

No. 810,790.

PATENTED JAN. 23, 1906.

W. W. McCOLLUM.

BALLOTING BOX.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 24, 1905.

Fig. 1.

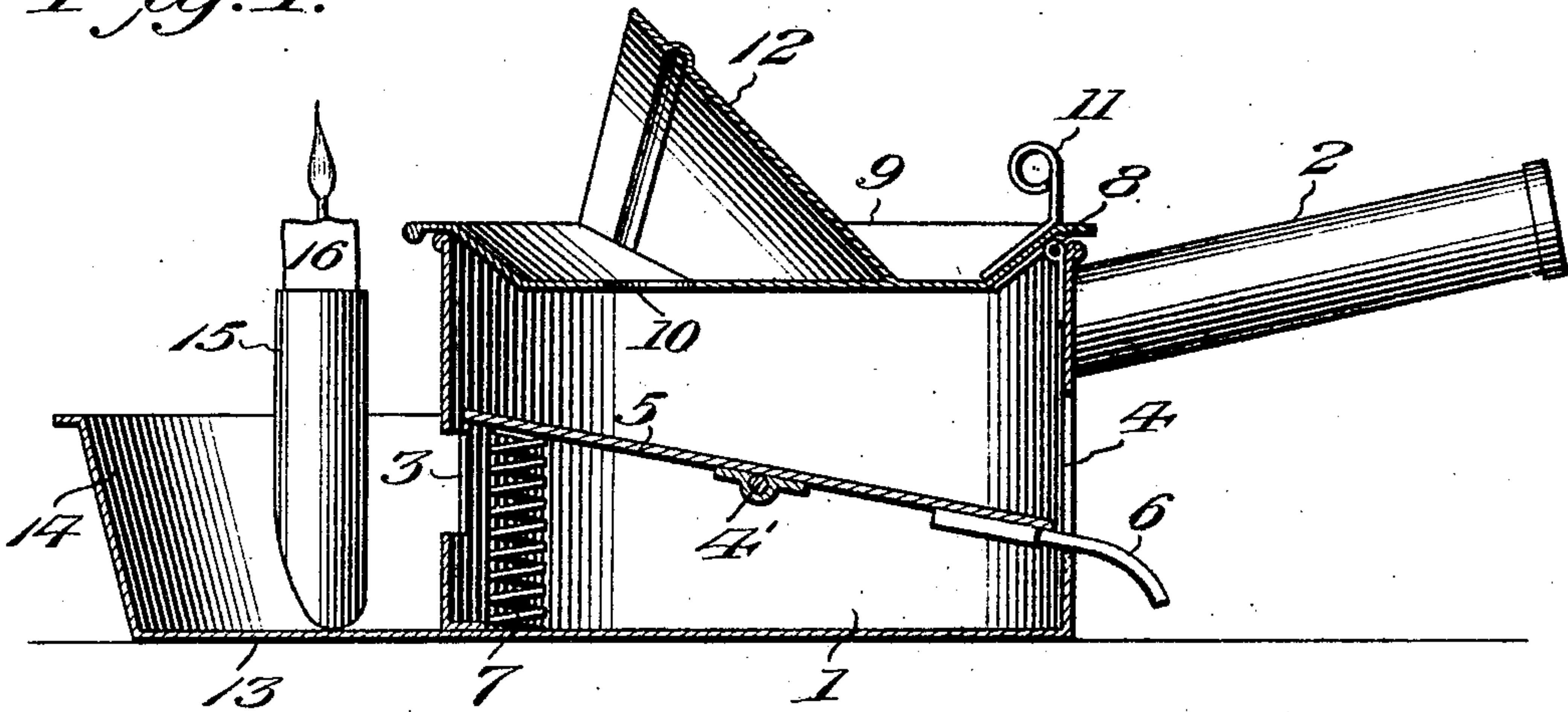


Fig. 2.

