

No. 654,660.

Patented July 31, 1900.

G. H. MARKLINE.

POSTAL EXAMINATION PRACTICE CABINET.

(Application filed Apr. 3, 1900.)

(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

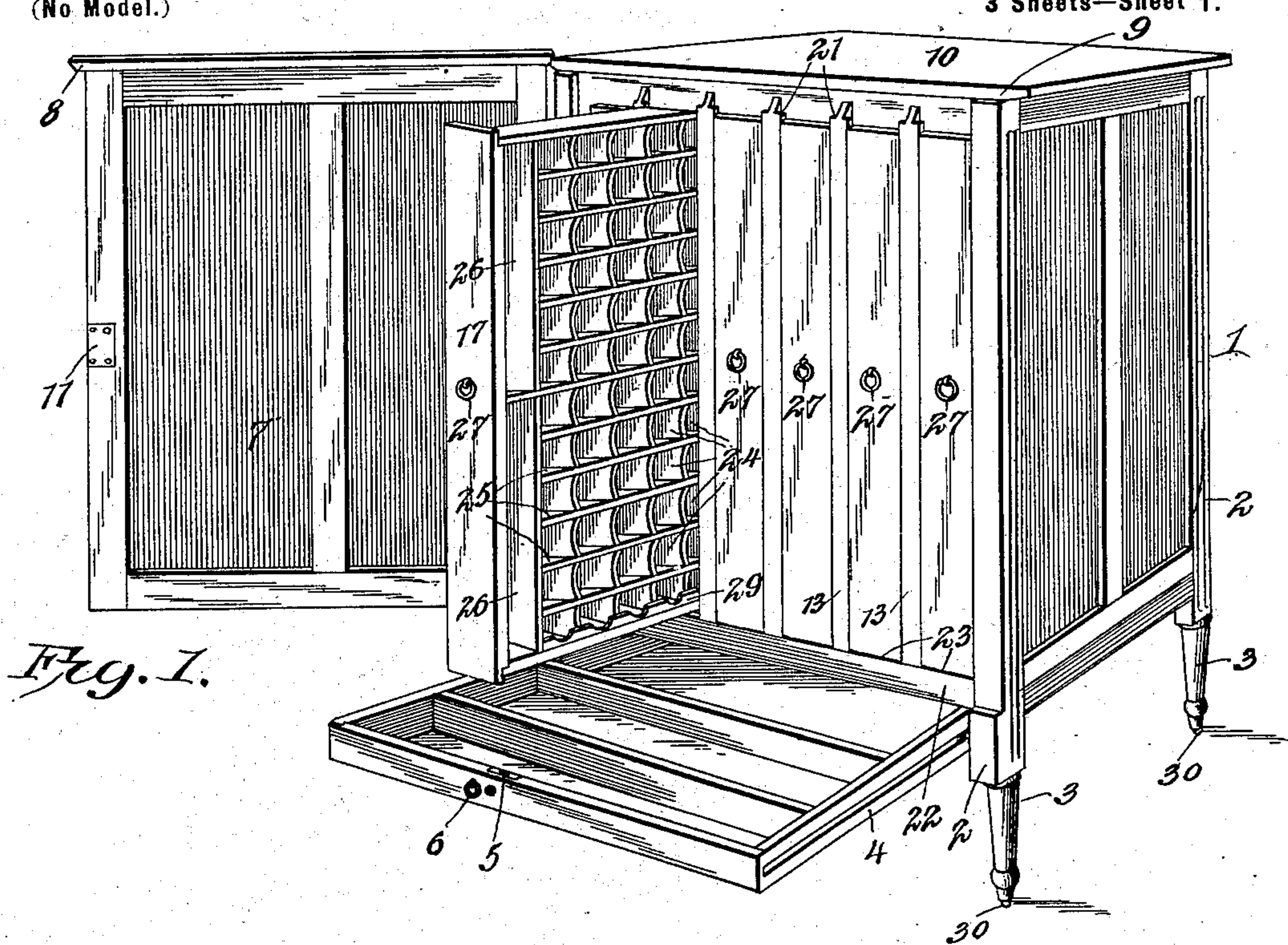


Fig. 2.

