

No. 780,796.

PATENTED JAN. 24, 1905.

A. HINES & R. B. FORNEY.

ROUTING BOARD.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 20, 1904.

Fig. 1.

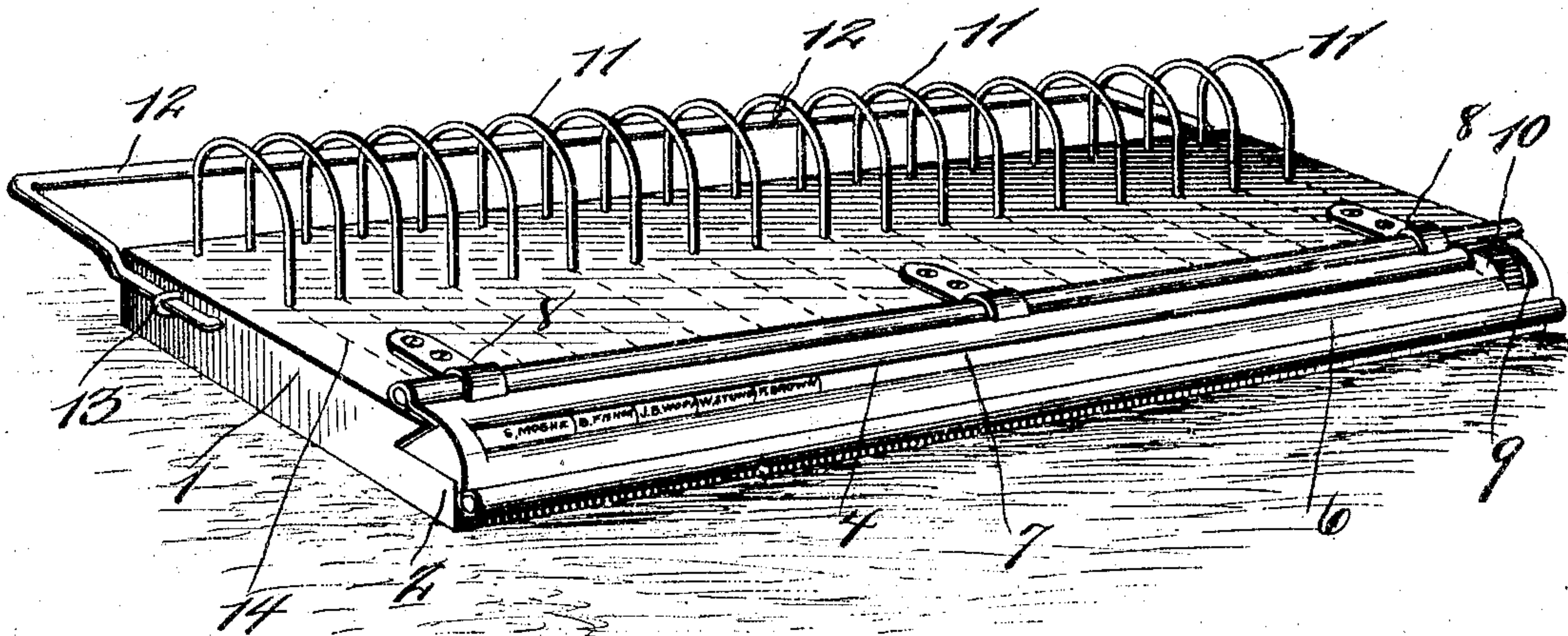


Fig. 2.

