

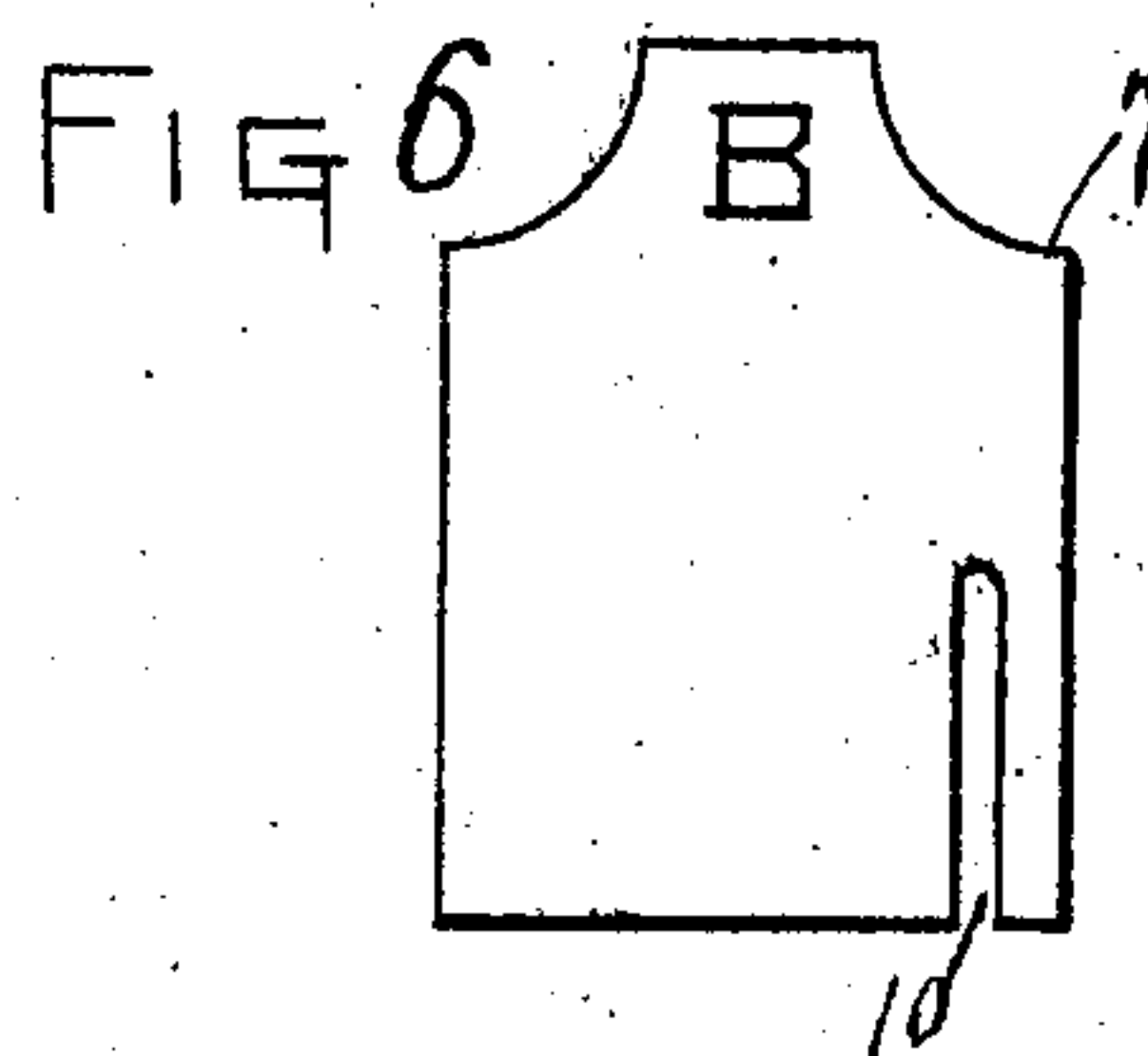