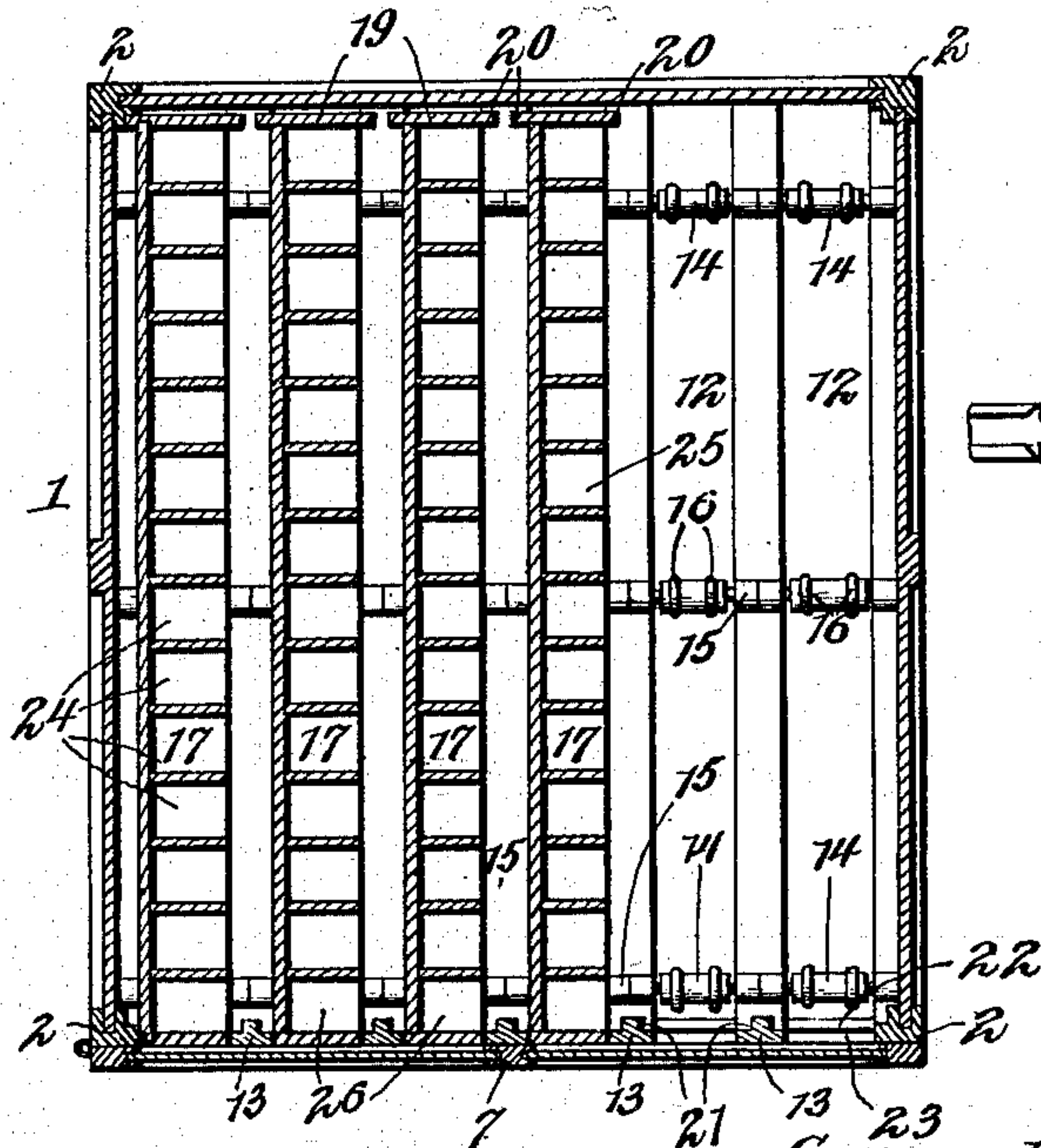
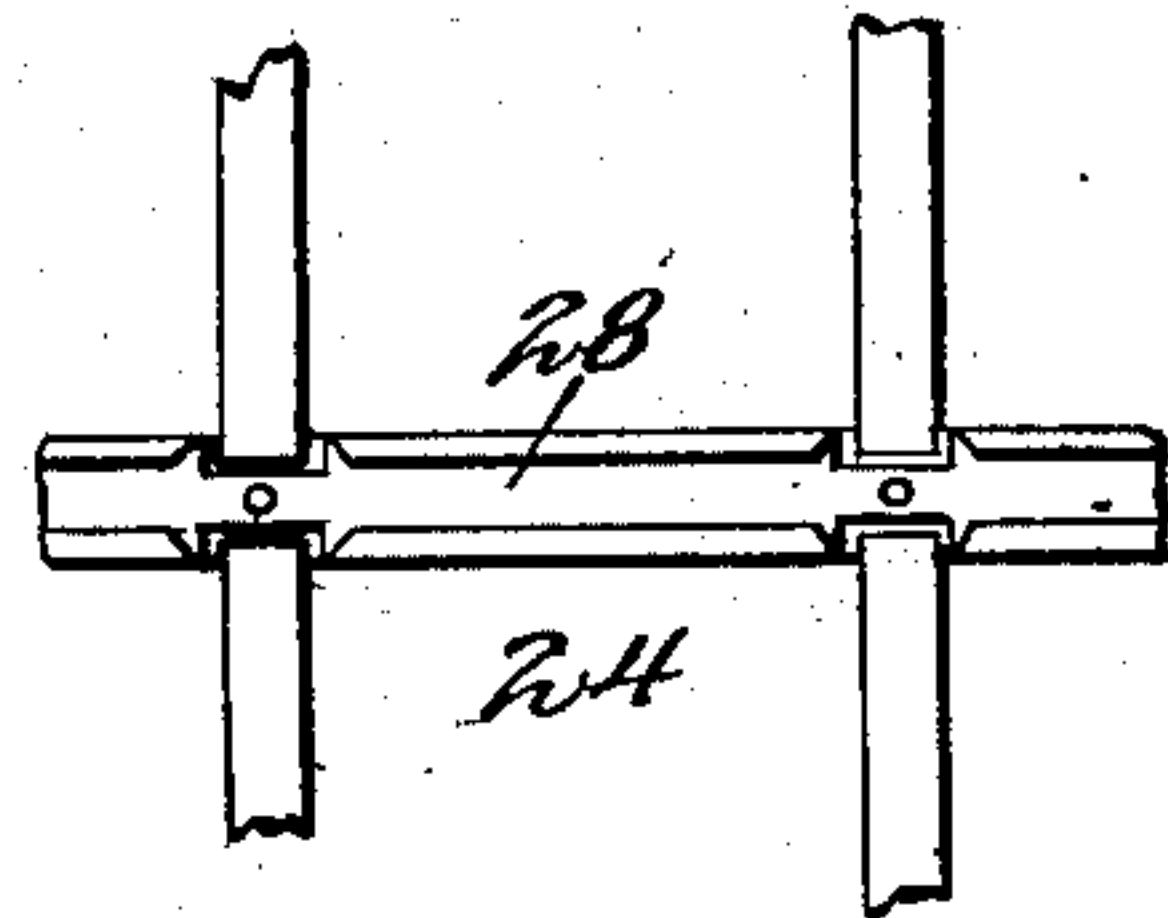