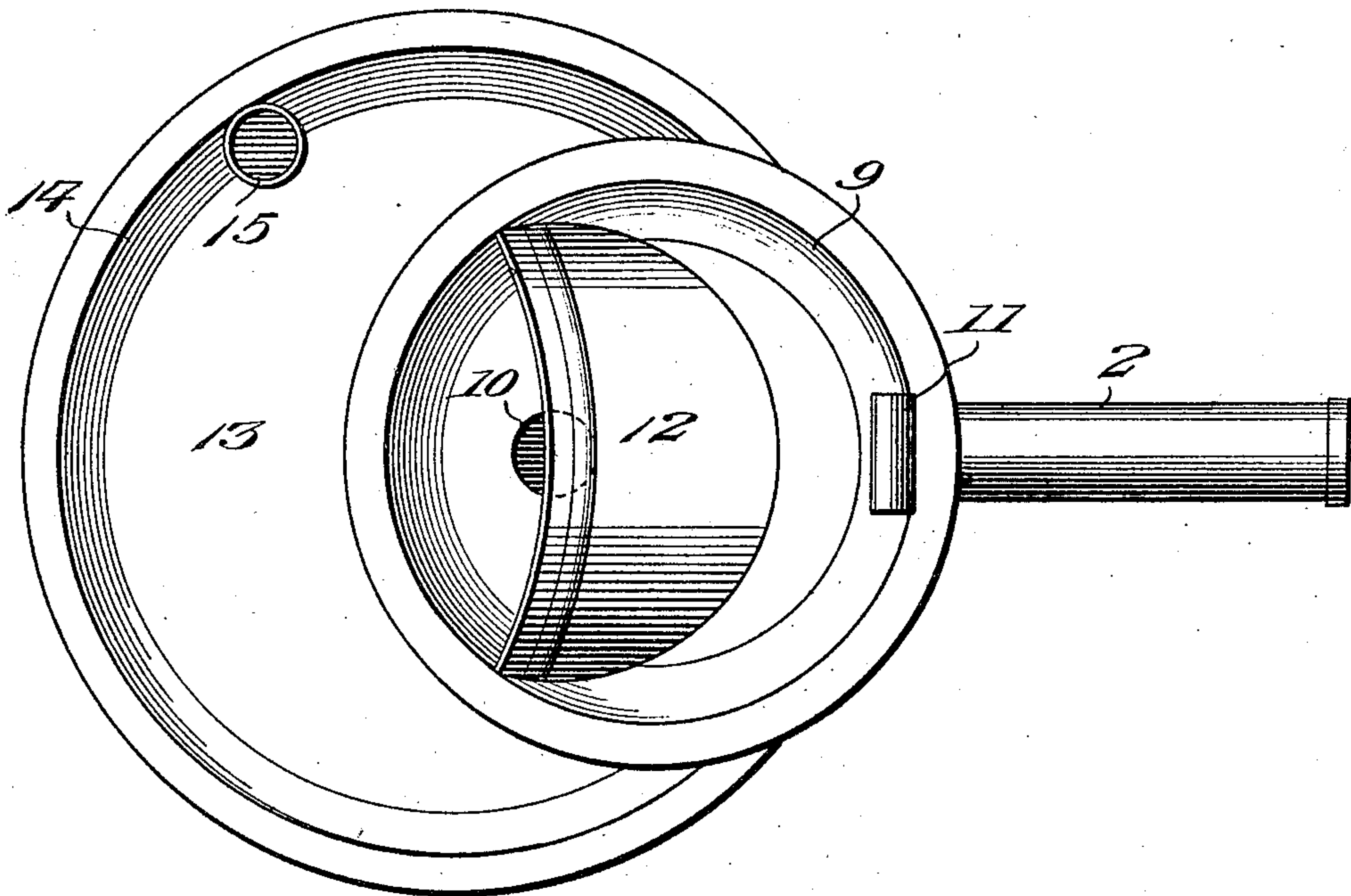
