

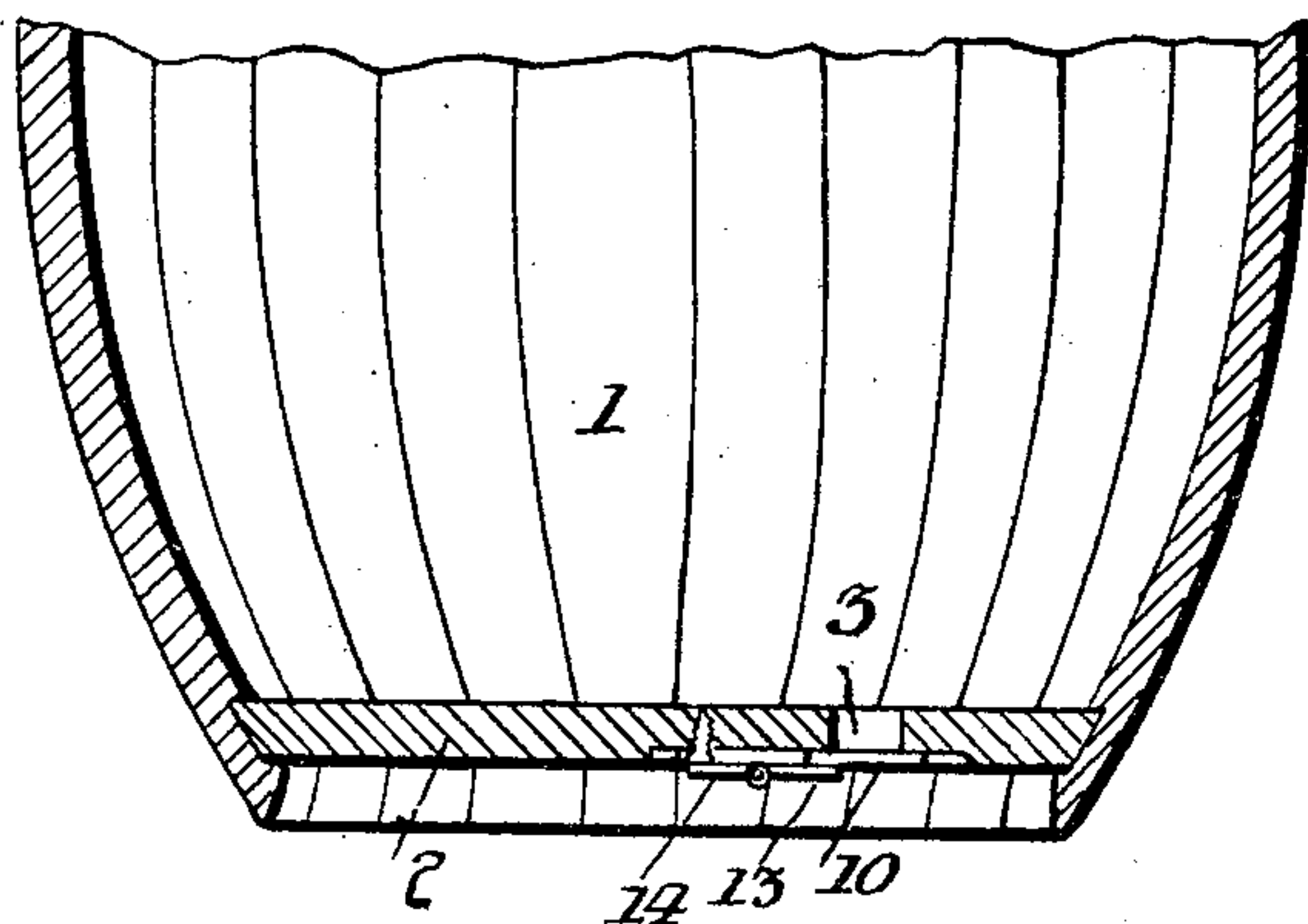
No. 763,172.

PATENTED JUNE 21, 1904.

