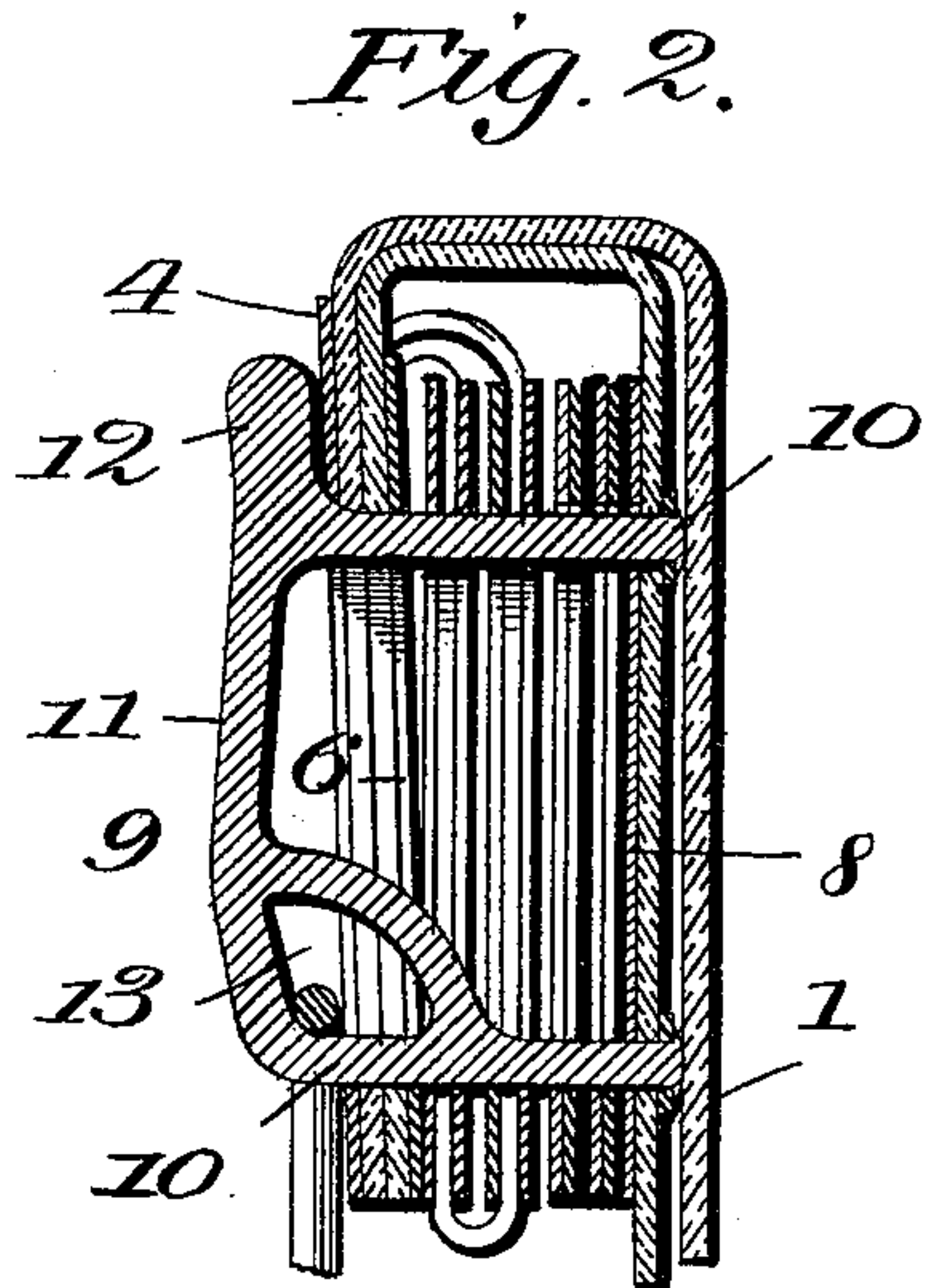


Fig. 2.