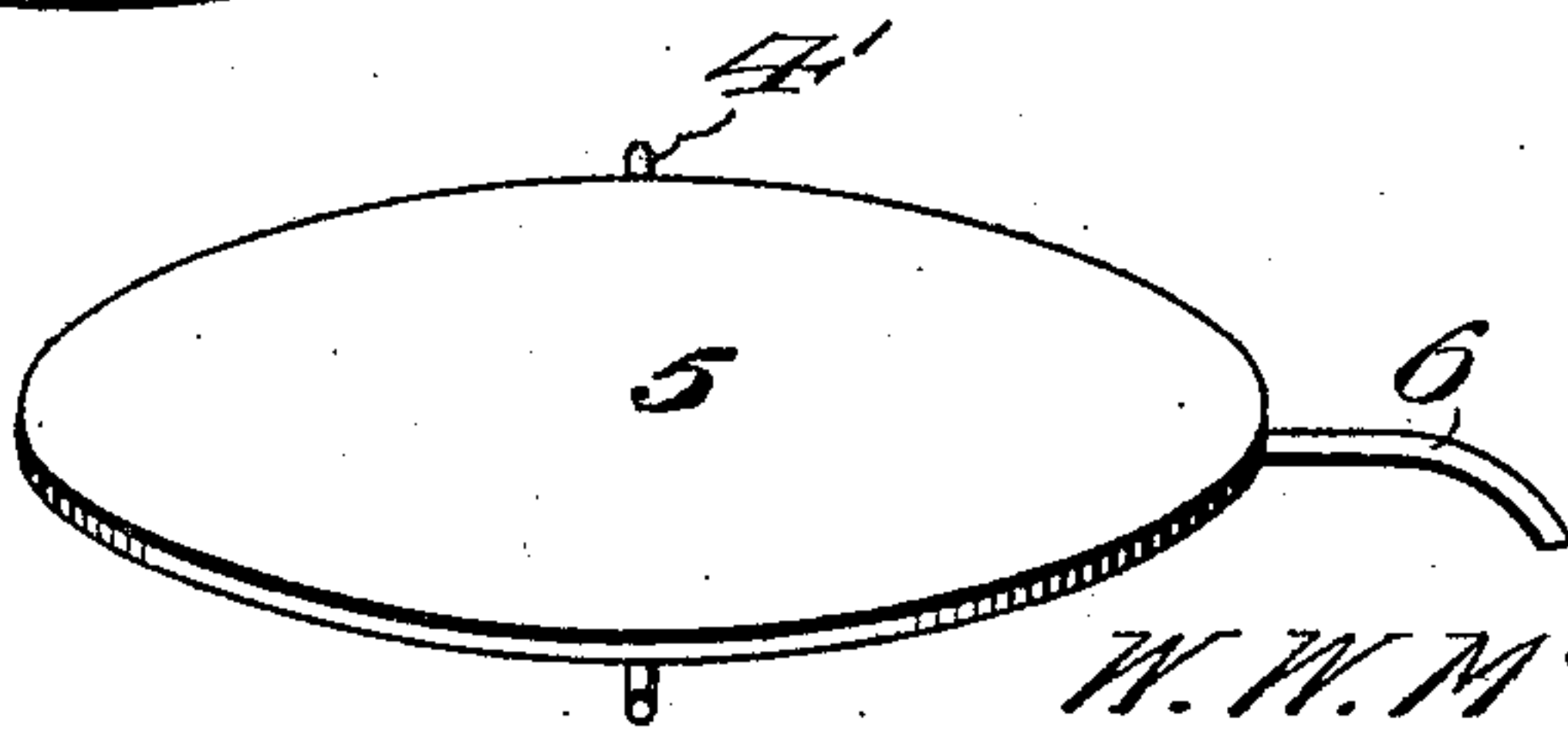


