

No. 632,842.

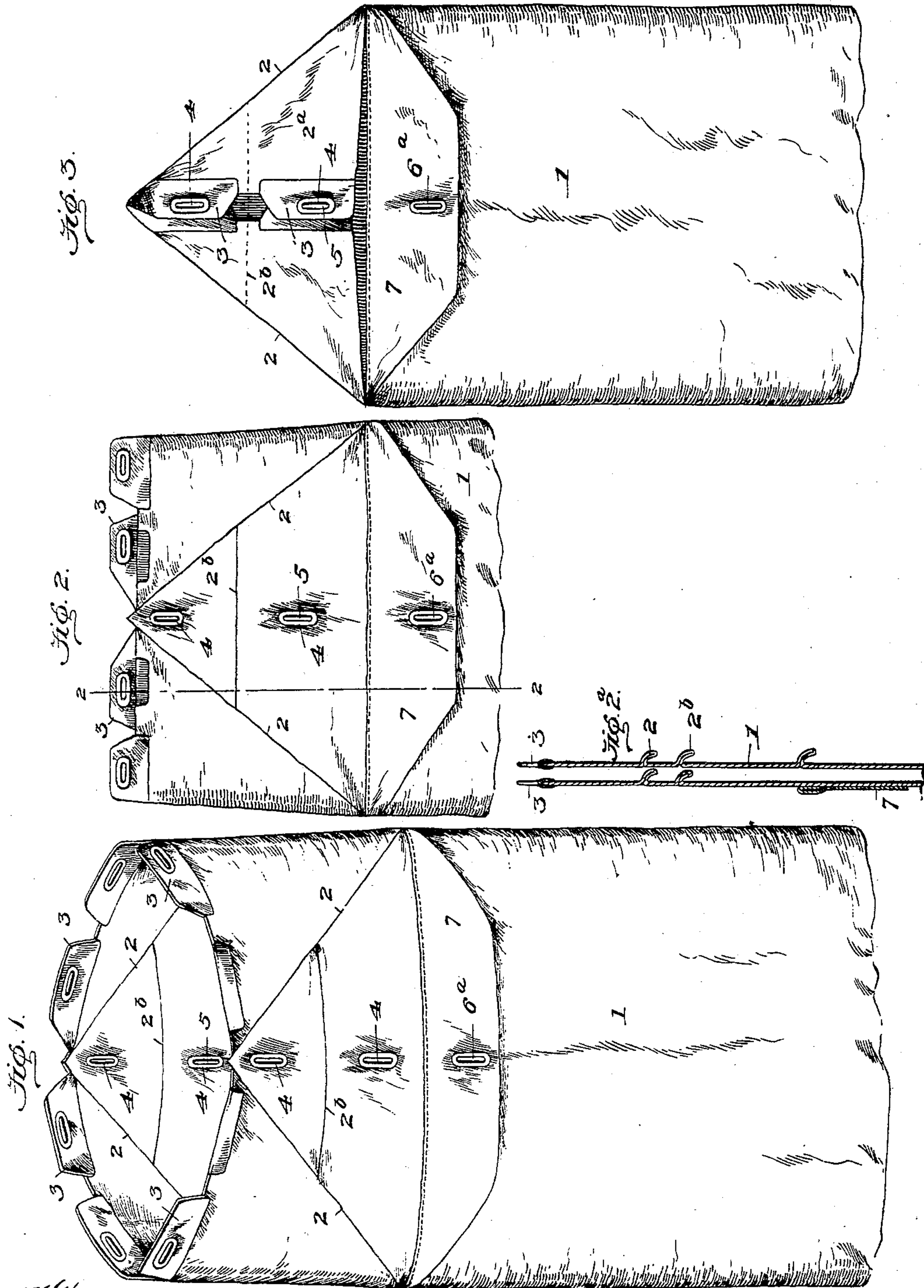
Patented Sept. 12, 1899.

J. B. MAY.
MAIL BAG.

(Application filed July 31, 1899.)

{No Model.}

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



Witnesses:

Herbert H. Lawson

Inventor
Joseph B. May
-By- *Edison Bros.*
Attys.

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(Application filed July 31, 1899.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

Fig. 4.

