

No. 859,257.

PATENTED JULY 9, 1907.

W. H. SHULTZ.

FELT BOOT AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 9, 1906.

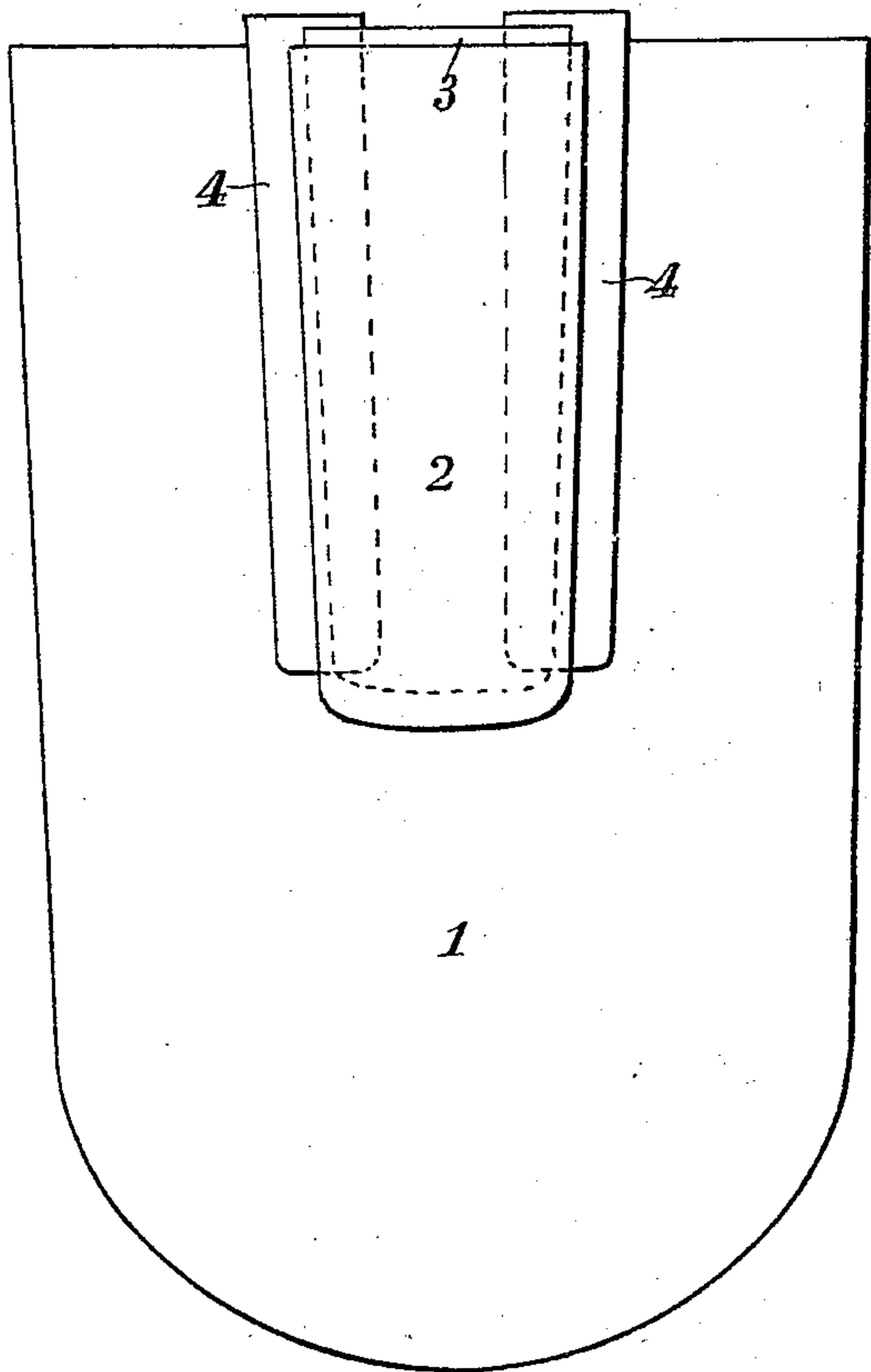


Fig. 1.

