

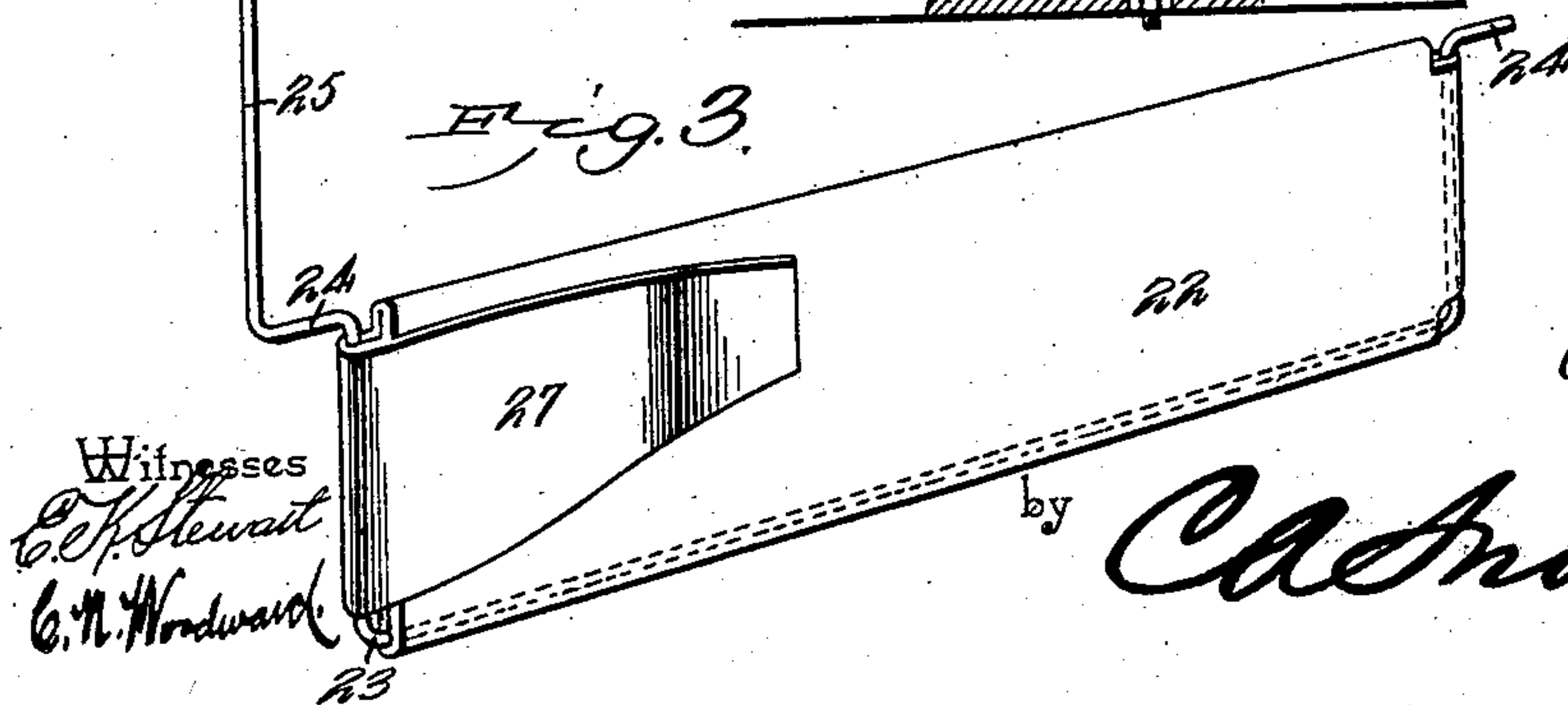
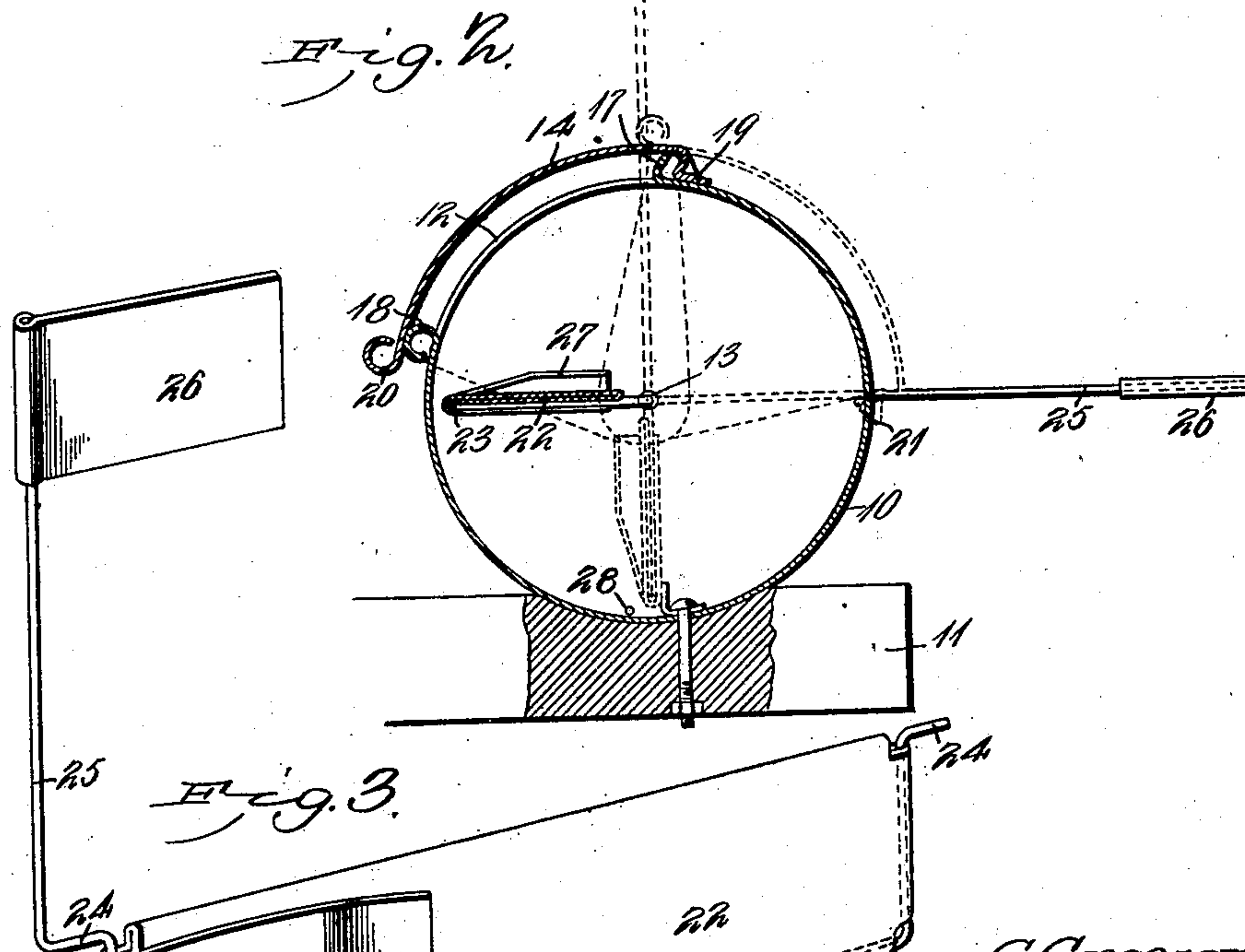
