

No. 748,209.

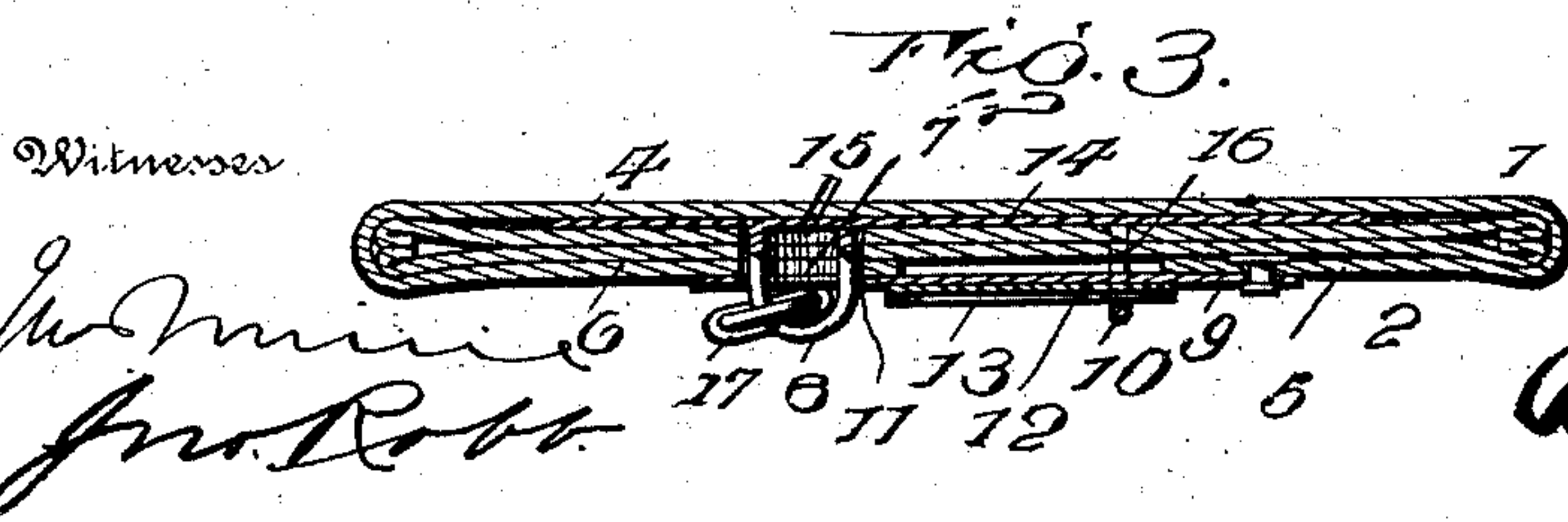
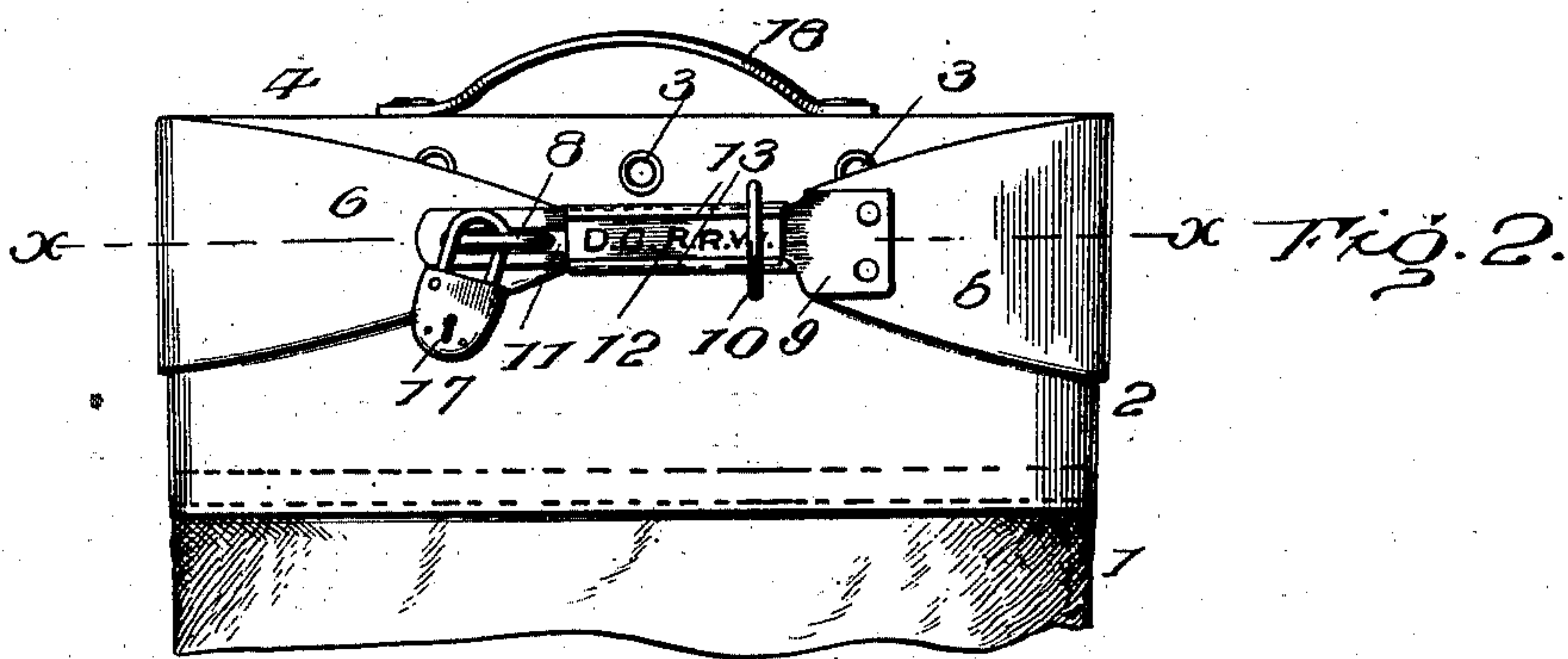
