

No. 881,179.

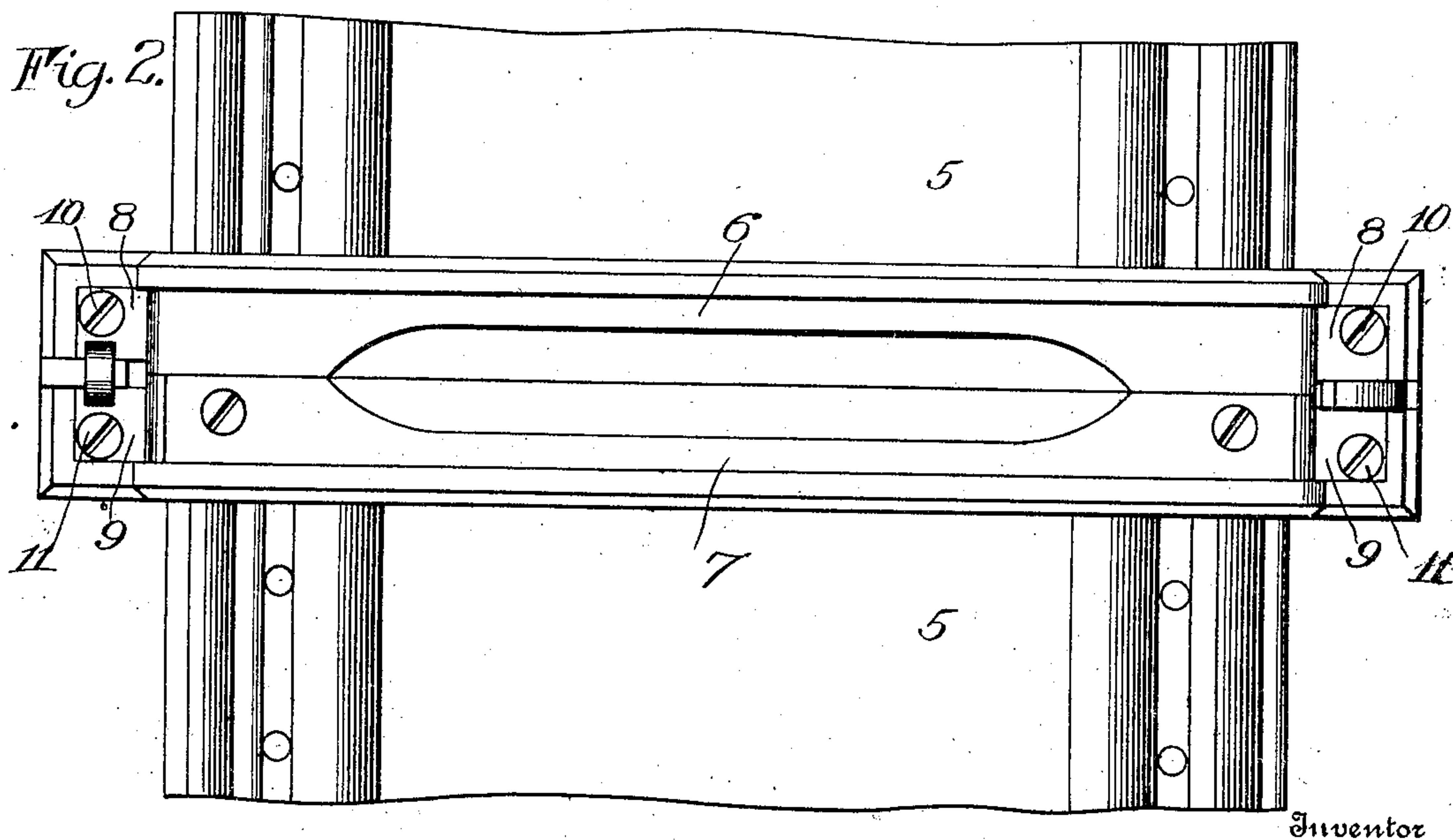
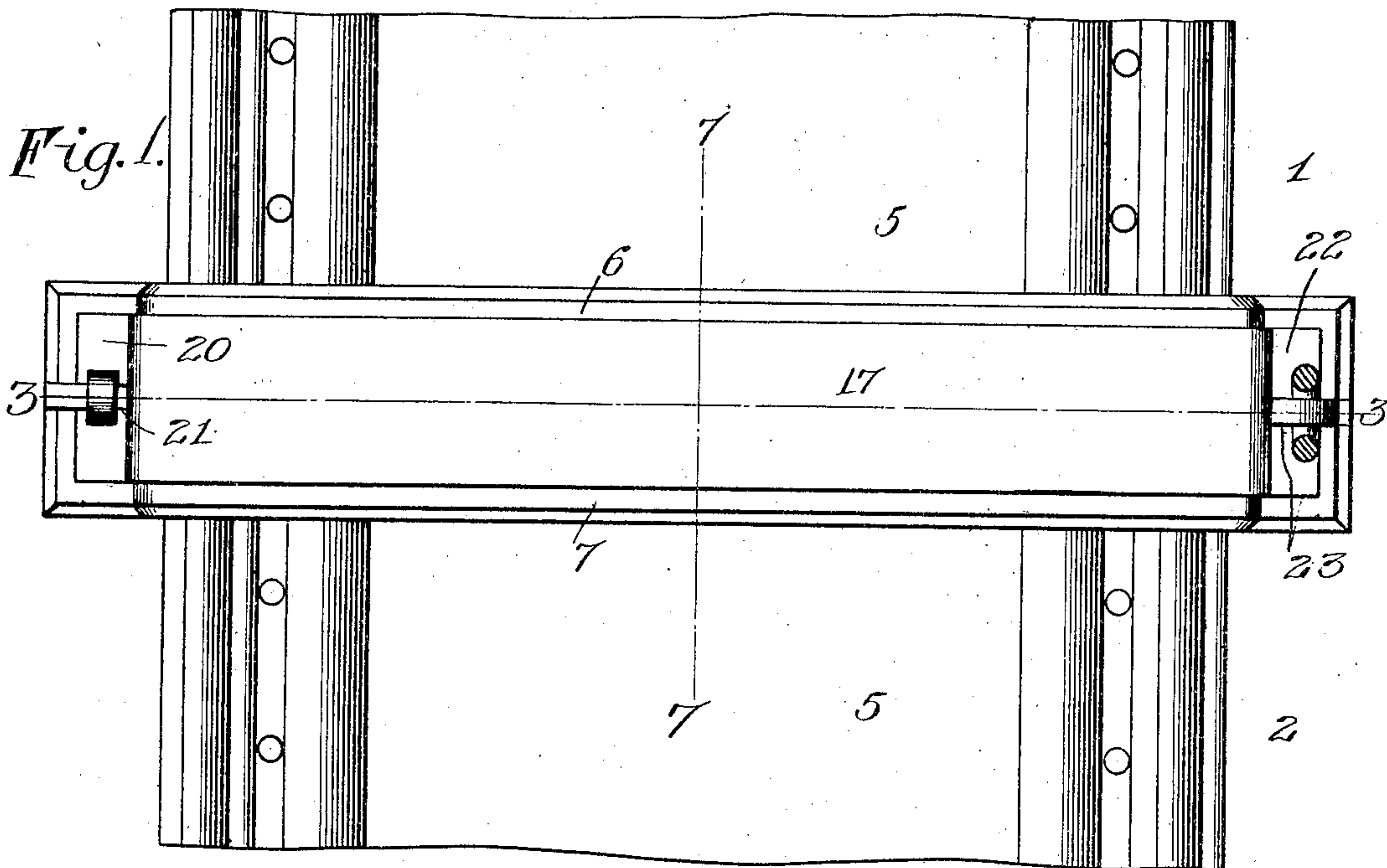
J. W. CUTLER.