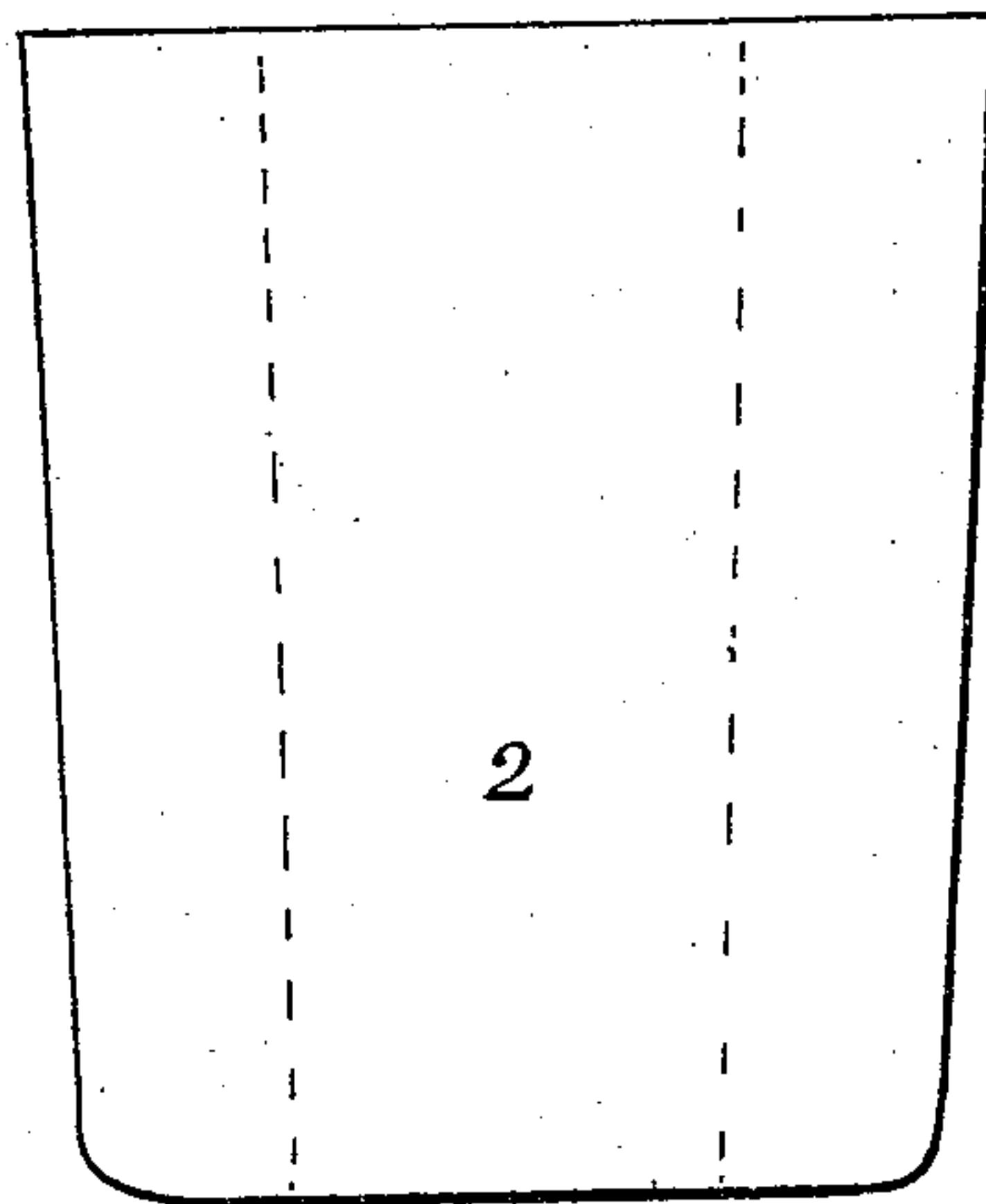


Fig. 2.

