

No. 790,006.

PATENTED MAY 16, 1905.

A. M. & C. L. SOUTHARD.

CAN OPENER.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 30, 1904.

Fig. 1.

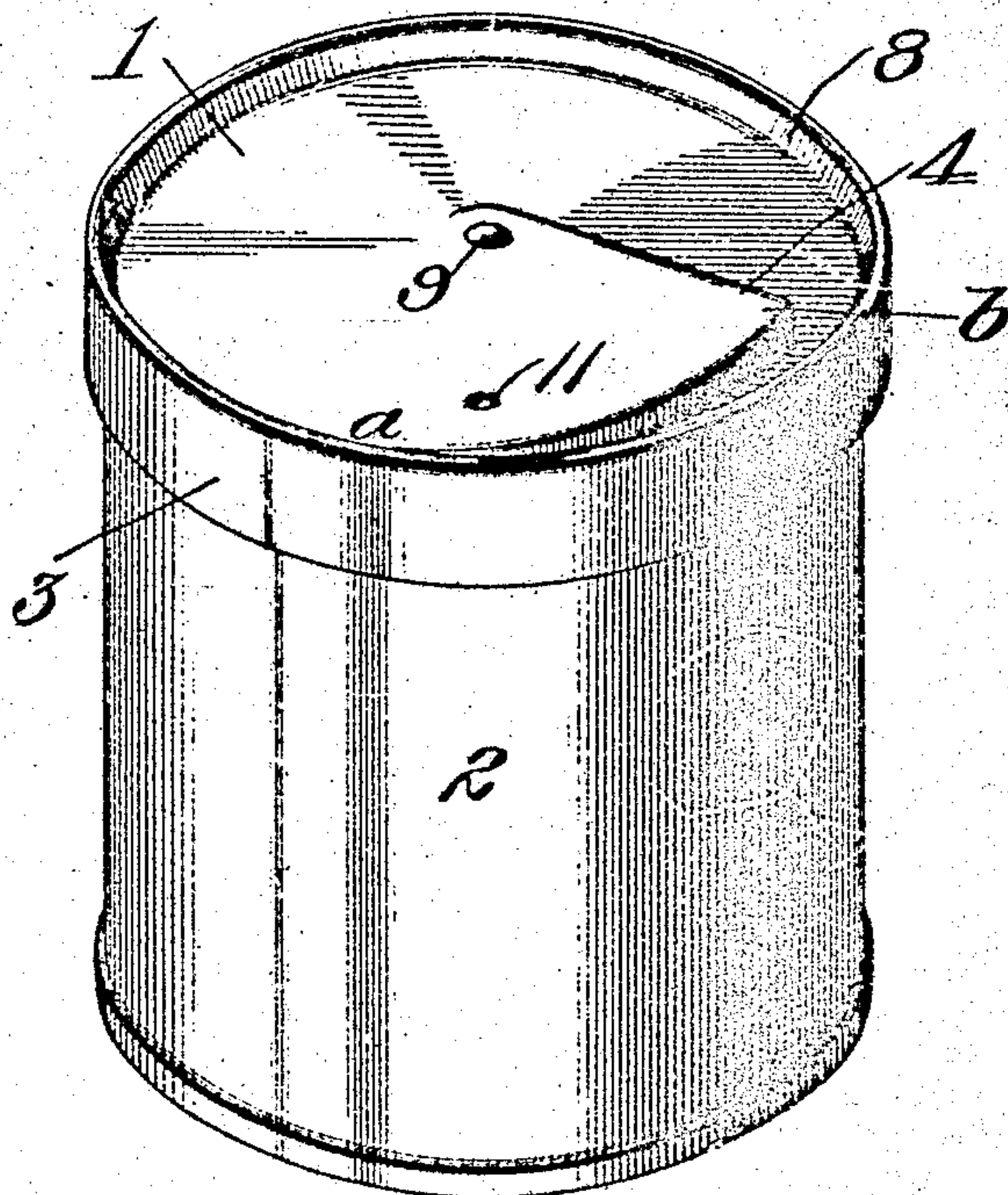


Fig. 2.