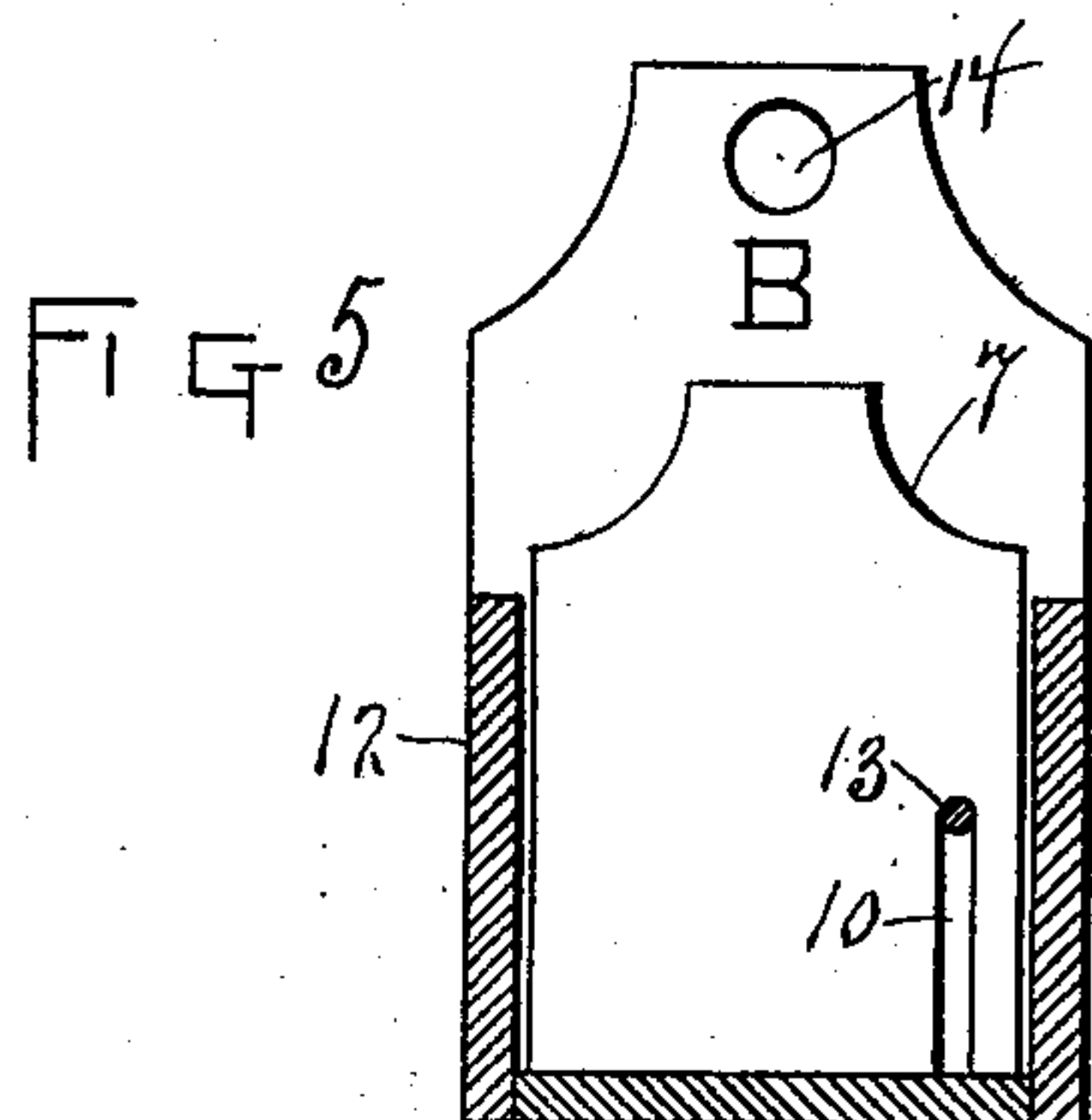
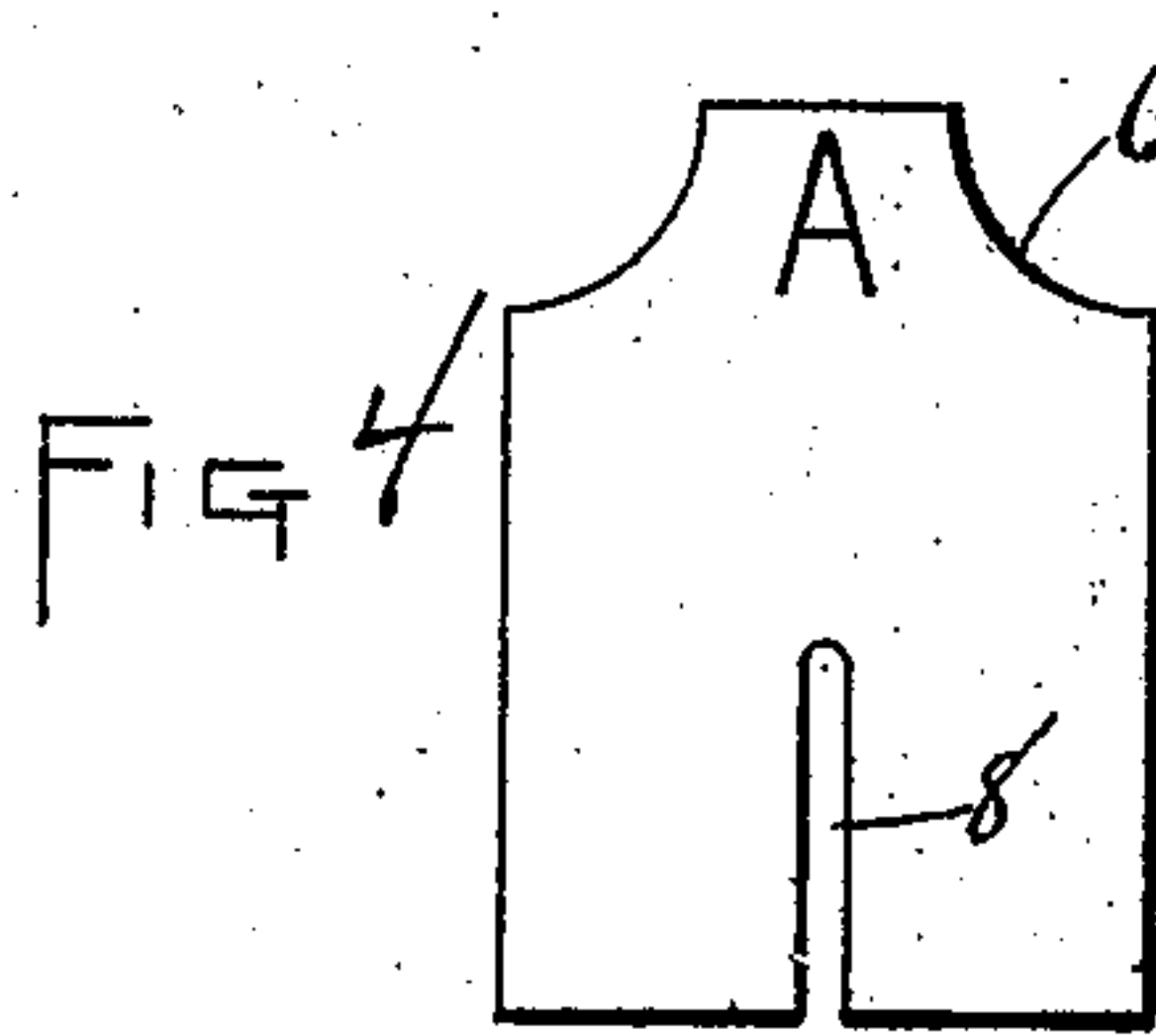
