

No. 696,721.

Patented Apr. 1, 1902.

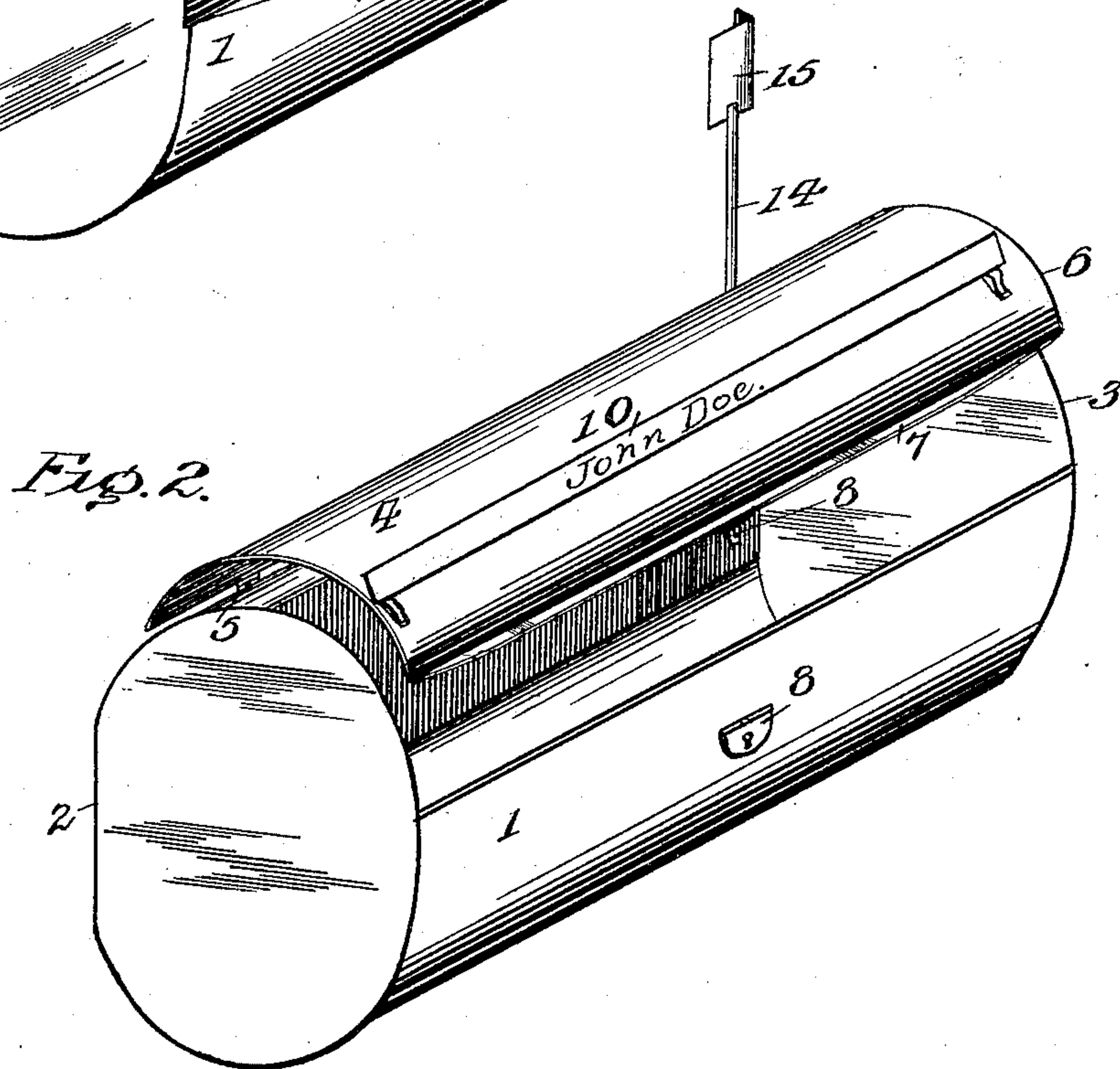