Fig. 5.



Witnesses

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Fig. 3.

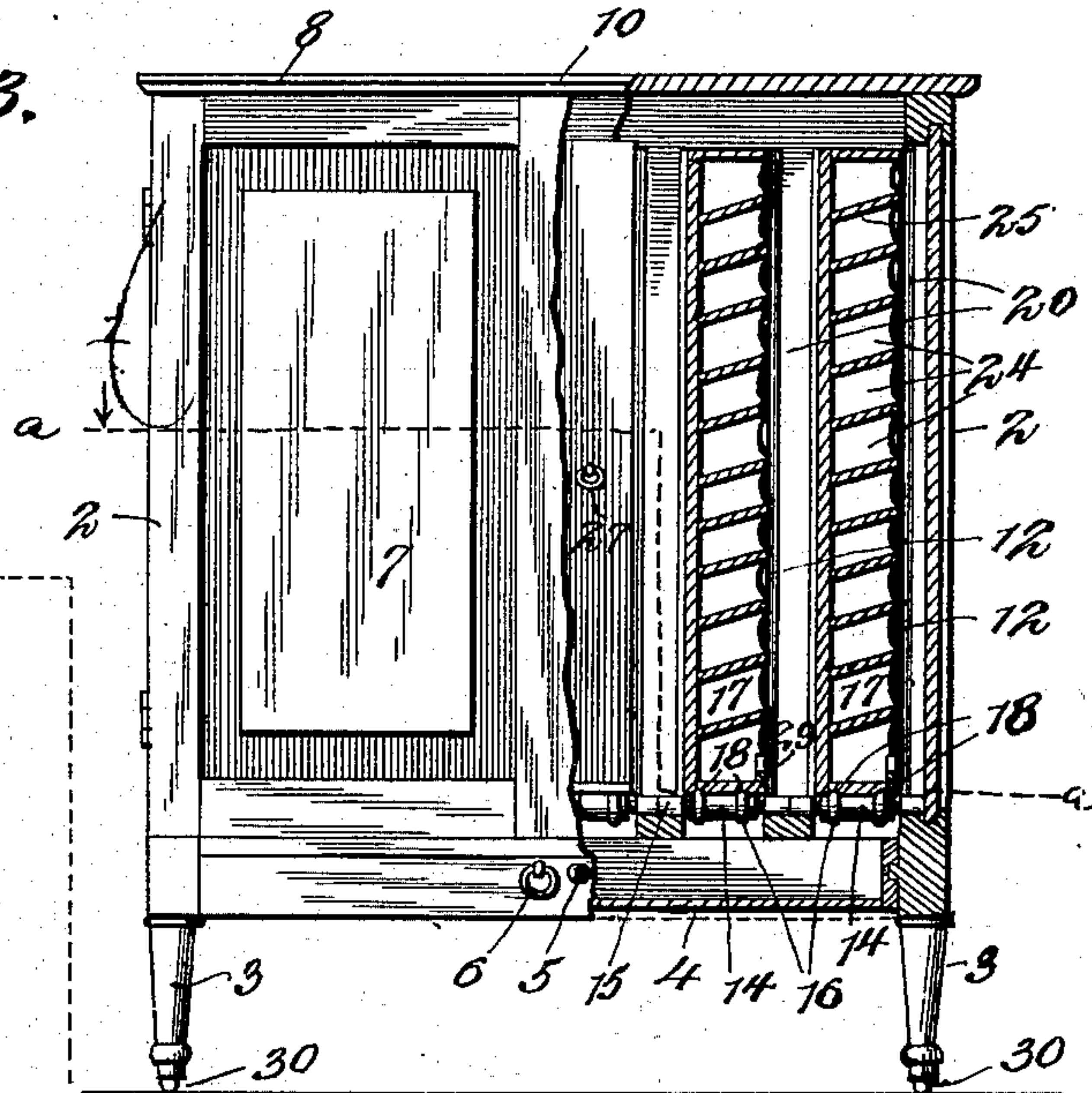
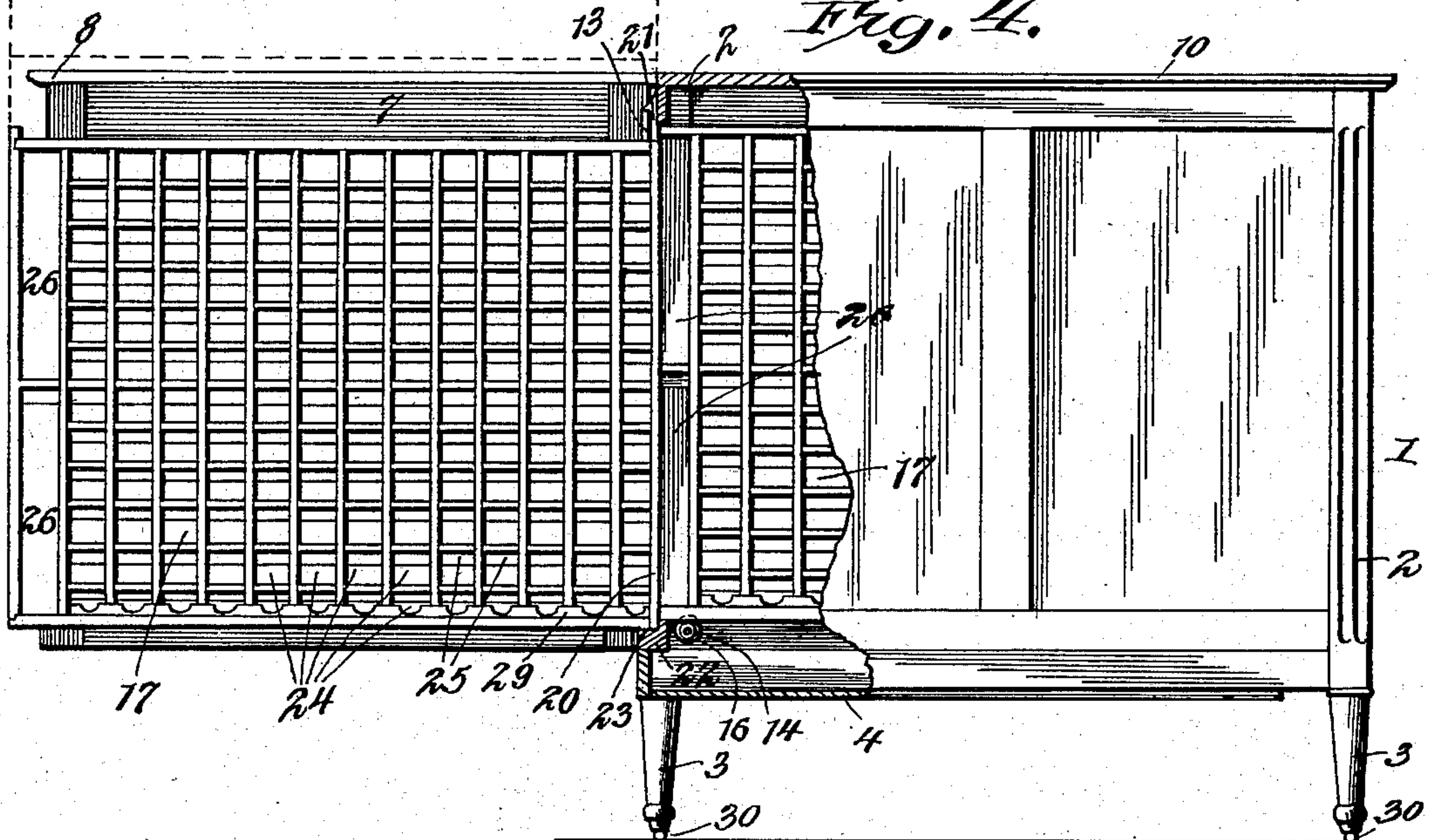


Fig. 4.