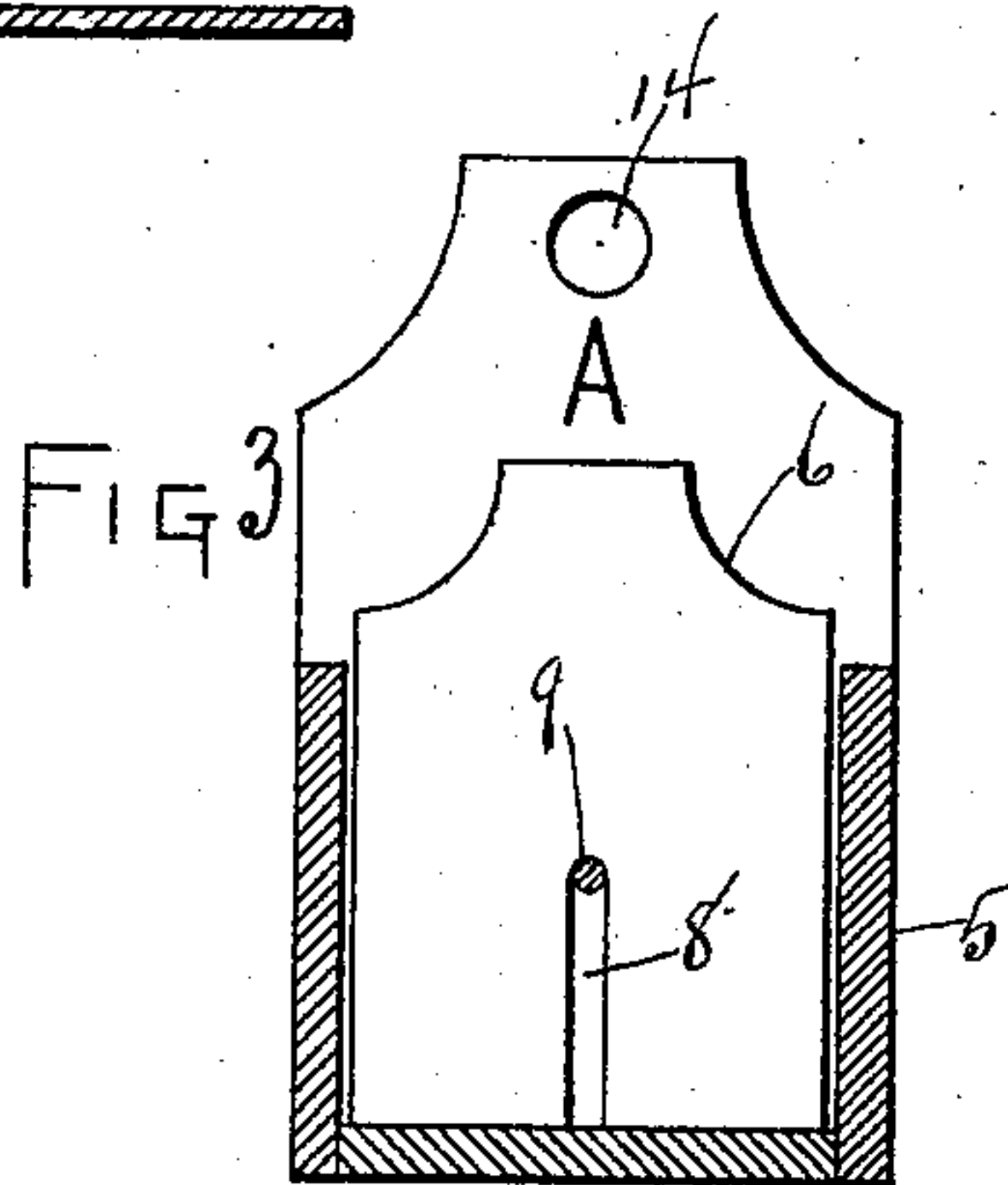