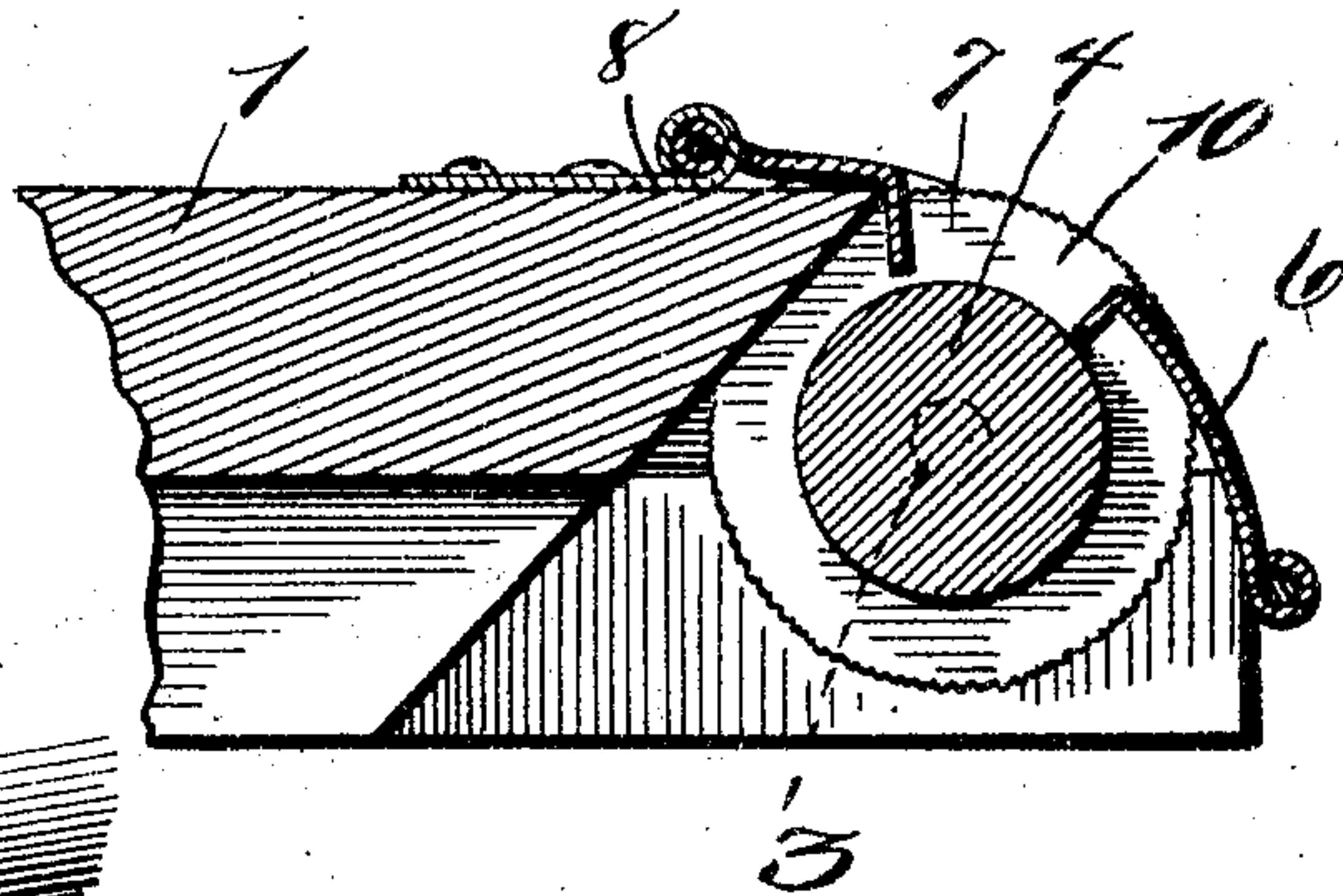
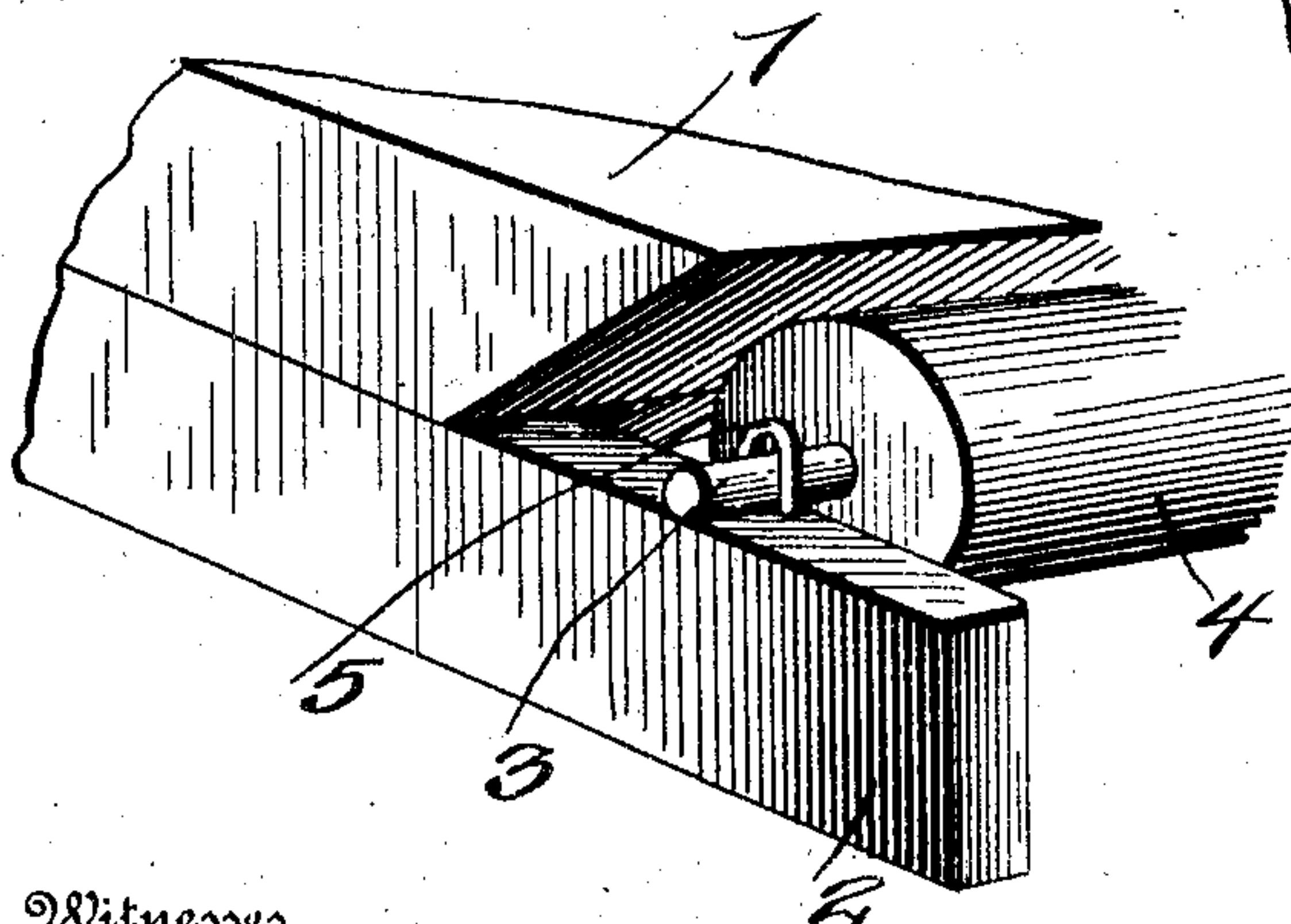


