J. W. CUTLER.

MAIL CHUTE.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 9, 1906.

899,156.

Patented Sept. 22, 1908.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

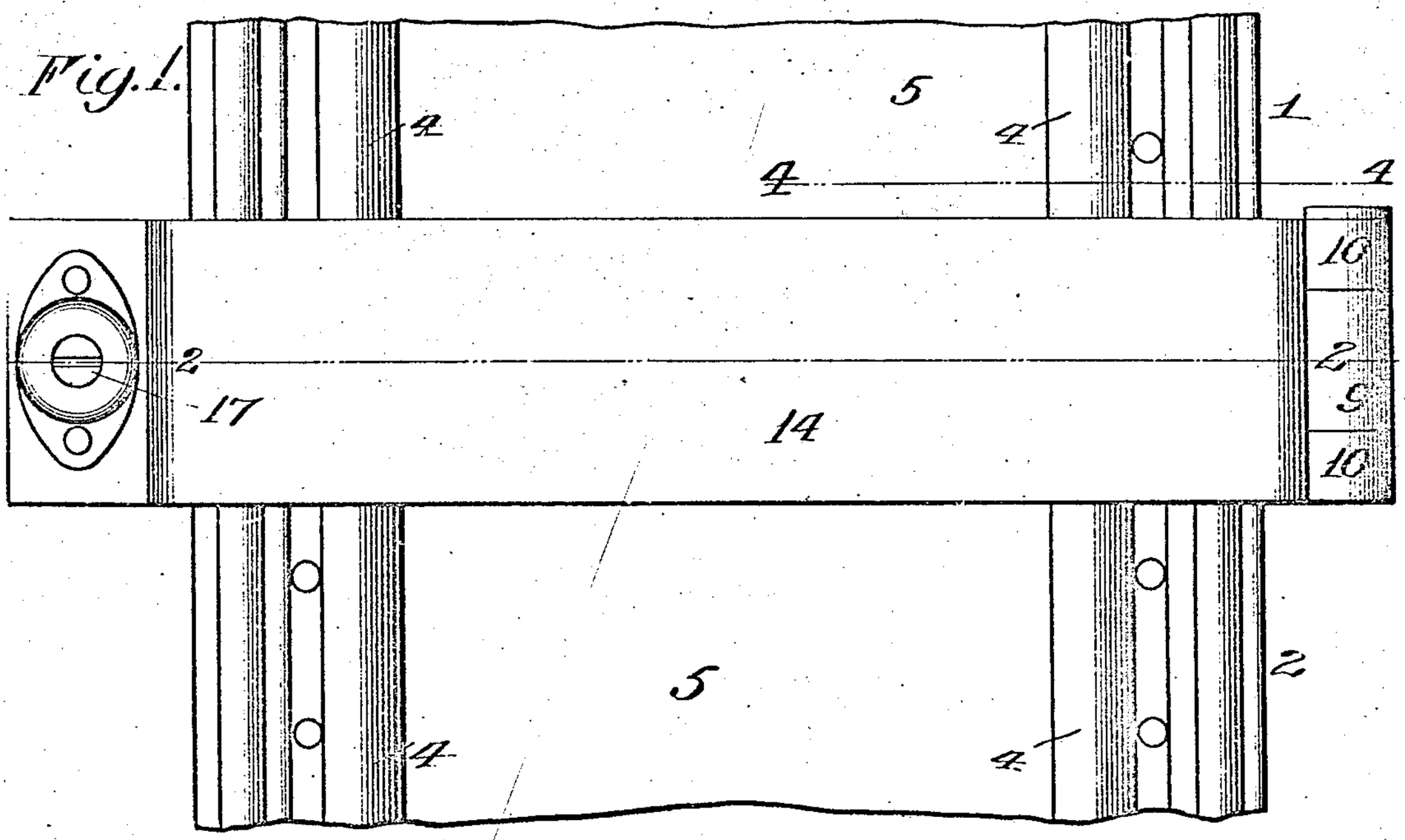
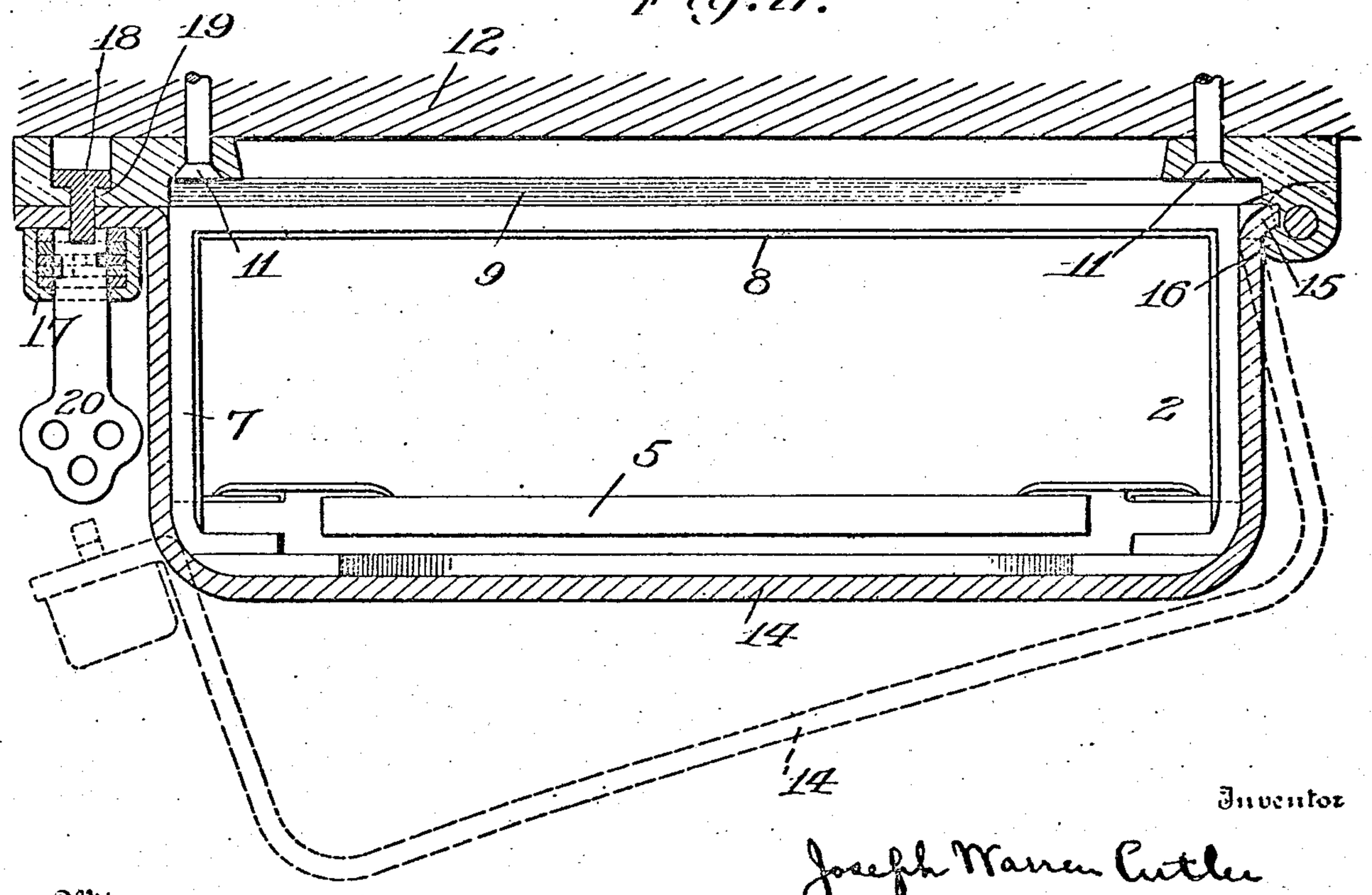