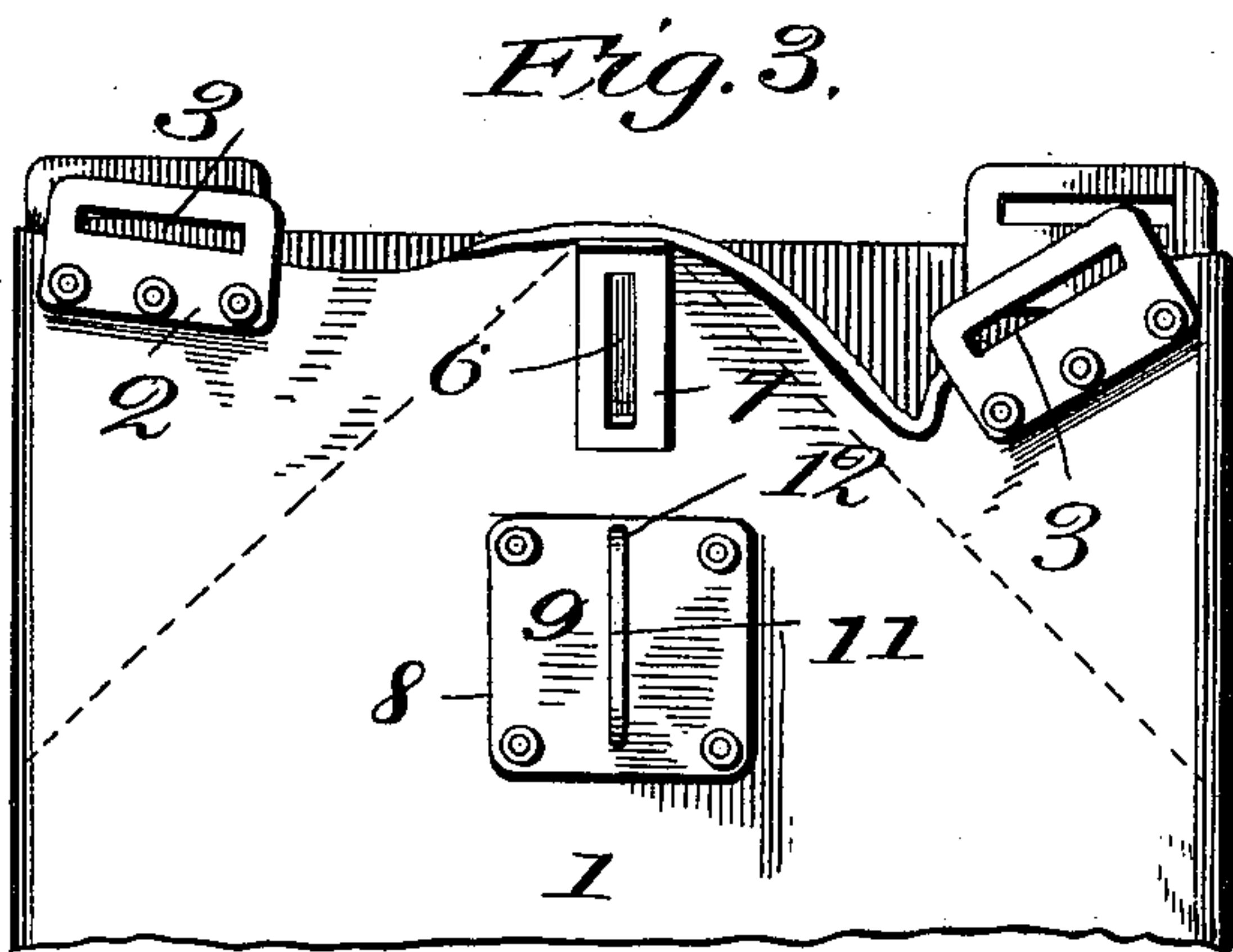


Fig. 3.