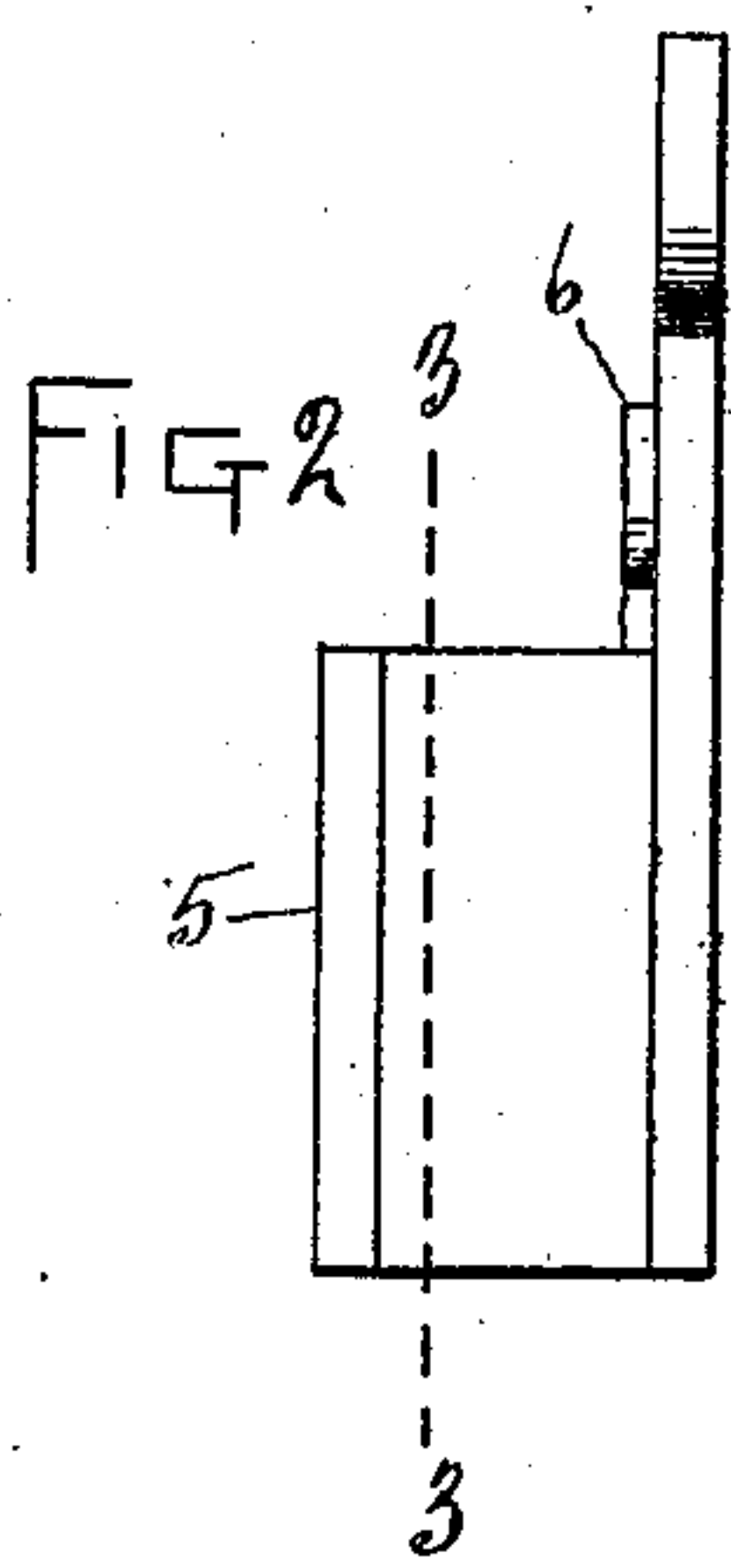
