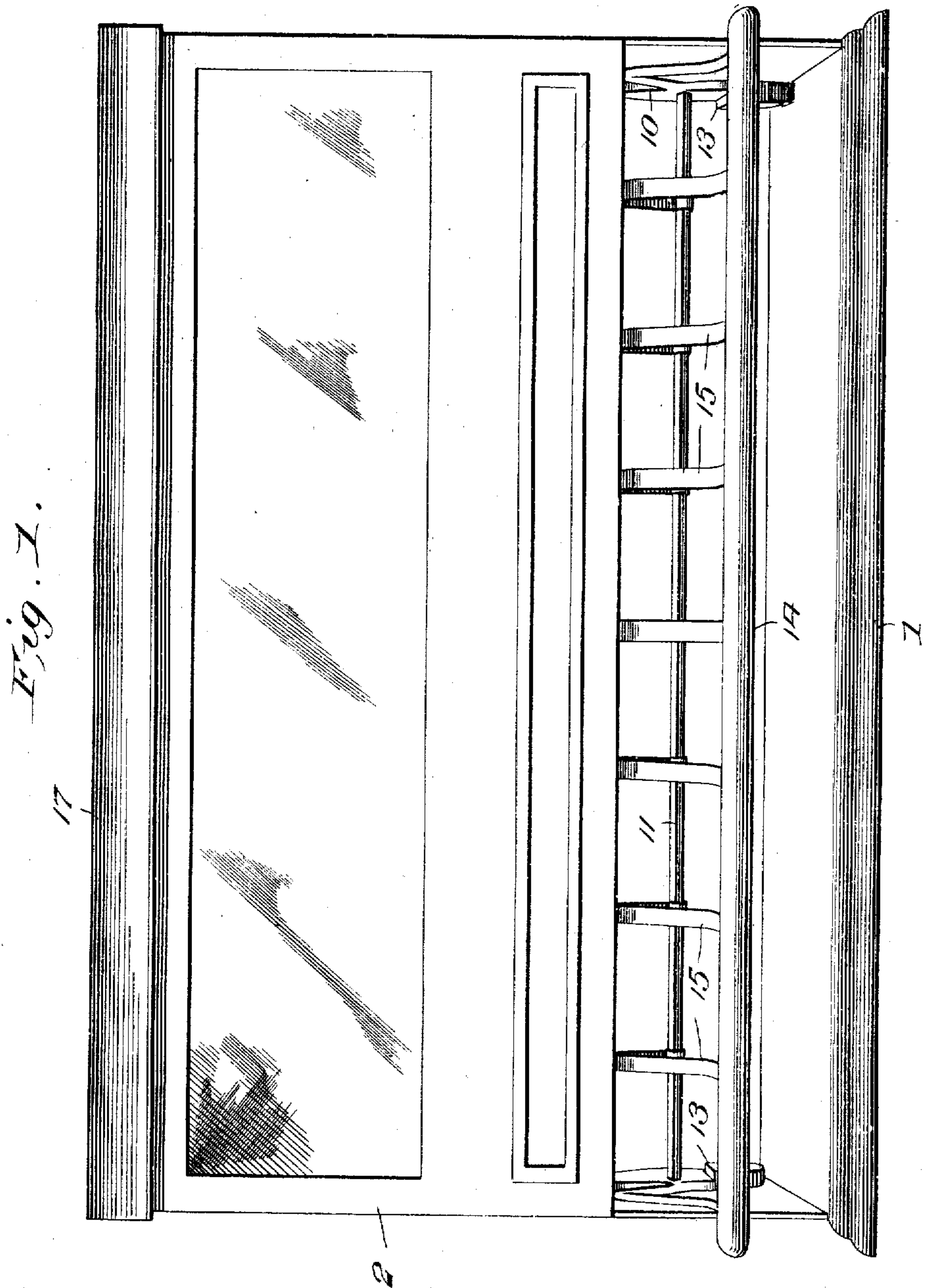


No. 844,381.

PATENTED FEB. 19, 1907.

