

No. 730,411.

PATENTED JUNE 9, 1903.

R. P. STOUT.
AMMUNITION CHEST.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 30, 1901.

NO MODEL.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

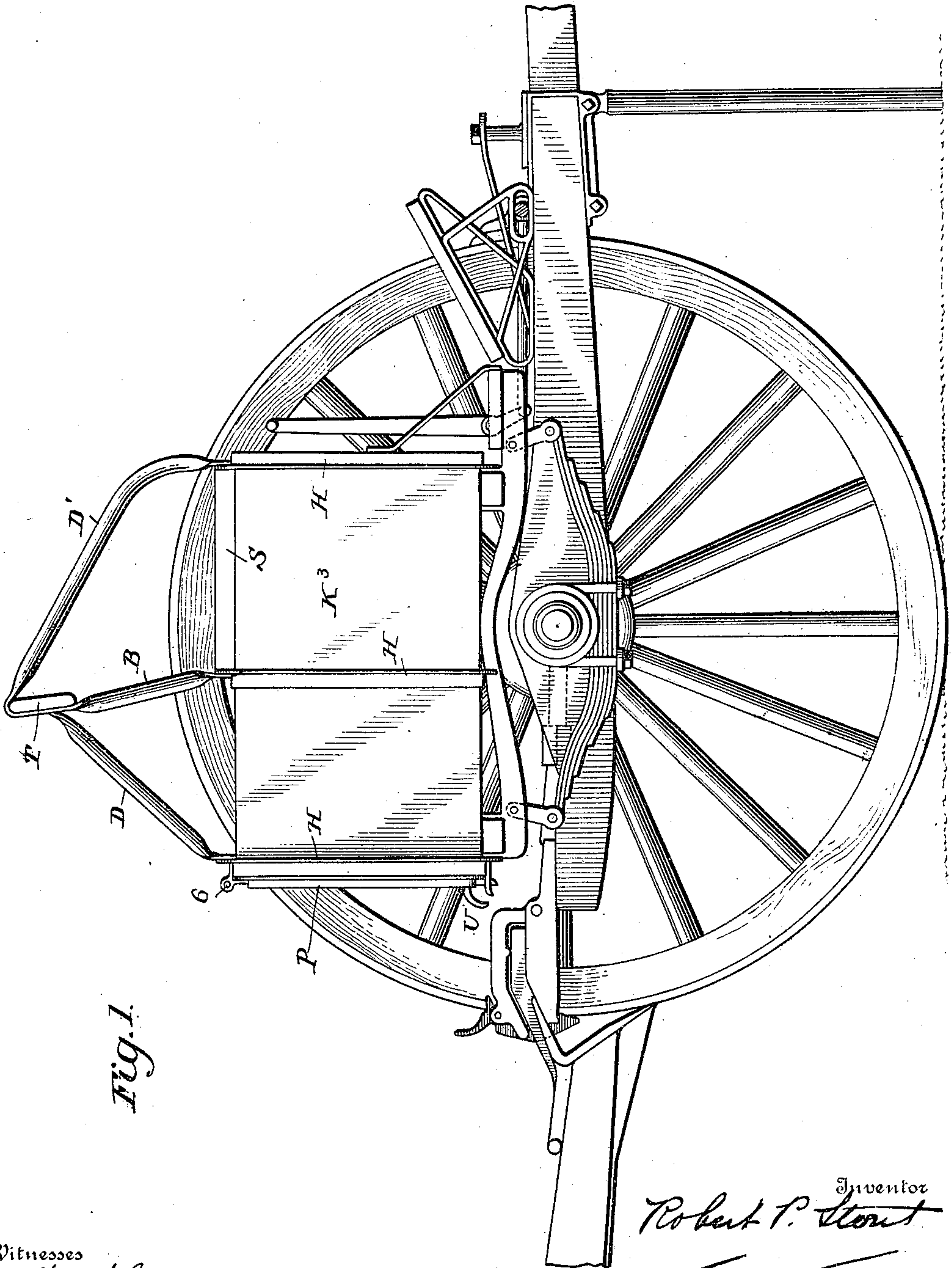


Fig. 1.