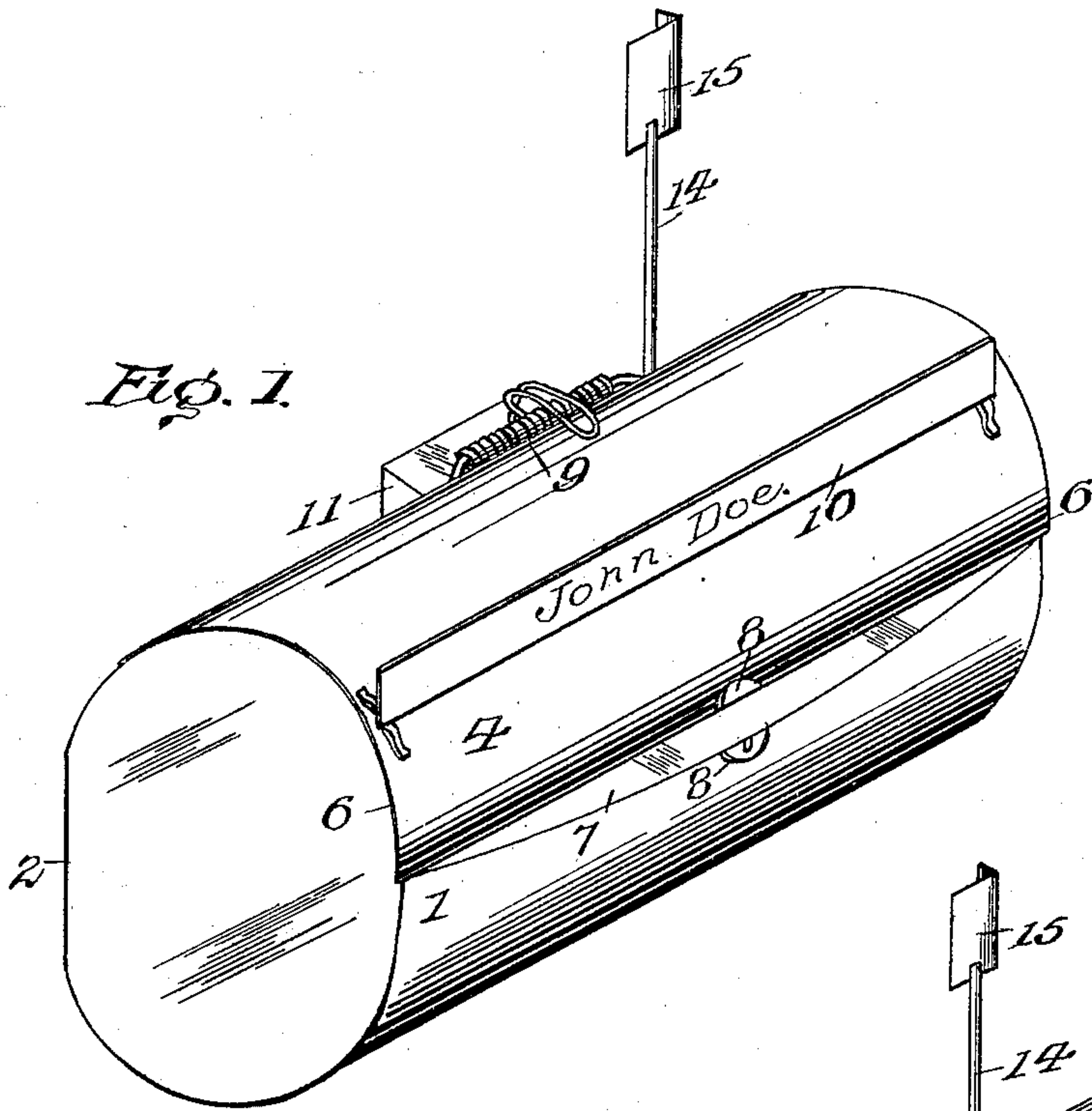
J. W. CURRIER.