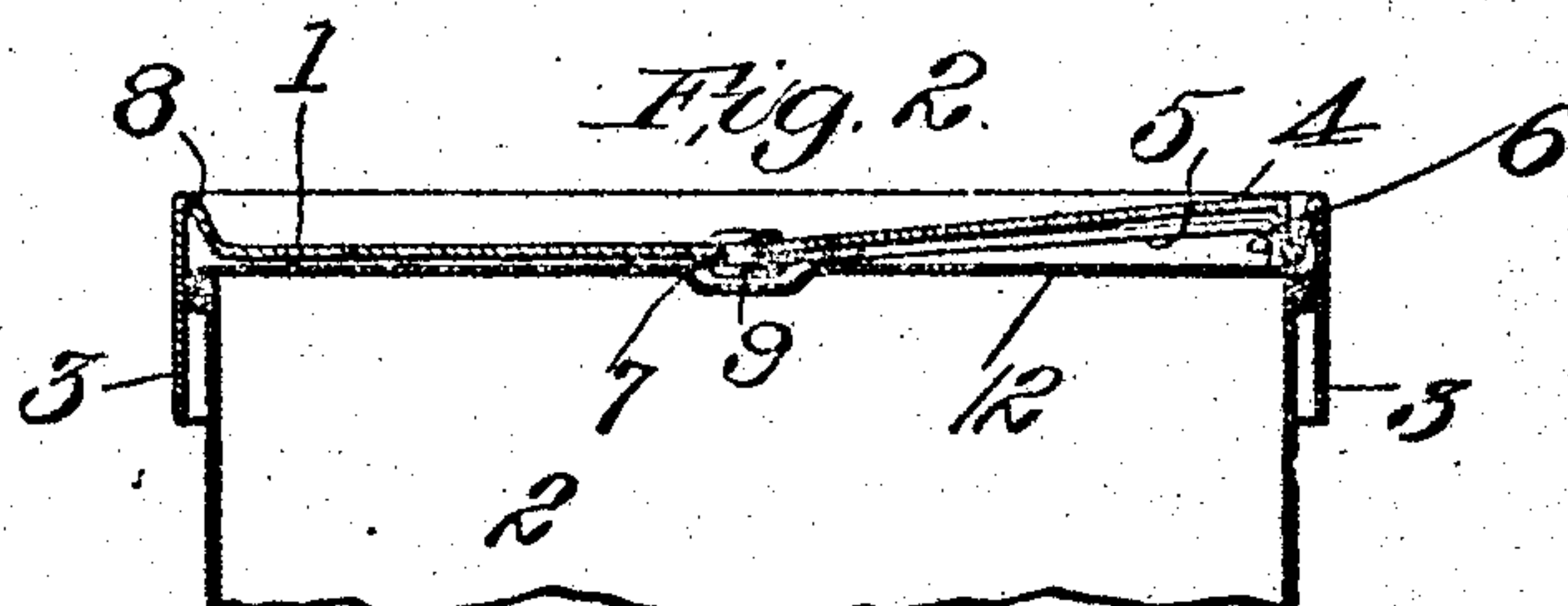


Fig. 3.