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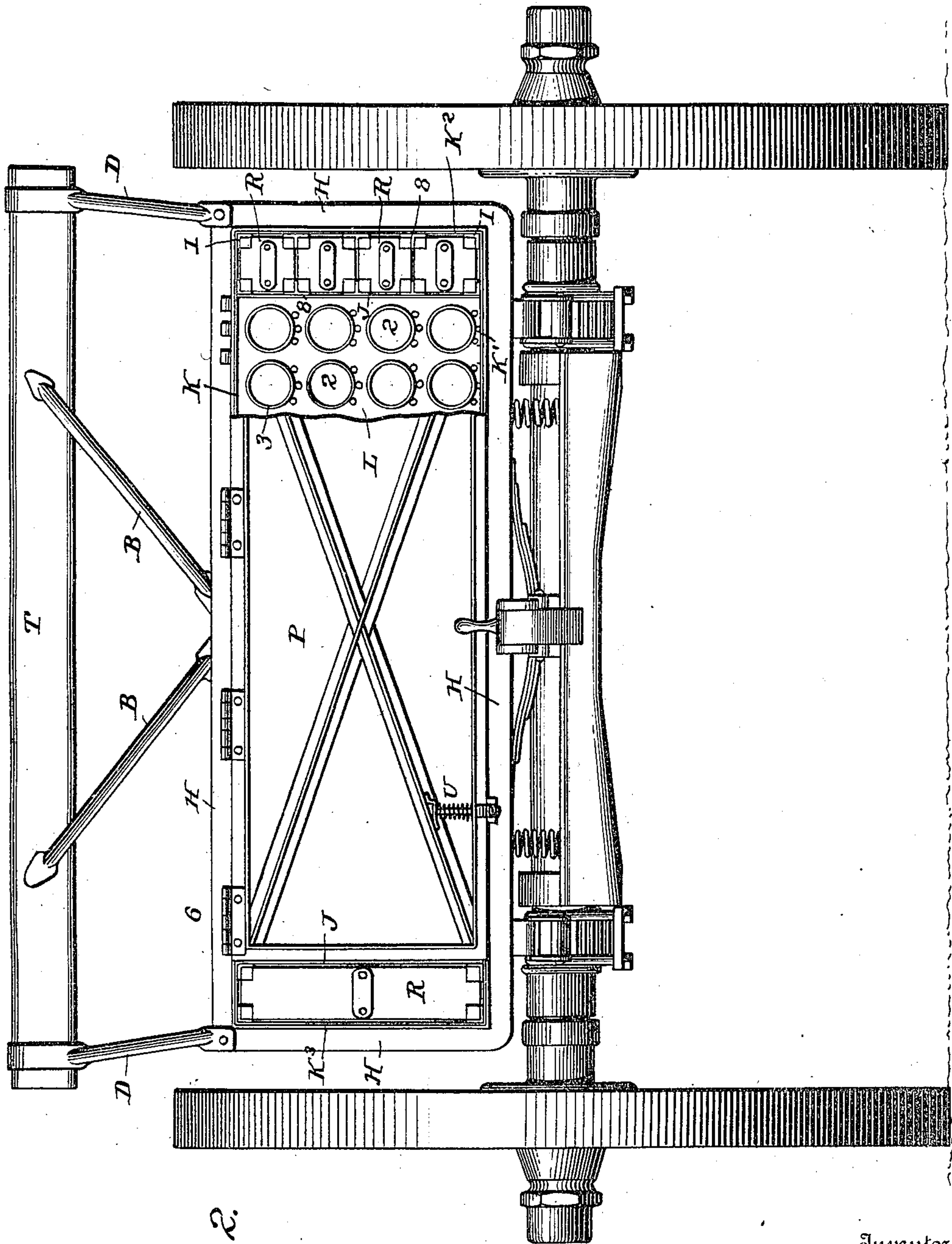
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4 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