H. C. MAYES.  
STRAW HOLDER.  
APPLICATION FILED APR. 26, 1906.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



WITNESSES:

*E. C. Stewart*  
*Herbert D. Lawson*

*Harry C. Mayes* INVENTOR

By *C. A. Snow & Co.*  
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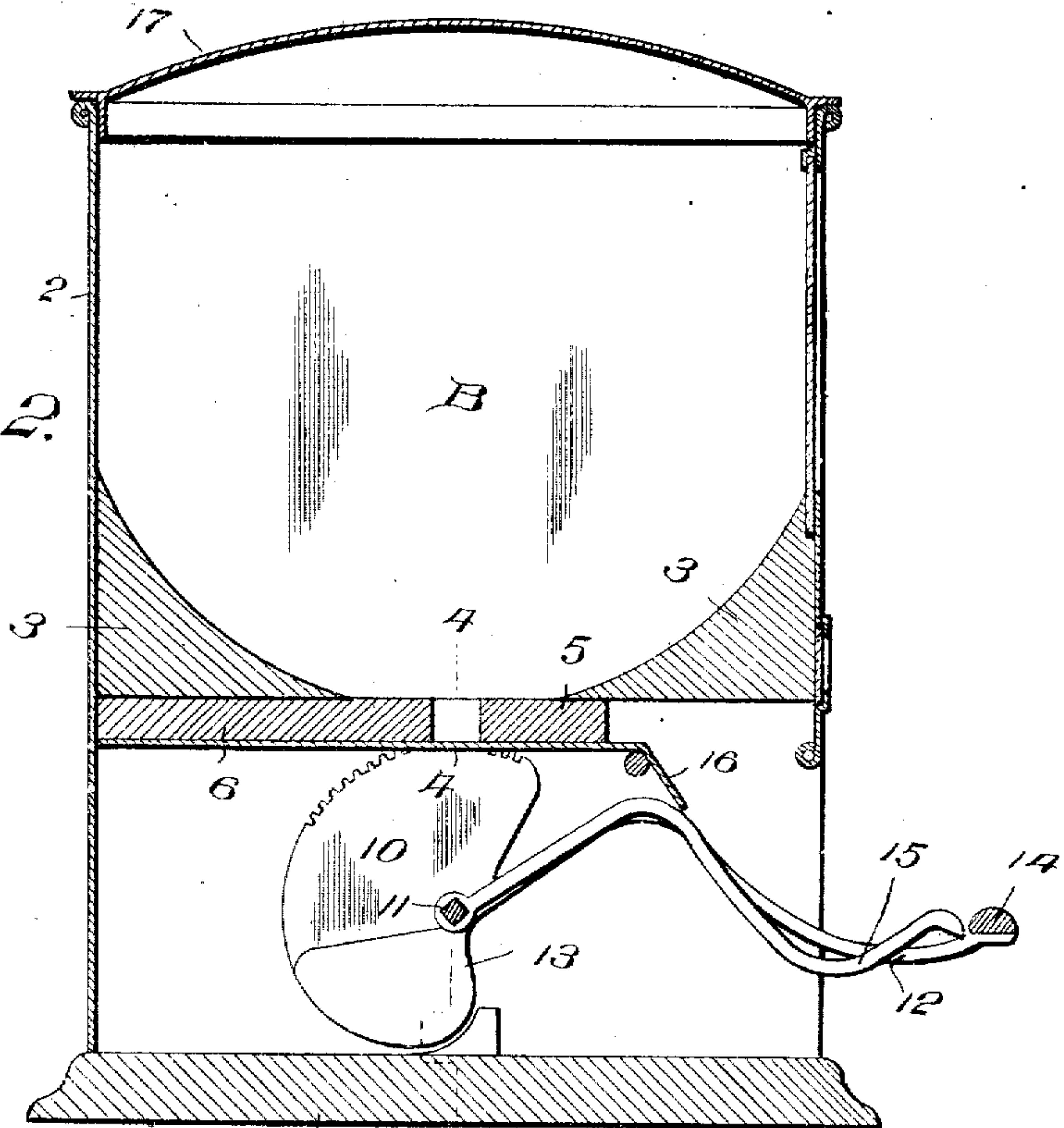
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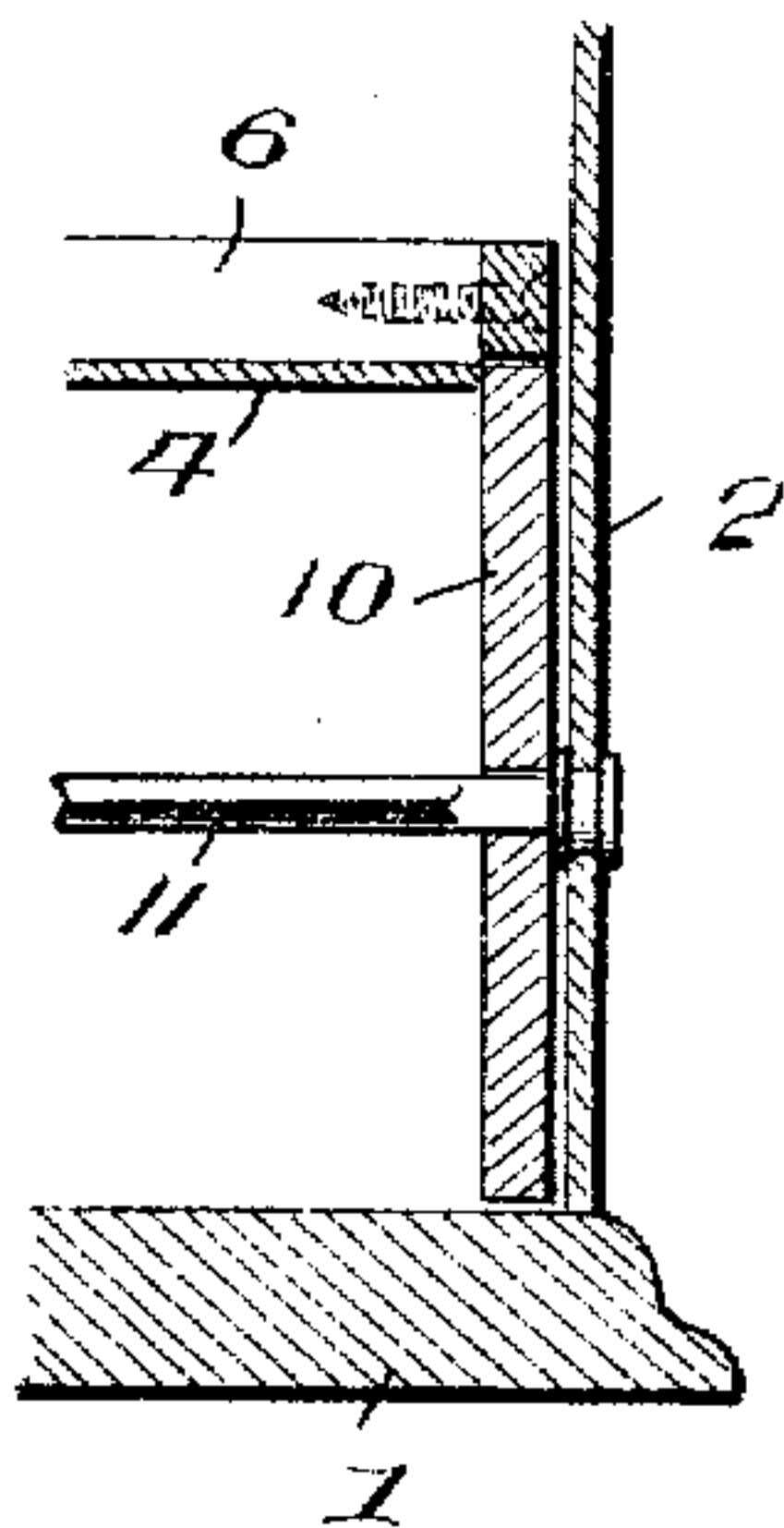
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