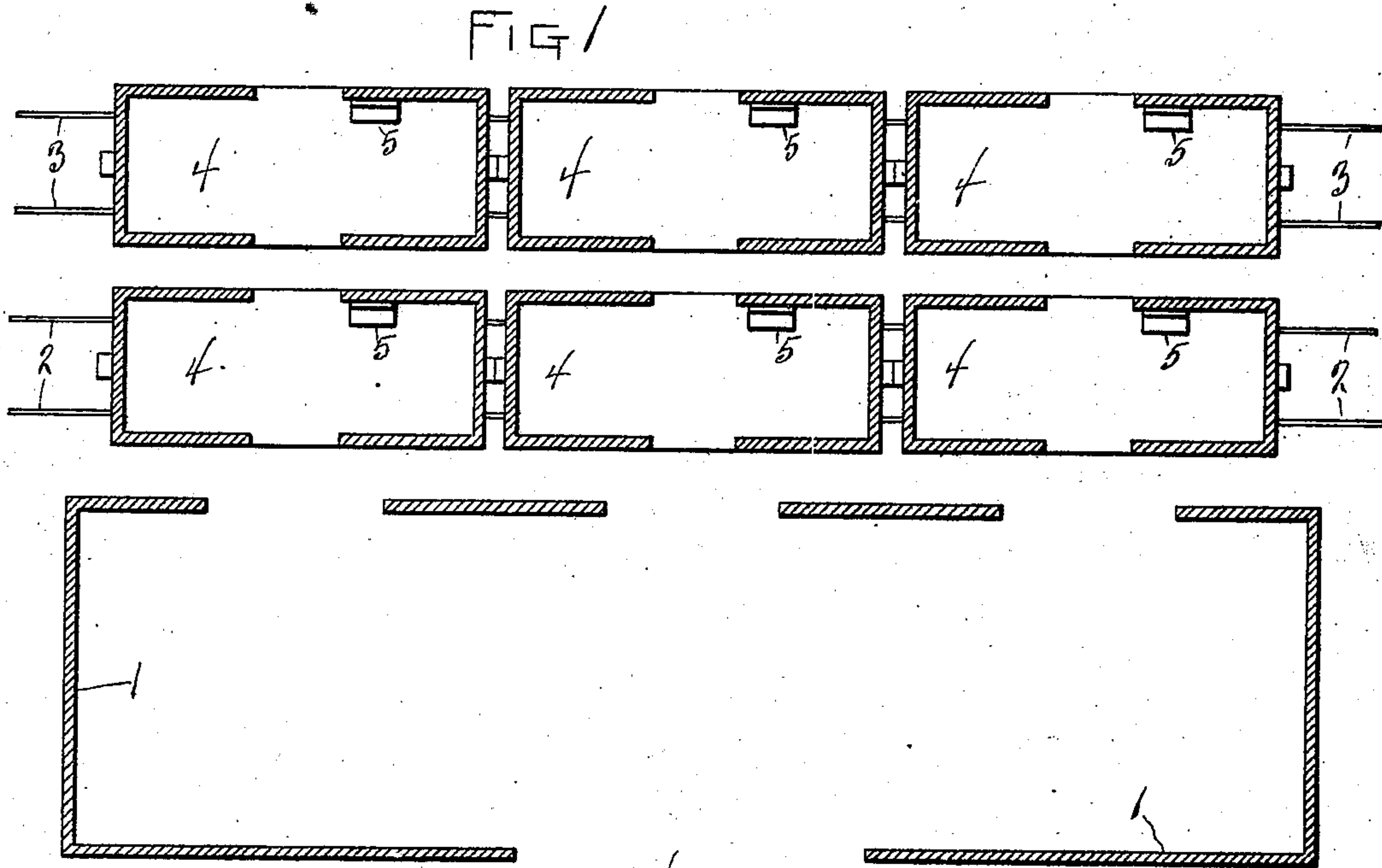
No. 690,627.