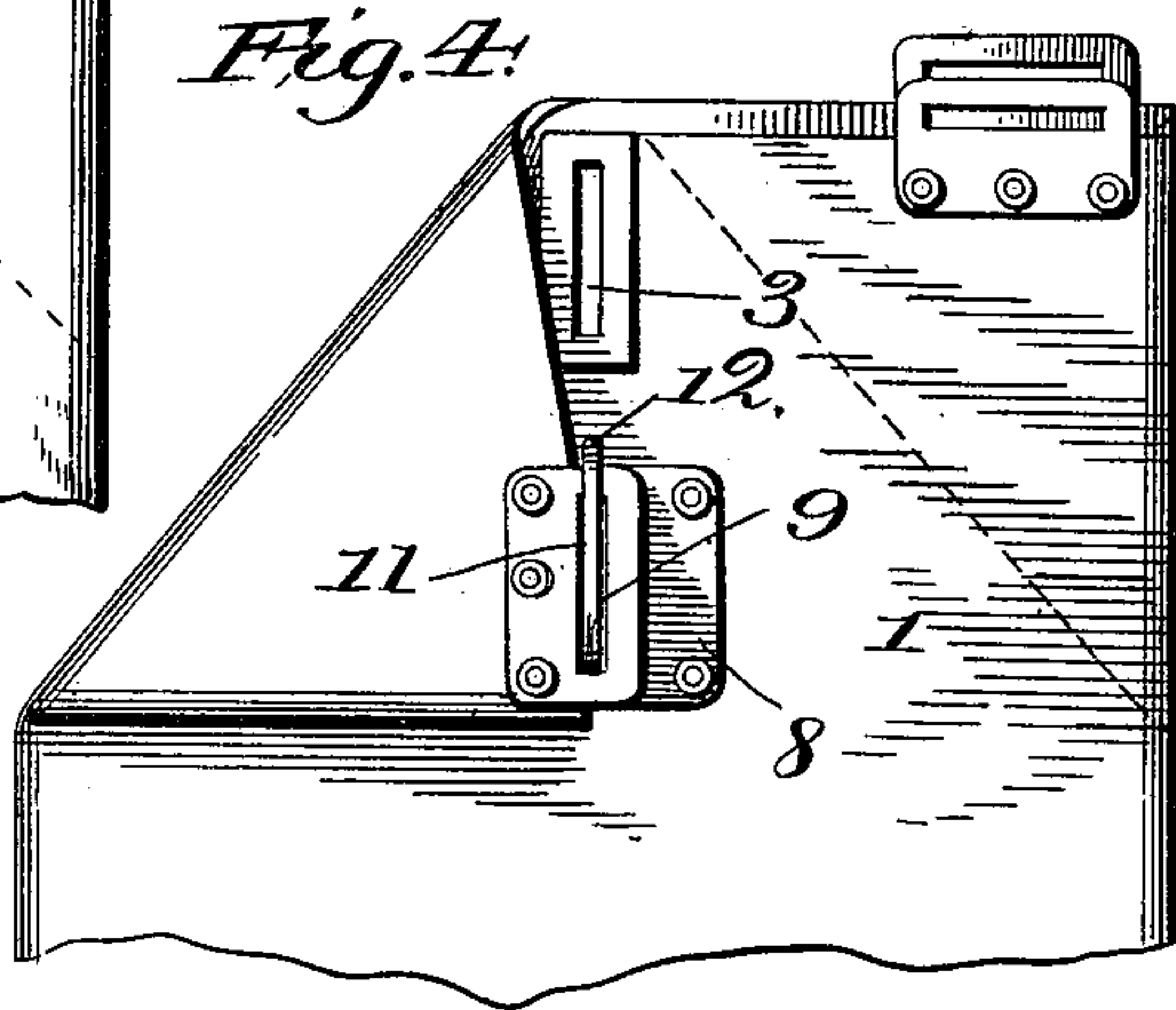