Witnesses

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Fig. 6.

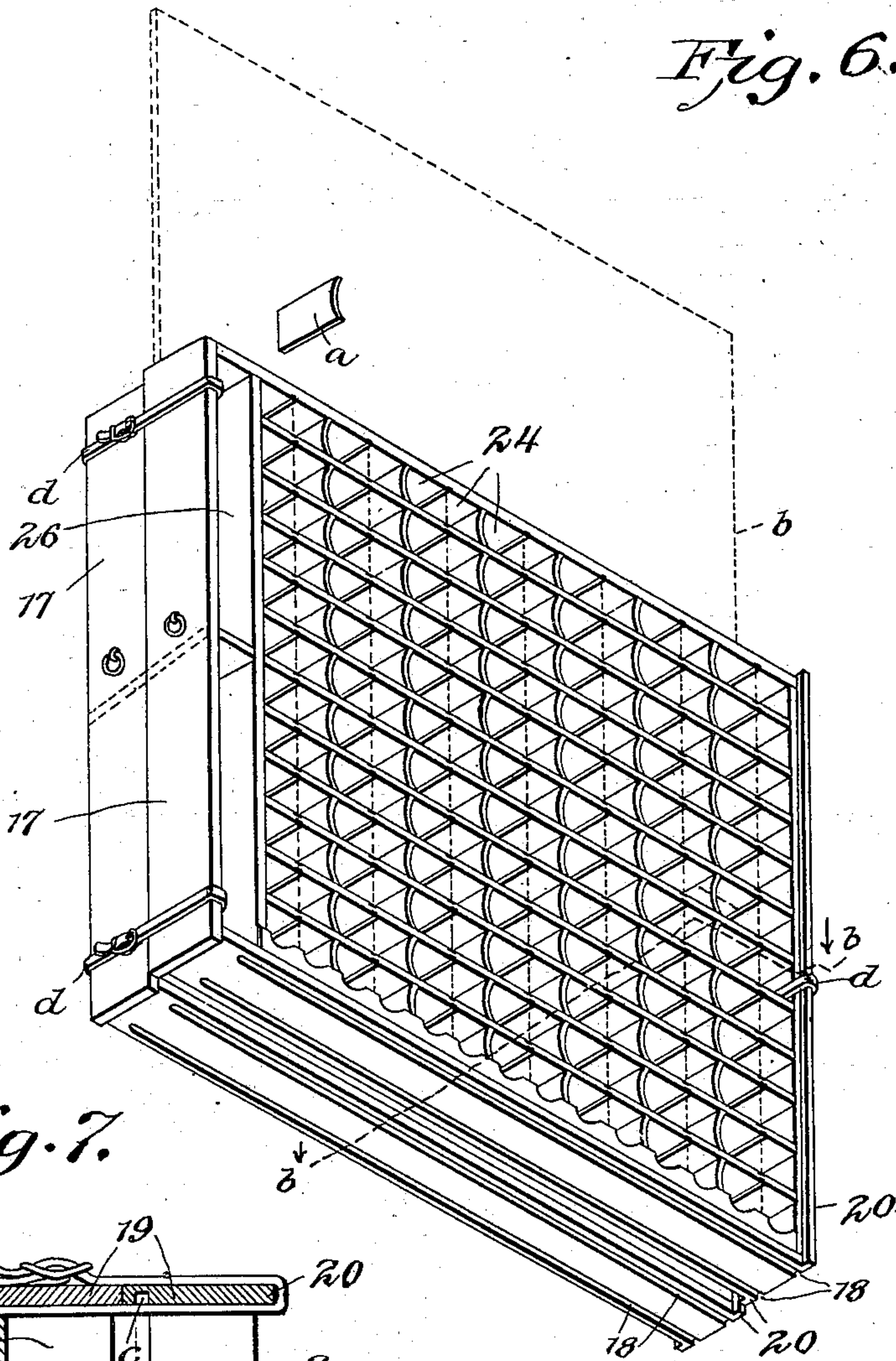
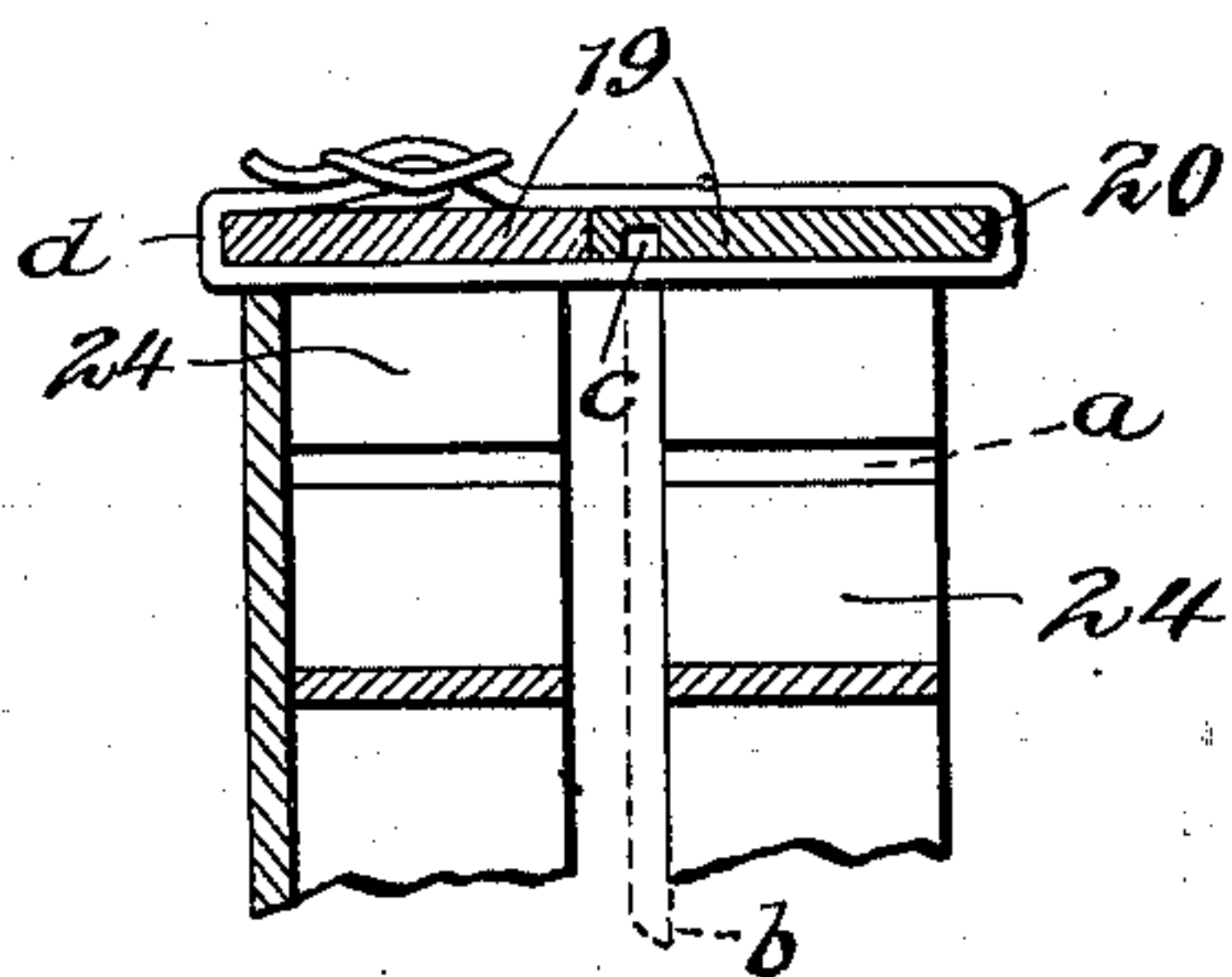