Patented Jan. 7, 1902.

R. O. WICKES.
SYSTEM FOR DISTRIBUTING MERCHANDISE.

(Application filed Aug. 10, 1901.)

(No Model.)



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SYSTEM FOR DISTRIBUTING MERCHANDISE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 690,627, dated January 7, 1902.

Application filed August 10, 1901. Serial No. 71,589. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT O. WICKES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Troy, county of Rensselaer, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Means for Checking Up the Distribution of Merchandise, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to such improvements; and it consists of the novel construction and combination of parts hereinafter described and subsequently claimed.

Reference may be had to the accompanying drawings and the reference characters marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Similar characters refer to similar parts in the several figures.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a plan view, partly in section, showing the relative positions of a plurality of railway-cars, car-tracks, and a freight-depot in a convenient position for the use of my improved devices. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of a check-receptacle. Fig. 3 is a vertical cross-section of the same, taken on the broken line 3 3 in Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a plan view of a check adapted to be inserted in the receptacle shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Fig. 5 is a view similar to that shown in Fig. 3, except that the central wire is moved toward one side of the receptacle. Fig. 6 is a view similar to that shown in Fig. 4, except that the slot is nearer one side of the body part of the check.

It frequently happens in shipping freight from a given city or locality to other distant cities that some portion or parcel of the freight destined for one city will be placed in the wrong railway-car, destined for another and distant city, which causes great inconvenience and loss both to the shipping company and the consignee.