PATENTED MAR. 10, 1908.

LOCKING DEVICE FOR MAIL CHUTES.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 9, 1906.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Inventor

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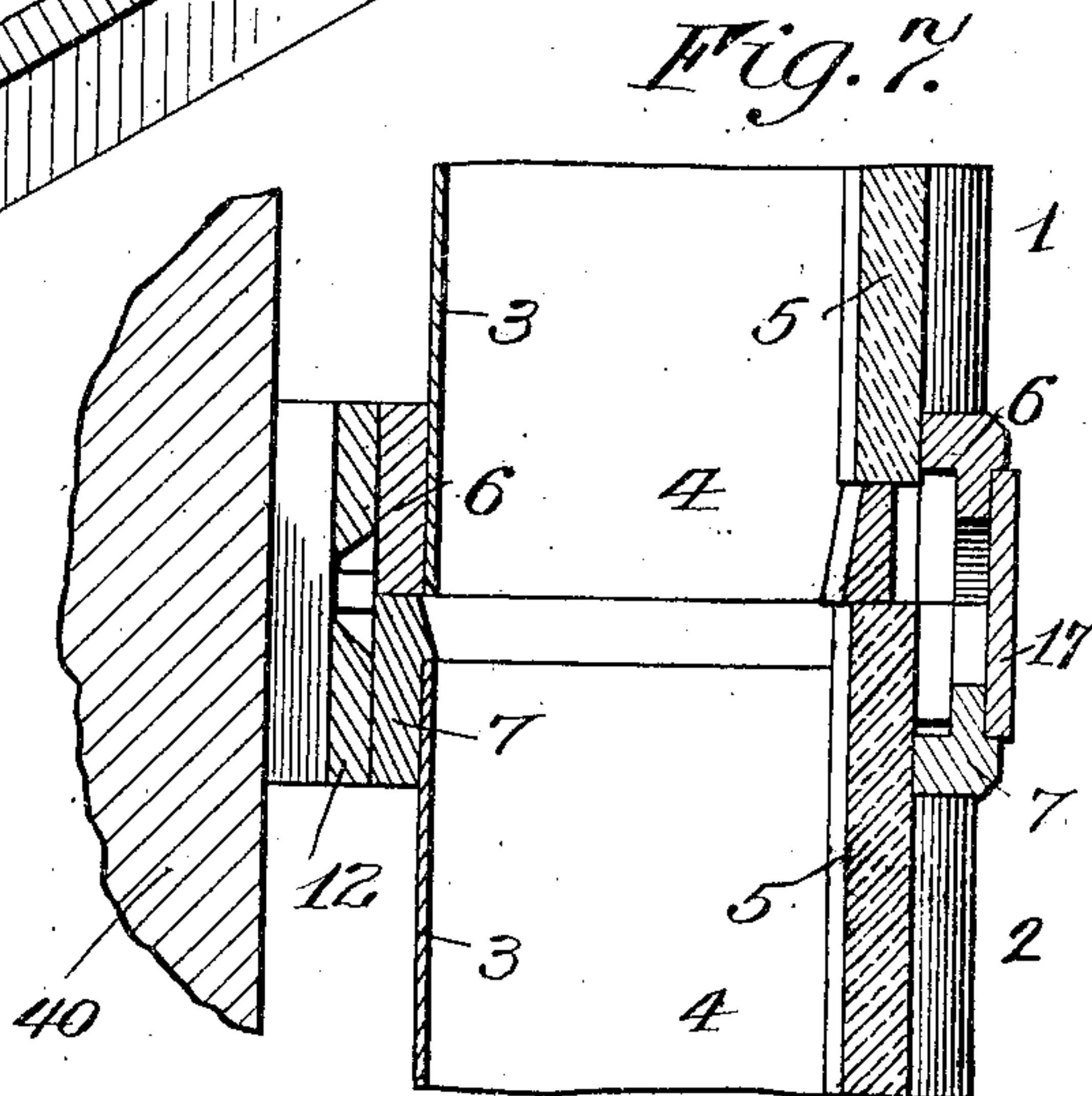
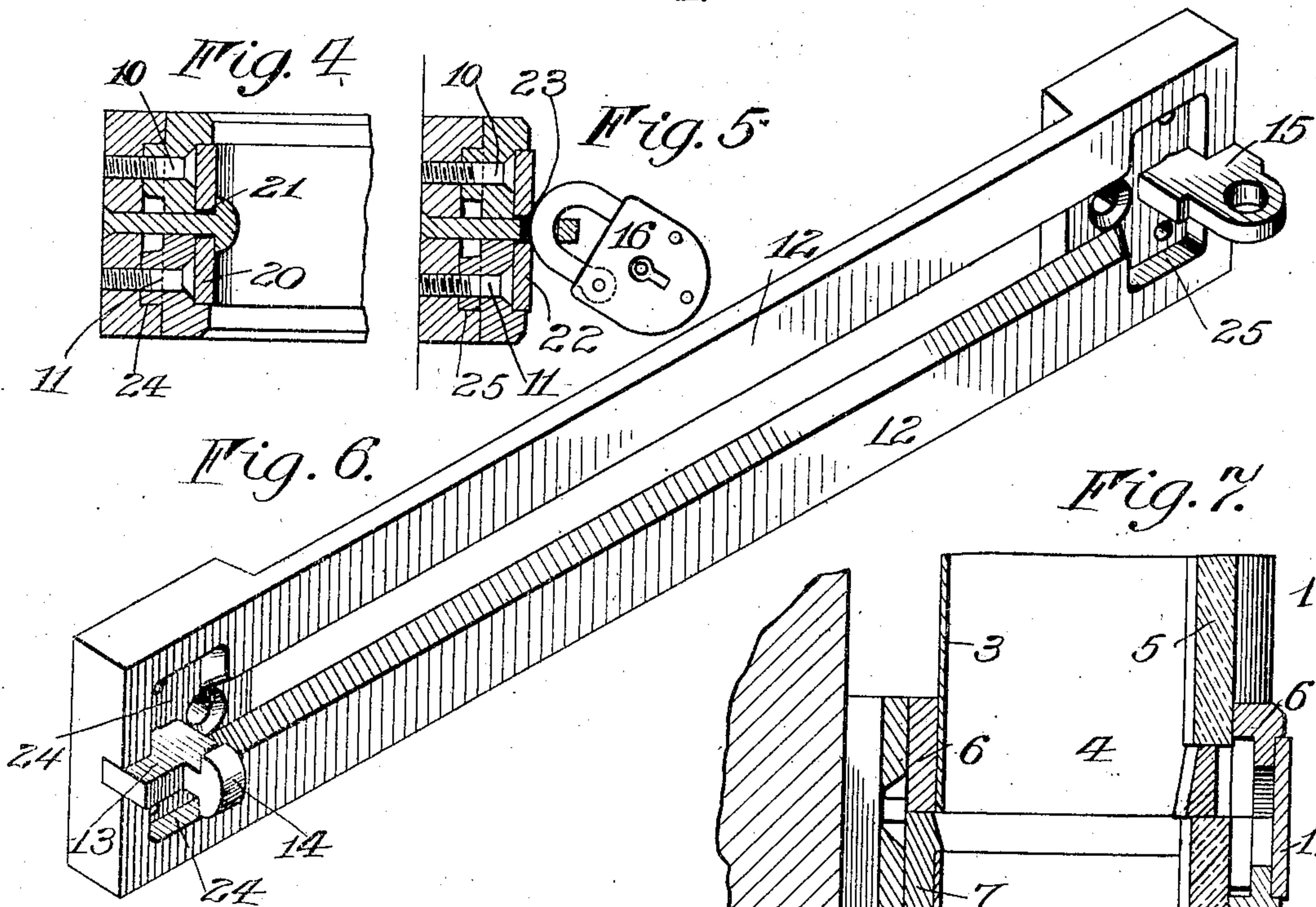
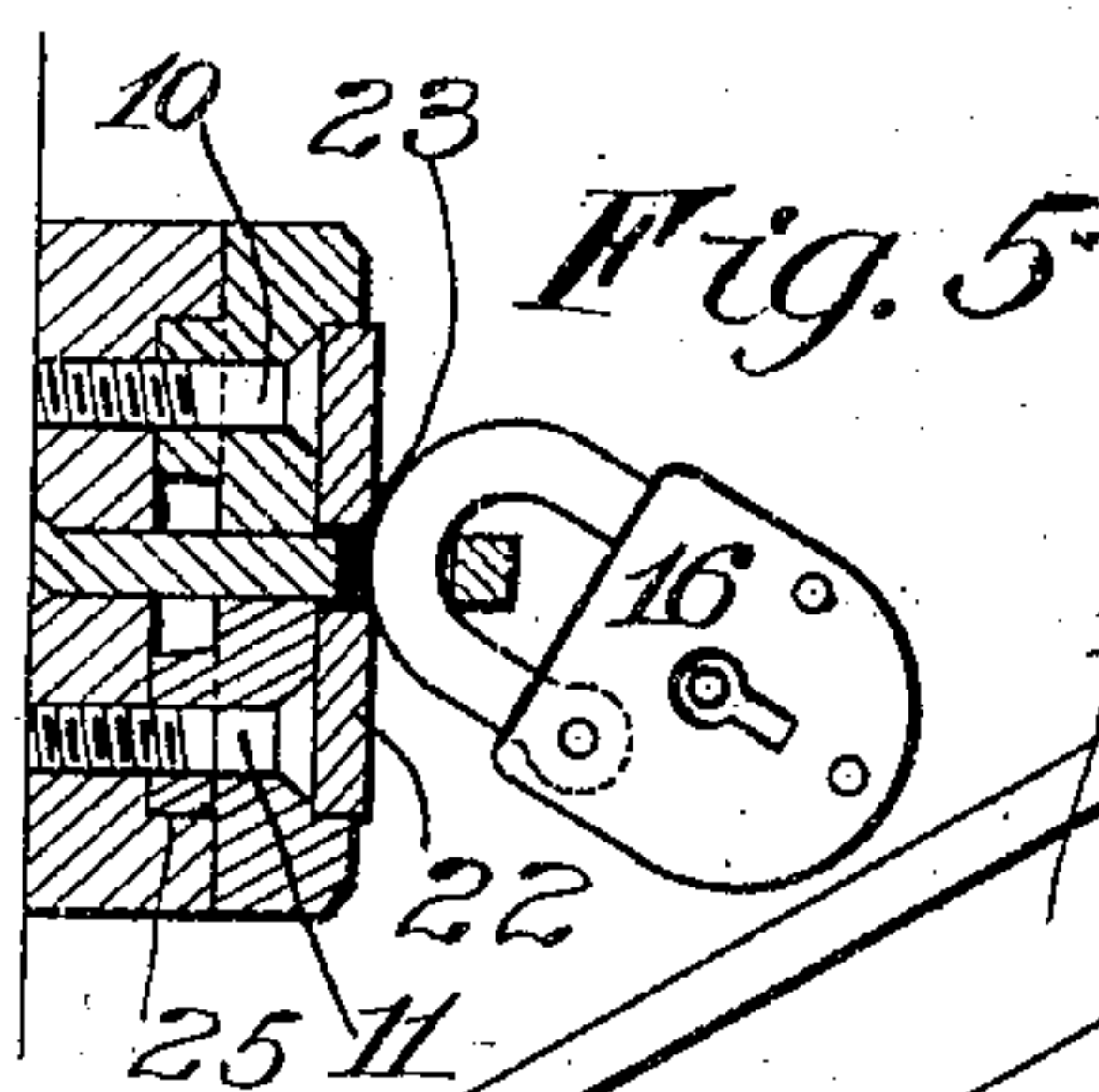