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALONZO HINES AND RALPH B. FORNEY, OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO.

## ROUTING-BOARD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 780,796, dated January 24, 1905.

Application filed July 20, 1904. Serial No. 217,431.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, ALONZO HINES and RALPH B. FORNEY, citizens of the United States, residing at New Philadelphia, in the county of Tuscarawas and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Routing-Boards; and we do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

Our invention relates to what is commonly designated a "routing-board" or a rack for facilitating the assortment of mail-matter; and our invention consists of certain novel features of construction and combination of parts, the preferred form whereof will be hereinafter clearly set forth, and pointed out in the claim.

The main object of our invention, among others, is to provide a convenient form of routing-board whereby mail-matter may be readily classified for the individuals living upon the mail-route, and thus prevent the mail-carrier from making a mistake while delivering the mail to the parties for whom it is intended.

Other objects and advantages will be hereinafter made clearly apparent, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which are made a part of this application, and in which—

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of our invention complete ready for use. Fig. 2 is a detail sectional view of the name-carrying roller and protecting-shield therefor, while Fig. 3 is a perspective detail view showing one of the many ways of mounting the end of the name-carrying roller.

In carrying out our invention it may be stated that we provide a plate or body portion having upon one edge a movable member, preferably a roller, upon which may be printed or pasted the names of parties living upon certain mail-routes or upon streets, said plate also having devices to hold the letters and other mail-matter in a separated or classified position, all of which will be designated specifically by reference-numerals, the same numeral referring to a similar part throughout the several views.

