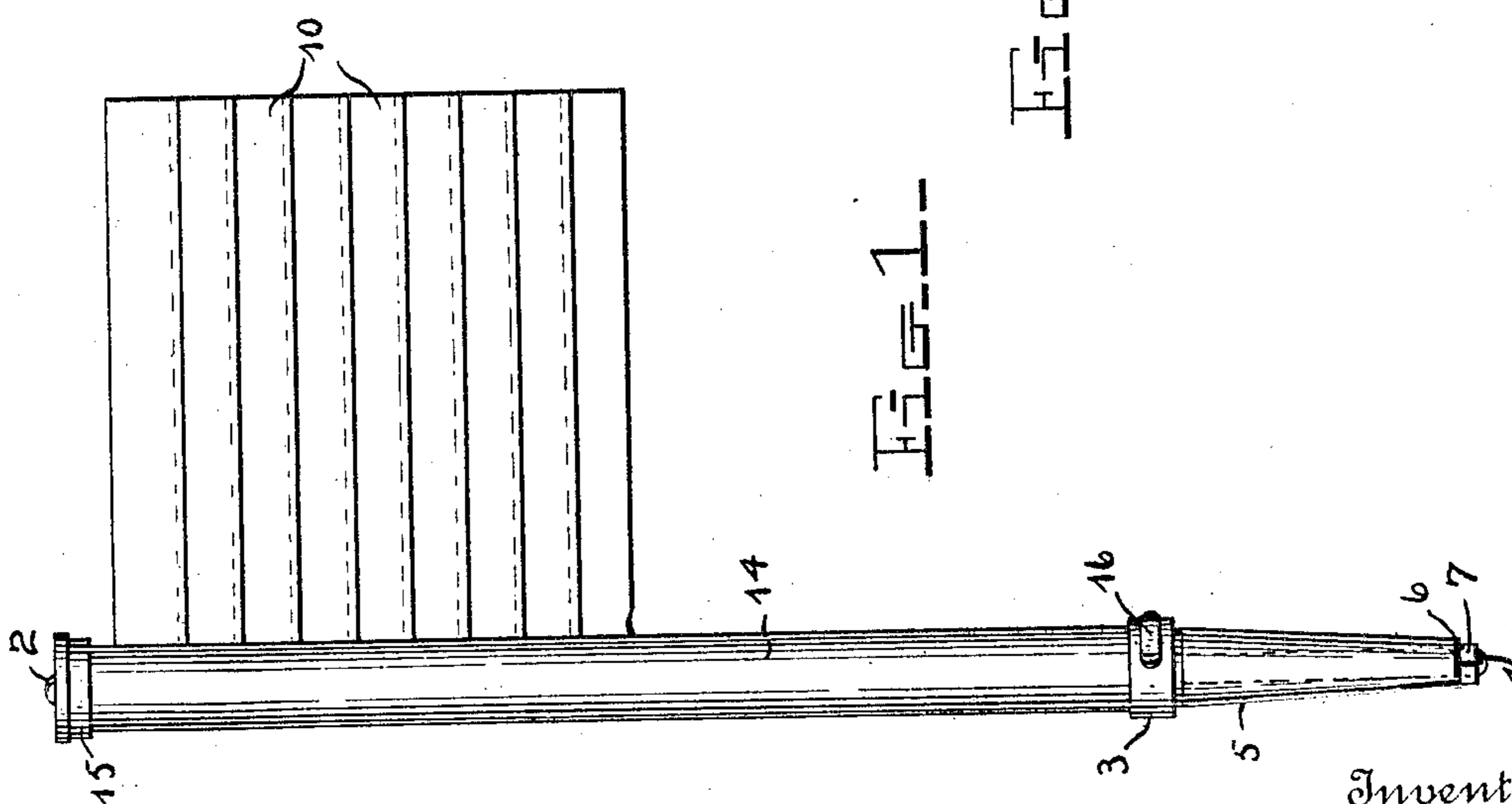
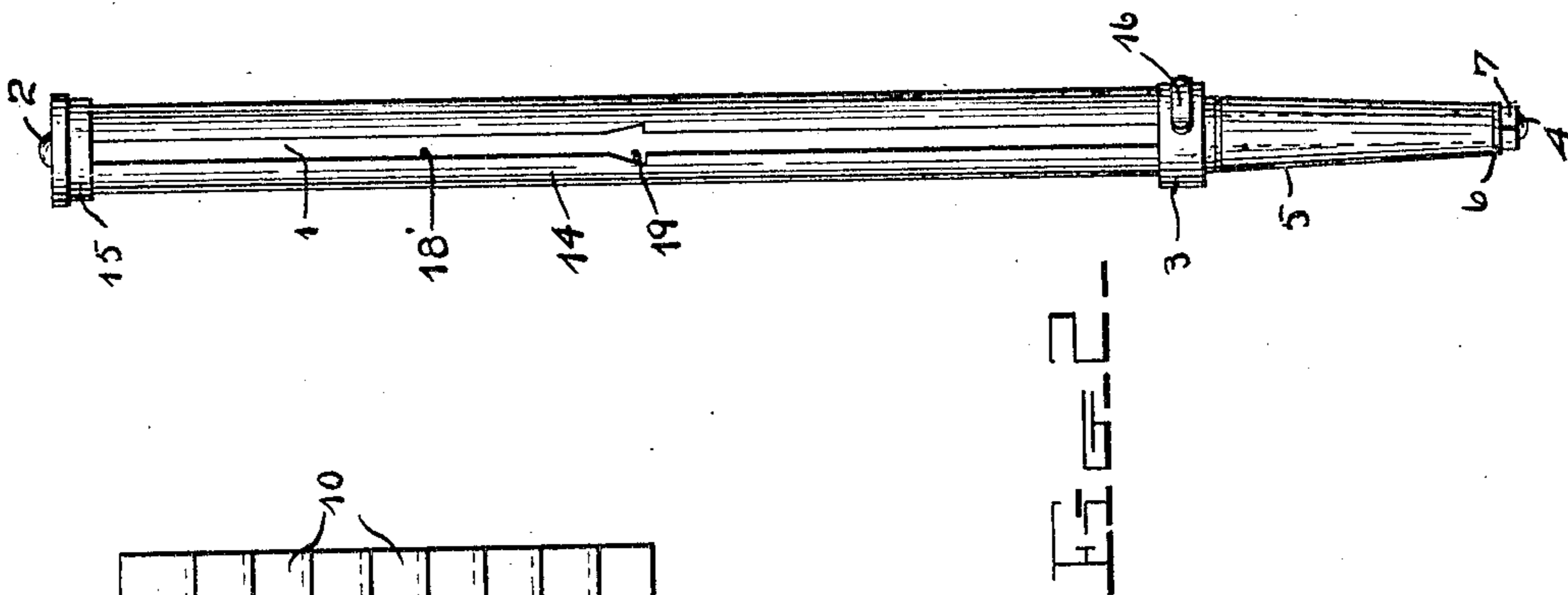