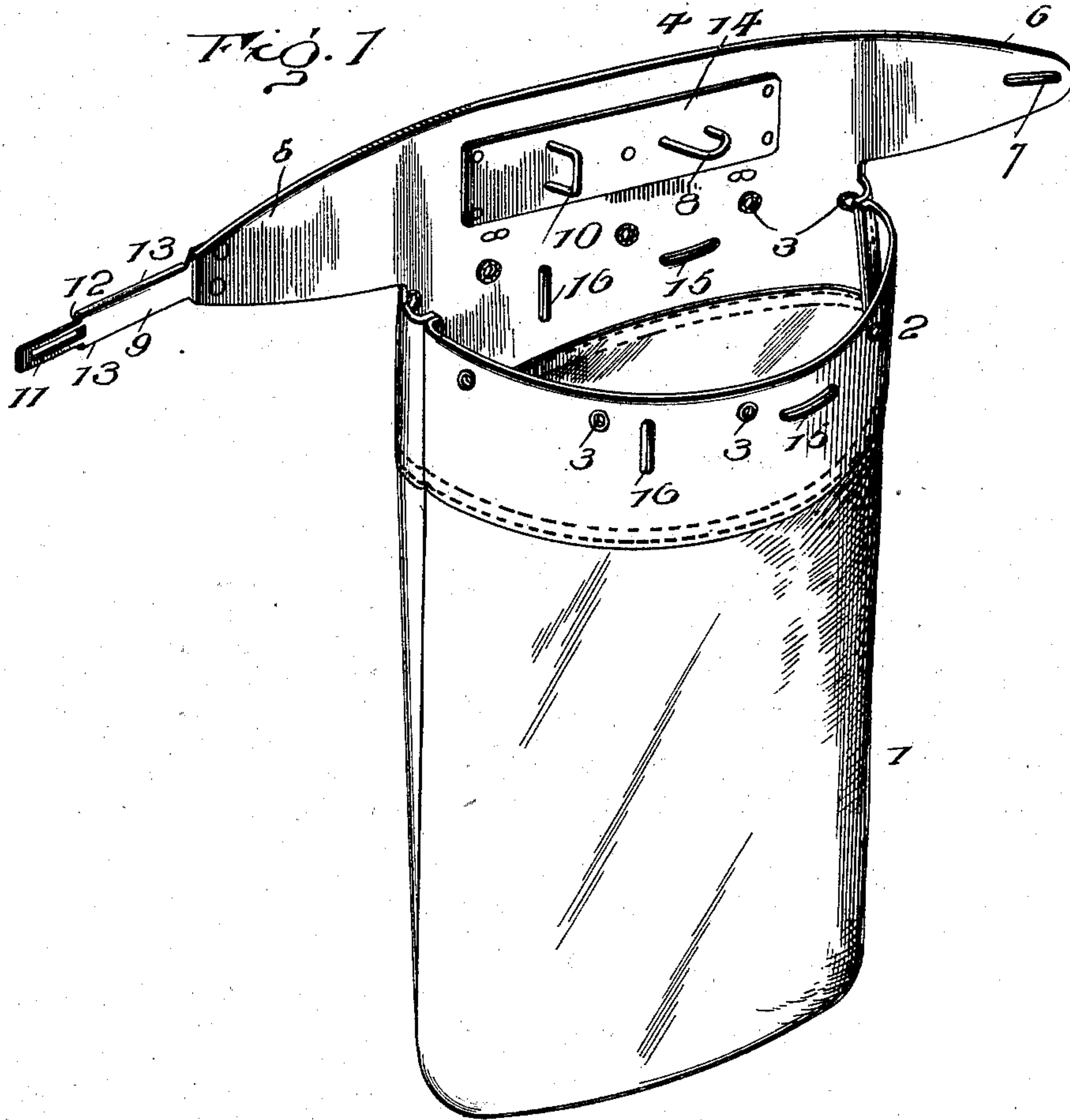
PATENTED DEC. 29, 1903.