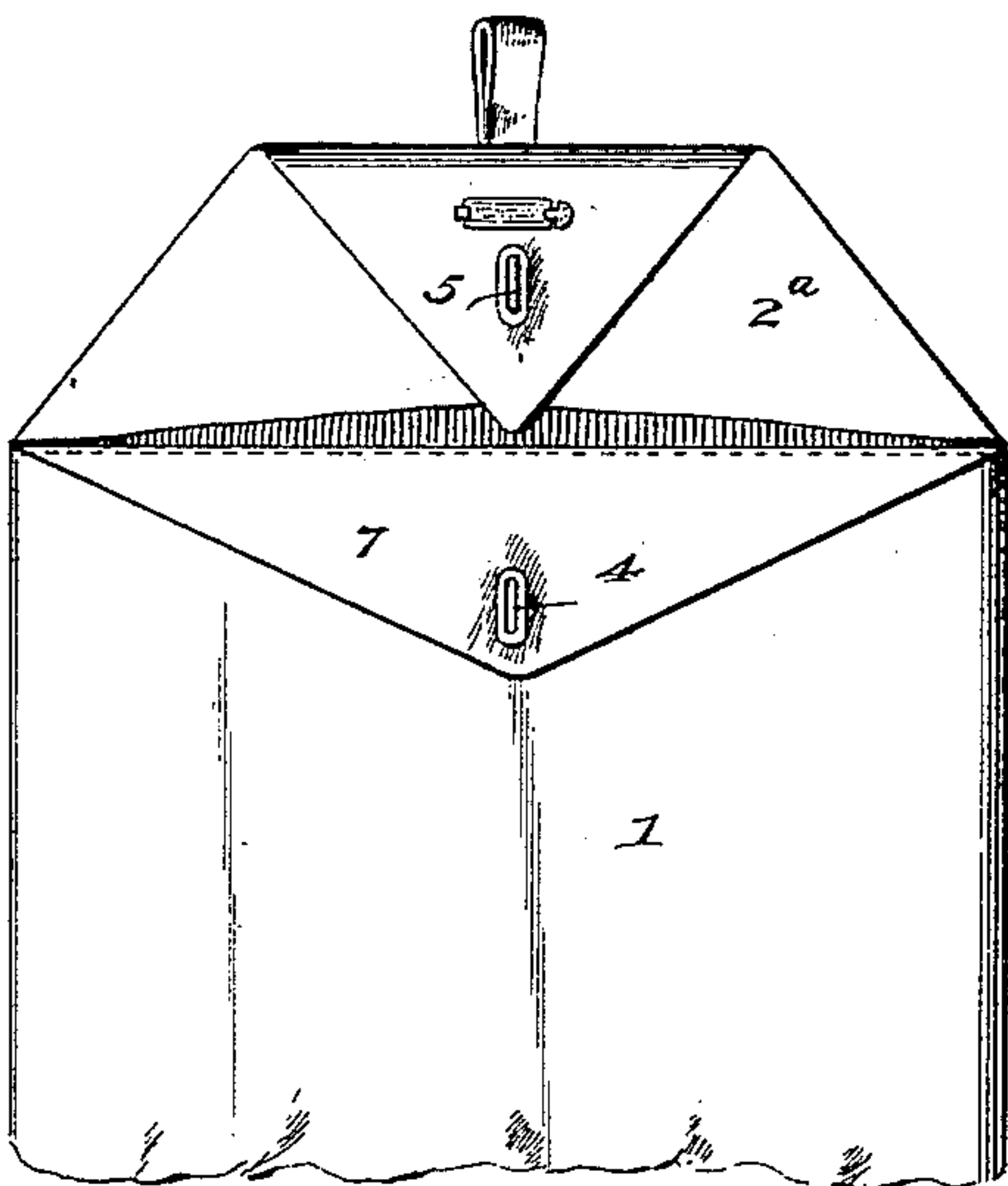


Fig. 5.