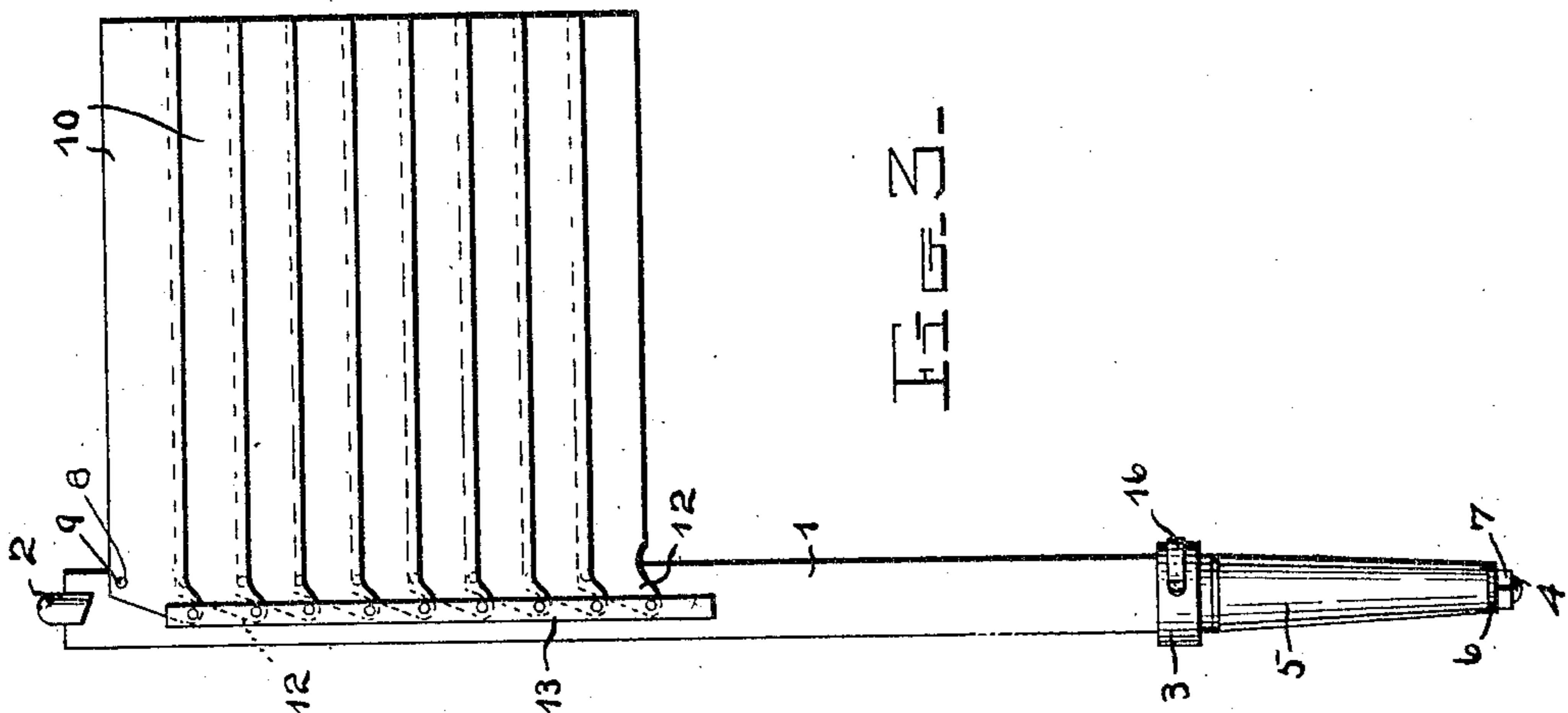