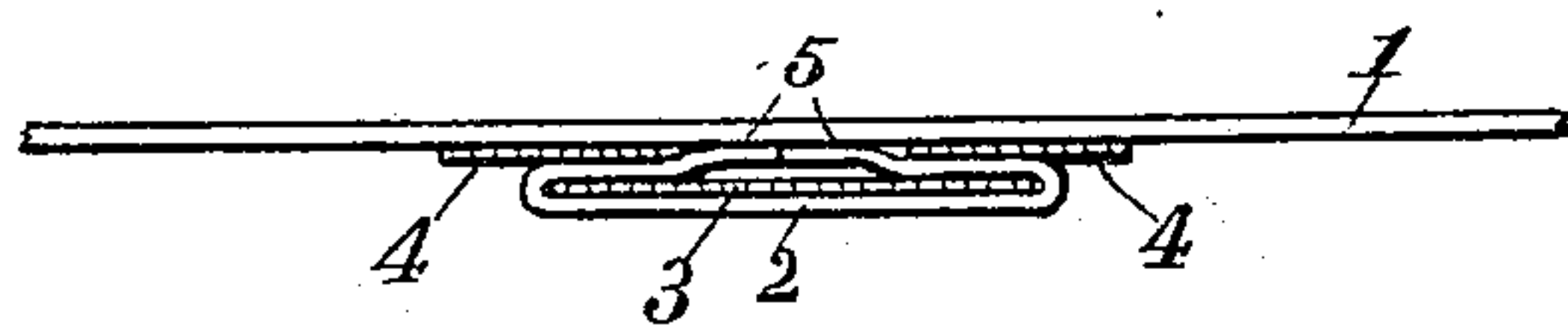


Fig. 3.