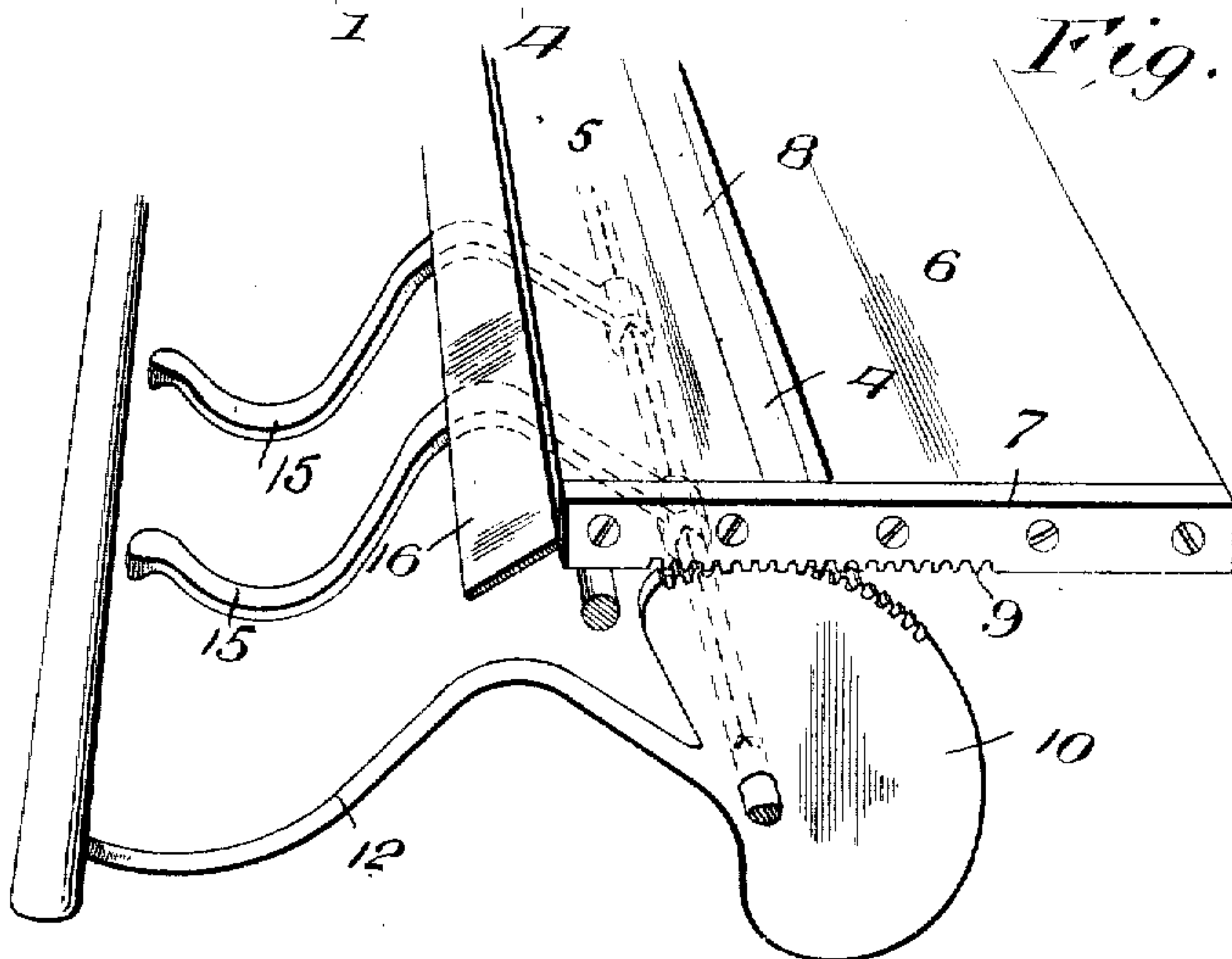
*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 4.*