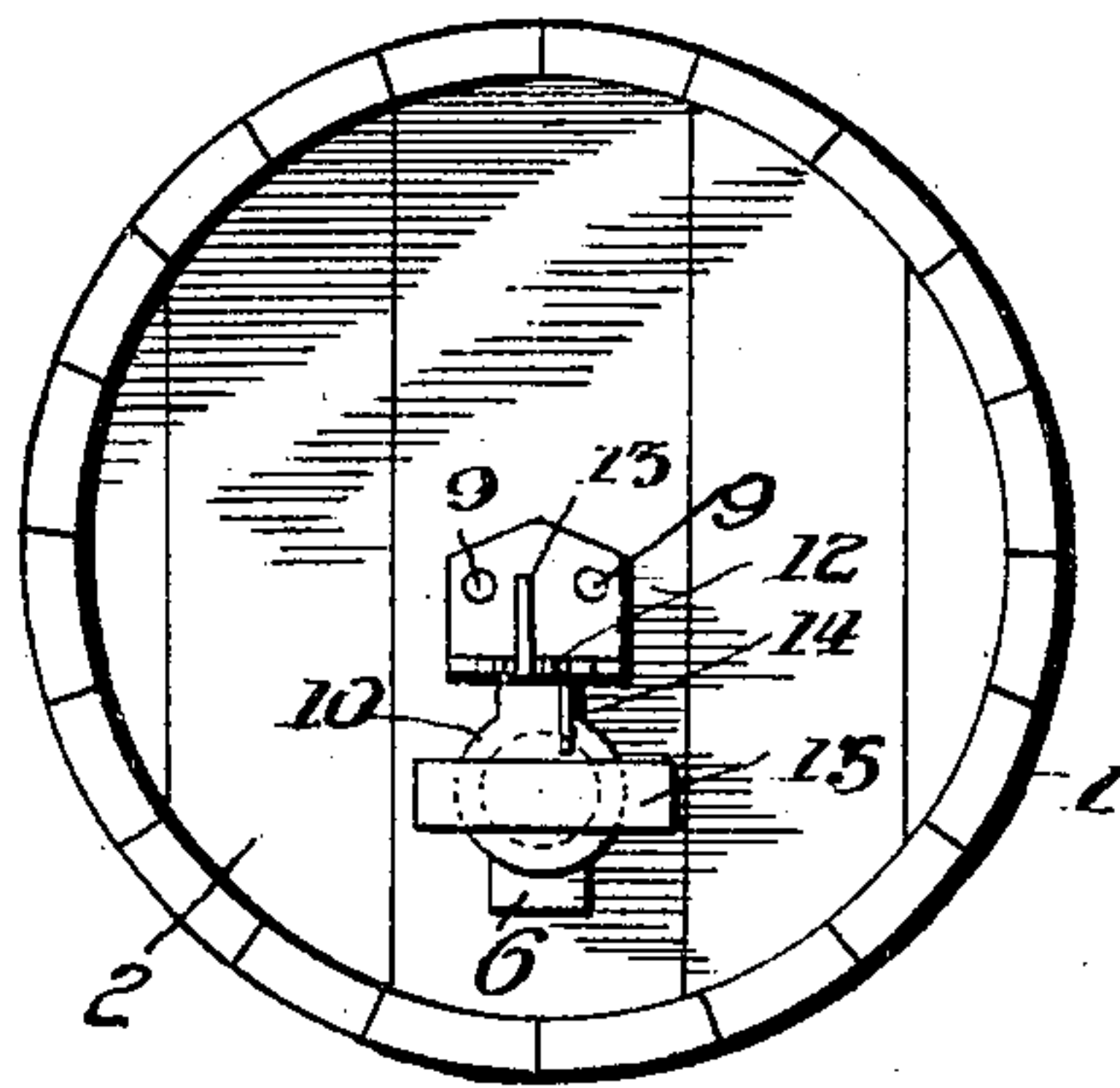
H. L. FLANICK.  
BARREL CLOSER.

APPLICATION FILED MAR 23, 1904.