MAIL BOX.

(Application filed Jan. 29, 1902.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



Witnesses
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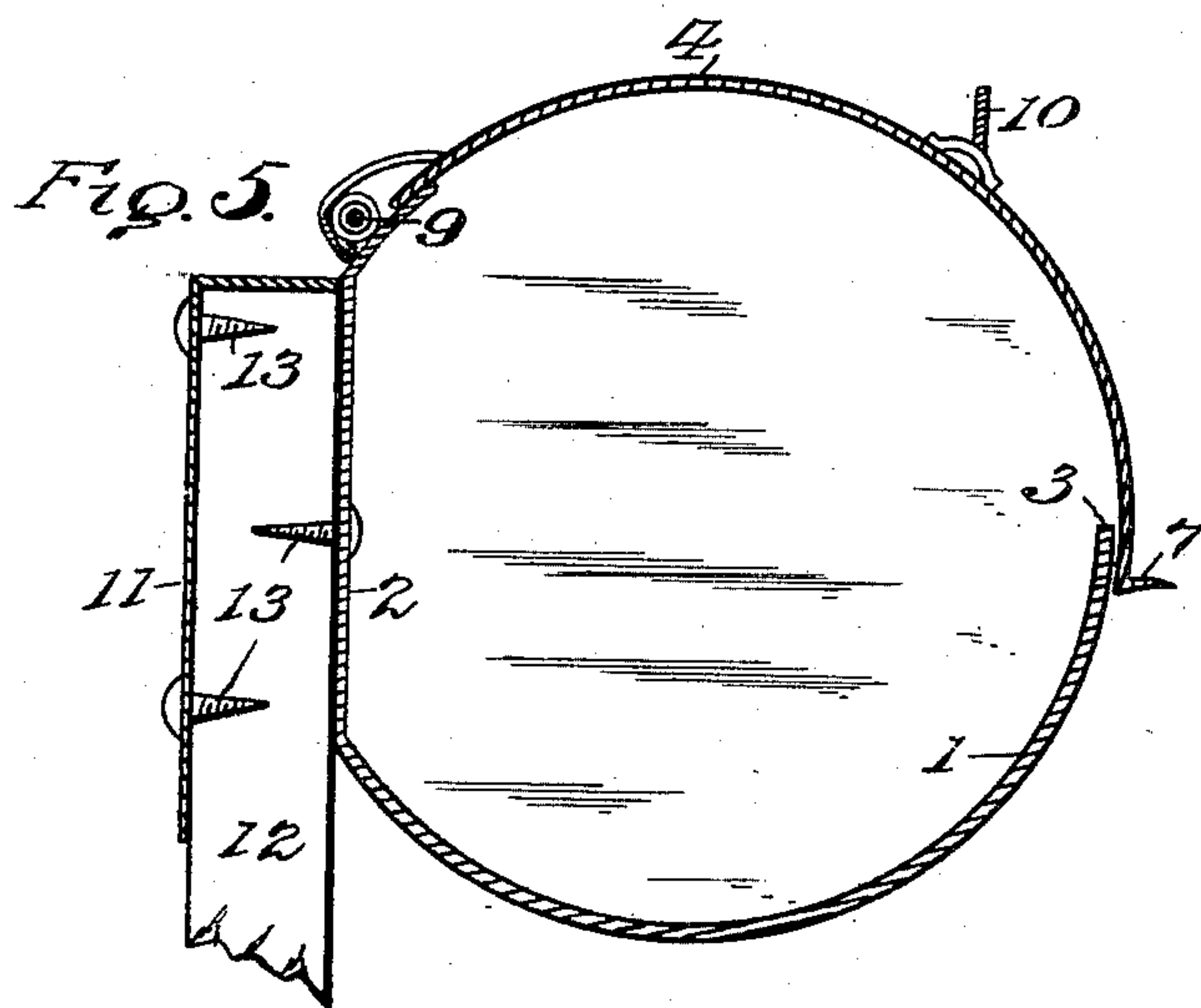
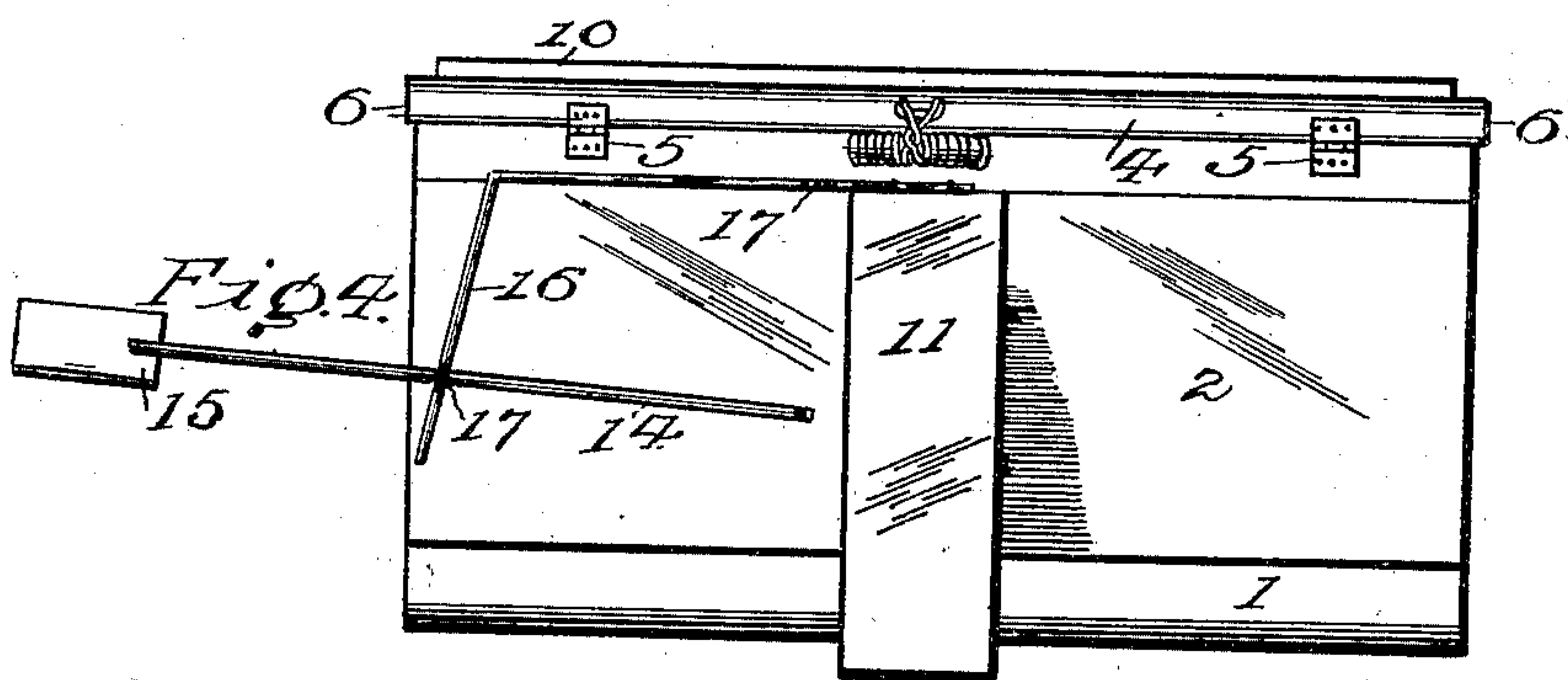