*Fig. 3.*



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRY CORNELIUS MAYES, OF CLEARFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA.

## STRAW-HOLDER.

No. 844,381.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 19, 1907.

Application filed April 26, 1906. Serial No. 313,892.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HARRY C. MAYES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Clearfield, in the county of Clearfield and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Straw-Holder, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to machines for dispensing straws such as used at soda-fountains, &c.

The object of the invention is to provide a device which will hold a large number of straws where they will be protected from dust and insects and where they cannot be handled by customers.

Another object is to provide means whereby the straws may be removed one at a time without injury thereto merely by the actuation of simple mechanism provided for that purpose.

A still further object is to provide a device of this character which is of an attractive appearance, which occupies a comparatively small space, and which is of inexpensive construction.

With the above and other objects in view the invention consists of a casing having a compartment therein of sufficient size to hold a number of straws, the bottom of said compartment having an elongated opening under which extends a slide adapted to engage straws one at a time. Mechanism is provided whereby this slide can be actuated to convey the engaged straw outward and deposit it upon a receiver, from which it can be removed by the user.

The invention also consists of certain other novel features of construction and combinations of parts, which will be hereinafter more fully described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings is shown the preferred form of the invention.

In said drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation of the machine. Fig. 2 is a section therethrough taken from front to rear. Fig. 3 is a detail view showing one end of the slide and the mechanism for actuating it, and Fig. 4 is an enlarged section through the toothed sector and the toothed plate meshing therewith.

Referring to the figures by characters of reference, 1 is a base upon which is disposed a casing 2, the front wall of which terminates at a point above the base to form an opening through which the actuating mechanism of

the apparatus is adapted to project. Inwardly-extending bottom sections 3 are arranged on the front and rear walls of the casing at a desired distance above the base and form an outlet-opening therebetween under which extends a supporting-plate 4, which terminates short of the front wall and constitutes a guide for a slide A, consisting of parallel front and rear strips 5 and 6, spaced apart a distance slightly greater than the diameter of a straw and connected at their ends by end strips 7.