Fig. 7.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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POSTAL-EXAMINATION PRACTICE-CABINET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 654,660, dated July 31, 1900.

Application filed April 3, 1900. Serial No. 11,380. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE H. MARKLINE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Meridian, in the county of Lauderdale and State of Mississippi, have invented a new and useful Postal-Examination Practice-Cabinet, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is an improved postal-examination practice-cabinet for railway postal clerks, post-office clerks, and examiners, the primary object of my invention being to provide a compact, light, cheap, and portable cabinet having a series of pigeonhole cases or drawers adapted to be withdrawn from the cabinet in whole or in part and to be sustained thereby in position when drawn out to their full extent, the pigeonholes in said cases being adapted to receive cards such as are used in practice and examination by Government postal employees of the classes above named.

To this end my invention consists in a cabinet having a series of removable pigeonhole-cases which are adapted to be drawn out laterally therefrom and stops and guides to limit the lateral withdrawal of said cases and to permit of their being lifted when withdrawn entirely clear of the cabinet, and thereby removed therefrom.

My invention further consists in a cabinet having a series of pigeonhole-cases adapted to be withdrawn therefrom or contained therein, a pair of said cases having removable pigeonhole-partitions whereby the pigeonholes therein may be widened, and one of said pair of cases having a removable back, said pair of cases being adapted to be secured together, the one with the removable back on the face of the other, and with the widened pigeonholes of said respective cases registering with each other, whereby the said pair of cases are united to increase the depth of the pigeonholes therein.

My invention further consists in the peculiar construction and combination of devices hereinafter fully set forth, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a practice-cabinet embodying my improvements, showing the lower drawer open and one of the series of pigeonhole-cases partly withdrawn from the cabinet.

Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional view of the same from above, taken on the line *a a* of Fig. 3, showing two of the pigeonhole-cases removed, so as to disclose the construction of the bottom of the cabinet and the rollers therein for supporting the pigeonhole-cases and reducing friction when the same are withdrawn or closed. Fig. 3 is partly a front elevation and partly a vertical sectional view of my improved practice-cabinet. Fig. 4 is partly a side elevation of the same and partly a sectional view, one of the pigeonhole-cases being shown in position when withdrawn laterally to its full extent from the cabinet and in position to be raised, and thereby entirely detached from the cabinet. Fig. 5 is a detail view. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a pair of the pigeonhole-cases secured together and adapted for use for "putting facing-slips into runs." Fig. 7 is a detail horizontal sectional view of the same, through one side thereof, looking downward.

The cabinet 1 may be of any suitable size and constructed of any suitable material and, as here shown, is provided with corner-posts 2, the lower ends of which terminate in legs 3 to support the cabinet. Below the bottom of the cabinet is a sliding drawer 4, of suitable construction, suitably divided into compartments adapted to contain maps, blank cards, and the like, and said drawer is preferably provided with a lock, as at 5, and a suitable drawer-pull 6.

The cabinet is provided on its front side with a hinged door 7, which has at its upper side a cleat or strip 8, which projects laterally from the inner side thereof and is adapted to fit in the rabbet 9 on the tops of the front corner-posts and to contact with the front edge of the top or cover 10 of the cabinet when said door is closed. The said strip or cleat 8 by resting on the upper ends of the front posts prevents the door from sagging, as will be understood. The said door is preferably provided with a lock of suitable construction, as at 11, whereby it may be secured when closed.

The cabinet is divided into a series of vertical compartments 12, which open at their front sides, vertical stop and guide strips 13 at their front sides serving to divide the said compartments, and in the bottoms of the said

compartments are a series of rollers 14, which are mounted in suitable bearings, as at 15, the said supporting-rollers in each of the said compartments being provided with annular projecting flanges 16, which aline with each other, as shown in Fig. 2. The outer sides of the stop and guide strips 13 are flush with the front side of the cabinet, as indicated in Figs. 1, 2, and 4, the door of the cabinet being adapted to close directly against the front sides of said stop and guide strips, and said strips terminate at their upper ends a short distance below the top of the cabinet, as shown in Figs. 1 and 4.

A series of vertically-disposed pigeonhole-cases 17 are arranged and received in the compartments 12, one of said pigeonhole-cases being in each of said compartments, and said pigeonhole-cases are provided with parallel bottom grooves 18, which receive the annular flanges 16 of the supporting-rollers and serve to guide the said pigeonhole-cases and to adapt the same to be moved laterally into and to be withdrawn from the cabinet. Each of the said pigeonhole-cases has its rear side 19 provided with vertical extensions 20, which project laterally beyond the sides of the cases and form stops, which coact with rabbets 21 on the inner sides of the stop and guide strips 13 and serve to prevent the pigeonhole-cases from being detached entirely from the cabinet when withdrawn laterally therefrom to their entire extent. When thus withdrawn, the cases 17 slip from the rollers near the front side of the cabinet and rest upon the front sill or lower cross-bar 22 thereof, as shown in Fig. 4. The inner lower corners of said pigeonhole-cases when thus withdrawn are adapted to engage a horizontal rabbet 23 in the upper outer corner of said sill or cross-bar 22. When thus withdrawn, the stops 20 are in contact with the stops 21 of the strips 13, and the rear sides of the pigeonhole-cases are clear of the upper front side of the cabinet, so that by lifting said pigeonhole-cases, as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 4, the same may be entirely detached from the cabinet, the coacting stops 20 21 serving as guides for said pigeonhole-cases when the latter are so lifted from the cabinet to be used for the distribution of practice-cards therein.