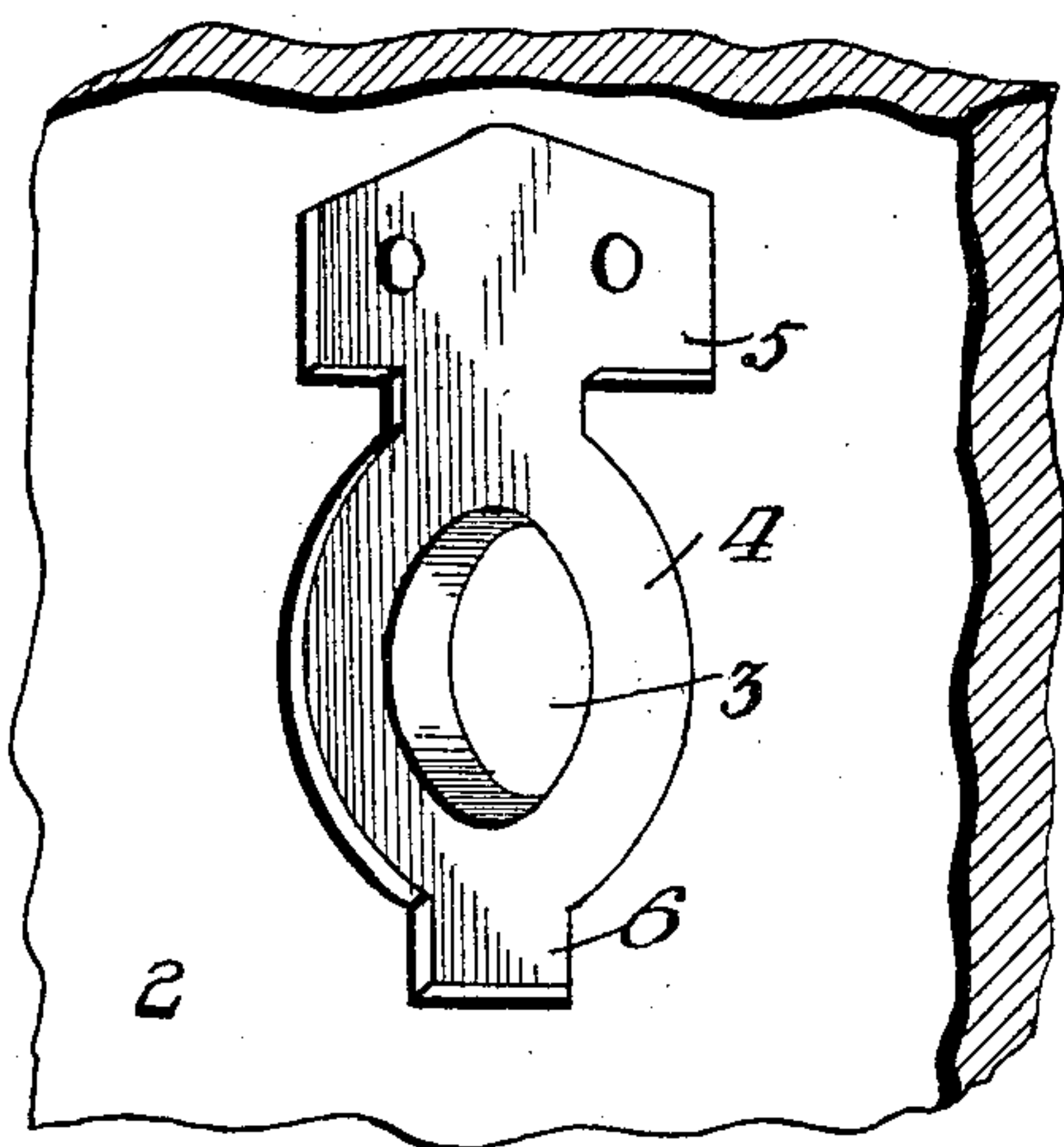
NO MODEL.