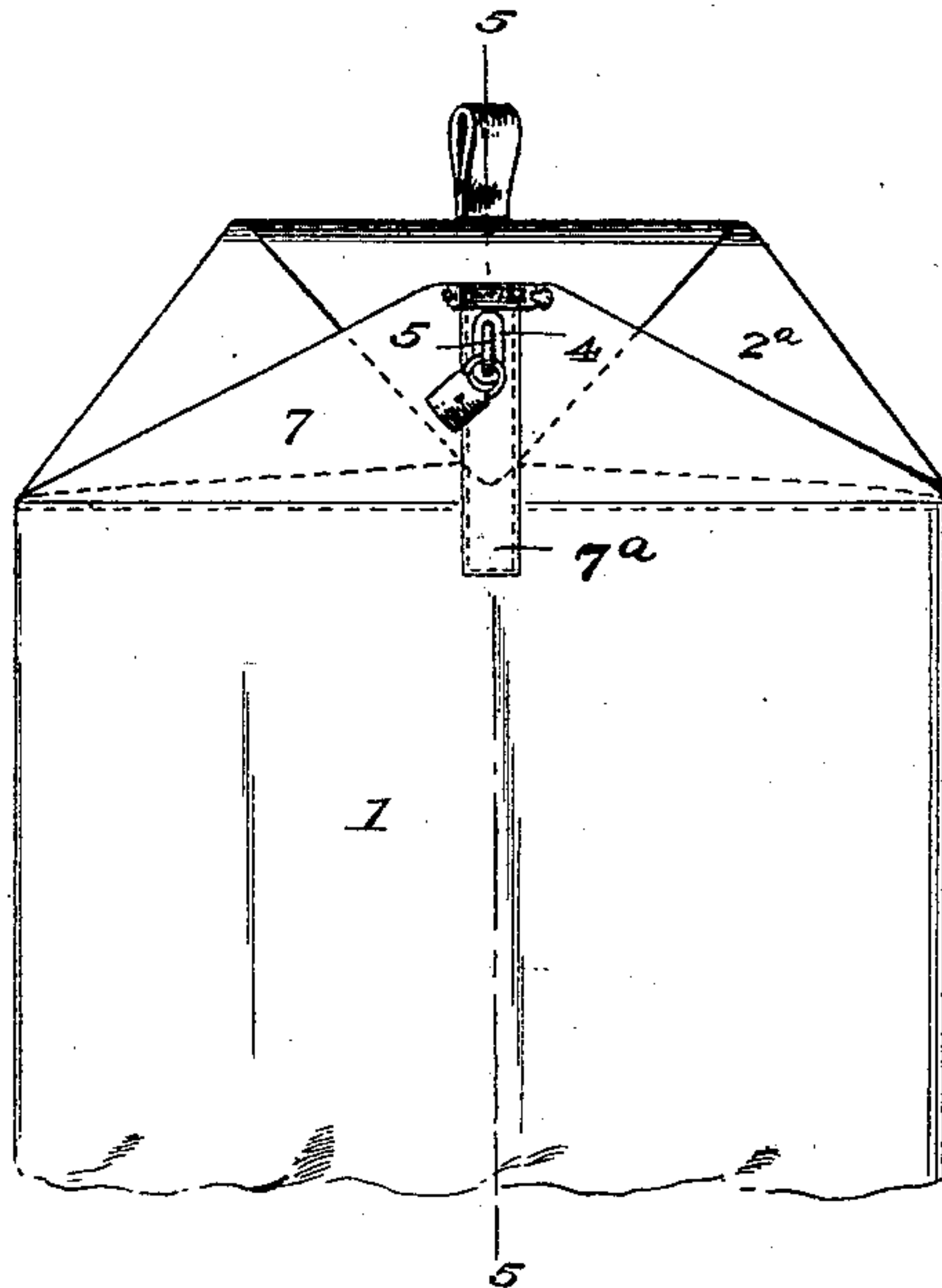


Fig. 6.