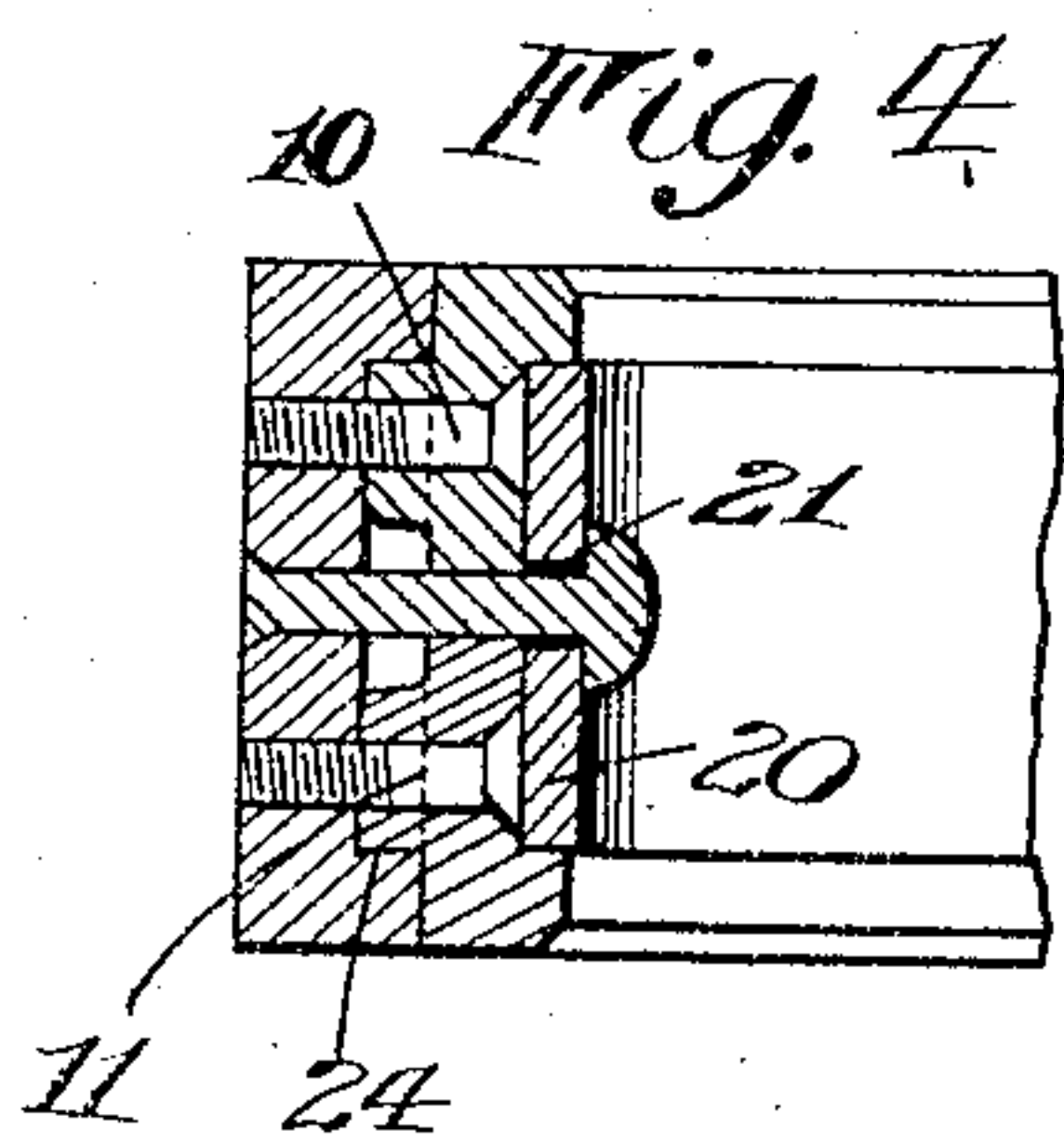
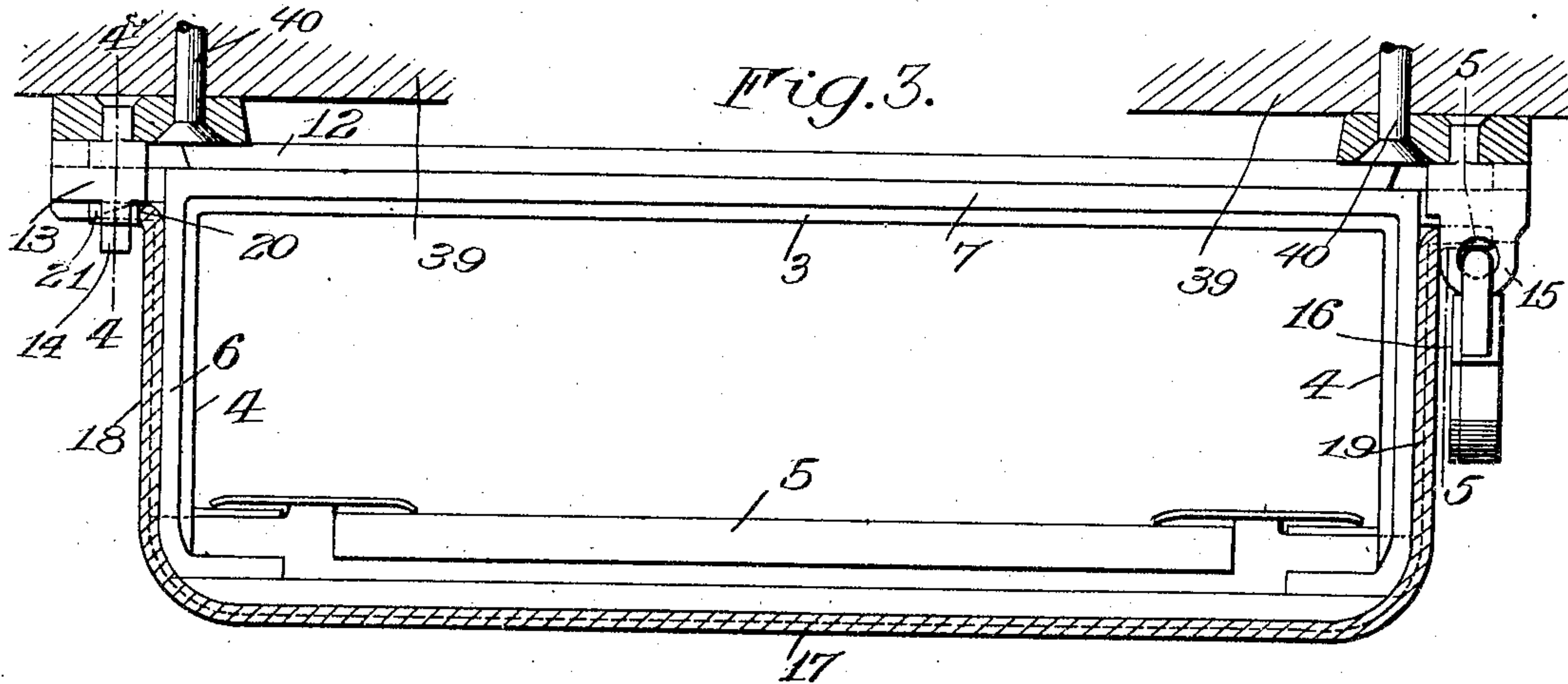
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