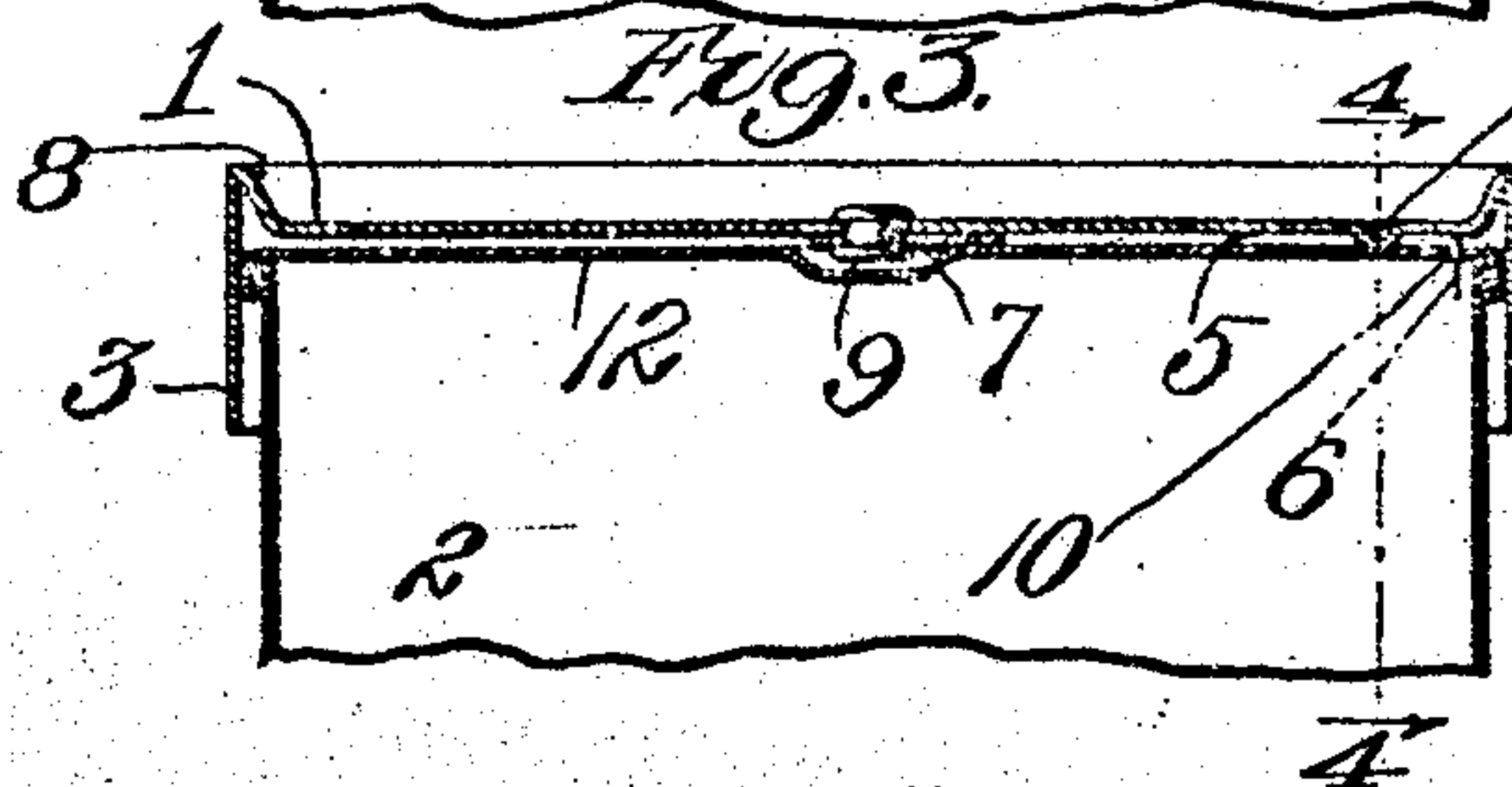


Fig. 4.