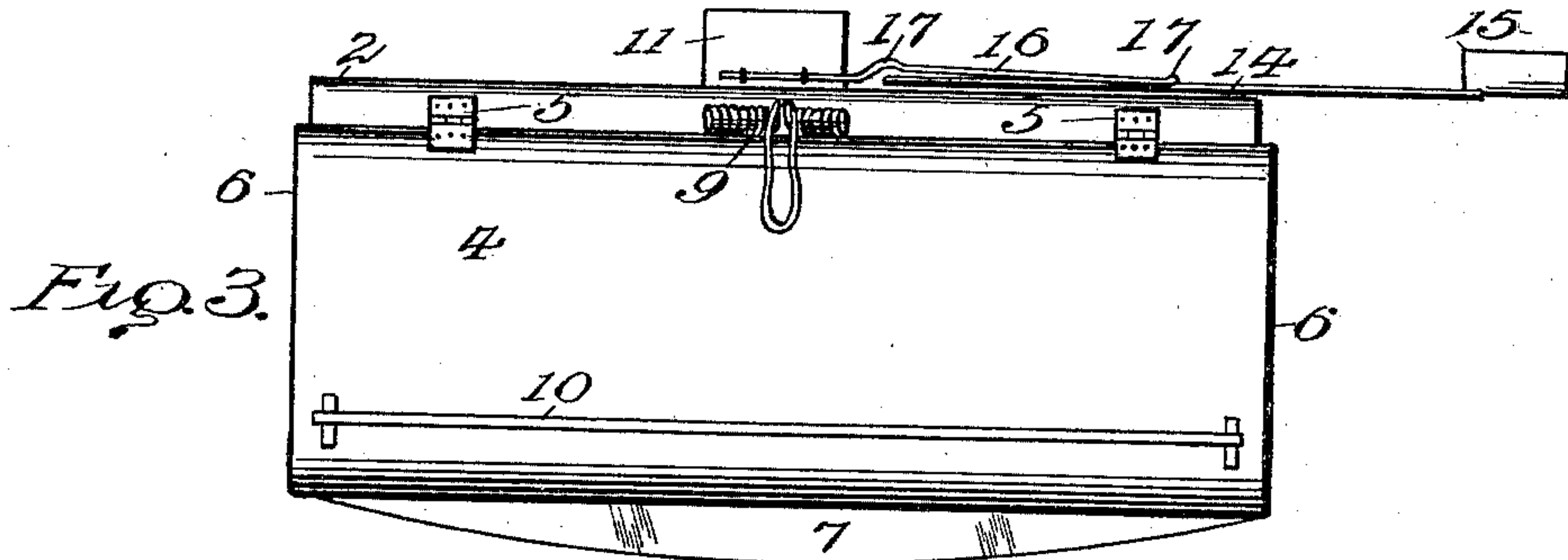
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2 Sheets - Sheet 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN W. CURRIER, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