No. 844,637.

PATENTED FEB. 19, 1907.

W. F. WALSH.  
FOLDING METALLIC SIGNAL FLAG.  
APPLICATION FILED APR. 12, 1906.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses

L. B. James  
C. H. Griesbauer.

Inventor  
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Attorneys

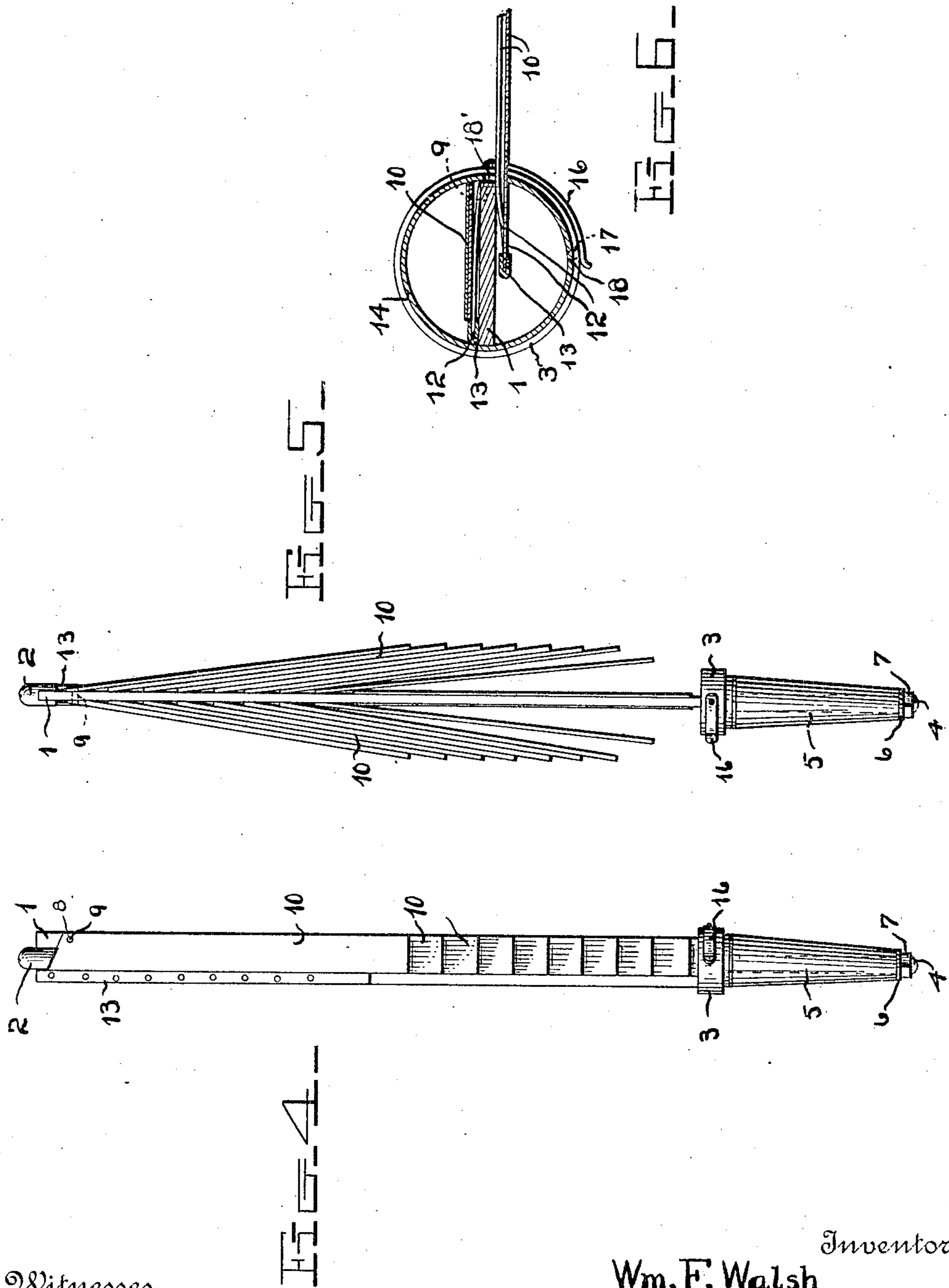
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM FRANCIS WALSH, OF POCA TELLO, IDAHO.