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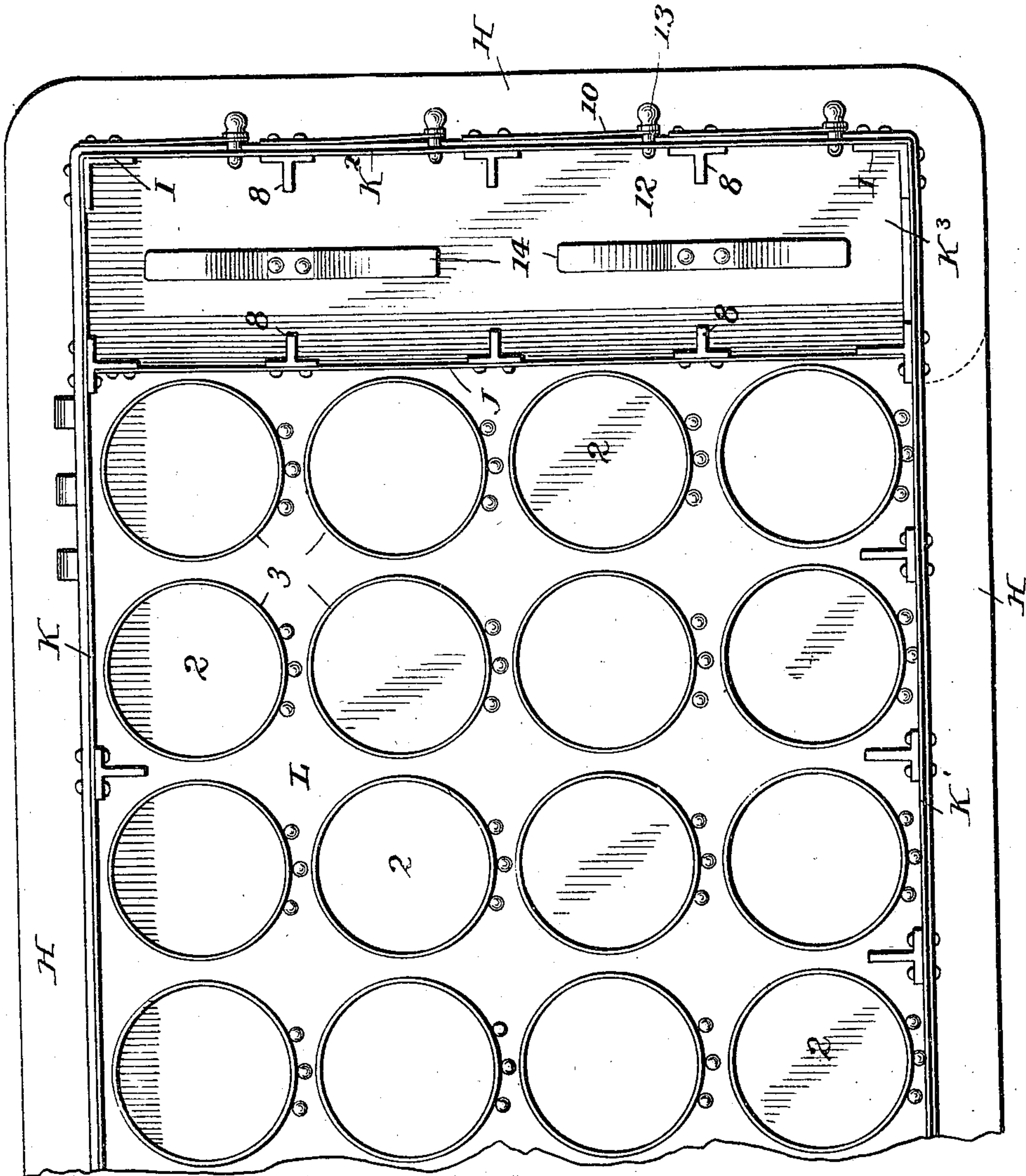
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4 SHEETS—SHEET 3.