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5

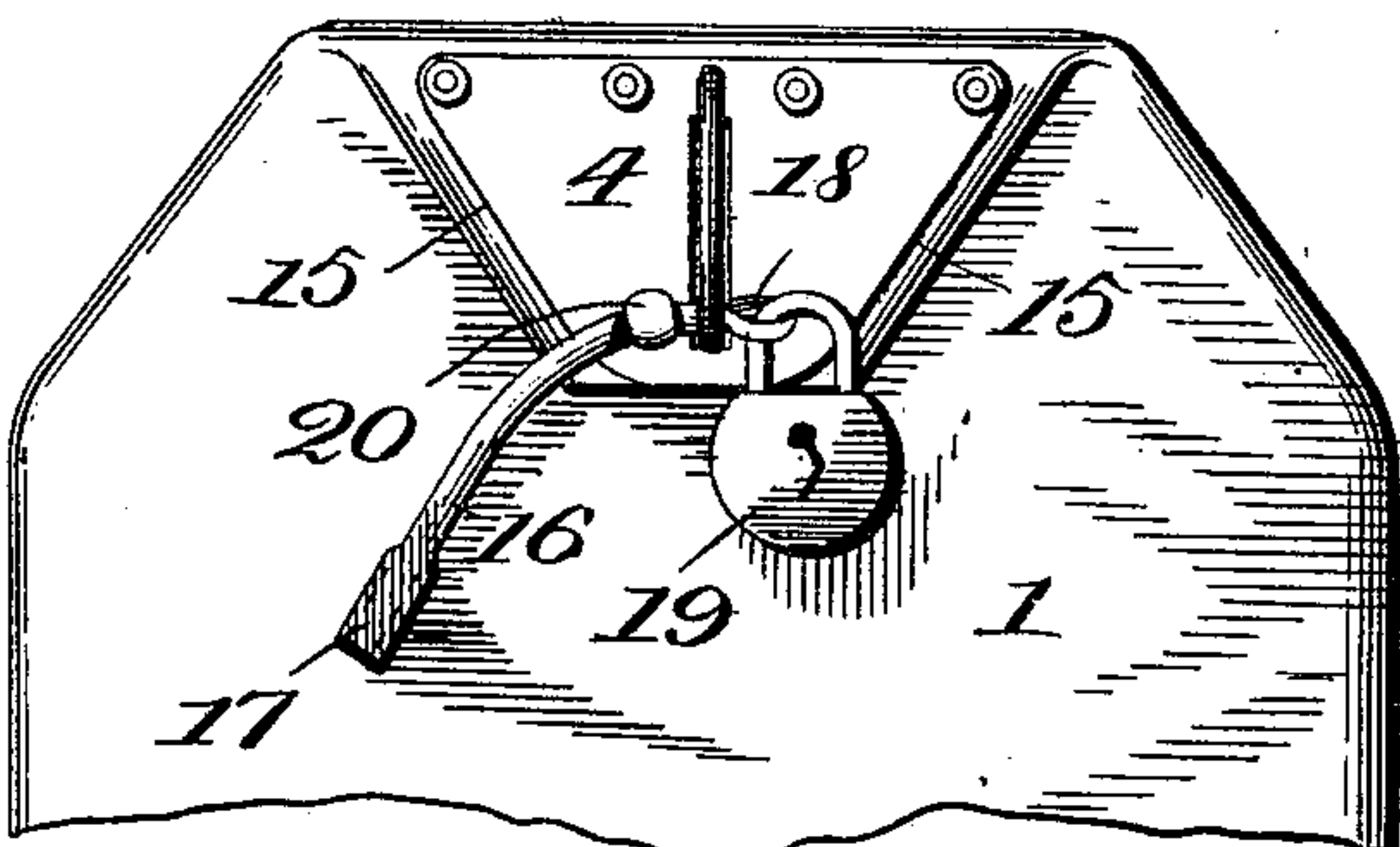