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM W. McCOLLUM, OF BRIERFIELD, ALABAMA.

BALLOTING-BOX.

No. 810,790.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 23, 1906.

Application filed October 24, 1905. Serial No. 284,191.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM W. McCOLLUM, a citizen of the United States, residing at Brierfield, in the county of Bibb and State of Alabama, have invented new and useful Improvements in Balloting-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to balloting-boxes designed especially for the use of secret organizations, and has for its objects to produce a comparatively simple inexpensive device whereby the balloting may be readily and secretly conducted, one in which the balloting members or balls will after being deposited in the box be concealed from view until the entire ballot has been cast, and one wherein the cast ballots may be conveniently inspected within the box and thereafter discharged from the latter.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of this character with a simple and efficient form of holder to receive a candle or lamp to facilitate selection of the balloting members and one whereby light will be afforded for inspection of the ballot after the same has been cast.

With these and other objects in view the invention comprises the novel features of construction and combination of parts more fully hereinafter described.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a vertical transverse section from front to rear centrally through a balloting-box embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the same. Fig. 3 is a detail perspective view of the pivoted leaf or partition.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates a box or receptacle preferably composed of sheet metal and of circular form, said box, which is equipped with a rearwardly-projecting handle 2, being provided in its front wall with a discharge-opening 3 and in its rear wall with a vertical opening or slot 4, disposed beneath the handle 2, while pivotally sustained within the box by means of a horizontal pintle or axle 4' is a circular disk-like cut-off member or valve 5 in the form of a leaf or partition provided with a rearwardly-projecting finger-piece 6, extended outward through the opening 4 beneath the handle 2 and resting at a point diametrically opposite the finger-piece upon the normally expanded spring 7 to serve to maintain the valve in normal rearwardly-inclined position, with its front edge disposed in a plane above the open-

ing 3 for cutting off communication through the latter.

Hinged, as at 8, to the box 1 is a concaved lid or cover 9, provided with an inlet-opening 10 and having an upstanding projection or thumb-piece 11 disposed over the hinge 8 and in a plane above and in line with the handle 2, there being attached to the cover 9 a hood or shield 12, preferably of the form shown and adapted to project above the inlet-opening 10, while provided on the box 1 and at its lower end is a forwardly-extending apron 13, having an upstanding marginal flange 14 and constituting a receptacle for the balloting members or balls when discharged from the box, there being secured on the apron and preferably at one side thereof a tubular holder 15, designed to receive a candle or other illuminating element 16.

In practice the balloting members or balls are initially placed in the receptacle 13, and after proper inspection of the interior of the box with the lid 9 raised the lid is closed, and the voters each select a ball and deposit it through the opening 10 into the box, within which it will be received upon the valve or leaf 5. In the act of depositing a ball in the box the hand of the voter is introduced beneath the hood 12, and thus concealed from view, whereby observation of the ballot selected and cast by an individual voter is prevented and the voting rendered secret, it being understood, of course, that the cover 9 remains closed until all of the ballots have been cast. After the full number of ballots have been deposited in the box they may be duly inspected by the proper officers by raising the lid 9 and thereafter discharged from the box into the receptacle 13 through the opening 3 by engaging the finger-piece 6 and lifting the rear end of the valve 5 until its forward end moves to a position beneath the opening 3, under which conditions the valve will stand in a downwardly and forwardly inclined position with the spring 7 compressed, it being apparent that as soon as the finger-piece 6 is released the valve will be automatically returned to normal position under the action of the spring.

It is to be especially noted that the cover 9 may be readily raised by placing the thumb of the hand which grasps the handle 2 upon the projection 11 and the valve 5 simultaneously manipulated by the index-finger of the hand which holds the handle.

The candle or lamp 16 affords sufficient light for properly selecting the ballots during the voting operation and throws a sufficient light through the opening 10 into the interior of the box to enable the voter after casting his ballot to inspect the same and be assured that the ballot is correct.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new is—

- 10 1. In a device of the class described, a box provided with a discharge-opening, a movable cover for the box having an inlet-opening, a hood arranged on the cover over said opening, a valve pivoted in the box and
15 adapted to normally lie in a rearwardly-inclined position and to close the discharge-opening, and means for moving the valve to open the discharge-opening and permit automatic discharge of the contents of the box.
- 20 2. In a device of the class described, a box having a discharge-opening, a movable cover for the box provided with an inlet-opening, a hood arranged over the inlet-opening, a valve pivoted in the box to swing in a vertical plane
25 and provided with a finger-piece projecting to the outside of the box, and a spring dis-

posed beneath the forward portion of the valve and adapted to maintain the same normally in a rearwardly-inclined position with its front edge disposed above the discharge-opening. 30

3. In a device of the class described, a balloting-box having a cover and provided with an inlet and a discharge opening, a hood arranged over the inlet-opening, a valve pivoted
35 in the box and adapted to receive balloting members introduced into the latter, said valve having a finger-piece projecting outside of the box, a spring acting on the valve to maintain the same normally in rear-
40 wardly-inclined position with its edge at one side of its pivotal axis disposed in a plane above the discharge-opening, and a receptacle designed to receive the balloting members when discharged from the box. 45

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

WILLIAM W. McCOLLUM.

Witnesses:

HERMAN PFAFF,
WILLIAM FARQUHAR.