Fig. 2.



Witnesses

Walter B. Payne

Florence E. Franck

Inventor

Joseph Warren Cutler

By Frederick P. Fish

Attorney

J. W. CUTLER.

MAIL CHUTE.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

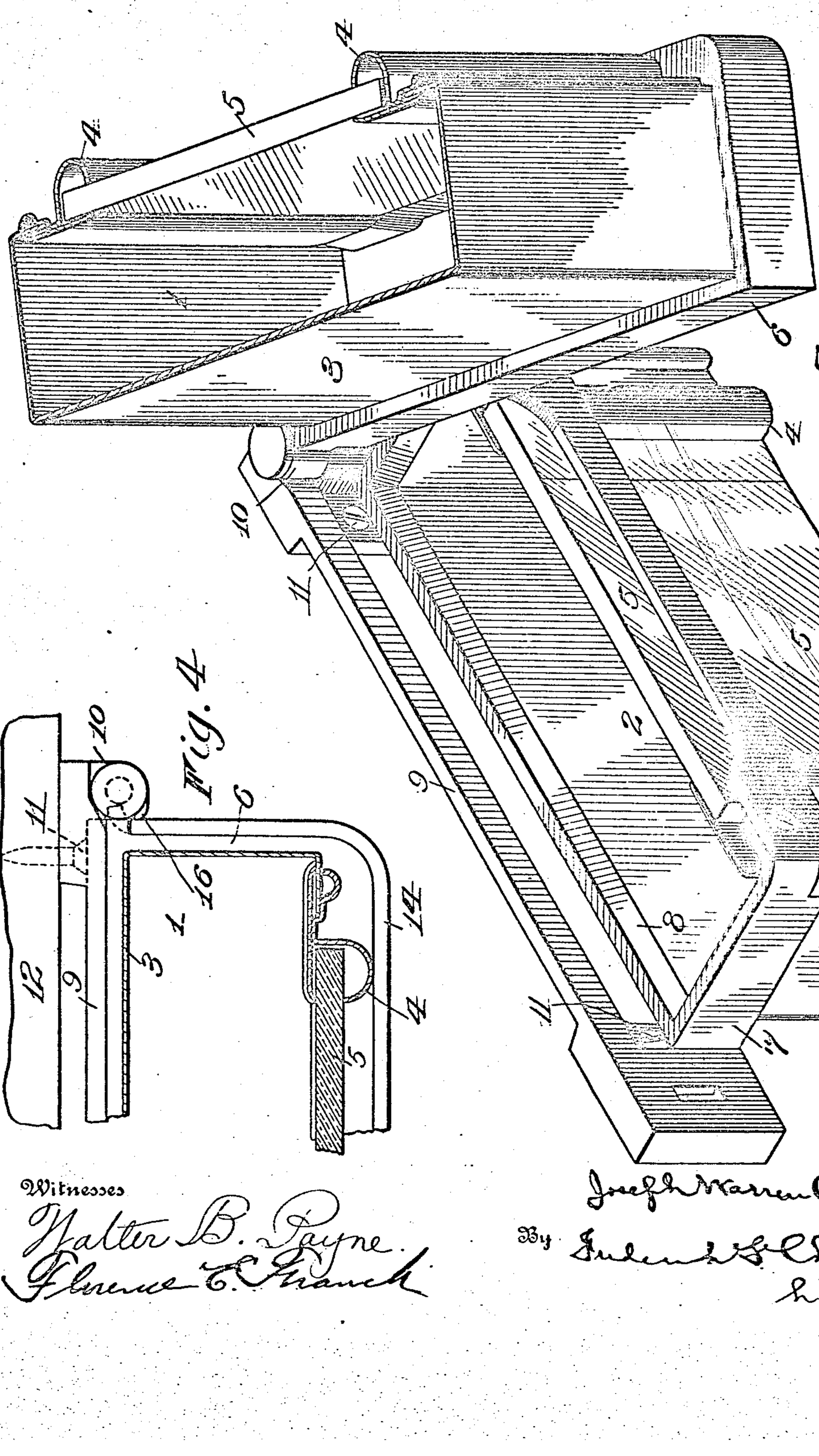

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

Witnesses

Walter B. Payne.

Florence E. Branch

Inventor

Joseph Warren Cutler

By Frederick S. Church

his Attorney

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.