D. G. McCLAY.

MAIL BAG.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 13, 1903.

NO MODEL.



Inventor

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by,

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MAIL-BAG.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 748,209, dated December 29, 1903.

Application filed February 13, 1903. Serial No. 143,229. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID G. McCLAY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Santa Ana, in the county of Orange and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bags, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention provides a secure fastening for mail-bags of novel construction and capable of ready and easy manipulation and which will be simple and not liable to get out of repair.

A vital feature of the invention is a closing-flap to fold over the mouth of the bag integral tabs at the ends of the closing-flap to fold over and around the edges of the bag and, together with the closing-flap, embrace the mouth thereof, and stiffeners embracing opposite sides of the bag adjacent to the mouth to prevent opening of the bag by edgewise pressure or the forcing outward of the lower or loose edge portion of the closing-flap.

For a full description of the invention and the merits thereof and also to acquire a knowledge of the details of construction of the means for effecting the result reference is to be had to the following description and drawings hereto attached.

While the essential and characteristic features of the invention are susceptible of modification, still the preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a mail-bag embodying the invention, the closing-flap and tabs being extended and the mouth open. Fig. 2 is a side view of the upper portion of the bag, showing the arrangement of the parts when the same is closed and locked or secured. Fig. 3 is a section on the line X X of Fig. 2.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

The bag 1 may be constructed of duck, leather, or other material commonly used in the manufacture of articles of this type and is strengthened or reinforced at its mouth or open end, as shown at 2, by stout material, preferably consisting of heavy leather attached to the open-end portion of the bag in any sub-

stantial way. A series of openings 3 are formed around the mouth of the bag in the reinforced part 2, and said openings are protected by eyelets or reinforced in any way to prevent their tearing out. The openings 3 enable the bag to be suspended from the hooks of the rack or other support for holding the bag when filling the same or removing the contents therefrom. The closing-flap 4 is an integral part of the strengthening or reinforcing piece 2 and projects from the back portion a distance to insure secure closing of the bag when folded over the mouth thereof. Tabs 5 and 6 are integral with the closing-flap and project from opposite ends thereof and are adapted to fold around the edges of the bag and upon the back thereof when said bag is closed. The tab 6 is provided at its end with a longitudinal slot 7 to receive the staple 8 when the bag is closed. A bar or plate 9 is riveted or otherwise firmly attached at one end to the tab 5 and is adapted to pass through a staple 10 and is provided at its free end with a slot 11 for reception of the staple 8.

The bar or plate 9 constitutes a stay and acts in the capacity of a hasp and is constructed to receive the label 12 to indicate the destination of the bag. Guides or flanges 13 are provided at opposite edges of the bar or plate 9, and the label 12 is adapted to slip thereunder and is prevented from being withdrawn when the bag is closed and locked by the staple 8, extending across the path of the label at one end and the guides or flanges 13 being closed at the opposite end. The guides or flanges 13 in addition to forming a label serve to stiffen and strengthen the bar or plate 9, thereby enabling the same to be formed of either sheet metal or a light caster.

A plate 14 is firmly attached to the inner side of the closing-flap 4 and extends nearly the entire length thereof to reinforce and stiffen the same. This plate carries the staples 8 and 10 and is adapted to come between the closing-flap and the front portion of the reinforcement 2 and in conjunction with the bar or plate 9 embrace opposite sides of the mouth portion of the bag, so as to prevent opening thereof by inward pressure upon the edges of the bag. The plate 14 also holds the closing-flap flat against the front portion of

the bag and prevents access being had there-
to by inserting the hand between the closing-
flap and the back, such as would be the case
if the plate 14 were dispensed with and the
5 closing-flap 4 not stiffened in substantially
the manner stated. Corresponding openings
15 and 16 are formed in the front and rear
sides of the bag or stiffened portion 2 and re-
ceive the staples 10 and 8 after the closing-
10 flap has been folded. The tabs 5 and 6 are
then folded around the edges of the bag and
upon the rear side, the slot 7 of the tab 6 re-
ceiving the staple 8 and the bar or plate 9
being passed through the staple 10 and hav-
15 ing its slot 11 engaged over the said staple 8
and secured by means of a pass-block 17 of
any approved type. A strap 18 is secured to
the upper end of the bag and constitutes a
handle for convenience in manipulating the
20 same.

Having thus described the invention, what
is claimed as new is—

The herein-described mail-bag comprising
a body portion, a reinforcement applied to

the upper or open end portion of the bag and 25
comprising an integral closing-flap and ter-
minal securing-tabs, said reinforcement hav-
ing a series of openings near the mouth of the
bag and corresponding vertical and horizon- 30
tal slots 16 and 15 in its front and rear por-
tions in coincident relation, a plate 14 at-
tached to the inner side of the closing-flap,
vertical and horizontal staples 10 and 8 adapt-
ed to pass through slots 16 and 15 when the
bag is closed, and plate 9 attached to one 35
of the terminal tabs to pass through staple
10 and slotted to receive staple 8 and confine
the other terminal tab thereon, the front and
rear portions of the reinforcement being
clamped between the said plates 9 and 14 ex- 40
terior thereto when the bag is closed, substan-
tially as specified.

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

DAVID G. McCLAY. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

ADOLPH BUTZ,
R. J. ANDREWS.