## FOLDING METALLIC SIGNAL-FLAG.

No. 844,637.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 19, 1907.

Application filed April 12, 1906. Serial No. 311,353.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM FRANCIS WALSH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pocatello, in the county of Bannock and State of Idaho, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Metallic Signal-Flags; and I do 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.

This invention relates to improvements in signal-flags.

The object of the invention is to provide a flag of this character constructed of separate slats or bars of metal and means to connect said bars with a staff, whereby the former may be opened to an operative position or folded to a closed position.

A further object is to provide a device of this character adapted to contain flags of two or more colors, any of which may be unfolded and displayed without interference of the others.

With the above and other objects in view the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side view of the flag, showing the same in operative position. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the parts in closed position. Fig. 3 is a side view of one side of the flag and its supporting-staff with the casing removed and the slats or bars of the flag in open position. Fig. 4 is a similar view with the slats or bars of the flag in closed position. Fig. 5 is an edge view of the staff with the bars or slats in closed position and the casing removed; and Fig. 6 is a horizontal sectional view through the complete flag, showing the bars or slats on one side of the staff in an open position and on the opposite side in closed position.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, 1 denotes the staff or supporting-bar of the flag, said staff being here shown and is preferably in the form of a flat metal bar having on its upper end an upwardly-projecting stud 2 and on its lower end an annular socket 3. Below the socket 3 and preferably formed integrally therewith is a stem or

shank 4, threaded on its lower end, as shown. Adapted to be loosely connected or mounted on the shank 4 is a conical-shaped or tapering sleeve or ferrule 5, formed of metal or wood, as desired. The sleeve 5 is held on the shank 4 by means of a washer 6 and a nut 7, adapted to be screwed onto the lower threaded end of the shank, as shown. By means of the sleeve or ferrule 5 the flag is adapted to be inserted in or engaged with the usual flag-socket employed on railway-cars or locomotives.

Formed in the staff or bar 1 adjacent to one edge is a series of pivot-holes 8, through which are adapted to be inserted rivets 9 or other fastening devices, by means of which a series of slats or bars 10 may be pivotally mounted on the opposite sides of the staff 1. The slats or bars 10 may be of any suitable width, and as many of said bars may be employed as desired. The bars are pivotally connected by the rivets 9 at their inner upper corners and when in an open or unfolded position will lie one above the other, as shown. On the inner end of each of the slats or bars 10 is formed a downwardly and inwardly projecting lug 12, the lug of one slat or bar slightly overlapping the inner end of the next adjacent lower bar, thereby causing the slats to lie in slightly different vertical planes or providing a slight space between each slat, which will facilitate the folding of the latter as well as providing for the passage of dust or dirt between the slats, which will materially assist in preventing the accumulation of dirt upon the flag, thereby keeping the colors of the same bright and clean. The downwardly and inwardly projecting lugs 12 of the bars or slats 10 are pivotally attached together by a connecting-bar 13, said bar being here shown and is preferably in the form of a strip of metal bent upon itself longitudinally to form a channel-shaped construction between the sides of which the lugs 12 are pivoted, as shown. By means of the connecting-bars 13 the slats or bars of the flag are moved in unison to open or close the same to an operative or inoperative position, as will be understood.