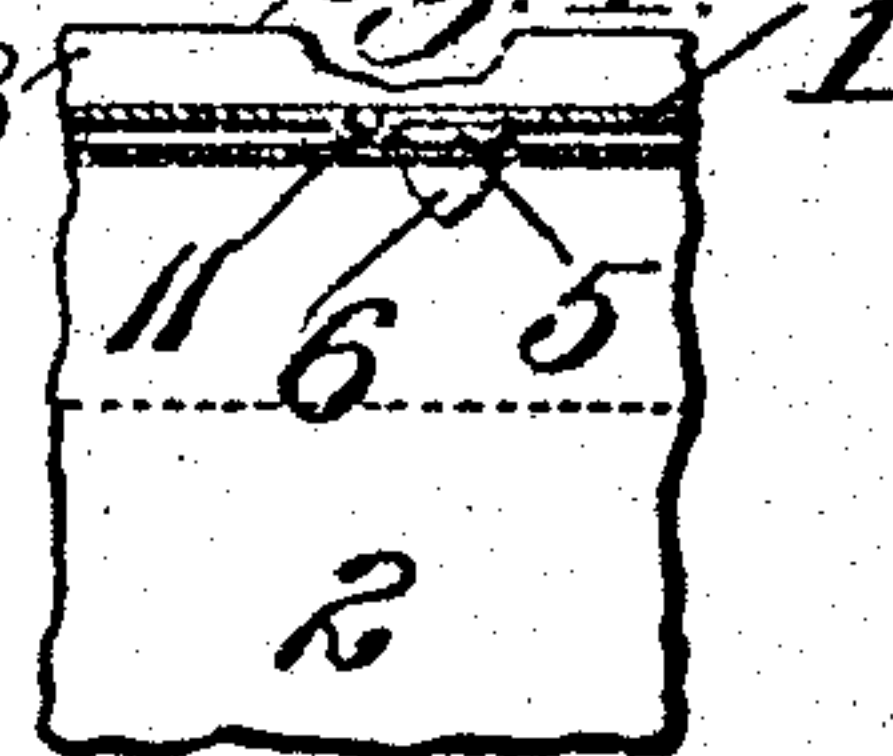
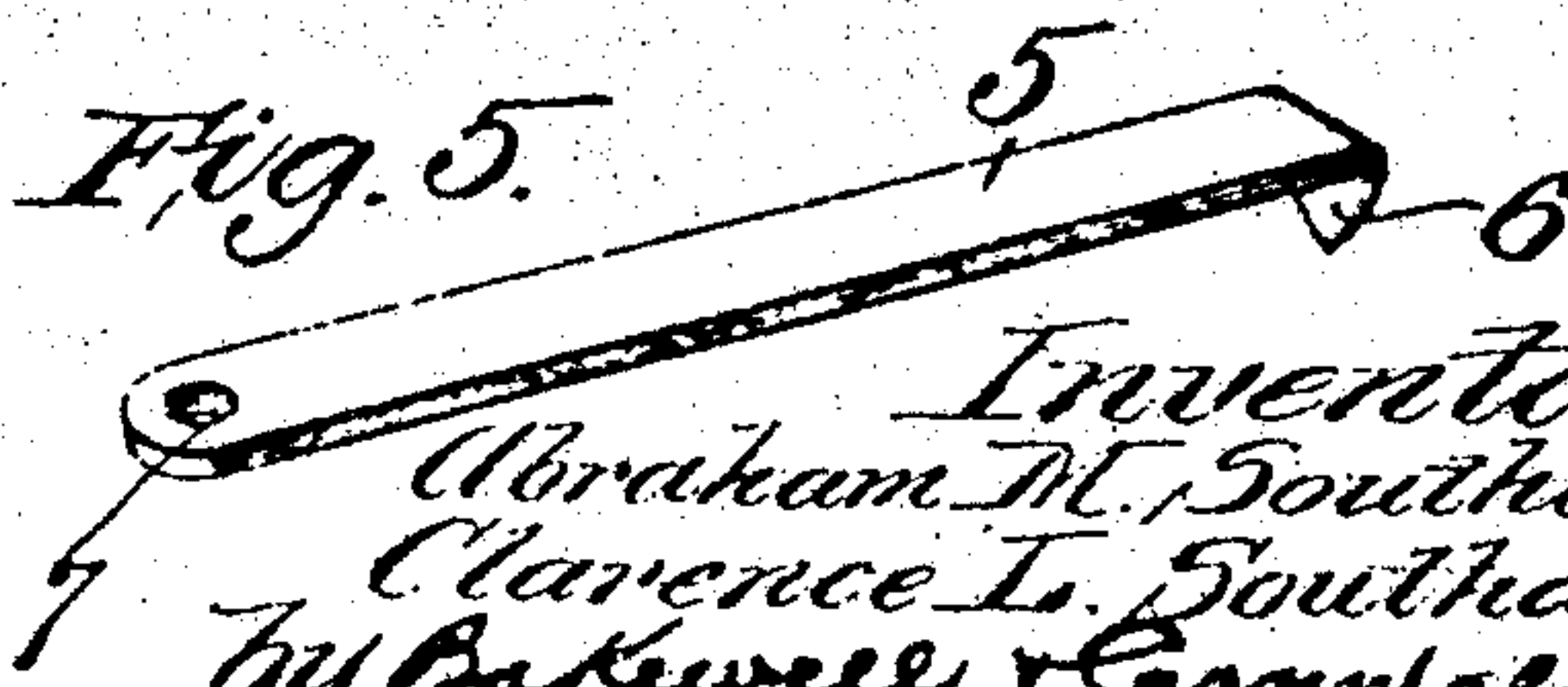


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CAN-OPENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 790,006, dated May 16, 1905.

Application filed September 30, 1904. Serial No. 226,671.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, ABRAHAM M. SOUTHARD and CLARENCE L. SOUTHARD, citizens of the United States, residing at Denver, Denver county, Colorado, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Can-Openers, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a can, showing our invention applied. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view through the invention at the greatest depth of the offset. Fig. 3 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view through the invention at the shallowest depth of the offset. Fig. 4 is a sectional view on the line 4-4 of Fig. 3, and Fig. 5 is a view illustrating in detached detail the cutting-blade.

This invention relates to can-openers, one of the objects thereof being to provide a can-opener which may be attached to cans, so that a convenient means will be at hand for opening the same.

Another object is to provide a rotating support for the cutting-blade, which may be placed upon the end of the can, and by properly positioning the cutting-blade and rotating the support the cutting edge of the cutting-blade will be caused to remove a portion of or the entire can-top.

A further object is to provide means whereby the cutting edge of the blade will not accidentally puncture the can-top.

Other objects and advantages, as well as the novel details of construction, of this invention will be specifically described hereinafter, it being understood that changes in the form, proportion, and minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages thereof.