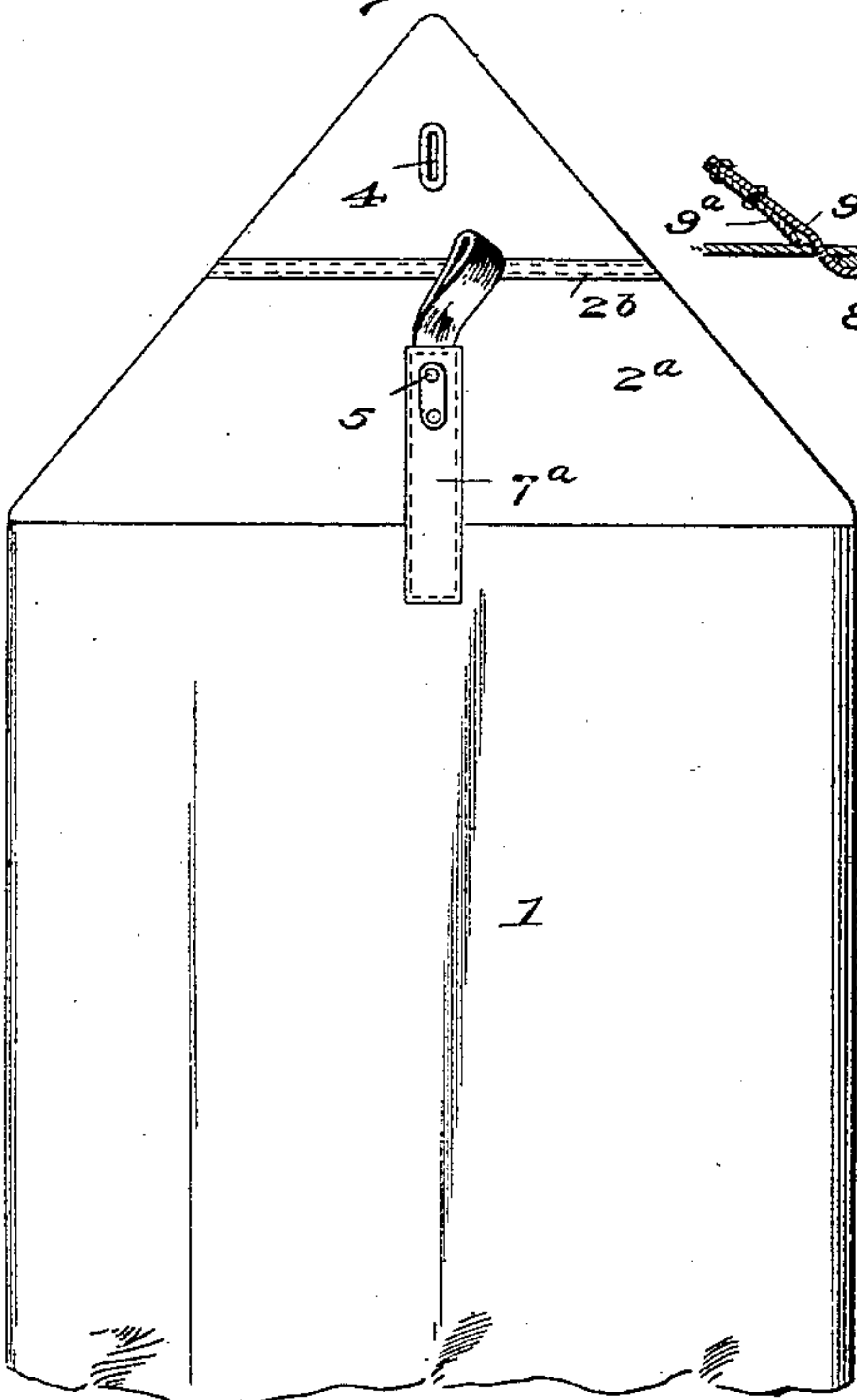


Fig. 7.