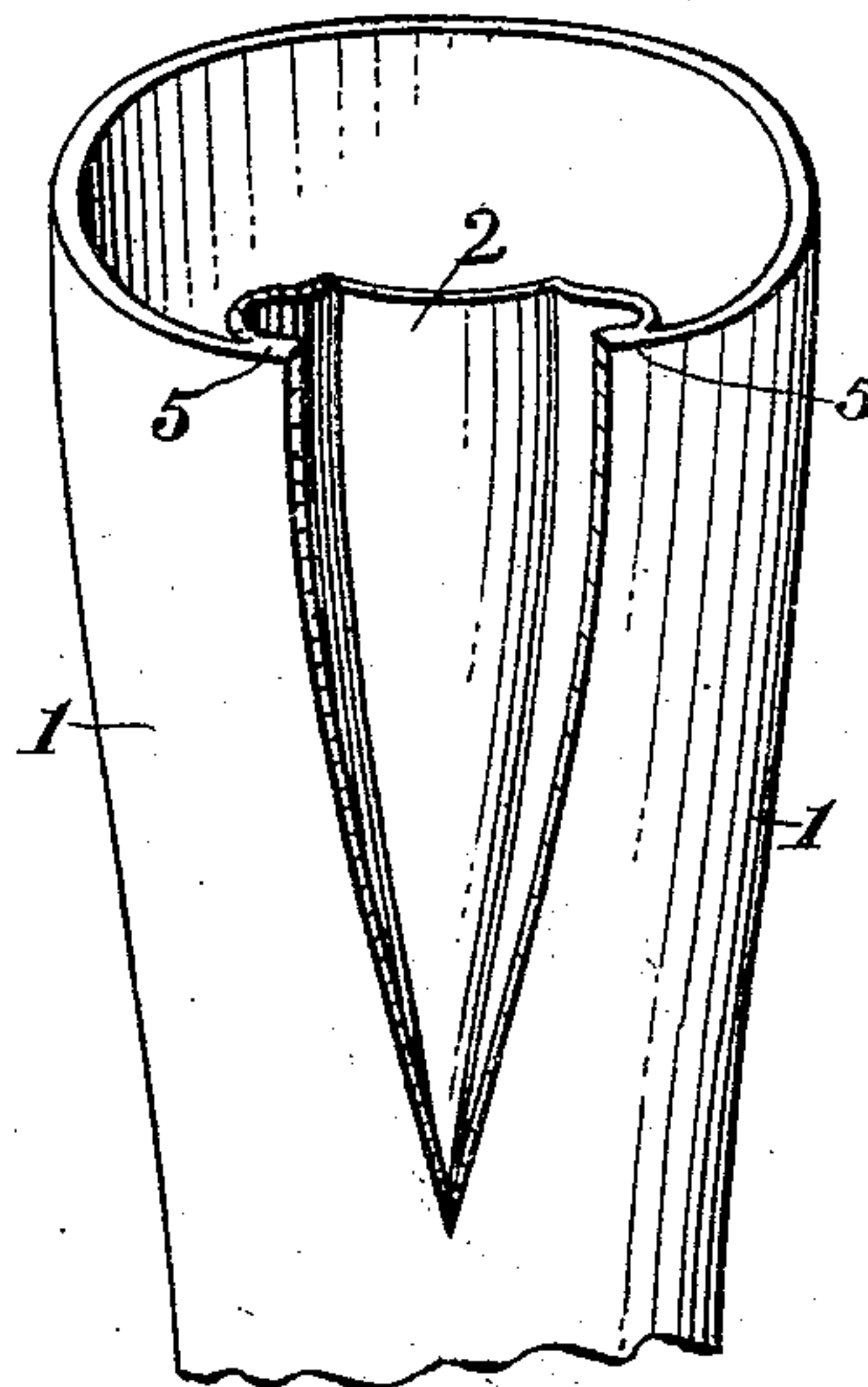


Fig. 4.

Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. SHULTZ, OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN.

FELT BOOT AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME.

No. 859,257.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 9, 1907.

Application filed June 9, 1906. Serial No. 321,000.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. SHULTZ, a citizen of the United States, residing at Grand Rapids, in the county of Kent and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Felt Boots and Methods of Manufacturing the Same; and I 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.

My invention relates to improvements in methods of manufacturing felt boots and more particularly to making the style of boots known as the "bellows front", and its object is to provide improved means of producing such boots, as will hereafter more fully appear by reference to the accompanying drawings, in which;

Figure 1. is a plan view of the bats assembled ready for felting; Fig. 2. a plan view of the small bat for forming the gusset or bellows portion; Fig. 3. an edge view of the parts shown in Fig. 1.; and, Fig. 4. a detail showing the leg of a finished boot.

Like numbers refer to like parts in all of the figures.

1 represents the bat which ultimately forms the boot proper; 2 a smaller and thinner bat of convenient dimensions to form the gusset or bellows portion of the finished article. This bat 2 is folded around a piece of non-felting material 3 preferably of a close woven fabric, which latter is somewhat shorter than the bat 2 whereby the inner end of said bat will be folded in contact with itself and thus closed at the lower end by the felting operation.

4, 4 represent strips of similar non-felting material spaced apart and placed between the folded portions of the bat 2 and the bat 1, whereby the adjacent edges 5 only of the bat 2 are permitted to come in contact with the bat 1. These strips 4 do not extend fully to the inner or narrow end of the bat 2 and thus this end is permitted to contact the bat 1.

When assembled in the described manner as indicated in Figs. 1 and 3, the bats are subjected to the

felting process, which permanently unites the edges 5 and the lower end of the bat 2 to the middle portion of the bat 1. The latter is then formed up and joined at the edges in the usual way to complete the structure. After the same is properly treed into final shape, it is severed vertically at the front upper portion of the leg along the middle of the strip where the bats have been united, as indicated at Fig. 4. The gusset or bellows 2 is thus integrally joined to the boot with its edges connected to the severed edges of the leg which present opposing thickened edges, whereby it is strengthened and rendered more substantial for the insertion of laces or other fastenings.

What I claim is:

1. The method of forming a felt boot having a bellows front consisting of preparing a bat to form the boot, and a smaller bat to form the bellows or gusset, placing non-felting material between portions of the bats, joining the bats integrally where they are in contact by felting the same, and severing the same vertically, on a line through the portions so joined.

2. The method of forming a felt boot having a bellows front consisting of preparing a bat to form the boot proper, and a smaller and thinner bat to form the bellows or gusset, folding the latter around a piece of non-felting material, with the edges of the bat adjacent to each other, placing the bats one upon the other, and placing between the same strips of non-felting material spaced apart to permit portions only of the bat to come in contact, joining the bats integrally where they come in contact by felting the same, forming and treeing the boot, and severing the leg of the boot on a line through the integrally joined portions of the leg and bellows portions.

3. A felt boot, comprising a leg portion severed vertically, and a bellows portion folded at its respective vertical edges and integrally joined at its folded edges to the severed edges of the leg portion by felting the same.

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

WILLIAM H. SHULTZ.

Witnesses:

PALMER A. JONES,  
LUTHER V. MOULTON.