Witnesses

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Fig. 3.

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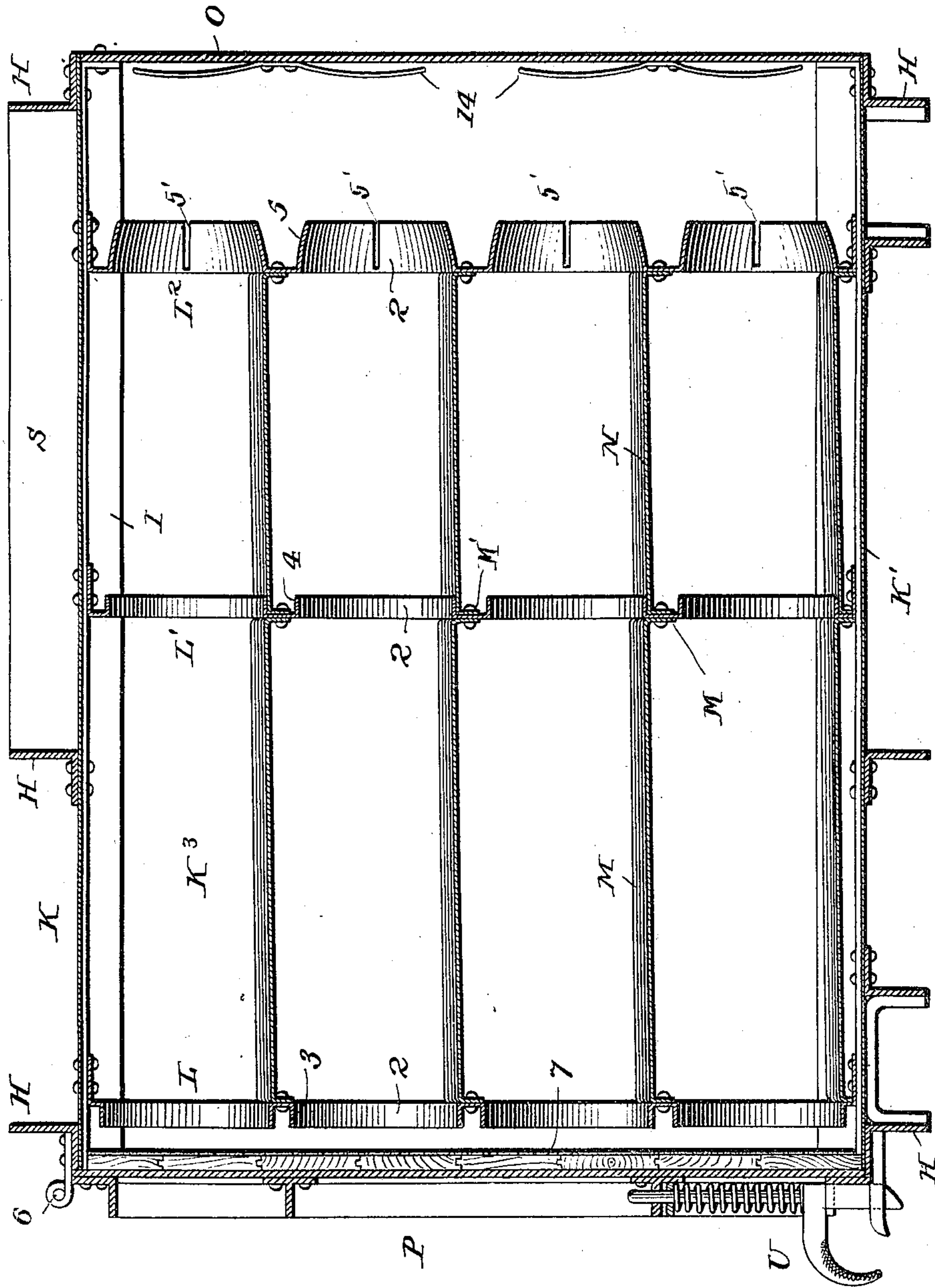


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT P. STOUT, OF BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO BETHLEHEM STEEL COMPANY, OF SOUTH BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA, A CORPORATION OF PENNSYLVANIA.

AMMUNITION-CHEST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 730,411, dated June 9, 1903.

Application filed November 30, 1901. Serial No. 84,209. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT P. STOUT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bethlehem, in the county of Northampton and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Ammunition-Chests, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to ammunition-chests, and especially to chests of the character required for the limbers of field-guns; and my invention consists in constructing all parts of the chest of metal, with partitions provided with flanged openings adapted to hold and isolate the ball-cartridges, and otherwise constructed so as to secure the desired strength and rigidity with a minimum of metal, with means, further, for supporting movable cans for oil, &c., all as fully set forth hereinafter and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation showing a limber of a field-gun with the improved chest arranged thereon. Fig. 2 is a rear elevation of the parts shown in Fig. 1, a portion of the door of the chest being broken away. Fig. 3 is a rear elevation showing part of the chest with the door and oil-cans removed, and Fig. 4 is a section taken longitudinally through the chest.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the ammunition-chest is supported upon the limber, comprising the front wheels of an artillery-wagon and carrying the pole and a coupling for the front end of the trail of the gun-carriage.

The ammunition consists of ball-cartridges, each composed of a metallic case, generally flanged at the rear and containing the explosive charge and supporting the projectile, which extends from the forward end of the case. In order to support as compactly as possible a suitable number of such cartridges, I have devised an improved chest so constructed as to secure the proper isolation of the cartridges, rigidly support the same to prevent vibration, and avoid undue weight.

To this end I construct the shell of the case, preferably, from a single plate bent to form the top, bottom, and side portions K K' K^2 K^3 , although these portions may consist of sepa-

rate plates bolted together at the edges. In either case the corners are strengthened by L-beams L , bolted to the adjacent plates, as best shown in Fig. 3, and further rigidity is imparted by means of external flanged beams H , which are preferably each bent so as to extend transversely across the top and bottom and vertically across the sides of the shell. These beams H may be L-beams, T-beams, or I-beams, as may be found most convenient, L-beams being shown. The shell is further stiffened by a closing-plate O at the front and by internal transverse plates or partitions, three being shown, L and L^2 being the end partitions and L' the intermediate partition, and these partitions are made the means of isolating and supporting cartridges, the said partitions having coinciding openings 2 2 2 with surrounding flanges 3 4 5 . Preferably these flanges are formed integral with the partitions themselves. Each opening in the partition L is of such dimensions as to receive the shell of the cartridge, while the corresponding openings in the forward partitions L' L^2 are of such sizes as to fit the portions of the projectile extending therein, the flanges 5 being shaped to conform to the tapering contour of the portion of the projectile inclosed thereby and being split at intervals, as $5'$, in order that it may expand readily and the better fit and grip the ball of the cartridge. The flanges 3 of the openings in the rear plate L are preferably extended backward, so as to form edge bearings for the rims or flanges of the cartridge-shells, which are pressed against these bearings and the cartridges held in place by a door P , which, as shown, consists of a metallic plate connected by hinges 6 to the casing of the chest and having a wood lining with an inner covering 7 , of felt, bearing against the ends of the cartridges, which are thus confined immovably in place.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the flanges of the openings in the transverse plates constitute the entire support for the cartridges.