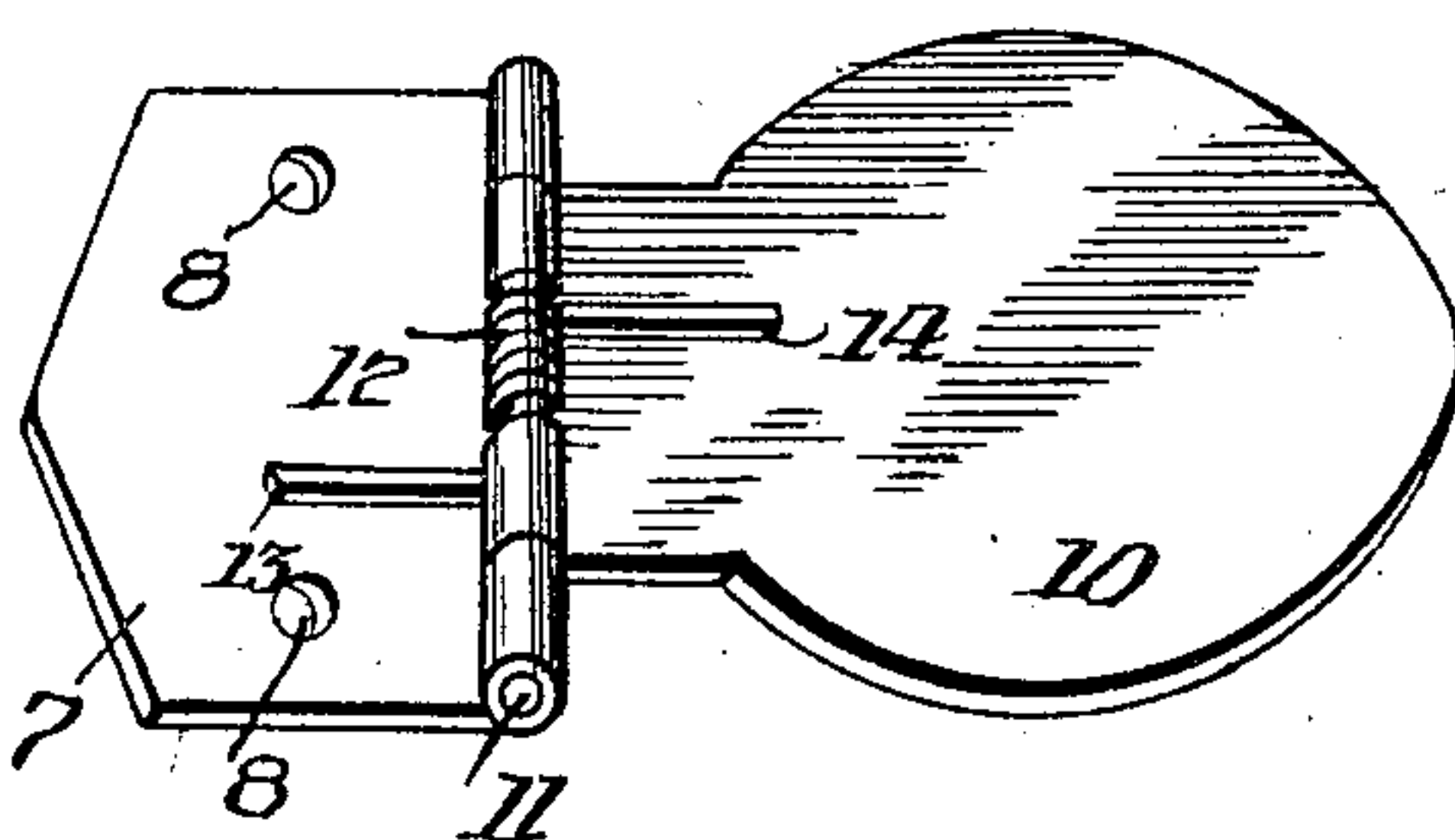
*Fig. 1.*



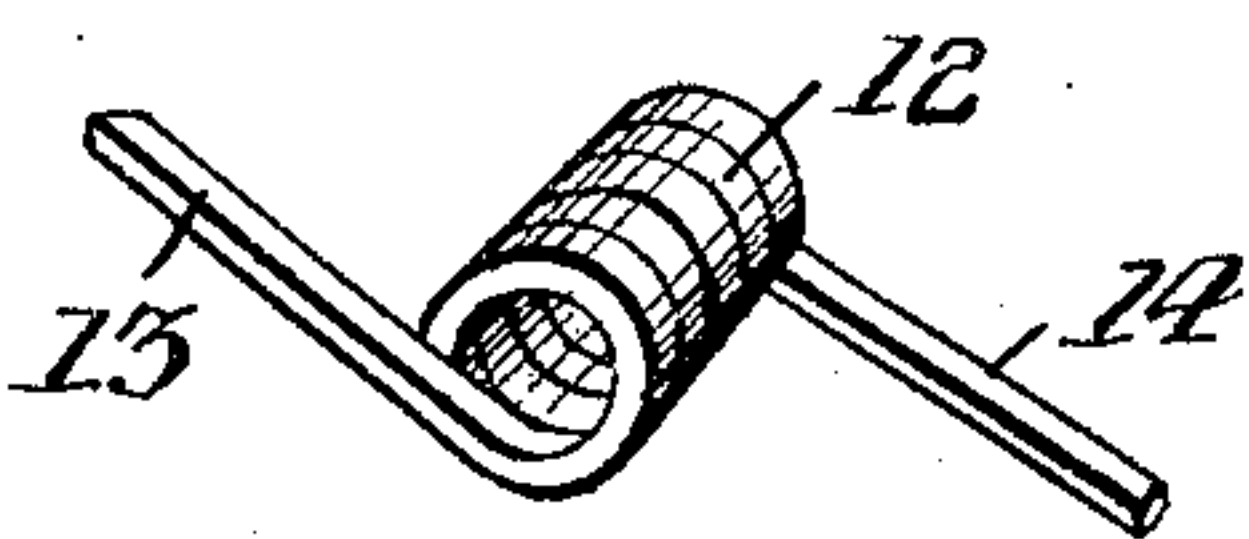
*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 4.*



*Fig. 5.*

Witnesses:  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRY L. FLANICK, OF BURGETTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA.