Inventor

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH WARREN CUTLER, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO CUTLER MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

LOCKING DEVICE FOR MAIL-CHUTES.

No. 881,179.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 10, 1908.

Application filed January 9, 1906. Serial No. 295,212.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH WARREN CUTLER, of Rochester, in the county of Monroe and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Locking Devices for Mail-Chutes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and to the reference-numerals marked thereon.

My present invention relates to improvements in mail chutes, and the object of the invention is to provide improved locking devices for effectually preventing removal or tampering therewith at the hands of unauthorized parties, while the proper authorities in possession of a suitable key may readily obtain access to the chute for cleaning or removal of obstructions, and if necessary, the chute or parts thereof may be quickly taken down or assembled, the interior of the chute being accessible to the proper authorities.

To these and other ends the invention consists in certain improvements and combinations and arrangements of parts, all as will be hereinafter more fully described, the novel features being pointed out in the claims at the end of this specification.

In the drawings: Figure 1 represents a front elevation of a mail chute having a locking device embodying my invention applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1, the device being shown unlocked. Fig. 3 represents a transverse section through the chute on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1. Figs. 4 and 5 represent sections on the lines 4—4 and 5—5 of Fig. 3. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a member of the locking device, and Fig. 7 represents a vertical section on the line 7—7 of Fig. 1.

Similar parts are designated by the same numerals in the several views.

Mail chutes and other devices used in connection with the postal system should be and are required by the regulations of the Post Office Department, to be under exclusive control of the postal authorities in order that postal matter deposited in the chute or other appliance will be in the custody of these authorities, and thus effectually prevent interception of postal matter or tampering with the chute or other appliance for malicious purposes. Mail chutes extending through the several floors of a building are usually

constructed in sections to facilitate manufacture and assembling, and my present invention provides a device for effectually locking the chute or chute sections in position and thus prevent removal thereof by all persons excepting the authorized officials.