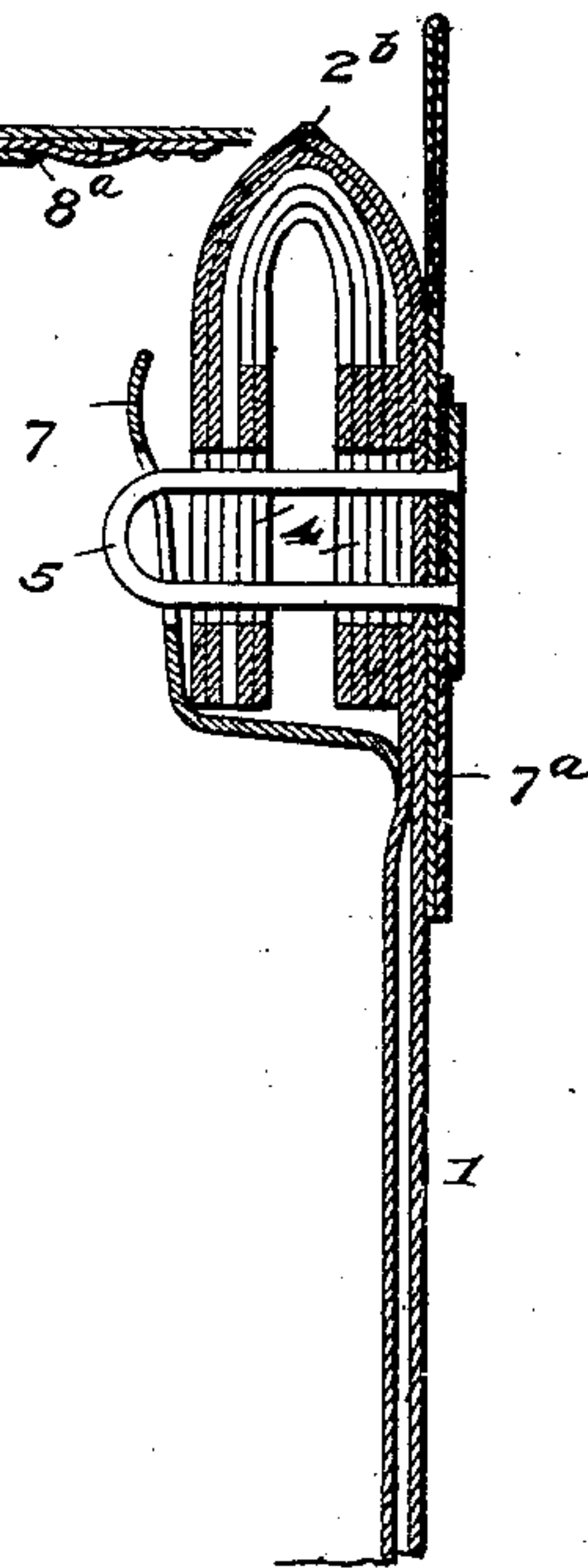
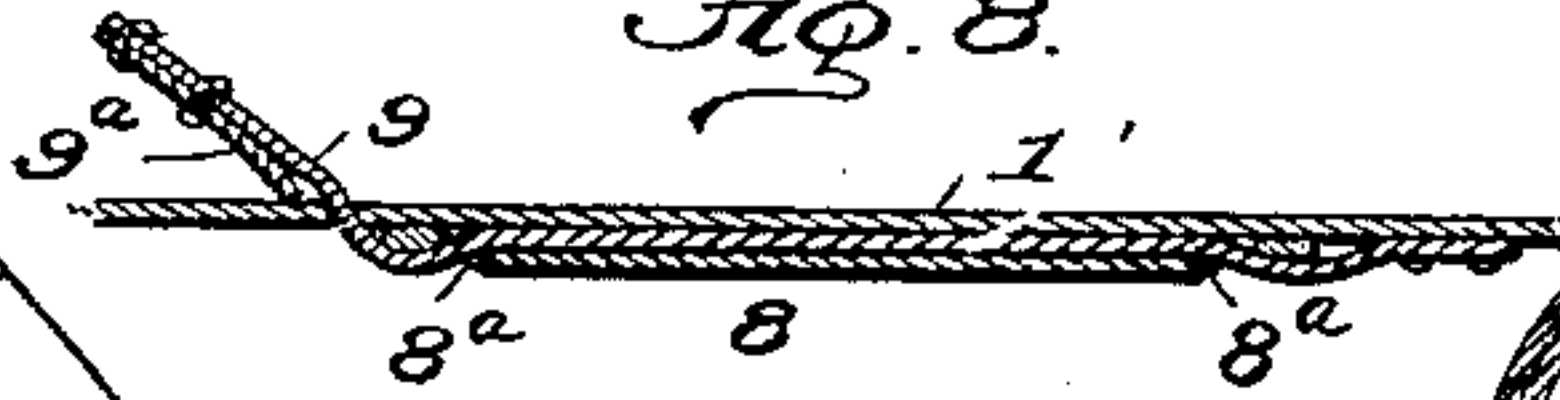


Fig. 8.