Adapted to be arranged upon the staff 1 over the slats or bars of the flag is a cylindrical casing 14, said casing being provided on its upper end with a cap 15, in which is

formed a centrally-disposed aperture through which the stud 2 is adapted to pass. The lower open end of the casing is adapted to be slipped into the socket 3 and is held therein  
 5 by means of a spring-catch 16, which is secured at one end to the outer side of the socket and has at its inner end an inwardly-projecting stud 17. The stud 17 is adapted to project through an aperture 18 in the wall  
 10 of the socket and to engage an alined aperture in the lower end of the casing, thereby removably holding the same in place on the staff. The casing 14 is provided in one side with a longitudinally-disposed passage or  
 15 slot through which the slats or bars of the flag are adapted to project when the latter are in an open or operative position. In the opposite edges of the slot 18 are formed offsets or recesses 19, with which the lower slot  
 20 or bar of the flag is adapted to be engaged when the slats are in an open position, thereby supporting said slats and preventing the same from being closed.

When it is desired to open or unfold the  
 25 slats on one side or the other on the staff 1, the catch 16 is released and the casing 14 slipped upwardly on the staff, after which the desired slats are raised or unfolded and the casing again slipped onto the staff until  
 30 the recess 19 is opposite the lower slot of the flag, at which time the casing is given a slight twist, which will engage said slot with the recess, and thereby hold the slats or bars of the flag in an operative position. The catch 16  
 35 will be automatically engaged with the recess in the lower end of the casing to hold the latter in place on the staff, substantially as described.

The slats or bars of the flag on opposite  
 40 sides of the staff 1 are of different colors, the colors being of a brilliant or intense character, whereby the same may be discerned a long distance. While I have shown and described but two sets of bars arranged on the  
 45 staff 1, it is obvious that by increasing the width of said staff more slats or bars may be arranged on the opposite edge of the same, thus providing for a greater number of colors, as will be understood.

50 By the use of a signal-flag constructed as here shown and described the troubles and difficulties occurring with the use of a flexible flag by the wrapping of the same around the staff will be obviated, and by pivotally  
 55 mounting the lower end or shank of the staff in a sleeve, as herein shown and described, the flag will be permitted to turn or swing with the wind.

60 From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, the construction and operation of the invention will be readily understood without requiring a more extended explanation.

Various changes in the form, proportion, and the minor details of construction may be  
 65 resorted to without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention as defined by the appended claims.

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

1. In a flag, the combination with a supporting-bar having on its lower end a socket and a shank or stem depending from said  
 75 socket and having a tapered sleeve rotatably mounted on said shank, of a series of metallic slats pivotally mounted at their inner upper corners on the sides of said bar, a casing adapted to be arranged on said bar to cover  
 80 said bar and slats when in an inoperative position and means arranged on said socket to removably secure said casing in place on the supporting-bar.

2. In a folding flag, the combination with  
 85 a supporting-bar having on its lower end a socket and a shank depending from said socket and having a tapered sleeve rotatably mounted on said shank, a series of metallic slats pivotally mounted at their inner upper  
 90 corners on the sides of said bar, a connecting-rod pivotally secured to the lower corners of said slats whereby the latter are simultaneously unfolded into an operative or inoperative position, a casing adapted to be arranged  
 95 on said bar to cover the slats when in an inoperative position and means arranged on said socket to removably secure said casing in place on the supporting-bar.

3. In a flag of the character described, the  
 100 combination with a supporting-bar or staff having on its upper end a stud and on its lower end an annular socket provided with a stem or shank, of a series of slats or bars pivotally connected at their inner upper corners  
 105 to the sides of said supporting-bar or staff, lugs formed on the inner lower corners of said bars or slats, a connecting-bar pivotally secured to each of said lugs whereby said blades may be raised or lowered, a longitudinally-  
 110 slotted casing arranged on said staff to cover said bars or slats when the latter are in a folded position, a spring-catch to removably hold said casing in place on said staff, and means on said casing to hold said bars or slats in an  
 115 open or operative position, substantially as described.

4. In a flag of the character described, the combination with a supporting-bar or staff  
 120 having on its lower end an annular socket and a stem or shank, of a series of slats or bars pivotally mounted on the side of said staff, a connecting-rod pivotally secured to the inner end of each of said bars, whereby the same are simultaneously moved, a casing  
 125 arranged on said staff, said casing having

formed therein a longitudinally-disposed slot,  
through which the bars of said flag are adapt-  
ed to project, retaining notches or recesses  
formed in the opposite walls of said slot to  
5 hold said bars or slats in an open position,  
and a sleeve or ferrule loosely mounted on  
the shank or stem of the shaft, substantially  
as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set  
my hand in presence of two subscribing wit- 10  
nesses.

WILLIAM FRANCIS WALSH.

Witnesses:

CHARLES HEMPHILL,  
THOMAS D. GILMORE.