When the cabinet is designed for use as practice-cabinets for employees in the postal service, each of the series of cases 17 is provided with a suitable number of pigeonholes 24 of like dimensions, which open on one side of the case and have their lower sides inclined, as at 25, said pigeonholes being adapted to receive the cards used in practice by employees in the postal service, and into which pigeonholes 24 or compartments such cards are adapted to be "thrown" or distributed, and said pigeonhole-cases are further provided, preferably on their front sides, with vertical compartments or heightened pigeonholes, as at 26, into which said cards may be stacked. A suitable pull, as at 27,

is provided on the front side of each of the pigeonhole-cases to enable the same to be readily pulled out from the cabinet. The said pigeonhole-cases are provided on the front sides of the pigeonholes with suitable label-holders, as at 28, for labels containing the names of routes and junctions or other suitable labels. The lower series of pigeonholes in each case are partly closed on their lower front sides by metallic strips, as at 29, to prevent lateral dislodgment of the cards in said pigeonholes, the bottoms of the said lower series of pigeonholes being formed by the horizontal lower side or bottom board of their respective case.

"Facing-slips" used in the transmission of mail-matter are of about twice the length and width of the practice-cards used in practice by postal clerks and in postal examinations, and the width of the pigeonhole-cases being about equal to the length of one of said practice-cards it becomes of importance to adapt my cabinet for use for putting facing-slips into runs. To this end I provide two of the pigeonhole-cases with alternate removable transverse partitions *a*, which are adapted to be readily taken from said cases to widen the pigeonholes therein, correspondingly reducing their number, as will be understood, and the rear side of one of said cases is removable, as at *b*, and is fitted at the edges in grooves *c*, provided in the sides and bottom of the case. A facing-slip is a printed slip used by post-office and railway postal clerks to form a label either for a package of letters or a mail pouch or rack, showing nature of the contents of the package, pouch, or rack and the destination thereof. These facing-slips are put into appropriate pigeonholes in cases in post-offices and in mail-cars before the letters are distributed into them, the facing-slips corresponding with the labels above the pigeonholes on the letter-cases. A "run" of facing-slips is a series of such slips arranged in regular consecutive order, so that they correspond with the pigeonholes of the case and can be expeditiously put into the label-holders of the respective mail racks or pouches to address them to their respective destinations. The facing-slips are put up in packages corresponding to runs and in use are first distributed into pigeonholes, as herein-after stated. A case of my cabinet is labeled to correspond with a run and is used for distributing the facing-slips appropriately prior to their use on letter-cases or mail-racks. In order to provide means for putting facing-slips into runs, I remove the alternate vertical transverse partitions *a* in said two cases, remove the back *b* of one of the cases by sliding the same out of the grooves *c*, and place said case on the other case with the pigeonholes of said cases registering with each other, whereby said pair of cases are formed with pigeonholes of twice their original width and depth, and I secure said pair of cases together in this position by means

of straps *d*, as shown in Fig. 6, or by other suitable means.

The legs of the cabinet are provided with supporting-rollers, as at 30, whereby the cabinet is adapted to be readily moved about. Any suitable form of rollers may be used; but rollers provided with ball-bearings are preferred.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. A cabinet having a series of removable pigeonhole-cases, adapted to be drawn out laterally therefrom, and vertical stops and guides to limit the lateral withdrawal of said cases and to permit of their being lifted vertically when withdrawn, entirely clear of the cabinet and thereby removed therefrom, substantially as described.

2. A cabinet having a series of vertical compartments, vertical guides and stop-strips at the front side of said cabinet between said compartments, said vertical stop-strips being in advance of the face of the cabinet, and a series of cases adapted to be placed in said compartments, said cases having the vertical stops at their rear, inner ends adapted to co-act with the stop-strips at the front side of the cabinet when said cases are drawn out, whereby said cases may be supported by the cabinet when drawn out therefrom and are also adapted to be removed from the cabinet by lifting said cases vertically, substantially as described.

3. A cabinet having a series of vertical compartments open on one side, vertical stop and

guide strips between the front sides of said compartments, said stop and guide strips having rabbets on their inner sides, which rabbets project beyond the face of the case and are open at the upper ends of said strips, and a series of cases in said compartments, said cases having the guide and stop projecting flanges at their rear inner sides, adapted to engage and travel in the rabbets of the vertical stop and guide strips, substantially as described.

4. A cabinet having a series of pigeonhole-cases adapted to be entirely withdrawn and removed therefrom or contained therein, a pair of said cases having removable partitions, whereby the pigeonholes therein may be widened, and one of said pair of cases having a removable back, said pair of cases being adapted to be secured together when removed from the cabinet, the one with the removable back on the face of the other, and with the widened pigeonholes of said respective cases registering with each other, whereby the said pair of cases when withdrawn and entirely removed from said cabinet may be united to increase the depth and width of the pigeonholes therein, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

GEO. H. MARKLINE.

Witnesses:

D. C. McLAURIN,
F. G. LEWIS.