In the present embodiment of my invention I have shown the proximate or abutting portions of mail chute sections 1 and 2 preferably of the usual construction having the metal back 3 and sides 4, the latter extending to the front of the chute and formed to contain a front panel 5 preferably of glass or other transparent material that will permit of a view of the interior of the chute. Each chute is preferably provided with a flange 6 or 7 having the attaching lugs 8 and 9 respectively, which in the present instance, are perforated to receive screws or other suitable securing devices 10 and 11. These attaching lugs are usually arranged at the rear of their respective flanges and are adapted to rest against a suitable support or bracket 12, the latter being adapted for attachment to a wall or other stationary object, 39, by the screws 40 and the flanges of the chute sections are detachably secured to the said support by means of the securing devices 10 and 11 respectively, channels 24 and 25 being preferably formed in the support 12 to receive corresponding portions of the flanges of the chute sections to prevent relative movement thereof while in position.

The support or bracket 12 is preferably formed to fit transversely of the chute and in rear thereof, and projecting forwardly from the support at one side of the chute is a projection 13 having an enlarged head 14 thereon which is formed to project beyond the attaching lugs on the chute sections, while at the opposite side of the chute a staple 15 is provided having an eye to receive the securing part of a lock 16. The device shown is adapted to serve as a connection for the chute sections as well as a fastening and locking device for retaining the chute in position, and in such cases it is preferable to secure both of the adjacent flanges of the sections to the support or bracket 12 at either side of the forwardly-projecting parts 13 and 15, and over these flanges is fitted a removable member or band 17 which preferably extends across the front of the chute and has two rearwardly-extending arms 18 and 19, the arm 18 having a portion 20 overlapping

the securing devices 10 and 11 of the chute-section flanges and provided with a slot 21 adapted to receive the projection 13 in such a way that the enlargement 14 thereon will cooperate with the removable member to retain it against the support, the removable member being engaged with, and detached from the headed projection by a relative tilting or swinging motion about the said projection. The arm 19 of the removable member is provided with a protective portion 22 formed to rest over the corresponding securing devices 10 and 11 of the attaching flanges of the chute sections, a slot or cut-away portion 23 being provided to admit the staple 15, and when the removable member is in cooperative relation with the chute-section flanges, it may be locked in such position by application of the hasp or other locking part of a suitable lock to the aperture of the staple 15, the nature of the construction enabling various forms of locking devices to be employed for retaining the removable member in locked position.

It is usually necessary to employ securing devices for the chute at or in proximity to the abutting ends of the chute sections, and when the removable member and its locking device is employed in this connection, it not only serves to conceal the chute securing devices 10 and 11 and thereby prevent the removal thereof, but, by making this member sufficiently wide, it overlaps the proximate ends of the chute sections and thus closes the space or joint between them, and consequently, when the removable member 17 is locked in position, the securing devices 10 and 11 are concealed and protected by it and the securing devices 40 covered by the chute so that they are inaccessible and cannot be loosened or tampered with by unauthorized parties for the purpose of removing or opening the chute, and as the joint between the chute sections is concealed and covered by the removable member, instruments or other obstructions cannot be inserted within the chute for the purpose of intercepting or otherwise tampering with the postal matter being conveyed through the chute. However, it may be necessary or desirable to apply the locking device to intermediate or other portions of the chute sections on the chute proper, as this is comprehended by my invention, and while the chute and its parts are effectually secured from removal by the removable member when it is locked in position, unlocking of this member enables the proper authorities to have ready access to the chute or its parts for the purposes of cleaning, removal of obstructions and for making necessary repairs, and if necessary the chute or any of its parts may be readily removed and replaced.

The particular embodiment of my invention shown may be used to advantage not

only in equipping chutes prior to installation, but chutes already in position may be readily and inexpensively equipped with the improvement without interfering with the service thereof, as the supports or wall brackets 12 may each be removed and provided with a projection 13 and staple 15 while the attaching lugs 8 and 9 are filed away to fit around these parts, and the removable member 17 is slotted to receive the projection 13 and staple 15, and these parts may be so formed and refitted to the chute without requiring removal thereof. By providing an overhanging part with which one end of the removable member detachably cooperates, it is necessary to employ only one lock, and this serves to lock both ends of the said member from removal.

Moreover, by fitting parts of the flanges 6 and 7 of the chute sections in channels 24 and 25 of the support 12 they will be held securely from relative movement when in position, and therefore the securing devices 10 and 11 or their equivalents, may be omitted, as the removable member 17 retained in position at each end will be sufficient to secure these flanges in position, and this arrangement would render the parts more readily detachable and would otherwise simplify the construction.

In my pending applications Serial No. 229,749, filed Oct. 24, 1904, No. 276,515, filed Aug. 31, 1905 and No. 294,824, filed Jan. 6, 1906, some of the features herein shown are claimed broadly.