Witnesses:

Wm. D. Ashie
Robert H. Lawson

By

Inventor

Joseph B. May
Edson Prot.
Atty's.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH B. MAY, OF LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY.

MAIL-BAG.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 632,842, dated September 12, 1899.

Application filed July 31, 1899. Serial No. 725,674. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH B. MAY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lexington, in the county of Fayette and State of Kentucky, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bags; 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 improvements in mail bags or pouches, more particularly to means for quickly and securely opening and closing the mouth or open end thereof.

It has for its object principally to provide for the expeditious and ready closing and opening of the bag and at the same time effectively guard against tampering with the contents thereof.

Other objects are to produce a device of simple and economic construction, durable in use, light, flexible, and adapted for use in post-office and postal-car pouch-racks commonly in use.

To these ends the invention consists, substantially, of a pouch or bag having its mouth or end portion provided with suitably-arranged blind seams, whereby it may be quickly folded thereat upon itself.

It also consists in arranging said blind seams preferably on diagonal or angular lines and coming to a taper or apex centrally of the upper edges of the bag, the angular corner portions of the bag thus formed adapted to fold automatically upon these blind seams, the apex or central portion formed thereby adapted to fold upon a horizontally-disposed blind seam arranged substantially as hereinafter described, and to receive a staple projecting from and secured to the back wall of the pouch, thus permitting the expeditious closing of the mouth of the bag. If desired, these folded portions may be partially enveloped or inclosed by a supplemental flap secured to the bag or pouch adapted to lie flat upon the said previously-folded portions and to engage with said staple, the hole thus being adapted to be effectively secured by any desired fastening means.

In the accompanying drawings I have shown 50 the preferred form of my invention.

In said drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the pouch open. Fig. 2 is an elevation of the pouch. Fig. 2^a is a section on line 2 2, Fig. 2. Fig. 3 is an elevation showing the diagonal folds turned down. Fig. 4 is a view showing the apex turned down upon the bag. Fig. 5 is a similar view showing the bag closed and the supplemental flap in position thereon. Fig. 6 is a rear elevation of Fig. 3. Fig. 7 is 60 a section on line 5 5, Fig. 5. Fig. 8 is an enlarged section through the label, &c.

Latitude is allowed herein as to details, as they may be changed at will, as circumstances may require, without departing from the spirit 65 of my invention and the same yet remain intact and be protected.

In carrying out my invention I take a mail bag or pouch 1, of usual construction in its general outlines, and crease or fold it at the mouth or open-end portion upon diagonal or angular lines upon opposite sides and stitch the same longitudinally, forming blind seams, as 2 2, said seams beginning at the lateral edges, as it were, of the bag or pouch a suitable 75 distance from the upper or open end and terminating about centrally of the longitudinal section or length thereof at the extreme portion of said upper edge, thus forming folds on flap 2^a, thus initially folding the bag 80 upon its blind seams provided for bringing the inner or opposite longitudinal edges of the folds 2^a substantially parallel, and said parallel edges are provided with pieces of leather 3 3 or other suitable material adapted 85 to lap each other and having eyeleted openings 4 to receive and permit the passage therethrough of a staple 5, secured to the bag or pouch at its back upon the inside. By forming blind stitches herein referred to it is obvious 90 that they will cause the flaps to readily fold thereon, as will be readily understood. The folds 2^a are themselves, together with the bag, again folded or creased, this time on straight lines transversely of the bag, the 95 crease on the front and rear of the bag being stitched, as at 2^b, to permit the ready folding of the bag, and thus effectively close the mouth

or open end of the bag or pouch, the openings 3^a of the eyelets 3, thus being brought into individual coincidence and alined with the staple 5 of the bag, ready to permit of the application of the padlock thereto for fastening the same.

As shown, the front of the bag is provided with but two eyelets, as the intermediate one may be readily dispensed with. These eyelets are so disposed as to lie only at such points along the edge of the folds where no creasing is required, and the amount of material at the point of folding is therefore materially reduced, thereby insuring the folding of the bag upon the blind seam 2^b. Thus closing or fastening the mouth or open end of the bag or pouch effectually prevents tampering with the fastening or gaining access to the contents of the bag or pouch clandestinely. Also dispensing with all metal fastenings exclusive of the padlock, universally employed in this connection, as in my invention, overcomes or reduces to the minimum the liability of the crushing or otherwise impairing the fastening or locking means therefor.