MAIL-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 696,721, dated April 1, 1902.

Application filed January 29, 1902. Serial No. 91,700. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. CURRIER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in mail-boxes for use in connection with the free-delivery system; and it has for its object the production of a simple and inexpensive mail-box constructed and designed with particular regard to the purpose to which it is adapted.

The invention will first be specifically described in connection with the accompanying drawings and then pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved mail-box. Fig. 2 is a similar view, the cover being shown raised to permit the insertion or withdrawal of mail. Fig. 3 is a top plan of the mail-box. Fig. 4 is a rear elevation of the same. Fig. 5 is an enlarged transverse vertical central section of the box, showing the same supported from a post or the like.

Referring to the drawings, it will be seen that my improved box is formed of sheet metal and comprises a body portion 1, practically cylindrical in shape, with the exception of its back or rear portion, which is flattened in a vertical plane, as at 2, for a purpose hereinafter described. A mail-receiving opening 3 is formed in the upper portion of the body and is provided with a cover 4, hinged at 5 to the body and of such length as to project beyond the vertical end walls of the body, as at 6, the front edge of the cover being provided with an extended lip 7 for convenience in raising the cover. If desired, a lock 8 may be provided to permit the locking of the cover to the body. The cover conforms in shape to the body 1 and is held normally in position to close opening 3 by a spring 9, and I also provide a name-plate 10, which is secured to the cover in a position to be readily visible from the front of the box.