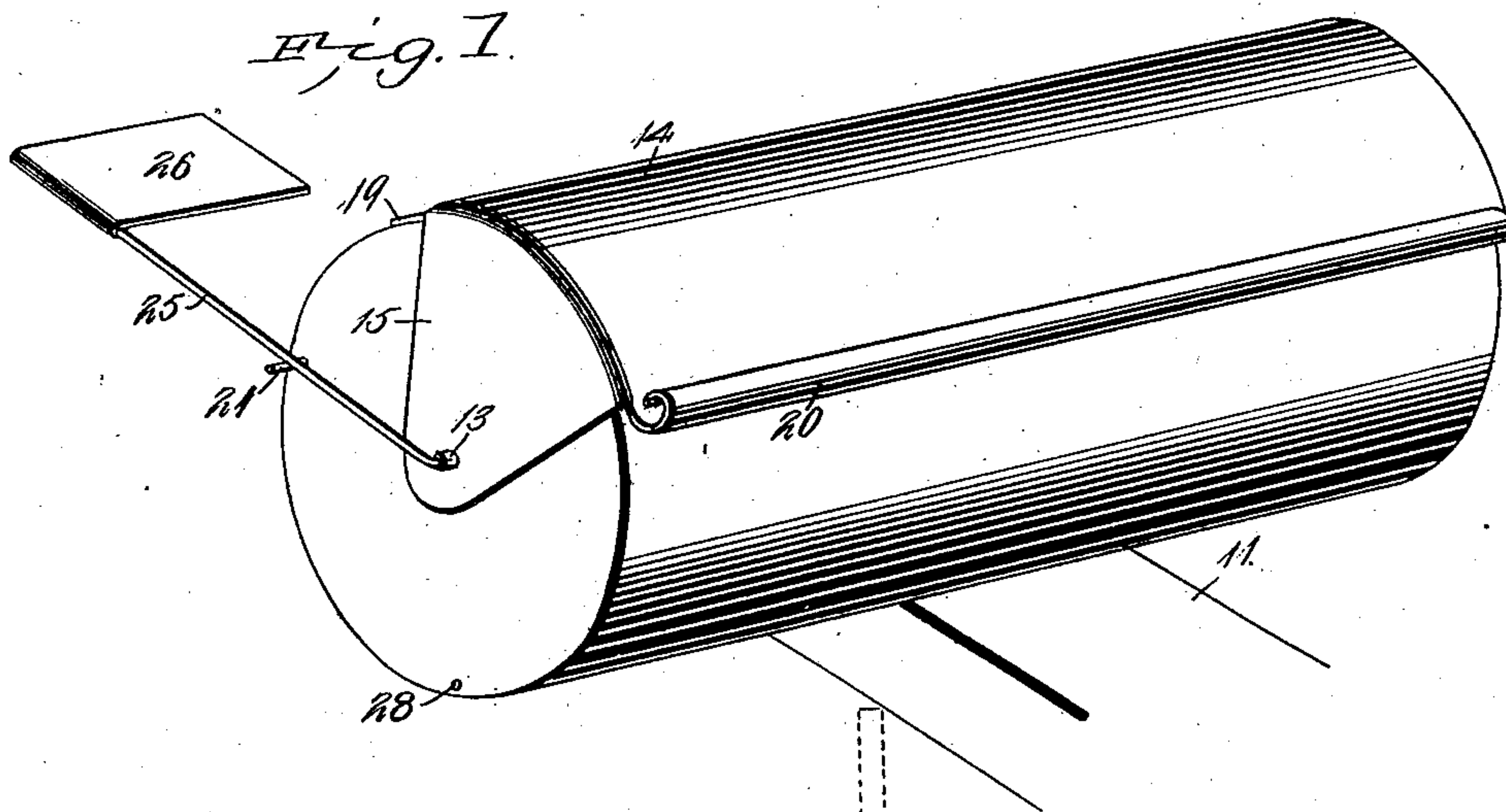
No. 730,762.