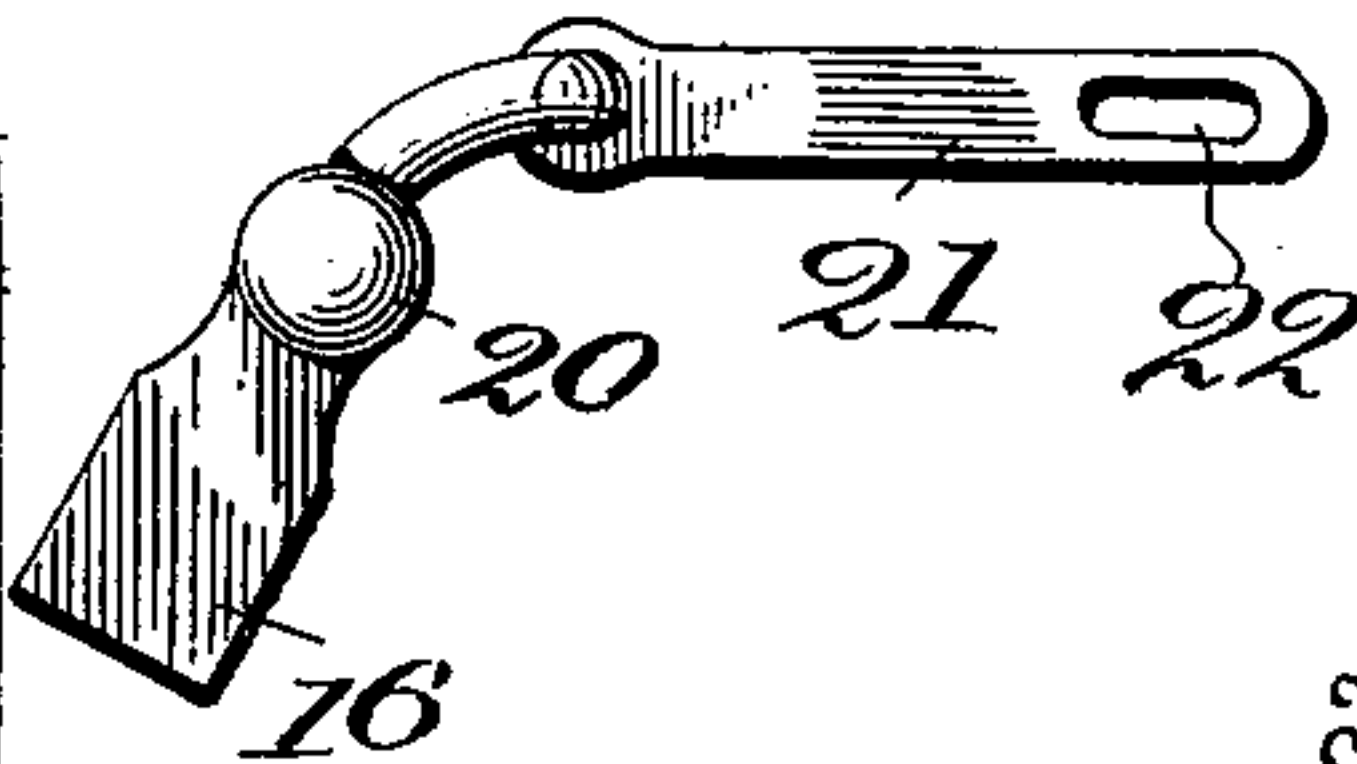