Centrally of the rear of the box I secure what I term the "box-support," being a metallic casing 11 of a size and shape to snugly receive the upper end of a post 12, to which the box is designed to be secured. As shown in the drawings, the support 11 comprises a

rectangular casing, one wall of which is formed by the box-back 2, the upper end of the casing being closed. The mail-box is secured in place by the upper end of the post 12 entering the support, screws 13 fixing the box and support to the post, as clearly shown in Fig. 5.

Pivoted to the back 2 of the box is the signal, which is designed to be manually operated to indicate the presence of mail in the box. The signal comprises a vertical rod 14, pivoted at its lower end to the box and carrying at its upper end the signal 15. In the present instance I have shown the signal as comprising a plate bent centrally to form right-angled members providing a signal visible from any direction from which the box may be approached, though it is to be understood that I contemplate the use of any form of signal. To hold the signal in set and unset positions, a spring member 16 is used, which member comprises a spring wire or rod secured to the box on its rear flat portion, as clearly shown in Fig. 4, and bent to form recesses 17 of a size to receive the signal-rod 14. These recesses are positioned to receive and hold the rod when the signal is in the set or unset position. Through the use of the recesses 17 I am enabled to provide a construction in which the effective life of the signal-holding member 15 is greatly prolonged over similar constructions now in use, as it will be noted that there is no strain or tension on the spring member when the signal-rod rests in either of the recesses, while at the same time such recesses effectively hold the signal-rod against accidental displacement, the tension of the spring member being such as to require force to move the rod from one recess to the other, as will be evident.

In providing a mail-box with a rounded bottom and a flattened back I gain a desirable advantage in boxes designed for the free-delivery system, in that the mail within the box may be readily and quickly gathered and removed therefrom without elevating the cover 4 more than sufficient to introduce the hand, as the flattened back of the box causes all mail introduced to fall to the bottom, while the cylindrical bottom of the box provides for the ready and convenient grasping of all mail in the box. As before stated, I am enabled by this construction to remove all mail from

the box without raising the cover more than sufficient to introduce the hand, and hence the interior of the box and its contents will be protected against the elements even while
5 inserting or withdrawing mail, which result is aided by the projecting ends 6 of the cover. In providing the box with a practically integral metal support designed to receive the post to which the box is secured, which sup-
10 port is of such construction as to completely envelop the upper end of the post, I provide for the convenient placing in position of the box and at the same time protect the upper portion of the post from the elements, pro-
15 tecting that portion of the post to which the box is fastened from decay, and hence guarding against the probable unauthorized removal of the box. In my improved spring member for holding the signal-rod I provide
20 effectively against the accidental displacement of the signal and at the same time construct said spring member so that it exerts no tension upon the signal-rod except when the latter is being moved, thus adding to the
25 life of the spring member without in any way detracting from its usefulness.

From the described construction of my im-

proved mail-box it will be seen that the entire upper portion of the box is cylindrical or rounded and that snow or the like will not remain thereon, thus aiding in protecting the contents of the box against the elements. 30

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is— 35

1. A mail-box having a flat back wall and a rounded bottom, and a box-support secured to the back wall, said support being designed to receive a post or the like and being closed at top. 40

2. A mail-box having a flat back wall and a rounded bottom, a signal-rod pivoted to the back wall, and a spring member to hold said rod in set and unset positions, said spring member being formed with recesses to receive and hold the rod and adapted to exert a tension on the rod when moving from one recess to the other. 45

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

JOHN W. CURRIER.

Witnesses:

A. H. BUCK,
F. D. REED.