PATENTED JUNE 9, 1903.

G. GRAVEN.
MAIL BOX.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 24, 1903.

NO MODEL.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GARRET GRAVEN, OF OOSTBURG, WISCONSIN.

MAIL-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 730,762, dated June 9, 1903.

Application filed February 24, 1903. Serial No. 144,744. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GARRET GRAVEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Oostburg, in the county of Sheboygan and State of Wisconsin, have invented a new and useful Mail-Box, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to mail-boxes, more particularly to boxes of this character employed in connection with the rural mail-delivery service, and has for its objects to simplify and cheapen the construction of such devices, to increase their convenience and efficiency, and to lessen the labor of collecting and delivering the mail; and the invention consists in certain novel features of the construction, as hereinafter shown and described, and specified in the claims.

In the drawings illustrative of the invention, in which corresponding parts are indicated by like designating characters, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device closed. Fig. 2 is a transverse section. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the swinging mail-receptacle and its attachments disconnected.

In this invention is comprised an inclosing casing 10, preferably cylindrical and of suitable capacity and mounted upon a post or other support 11 at a convenient point and at a suitable height to accommodate the mail-carrier. The casing may be of any required size and when employed in connection with the rural delivery service will be constructed in conformity with the recommendations of the Post-Office authorities. Generally these receptacles will be about eighteen inches long and eight inches in diameter; but it will be understood that these dimensions may be varied to any required extent, as circumstances may require. The casing will preferably be of galvanized iron or steel of suitable strength and will be provided with a longitudinal aperture 12 through one side and will likewise be provided with hollow studs 13, extending centrally from the ends and in longitudinal alinement relative to the casing. The aperture 12 is provided with a cover 14, curved to conform to the casing, and with wings 15 16, extending from its ends and journaled upon the projecting portions of the studs 13, so that the cover will swing around the studs as centers and cover and uncover the aperture. The edges of the aperture 12 will be

rolled outwardly, as shown at 17 18 in Fig. 2, and the cover member will be formed with an offset lip 19, extending from its upper edge and closely engaging the surface of the casing above the rolled edge 17 to form a moisture-tight joint between the cover and casing at that point. The lower edge of the cover member is formed with a relatively large "roll" 20 and extended outwardly to a sufficient distance to provide means for the ready engagement therewith of the back of the hand or wrist or fingers of the carrier when opening the cover. By this simple arrangement the carrier can open the casing with the same hand that holds the mail to be deposited or with the hand without removing mitten or glove, which is an important advantage in cold weather.