## BARREL-CLOSER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 763,172, dated June 21, 1904.

Application filed March 23, 1904. Serial No. 199,543. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HARRY L. FLANICK, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Burgettstown, in the county of Washington and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Barrel-Closers, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

10 This invention has relation to vent-closers for barrels, and more particularly to that class of vent-closers which are adapted to be used on the heads of barrels for closing the openings in which the spigot or faucet is placed.

15 The object of this invention is to provide a vent-closer which can be secured adjacent to the opening in the end or head of a barrel and to provide means for normally holding the closer in engagement with the end or head of the barrel over the said opening in order to prevent insects, dirt, or other undesirable objects or substances from entering the barrel.

20 This invention is particularly applicable to barrels which are used to contain spirituous or malt liquors, and my improved vent-closer is so constructed and arranged that when in position over the spigot-hole in the head or end of the barrel a government stamp may be placed on the barrel over the closer, so that the closer cannot be opened without destroying the stamp.

25 In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view of part of a barrel, showing my improved vent-closer in position on the head thereof. Fig. 2 is an end view of the barrel shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a portion of the head of a barrel, showing the spigot-opening and a recess surrounding said opening and adapted to receive my improved closer. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the vent-closer detached from the barrel, and Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a spring by means of which the closer is actuated.

30 In carrying my invention into effect I preferably apply the vent-closer to the spigot-hole, although it may be applied to any other opening in the barrel—as, for instance, to the bung-hole thereof.

35 Heretofore after a barrel has been emptied

it has been customary to leave the spigot-hole unclosed, thus permitting the entrance into the barrel of dirt, insects, and other deleterious objects, necessitating careful washing of the barrel before reuse and in some instances altogether unfitting the barrel for such reuse.

40 A novel feature of my improved vent-closer resides in the fact that the vent-closer and the head of the barrel are so constructed that the government stamp which is used on liquor-barrels may be applied to the spigot-opening over the vent-closer, so that in order to open the vent-closer prior to inserting a spigot in the barrel the stamp will necessarily be destroyed.

45 In the drawings, 1 designates a barrel of the ordinary construction and having a head 2, in which is located the spigot-hole 3, into which the spigot is driven when the barrel is tapped. Adjacent to the opening 3 I cut an annular recess 4, which communicates with a substantially rectangular recess 5 at one side and with a notch 6 at the other side of said opening 3. The closer is composed of a plate 7, shaped to fit the recess 5 and pierced at 8 8 for the passage of screws or nails 9 9, by means of which the plate is held in position in the recess. A door 10 is hinged to the plate 7 by means of a pintle 11, and a spiral spring 12 has two projecting ends 13 14, one of which bears upon plate 7, while the other bears upon the door 10, the spiral portion of the spring surrounding the pintle 11, as shown.

50 In Fig. 2 of the drawings a stamp 15 is shown, which is pasted on the head of the barrel over the door 10, so that the door cannot be opened without destroying the stamp. The notch 6 at the side of the annular recess 4 affords a convenient means of opening the door by means of the finger-nail or by a suitable tool, which can be inserted through the notch and under the edge of the door when it is desired to raise the latter.

55 In operation, the spigot-hole 3 being closed in the usual manner by a cork or plug, when it is desired to tap the barrel the door 10 is raised, this action tearing the stamp, and the door is held open and the spigot driven into the barrel. When the barrel has been emptied, the spigot is removed and the door 10

will close automatically and will prevent the entrance of insects or dirt through the spigot-hole.

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

In a vent-closer, the combination with the barrel-head having an opening and provided with a recess surrounding the opening and  
10 communicating with recesses 5, 6, provided in the barrel-head at opposite sides of the first-mentioned recess, of a closure comprising a plate shaped to fit in the recess 5 and lie flush with the outer face of the barrel-head, means

for securing said plate in said recess, a door 15 hinged to said plate and shaped to fit in the recess surrounding the opening in the head, and sealing said opening when in alinement with said plate, and a spring exerting its tension against the door to hold the same closed 20 over the opening in the head when said opening is unobstructed, substantially as described.

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

HARRY L. FLANICK.

Witnesses:

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D. M. PRY.