In order further to strengthen the structure, securing additional rigidity without an undesirable increase in weight, I make use of horizontal braces M N , consisting of transversely-

curved plates having end flanges M', which are bolted or riveted to the end and intermediate transverse partitions, as best shown in Fig. 4. Preferably these braces are each
5 arranged in a position immediately below the coinciding openings of the adjacent plates, so as not only to secure a bracing effect but also to serve as a guide to the cartridge as it is introduced into place. These braces may
10 be placed beneath each coinciding series of openings or they may be placed at any suitable intervals apart.

It is desirable in many instances not only to provide for the support of the cartridges,
15 but also for the support of cans or cases containing lubricating or other oil, and I therefore provide means for supporting series of sliding cans R, Fig. 2, by inserting in the casing of the chest two longitudinal parti-
20 tions J J, each parallel to but a short distance from one of the sides of the chest, affording intermediate room for the cans, which are supported to slide on guides 8, Fig. 3, the partitions L L' L² in each case being con-
25 veyed transversely between the longitudinal partitions J J. Each can is held in place by a spring-catch 10, a pin or lip 12 of which engages a notch in the can when the latter is in place, the catch having a head 13 by
30 means of which it can be drawn out of the notch. To prevent the cans from rattling, springs 14 are bolted to the inside of the front plate O, so as to bear on the ends of the cans and prevent longitudinal movement.

35 The door P does not cover the oil-cans, so that access may be had thereto without opening the door. Any suitable means may be provided for holding the door in place, a spring-latch U being shown.

40 The chest, strengthened as above described, may be the means of supporting a seat S and back-rest T, the seat being placed directly upon the chest between the strengthening-beams H, while the back-rest T is supported
45 by standards B B and braces D D', the braces D' also constituting sides for the seat.

Without limiting myself to the details of construction shown, I claim—

50 1. An ammunition-chest provided with transverse end and intermediate partitions consisting of metallic plates having flanged openings to receive ball-cartridges, and with intermediate horizontal braces consisting of
55 curved plates attached at the ends to the end and intermediate partitions, substantially as set forth.

2. An ammunition-chest provided with transverse partitions consisting of metallic plates having flanged openings to receive ball-
60 cartridges, and with intermediate horizontal braces each with terminal flanges bolted to the partitions below the openings of the same, substantially as described.

3. An ammunition-chest provided with transverse plates having coinciding flanged
65 openings, the flanges of the forward plate being expansible and shaped to conform to the tapering contour of the portion of the projectiles inclosed thereby, substantially as de-
70 scribed.

4. An ammunition-chest provided with transverse plates having coinciding flanged
75 openings, the flanges of the forward plate being formed to fit the tapering projectiles of ball-cartridges, and the flanges of the rear plate extending rearward to afford bearings for the rims of the cartridge-cases, said
flanges constituting the entire support for the cartridges, substantially as described.

5. An ammunition-chest provided with
80 transverse plates having coinciding flanged openings, the flanges of the forward plate being expansible and formed to grip and fit the tapering projectiles of ball-cartridges, and the flanges of the rear plate extending outward
85 to engage the rims of the cartridge-cases, substantially as described.

6. An ammunition-chest consisting of a me-
90 tallic case, and flanged beams extending along and secured to the top, bottom and sides of the case, combined with metallic standards and braces bolted to the top and supporting a back-rest, substantially as described.

7. An ammunition-chest consisting of a me-
95 tallic case made of a single plate bent to form the top, bottom and side portions, and having a closed front and a door at the rear, L-beams in the corners of the case, exterior flanged beams on the top, bottom and sides
100 thereof, longitudinal partitions spaced from the sides of the chest, and transverse plates extending between the partitions and having coinciding flanged openings to receive ball-
cartridges, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my
105 name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ROBERT P. STOUT.

Witnesses.

J. E. MATHEWS,
FRED QUIER.