Extending from one end of the casing 10 is a stop 21, so disposed that the end bracket formed by the wing 15 will strike it when the cover is opened, and thus limit the rearward movement of the cover and hold it open in position to be closed by a mere touch. Within the casing is movably disposed a mail-support operative by the weight of the mail deposited thereon and connected to a signal mechanism, so that the signal will be operated by the moving of the mail-support. The support will be so constructed and arranged that it will be operated both in depositing mail for collection by the carrier or when mail is deposited by the carrier and operating the signal for the benefit of both the carrier and the box-owner. This mail-support consists of a swinging plate 22, preferably of metal and forming a partition longitudinally of the casing and connected to a signal-carrying arm which serves to overbalance the plate and hold it in a substantially horizontal position when empty, as shown in Fig. 2.

The plate 22 is connected to a wire frame 23, having its ends 24 extended through the hollow studs 13, which thus become the bearings on which the plate swings by one of its edges.

One of the pins 24 is extended into a rod 25, having a signal-flag or other suitable denoting member 26 upon its free end, as shown, the rod extending oppositely to the plate and heavy enough to overbalance it and hold it normally in a horizontal position, as shown

in Fig. 2. By this means so long as the support 22 is empty the signal will remain depressed and denote to both the carrier and to the person owning the box that the box is empty.

The plate 22 is provided with a spring-clip 27 to assist in holding the mail deposited in the receptacle and will be located upon the upper side of the plate when the latter is in its upper position, as in full lines in Fig. 2. By this simple arrangement when the carrier approaches the box if he has no mail to deliver and observes that the signal 26 is depressed he passes along, as the depressed position of the signal denotes that there is no mail to be collected.

If the carrier has mail to deliver, he pays no attention to the signal, but grasps the mail in one hand and may, if he prefers, open the door 14 by means of the back of the hand which holds the mail, as before described, and lay the mail upon the horizontally-poised plate 22 or beneath the clip 27 and withdraws his hand and closes the cover by a light touch, as before mentioned. The weight of the deposited mail overbalances the plate 22 and throws the signal into its upward position, and thus denotes to the owners of the box that mail has been deposited therein. If when the carrier approaches the box the signal is elevated, he is thus notified that mail has been deposited for collection by the owner, who by inserting it beneath the clip 27 causes its weight to overcome the signal and elevate it in the same manner as when the carrier deposits mail in the receptacle.

If the carrier has no mail to deliver, he simply removes the mail deposited for collection, and by reason of the construction shown this can be done, as before noted, without removing gloves or mittens, as the door can be opened and the mail swept from the receiver into the pouch with mittened or gloved hands.

If the carrier has mail to deliver and finds mail deposited for collection, then he first removes this mail and deposits the mail for delivery. It will be obvious that when mail is both delivered and collected the signal will remain elevated, as the plate 22 will be constantly weighted.

Extending along the bottom of the casing just in advance of the bottom line of the plate 22 when depressed, as shown in Fig. 2, is a rod or wire 28, between which and the plate any mail-matter, such as a postal card, too light to overbalance the flag 26, may be inserted, to "lock" the plate in its depressed position.

The whole device is very simple in construction, easily operated, and contains no complicated parts to get out of order or broken by rough usage.

The contents of the casing are thoroughly

protected from the elements, and the device being wholly of metal will not be deteriorated thereby.

Various changes and modifications might be resorted to in the details of the construction without departing from the principle of the invention or sacrificing any of its advantages, and I wish it to be understood that I do not wish to be limited to the precise details set forth, but reserve the right to such modifications and changes as may fall within the scope of the claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. In a mail-box an inclosing casing, a mail-receiver swinging from one edge within said casing, a rod extending from said receiver and carrying a signal and adapted to be operated by the movement of said receiver, substantially as described.

2. In a mail-box, an inclosing casing, having an opening in one side and with hollow studs extending from its opposite ends in longitudinal alinement therewith, a mail-receiver having pins extending from one edge and journaled in said studs, whereby said receiver is movably poised within said casing, and a rod extending from one of said pins and carrying a signal, and movable with the swinging movement of said receiver, substantially as described.

3. In a mail-box, an inclosing casing having an opening in one side and with hollow studs extending from its opposite ends in longitudinal alinement therewith, a mail-receiver having pins extended from one edge and journaled in said studs, whereby said receiver is movably poised within said casing, a rod extending from one of said pins and carrying a signal, and movable with the swinging movement of said receiver, and a cover to said opening and provided with wings movably engaging said hollow studs, substantially as described.

4. In a mail-box, an inclosing casing, a mail-receiver movably disposed within said casing and adapted to be operated by the weight of the mail deposited thereon, a signal connected to said mail-receiver and operative thereby, and a stop disposed within said casing adjacent to the free edge of said movable plate when in its depressed position to form means for supporting mail-matter too light to overbalance the plate, 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.

GARRET GRAVEN.

Witnesses:

PETER DUANE,

S. EDWARD HINBREGTSON.