The object of my invention is to distribute freight to be shipped or other merchandise in such a manner that no mistakes can be made in shipping.

Although my invention is applicable equally well to the storage of merchandise in various store-rooms, I have shown it applied to freight distribution, and I have shown in the drawings a freight-depot 1, with adjoining tracks

2 3, and a plurality of freight-cars 4, grouped together on the tracks convenient to the freight-depot. I have shown in the drawings six different cars, each of which is provided with a check-receptacle 5, adapted to receive certain checks only. Checks preferably made of sheet metal similar to those shown in the drawings and marked 6 and 7 are provided and adapted to be inserted in the check-receptacle. For example, the checks 6 contain a middle slot 8, adapted to receive the wire 9, running transversely of the open space in the check-receptacle 5, so that when the check is inserted in the receptacle the wire enters the slot and allows the check to pass down into the receptacle, as shown in Fig. 3. It is obvious that the check 7 could not be inserted in the receptacle 5, because its slot 10 does not register with the wire 9, also the check 7 could only be deposited in the receptacle 12, which has its wire 13 on one side of the middle, so as to register with the one-sided slot 10 in check 7. In this way the checks and check-receptacles are made to differ from one another, so that each car is provided with a receptacle differing from all the other receptacles and adapted to receive only those checks which are intended for that car or receptacle. The receptacles are also provided each with a different symbol—as, for example, the letter of the alphabet, the receptacle 5 being marked A and the receptacle 12 marked B, and the checks are provided with similar symbols—for example, the check 6 with the symbol A corresponding with the symbol of the receptacle adapted to receive that check. The check 7 is similarly marked with the symbol B the same as the symbol of receptacle 12, which is adapted to receive such check.

The receptacles may be provided with an aperture 14 in their upper ends by which they can be hung upon the wall of the car and be easily, when desired, removed therefrom.

There should be provided convenient to the tallyman in the depot a supply of receptacles and checks, preferably a plurality of checks for each receptacle.

The operation is as follows: When a load of mixed freight comes to the depot to be shipped to various points of destination, the

tallyman selects a parcel having a certain destination and delivers the same to a truckman, together with a check having thereon a symbol of the car or the check-receptacle in the car destined for the point to which this particular parcel of goods is to be shipped. He then delivers to a truckman another parcel having a different destination, together with another check having thereon the symbol of the car or receptacle having the same destination, and so on until the freight is all distributed. The truckman takes the several parcels and checks, and after finding the car having the symbol which he finds on his check accompanying the parcel he deposits the parcel in that car and deposits his check in the receptacle in that car. Should it happen that the check will not enter the receptacle, then he knows a mistake has been made. He compares the symbols and finds the symbol on his check does not agree with that on the receptacle. He then removes the parcel of merchandise from the car and seeks further until he finds the proper car containing the symbol which corresponds with the symbol on his check, and he then deposits the parcel in that car and his check in its proper receptacle therein. In this way the most ignorant and heedless truckman is prevented from making a mistake of depositing a parcel of merchandise in the wrong car. After the cars are loaded the tallyman removes the receptacles and takes the checks therefrom, carefully observing whether all of the checks have been fully inserted in the receptacles.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination with a series of check-receptacles marked by differing symbols designating different store-rooms and having differing interior arrangements; of a series of checks similarly marked and constructed to fit, respectively, the receptacles, substantially as described.

2. The combination with a series of differing check-receptacles, marked by differing symbols representing differing store-rooms and adapted to be arranged in such store-rooms; of a series of checks, each check having a symbol differing from the symbols on the other checks and like the symbol on one of the receptacles, and constructed to fit that receptacle only which bears a symbol like its own.

3. The combination with a series of differing check-receptacles, marked by differing symbols representing different railway-cars and adapted to be arranged in such cars; of a plurality of sets of checks, one set for each check-receptacle, the checks of each set being adapted to enter and fit one of such check-receptacles only and having car-symbols like that of the receptacle which they fit.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 29th day of July, 1901.

ROBERT O. WICKES.

Witnesses:

GEO. A. MOSHER,

FRANK C. CURTIS.