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MAIL BAG OR POUCH.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 630,694, dated August 8, 1899.

Application filed May 8, 1899. Serial No. 716,042. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANIEL ROBY HERING, a citizen of the United States, residing at Sykesville, in the county of Carroll and State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail 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.

This invention relates to mail bags or pouches, and more particularly to new and improved means for closing or locking the open or mouth end of such bags or pouches.

It is the prime object of the invention to provide a bag that can be readily and quickly opened or closed by parties in authority, but which will at the same time be amply safe and secure from entry by unscrupulous persons.

It is a further object of the invention to provide simple and improved fastening means whereby access may be had to the interior of the bag by parties in authority without cutting or slitting the bag itself in case the lock should fail to work at the proper time.

The invention comprises further novel features of construction and arrangements of parts hereinafter to be referred to in detail and then more definitely pointed out in the claims which conclude and form a part of this specification.

In the annexed drawings, illustrating my invention, Figure 1 is a side view of a portion of a mail-bag constructed in accordance with my invention, said bag being shown closed and locked. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the same. Fig. 3 is a side view showing the mouth end of the bag open. Fig. 4 is a similar view showing the bag partially closed. Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 1, showing a modified arrangement of locking means. Fig. 6 is a view of a locking-pin to be used in connection with the strap fastening means illustrated in Fig. 5.

Referring now to the drawings, the reference-numeral 1 designates the bag proper, which is preferably made of some flexible material—such as leather, canvas, or the like—so as to be readily folded at its upper or mouth end. The said mouth end of the bag is pro-

vided at each side with two plates 2, having registering slots 3, said plates being secured to the bag by means of rivets and the position of the plates being such that the slots 3 will be horizontal and on a line above and parallel with the extreme upper edge of the bag, as clearly shown in the drawings. At the top of the bag and intermediate the sides thereof is a substantially triangular-shaped plate 4, of considerable dimensions, and said plate is provided with a vertically-disposed slot 5, which registers with a slot 6 in a plate 7, secured to the front face of the bag directly opposite the said triangular plate 4. Arranged directly below the said plate 7 and upon the same face of the bag is a plate 8, carrying a staple 9, which I consider to be of novel construction and which constitutes one of the essential features of my invention. This staple comprises the two outwardly-extending legs 10 and connecting-bar 11, which is formed with an upward or rearward extension 12 at the top to provide an overhanging locking-shoulder for the slotted plates, as will presently appear, and the staple is further provided at its lower portion with a small eye 13 to receive the locking means.

The manner of closing and locking the bag is as follows: The upper corner at one side is first folded over, so that the slotted plates at said corner will take over the staple, and then the opposite corner of the bag is folded over in a similar manner, after which the central portion of the bag at the top, carrying the triangular plate 4 and adjacent plate 7, is folded over upon the previously-folded corners until the slots in the said plates 4 and 7 also take over the staple, and when so folded it will be seen that the upward or rearward extension 12 of the staple will overhang all the said slotted plates at one end, and thus firmly hold them in position, after which the hasp of a padlock 14 will be passed through the eye 13 in the staple, which will thereby hold the lower ends of the plates securely in place, and thus effect a tight and secure closing of the bag.

I consider the feature of the comparatively large triangular-shaped plate 4 as important, as this plate not only forms a rigid covering for the folded mouth edges of the bag to prevent tampering with such edges, but also

greatly facilitates the operation of folding over the opposite corners of the bag, for the converging sides 15 of said plate are on a line with and indicate the point where the said corners are to be folded. I also consider the rearward or upward extension 12 on the staple as being important, since it acts in conjunction with the lock to firmly hold the slotted plates and confined corners or folds of the bag securely in place.

Instead of inserting a hasp-lock through the staple to lock the bag I may employ the strap arrangement illustrated in Fig. 5 of the drawings. This arrangement will be preferable in some instances, since it better meets the requirements of the post-office officials in cases where it is desired to provide means for opening the bag without cutting or slitting the same should the lock for any reason become inoperative or refuse to yield to the action of the key when in the hands of the proper persons. In the said modified arrangement illustrated in Fig. 5 I provide a strap 16, secured to the bag at a point 17, said strap being provided at its free end with an eye or ring 18, through which the hasp of a lock 19 is passed. The said strap 16 is further provided near its free end with a stop-lug or ball 20 to limit the movement of the strap through the eye of the staple, so that there will be but a short section of strap between the said stop-lug 20 and eye or ring 18, thus materially limiting the opening movement of the folded-over portions of the bag. It will now be understood that should the lock fail to open in response to the action of the key the official vested with proper authority could by simply severing the strap 16 gain access to the bag without slitting or cutting the same, which would be necessary if the hasp were attached directly to the staple, as first explained.