Referring in detail to the various parts of

our invention and cooperating accessories, 1 designates the body portion or routing-board proper, upon the forward edge of which we provide suitable extensions or brackets 2, and upon said brackets we rotatably mount the journals 3 provided for each end of the name-carrying roller 4, said journal being held in position in any preferred way, as by a staple 5 or the equivalent thereof, as a hole bored through the bracket 2, all of which will be obvious. We also provide for the forward edge of the routing board or plate 1 a shield or guard 6, having a longitudinal slot 7 throughout almost its entire length and through which slot a portion of the name-carrying roller is rendered visible. The shield or guard section 6 is hinged to the routing-plate or body portion 1, preferably at its upper edge, as designated by the numeral 8, whereby the lower edge of the shield may be readily thrown up to provide easy access to the name-carrying roller. We also provide in one end of the shield or guard a transversely-disposed slotted opening 9, through which the peripheral milled edge of the controlling-wheel 10 extends, said controlling-wheel being attached to one end of the name-carrying roller 4, whereby said roller may be readily controlled, as by the finger or thumb of the operator.

Upon the rear edge of the body portion or routing-board 1 we provide a plurality of mail-separating devices, consisting in this instance of a series of staple-like members 11, placed any suitable distance apart, and said members are for the purpose of receiving between them such mail-matter as may belong to some specified individual whose name is upon the opposite part of the name-carrying roller 4. We also provide for the rear edge of our routing-board an extension, which in this instance consists of a bracket 12, formed of a suitable piece of wire, the ends of which are bent at right angles and are secured to the ends of the routing-board in any preferred way, as by entering a portion of said extensions into holes provided to receive them, said extensions being additionally secured and held in place by the anchoring-staple 13 or other equivalent means, the office of said rod or bracket being to support the extended ends of newspapers



or large letters, thereby obviating the necessity of making the plate or routing-board proper, 1, of greater width.

5 The name-carrying roller has the capacity of providing a seat for the large number of names, and said names represent the people living upon certain specified routes which indicate the territory covered by the mail-carrier.

10 Inasmuch as the general description above presented will render the use of our invention readily comprehensible, it is deemed unnecessary to dwell further upon the manner of using our appliance, though it may be  
15 stated that there may be a plurality of rows of names, each row representing the names of persons living upon one of the mail routes or section of the mail-route covered by the carrier. We will suppose that the first name  
20 upon the end of the roller which will be found directly opposite the first pair of staples 11 is that of John Smith, and therefore all mail-matter intended for him will be placed in the first two staples. We have indicated by dotted  
25 lines 14 that the corresponding space on the roller 24 is to be occupied by the name of an individual, so that the carrier will not be confused, as might be the case if said names overlap said space. It therefore becomes an  
30 easy matter for the carrier to prepare his bundle of mail-matter in proper form before he starts upon the work of delivering such matter to the owners. The work of the carrier, therefore, preliminary to starting out  
35 upon his route will be to take up the mass of mail-matter placed upon the table in front of the routing-board or other convenient point and intended for a certain specified route or a section of a route, when he will turn the

name-carrying roller so as to bring the names 40 of the persons on said route into view and dispose each letter or paper between the proper racks or staples, which staples will be, as above stated, directly opposite the name of the addressee. 45

The various parts of our invention may be cheaply manufactured of any preferred material and any desired size, and while we have described the preferred combination and construction of parts we desire to comprehend in 50 this application all substantial equivalents and substitutes fairly falling within the scope of our invention.

Having thus fully described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by 55 Letters Patent, is—

The herein-described classification or routing board for mail-carriers comprising the body portion proper or plate 1; a plurality of mail-separating devices upon its edge and an 60 extending bracket also carried by said edge; a name-carrying roller suitably mounted in the forward edge of said plate or body portion; a shield or cover fitting over said roller and having a longitudinal slotted opening; a 65 controlling-wheel for said roller protruding through an opening in said shield whereby the roller may be rotated in either direction, all combined substantially as specified and for the purpose set forth. 70

In testimony whereof we have signed our names to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ALONZO HINES.

RALPH B. FORNEY.

Witnesses:

P. S. OLMSTEAD,  
JOHN B. ROSER.