I claim as my invention:

1. The combination with a mail chute, of a support having a staple at one side of the chute, a member adapted to secure a part of the chute having detachable connections with the support at the side opposite the staple and adapted to accommodate the staple, and a lock cooperating with the staple for preventing unauthorized removal of said member.
2. The combination with a mail chute, of a channeled support, a part on the chute adapted to cooperate with the channel of the support, a member adapted to cooperate with the said part on the chute to retain it in position, and a lock for securing the said member from unauthorized removal.
3. The combination with a mail chute, of a channeled support, a flange on a part of the chute adapted to cooperate with the said support, a member adapted to cooperate with said flange to secure a part of the chute in position, and a lock for preventing unauthorized removal of said member.
4. The combination with a mail chute, of a support having a staple thereon, a member detachably secured at one end to said support at the side of the chute and formed to accommodate said staple, said member being adapted to retain a part of the chute in posi-

tion, and a lock cooperating with said staple for preventing unauthorized removal of said member.

5 The combination with a mail chute, of a support having an enlargement or over-
hanging portion, and a staple thereon, a
member adapted to secure a part of the chute
in position, having a portion for detachably
engaging the enlargement, and also formed
10 to accommodate the staple, and a lock to co-
operate with said staple to prevent unau-
thorized removal of said member.

6 The combination with a mail chute hav-
ing attaching portions thereon, of a support
15 having sockets adapted to receive said at-
taching portions, and prevent vertical move-
ment of the chute securing means for the at-
taching portions, and a member controlled
by a lock for concealing the said securing
20 means.

7 The combination with a mail chute hav-
ing attaching flanges, of a support having
sockets adapted to receive the flanges; to
prevent vertical movement securing devices
25 for attaching the flanges to the support, and
a removable member controlled by a lock
for concealing the securing devices.

8 The combination with a mail chute hav-
ing attaching flanges, of a channeled support
30 to receive said flanges, securing means for
the flanges, and a movable member con-
trolled by a lock for concealing said securing
devices.

9 The combination with a mail chute
35 having attaching portions, of a support hav-
ing a socket adapted to receive said attach-
ing portions, to prevent vertical movement,
securing means for the attaching portions, a
member cooperating with a part of the chute
40 and having portions for concealing the said
securing means, and devices controlled by a
lock for preventing unauthorized removal of
said member.

10 The combination with a mail chute
45 having attaching portions, of a support
adapted to receive the said portions, secur-
ing means for said attaching portions, a
member connected to the support independ-
ently of the chute and adapted to embrace a
50 part of the chute and having portions ar-
ranged to conceal the said securing devices,
and lock-controlled means for preventing
unauthorized removal of said member.

11 The combination with a mail chute
55 embodying two or more superposed sections
having flanges at their abutting ends, of a
support having channels adapted to receive
said flanges and prevent relative vertical
movement thereof, and a member controlled
60 by a lock for securing the said flanges.

12 The combination with a mail chute
embodying two or more superposed sections
having flanges at their abutting ends, of a
support adapted to receive said flanges, se-
curing devices for said flanges, directly en- 65
gaging the support and a removable member
concealing the joint between the adjacent
flanges and having portions covering the
flange-securing devices, and lock-controlled
means for preventing unauthorized removal 70
of said member.

13 In a mail chute the combination with
a chute section having extensions at the
sides, of a bracket having projections at the
ends in proximity to the projections on the 75
chute section, a band extending over the
chute and having portions at the ends ex-
tending over the projections on the latter,
said band detachably engaging the bracket
at one end and a key lock for securing the 80
other end to the bracket.

14 In a mail chute the combination with
a chute section, of a bracket or support hav-
ing projections at opposite sides of the chute,
one of the said projections having an aper- 85
ture therein, a removable band extending
over the chute detachably engaging one of
the projections on the bracket, and a key
controlled lock having a portion extending
through the apertured projection on the 90
bracket and cooperating with the other end
of the band to prevent its unauthorized re-
moval.

15 In a mail chute the combination with
a chute section, of a bracket having a headed 95
projection at one side of the chute and a per-
forated projection at the other, of a band ex-
tending over the chute and detachably en-
gaging the headed projection at one end of
the bracket and an independently removable 100
locking device engaging the other projection
on the bracket for preventing the move-
ment of the band when in place.

16 In a mail chute the combination with
a chute section, a bracket having an over- 105
hanging portion at one side of the chute and
a perforated projection at the other, of a re-
movable securing band extending over the
chute having a detachable hinge connection
at one end with the overhanging portion on 110
the bracket and a portion located in proxim-
ity to the perforated projection when the
band is arranged over the chute and a key
lock having a portion extending through the
perforated projection and over the end of the 115
band to prevent its unauthorized removal.

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Witnesses:

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