The preferred form of the can-opener is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

1 indicates a cover adapted to be placed over a can of the proper size, which can is designated by the numeral 2, the cover being provided with a flange 3 for this purpose. The flange 3 is formed with an outwardly-projecting bead 8, which is of approximately the same height as the depth of the offset 4, which forms a recess or pocket for the reception of the spring-blade 5. The pocket formed by the offset is illustrated as being segmental in form—that is, it extends from the point designated as *a* to the point designated as *b*—said pocket gradually increasing in depth from the point *a* to the point *b*, so as to house the spring-blade 5 on the under side of the cover. The pocket formed by the offset may be pressed into shape, and on account of its peculiar construction—*i. e.*, being of gradually-increasing depths—the spring-blade 5 will be in a position to contact with the wall of said pocket at any intermediate adjustment between the points 11 and *b*. Another advantage is that in moving the blade 5 down to the stop 11 the blade will be automatically forced into proper cutting position and it will not be necessary to spring it out of a recess against the face of the cover. As soon as the blade is moved away from the stop 11 it will begin to recede into the deeper portion of the recess, so as not to be operative against the top of the can upon which the cover is placed. One end of the cutting-blade is illustrated as being bent and provided with a sharpened edge, as at 6. The opposite end is provided with a circular opening 7. A similar opening is provided in the cover, which registers with the opening 7 in the blade, which opening in the cover is centrally located and receives a rivet 9, which passes through both the opening in the cover and the opening in the blade to secure the blade to the cover.

11 designates a projection which is formed in the cover by depressing a part of the metal in the top thereof, and this projection 11 provides a stop for the blade 5, against which the blade rests when in its operative position. In actual practice it is intended to construct this blade of spring metal, and the inherent yield-

ing tendency thereof will cause it to spring into the deepest portion of the recess formed by the offset 4 as the blade is moved away from the stop 11.

5 When it is desired to open the can, the cover 1 may be removed from the can 2 and the blade 5 may be moved on its pivot until it rests against the stop 11. The cover may then be replaced upon the top of the can, and
10 by pressing upon the cover at a point immediately above the cutting-blade and at the same time rotating the cover the cutting edge or point 6 will pierce the top of the can, as indicated at 10 in Fig. 3, so that the rotation of
15 the cover will cause an arcuate slit to be cut in the can-top or a complete revolution of the cover will cause the entire top to be cut out.

By providing the bead 8 on the cover 1 of
20 the same height as the offset 4 the cans may be readily packed one upon the other for transportation without the liability of having their tops accidentally punctured by the points 6.

25 By reference to Figs. 2 and 3 it will be observed that the rivet is provided with flat heads, so that the opening in the cover through which the rivet projects practically forms a seal to exclude the outside atmosphere when
30 the cover is in place, thereby preserving the contents of the can.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new, and desired to be secured by Letters Patent, is—

35 1. A loose, rotatable cover for cans having an offset provided with an inclined wall forming a recess increasing in depth from the plane of the top of the cover, and a cutter movable along the inclined surface of said recess from
40 an inoperative to an operative position; substantially as described.

2. A can-opener comprising a loosely-rotatable cover having an offset of gradually-increasing depth, a swinging cutter carried within the recess, and means for limiting the
45 swinging movement of the cutter; substantially as described.

3. A can-opener comprising a rotatable cover having an offset of gradually-increasing depth, a cutting-blade, a rivet for securing
50 the cutting-blade to the cover and within the offset, and means for limiting the swinging movement of the cutting-blade; substantially as described.

4. A can-opener comprising a rotatable
55 cover having a peripherally-arranged flange with an outstanding bead, an offset in the cover of gradually-increasing depth, the deepest portion of the offset being not in excess of the depth of the bead, a cutter within the
60 recess formed by said offset and having a swinging movement; substantially as described.

5. A can-opener comprising a rotatable
65 cover having a peripherally-arranged flange with an outstanding bead, an offset in the cover of gradually-increasing depth, the deepest portion of the offset being not in excess of the depth of the bead, a cutter within the
70 recess formed by said offset and having a swinging movement, and a depression in the top of the cover comprising a stop for limiting the swinging movement of the cutter; substantially as described.

In testimony whereof we hereunto affix our
75 signatures, in the presence of two witnesses, this 23d day of September, 1904.

ABRAHAM M. SOUTHARD.
CLARENCE L. SOUTHARD.

Witnesses:

E. E. MCGINTIE,
O. A. WHITEMORE.