A supplemental flap 7 may be attached to the bag or pouch 1 by sewing or riveting, preferably with its lateral edges removed on diagonal lines, for covering or enveloping the otherwise exposed edges of the flap 2^a, where they receive or permit the passage there-through of the staple 5, the latter in that case also passing through an eyeleted opening 6^a in said supplemental flap provided for that purpose, and thus more effectually, if possible, protect said parts from being tampered with. The flap 7 is preferably reinforced or armed with a piece of leather 7^a or other suitable material, preferably extended the whole depth of said flap 7 and a suitable distance along the bag, as shown. This flap may be used or not, as desired. It can also be, as also the other flaps or folding portions of the bag or pouch, made of a lighter material, if desired.

In Fig. 8 I have shown an enlarged section through a label and the means for securing the same to the bag. This label 8 is preferably of leather and is provided with slits 8^a near either end. These slits are adapted to receive a strap 9, riveted or otherwise secured at one end to a suitable point on the pouch and having secured to its other or free end a metal plate 9^a. This free end of the strap passes through a slot in the portion of the bag to which the label is to be secured, and the metal plate 9^a serves as a barb to prevent its accidental withdrawal therefrom. I preferably secure the strap 9 to the rear of the apex, so that the same will be brought into the position shown in Fig. 4. If desired, however, the label may be placed upon the supplemental flaps, as in Fig. 5, or in any other desired position.

In the foregoing description I have shown

the preferred form of my invention, but I do not limit myself thereto, as I am aware that modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit of my invention, and I therefore reserve the right to make such changes as fairly fall within the scope of my invention.

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

1. The mail pouch or bag having its open end or mouth portion provided with lateral folds formed by diagonal stitched blind seams and with their longitudinal or parallel edges adapted to lap and receive the pouch or bag staple, substantially as set forth.

2. The mail pouch or bag having its open end or mouth adapted to form folds bending on diagonal stitched blind seams with their outer edges contiguous to a line extending through the longitudinal center of said bag or pouch and their parallel edges adapted to lap each other, and receive the pouch or bag staple, said folds together with the bag or pouch, adapted also to fold on a transverse blind seam, substantially as set forth.

3. The mail bag or pouch having its mouth or open end adapted to form folds bending on diagonally-arranged stitched blind seams and with their longitudinal edges parallel and provided with eyelets adapted to lap each other, and receive the bag or pouch staple, and a supplemental flap transversely connected to said bag or pouch and adapted to cover the outer staple-receiving edges of the aforesaid flaps and to also receive said staple, substantially as specified.

4. A mail bag or pouch having diagonal stitched blind seams arranged adjacent to the mouth thereof, and corner portions or folds of said bag adapted to automatically bend upon said blind seams, substantially as set forth.

5. A mail bag or pouch having diagonal and transverse stitched blind seams arranged substantially as described; corner portions or folds of said bag adapted to automatically bend upon the diagonal blind seams, and said folds and the bag adapted to bend upon the transverse blind seams, substantially as described.

6. A mail bag or pouch having diagonal and transverse stitched blind seams as described, corner portions or folds of said bag adapted to bend automatically upon said diagonal blind seams, and overlap at their edges, said edges reduced at a point coincident with the transverse blind seam, and the folds and the bag adapted to automatically bend upon said transverse seam, substantially as described.

7. A mail bag or pouch having diagonal and transverse stitched blind seams arranged substantially as described; a staple secured to the inner side of the back of the bag and projecting through the front thereof, corner por-

tions or folds of said bag adapted to automatically bend upon said diagonal blind seams and engage with said staple, the edges of the folds overlapping and reduced at a point co-
5 incident with the said transverse blind seam, and the folds and bag adapted to automatically bend upon the transverse seam and the reduced portion and engage with the staple, and a supplemental flap secured to the bag and

adapted to overlap the downwardly-turned portion of the bag and its folds, substantially as described.

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

JOSEPH B. MAY.

Witnesses:

MORVEN THOMPSON,
HERBERT W. LAWSON.