If desired, I may attach a metal pin 21, such as shown in Fig. 6, to the end of the strap and provide an opening 22 in the end of the said pin to receive the hasp of the lock. In using this construction I will employ the stop-lug or button upon the strap, as heretofore described, to prevent the pin 21 from being drawn entirely through the eye in the staple. The pin arrangement illustrated in Fig. 6 will afford a rigid attachment and will greatly facilitate the locking of the bag, as will be obvious.

By the construction herein described I provide a mail-bag that can be easily and quickly brought to its closed position and as readily locked in a firm and secure manner.

I am aware that I am not the first to provide a mail-bag wherein a single staple is employed to receive the opposite corners and top of the bag when the latter are folded over, and I do not seek to cover such an arrangement broadly. My invention is confined to the improvements on this type of bag, as herein described, whereby a more secure and rigid locking means is provided and wherein

the bag is not unnecessarily weakened by having the slots at the opposite sides thereof pass directly through the material of which the bag is formed.

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

1. A mail-bag having slotted portions at the upper opposite corners thereof the slots of which are arranged to register, a slot in the upper rear face of the bag at the center, a similar registering slot in the opposite front face of the bag, a staple secured to the front face of the bag in position to receive the said slotted portions of the bag when folded as described, and an extension on the said staple arranged to overhang the said folded portions, substantially as described.

2. A mail-bag having slotted portions at the upper opposite corners thereof the slots of which are arranged to register when the bag is folded as described, a triangular-shaped plate secured to the rear face of the bag at the upper central portion, the edge walls of said plate lying parallel with and indicating the folding-lines for the upper foldable portions of the bag, the said plate being provided with a slot, a similar registering slot in the opposite front face of the bag, a staple secured to the said front face of the bag at a point below the top and in position to receive the said slotted portions thereof when the mouth end of the bag is folded as described, and an extension on the staple arranged to overhang the said triangular plate to retain the folded portions of the bag in position, substantially as described.

3. A mail-bag having its mouth end provided upon opposite sides with two pairs of slotted plates, the slots of which are made to register, a slotted plate secured to the upper rear face of the bag at the center, a similar registering slot in the opposite front face of the bag, a staple secured to the front of the bag at a point below the top and in a position to receive the said slotted plates when the mouth end of the bag is folded over as described, and a rearward extension on the said staple adapted to overhang the said slotted plates.

4. A mail-bag having its mouth end provided upon opposite sides with two pairs of slotted plates, the slots of which are made to register, a slotted plate secured to the upper rear face of the bag at the center, a similar registering slot in the opposite front face of the bag, a staple secured to the front of the bag at a point below the top and in a position to receive the said slotted plates when the mouth end of the bag is folded as described, a small lock-opening or eye in the lower part of the staple, and a rearward extension at the upper part of the staple adapted to overhang the said slotted plates.

5. A mail-bag having slotted portions at the opposite upper corners thereof, the slots of which are made to register, a slotted plate se-

cured to the upper rear face of the bag at the middle, a similar registering slot in the opposite front face of the bag, a staple secured to the front face of the bag in a position to receive the said slotted portions of the bag when folded as described, a strap secured at one end to the bag, and having its opposite end provided with an opening or holder for a lock, and a stop-lug or button near the free end of the strap, said strap being arranged to be passed through an eye in the staple, substantially as described.

6. A mail-bag having slotted portions at the upper opposite corners thereof and additional slots in the front and rear faces respectively at the upper central portion of the bag, all of said slots being arranged to register when the

mouth end of the bag is folded as described, a staple secured to the front face of the bag in position to receive the said slotted portions, a strap secured at one end to the bag and having its opposite end provided with means to receive a lock, and a stop-lug or button near the free end of the strap, said strap being arranged to pass through an eye in the staple and the said stop-lug or button acting upon the staple to limit the passage of the strap therethrough, substantially as described.

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

DANIEL ROBY HERING.

Witnesses:

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