The space 8, formed between the strips 5 and 6, is slightly longer than the straws to be used. Each of the end strips 7 has teeth 9 thereon adapted to engage a toothed sector 10, which is mounted to rotate on a rod 11, extending longitudinally under the strips 5 and 6 and having a lever 12 extending therefrom and under and beyond the lower edge of the front wall of the casing. A weight 13 is connected to the sector, so as to hold the lever 12 normally raised and the slide A normally pressed backward against the rear wall of the casing. A finger-bar 14 connects the ends of the levers 12 and is parallel with the front of the casing, and arranged in rear of this bar is a series of fingers 15, which are secured on the non-rotatable rod 11 and are inclined upward from said rod to points close to the front edge of the supporting-plate 4 and then curved downward to form a chute for directing discharged straws outward from the front of the machine. The uppermost portions of these fingers are preferably overlapped by an inclined guide-plate 16, which extends from the front edge of the supporting-plate and serves to direct straws onto the fingers. A compartment B is formed within the casing above the bottom sections 3 and is of sufficient size to receive one or more bundles of straws, and a cover 17 is arranged on the casing, so as to prevent the user of a straw from replacing it within the casing.

In using this device a suitable number of straws are placed within the compartment B, and one of them will roll and fall by gravity into the space 8. The cover 17 is then placed on the casing and the device is ready for use. If a person desires to remove a straw from the casing, the finger-bar 14 is depressed and will cause the sectors 10 to rotate on the rod 11, and as the teeth 9 on the end strips 8 are engaged by these sectors the entire slide A will be moved forward on the



plate 4 until the space 8 is moved beyond the end of said plate, whereupon the straw will drop by gravity onto the guide-plate 16 and be directed thereby onto the fingers 15.

5 These fingers by reason of their peculiar contour will hold the straw until its removal by the user. While the parts are in this position the rear strips 6 of the slide will close the space between the bottom sections 3, and it  
10 will be impossible for any of the straws to become displaced. When the finger-bar 14 has been released after the removal of a straw, the weight 13 will return all of the parts to their normal positions, and when the space 8  
15 arrives between the two bottom sections 3 another straw will drop thereinto, and the machine will therefore be recharged and will be ready for the repetition of the above-described operation. If desired, a glass plate  
20 18 may be placed in the front of the casing, so that the amount and nature of the contents of the device can be quickly determined.

A device such as herein described will be  
25 found very desirable because of its sanitary features, inasmuch as the straws are fully protected at all times from dust, flies, &c., cannot be handled by customers, and cannot be replaced in the casing after they have  
30 been used.

What is claimed is—

1. A device of the character described comprising a receptacle having an outlet, means  
35 for withdrawing articles successively from the receptacle, a non-rotatable rod disposed adjacent said means, fingers secured to and supported by said rod to receive articles from the withdrawing means, means movably  
40 mounted upon the rod for engaging and actuating the withdrawing means, and a depressible device extending beyond the fingers and movable with said actuating means.

2. The combination with a receptacle having an outlet; of means for withdrawing articles successively from the outlet, a partly-rotatable device for engaging and actuating the  
45 withdrawing means, depressible means for actuating said device, and receiving-fingers surrounded by said depressible means and  
50 immovably supported below the withdrawing means.

3. The combination with a receptacle having an outlet, and means for successively withdrawing articles from the outlet; of

partly-rotatable gravity-controlled means 55 engaging and adapted to actuate the withdrawing means, receiving-fingers supported below and adapted to receive articles from the withdrawing means, and a depressible actuating device disposed adjacent the fingers 60 and connected to said device.

4. The combination with a casing having a compartment therein provided with an outlet; of a support below the outlet, a slide  
65 mounted thereon and having an opening therethrough, the bottom of said opening being normally closed by the support, fingers disposed below and projecting beyond the support, a toothed sector rotatably mounted  
70 adjacent and engaging the slide, a weight upon the sector, an arm extending there-through and beyond the casing.

5. The combination with a casing having a compartment therein provided with an outlet; of a support below the outlet, a slide  
75 mounted thereon and having an opening therethrough, the bottom of said opening being normally closed by the support, fingers disposed below and projecting beyond the support, teeth depending from the slide, a  
80 toothed sector engaging the teeth and rotatably mounted adjacent the slide, an arm extending from the sector, a finger-bar upon the arm, and means operated by gravity for holding the sector and its connections 85 normally in a predetermined position.

6. The combination with a casing having a compartment therein provided with an outlet; of a supporting-plate extending under the outlet, parallel strips mounted on said  
90 plate and spaced apart, end strips connecting the parallel strips, all of said strips constituting a slide and one of the end strips having teeth thereon, a rod disposed beneath the supporting-plate, a toothed sector engaging 95 the teeth on the end strip, said sector having a weight thereon, an arm extending from the sector, a finger-bar upon the arm and in front of the casing, and receiving-fingers mounted upon the rod and extending beyond the sup- 100 porting-plate.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

HARRY CORNELIUS MAYES.

Witnesses:

THOS. A. MAYES,

M. G. POTTS GROVE.