MAIL-CHUTE.

No. 899,156. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 22, 1908.

Application filed January 9, 1906. Serial No. 295,211.

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 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 the specification, and to the reference numerals marked thereon.

My present invention relates to improvements in mail chutes for conducting postal matter from different parts of a building to a suitable collection receptacle, and the object of my invention is to provide such a device that may be readily opened to afford the proper authorities access to its interior for the purposes of cleaning and removing obstructions, while when the parts of the chute are in normal operative position, they will be locked to prevent tampering at the hands of unauthorized persons.

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 more fully in the claims at the end of the specification.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a front elevation of a portion of a mail chute constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 represents a transverse section through the chute on the line 2—2, Fig. 1, the dotted lines indicating the manner of removing the locking member. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the abutting ends of the chute sections, the locking member being removed and one of the sections being shown in opened position; and Fig. 4 represents a section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1, a portion of the chute being broken away.

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

Mail chutes as usually constructed extend from the upper story of a building, downwardly through the several floors to a suitable collection receptacle on the lower floor, the entire chute being under control of the postal authorities in order that postal matter deposited into the chute through the mail receiving apertures on the several floors will be in custody of the post office authorities.

It is the purpose of my present invention to provide such a chute that will be normally locked to prevent access to all parties except the postal authorities, the construction of the chute being such that by unlocking the proper part or section, access may be readily had to any desired part of the chute for the purposes of cleaning or removing obstructions, and if necessary, the parts may be removed and replaced conveniently.

My invention is applicable to different forms of mail chutes, that shown in the present embodiment being composed of a series of superposed sections, the abutting portions of two of such sections 1 and 2 each embodying in the present instance a casing 3 forming the back and sides of the chute, and a front 4 preferably having a transparent or glass panel 5 fitted therein. The coöperating ends of the chute sections are provided with the attaching flanges 6 and 7 respectively which preferably embrace or surround the chute and are riveted or otherwise fixed to the chute casing. These flanges are formed to fit closely, one above the other, and one of them is preferably provided with a beveled surface 8 arranged between the adjacent ends of the casings 3 for insuring a smooth passage between the chute sections for the postal matter. Each flange has a hinge connection with a bracket or support 9 by means of a suitable hinge 10, the latter being of any desired construction but preferably of such form that the chute flanges may be readily detached from the bracket when it is necessary to remove a chute section, the hinge ordinarily serving to support the chute sections when they are being swung into and out of operative position, thus avoiding the necessity of taking down the chute sections when it is necessary to obtain access to the chute. The bracket or support 9 is adapted to receive suitable fastening devices 11 by means of which it is secured to a wall or other stationary object 12, these fastenings being preferably located at such points that they will be concealed when the attaching flanges 6 and 7 of the chute sections are in operative position.

In order to prevent unauthorized opening or removal of the chute sections, a locking member 14 is provided which may be of any suitable construction capable of preventing opening movement of the chute sections by unauthorized parties, a suitable key-lock being provided whereby the locking member

may be unlocked by the proper authorities to permit the opening or removal of the sections. This locking member in the present embodiment comprises a yoke-shaped band or strap adapted to extend across the front and around the sides of the chute and overlap the attaching flanges 6 and 7 of the respective sections to close the joint or space between them, a hook or projection 15 being formed on the band at one side of the chute to cooperate with a corresponding projection 16 on a part of the bracket 9, a part of the hinge being utilized in the present instance for this purpose. This hook and projection forms a pivotal and detachable connection of such nature that when the band is swung around to release the chute sections it may be removed if desired by disengaging these parts. This locking member at the opposite side of the chute is provided with a key-lock 17 having a locking device 18 adapted to cooperate with a corresponding lock member 19 preferably on the bracket 9, the lock being of any desired construction although a key-lock is preferred, as the key may be removed from the chute and kept in custody of the proper authorities.

A mail chute constructed in accordance with my present invention affords convenient means of access to any portion thereof for the purposes of cleaning, repair, inspection or removal of obstructions, as each chute section may be swung into open position independently of the adjacent or abutting section and therefore without disturbing them in any way, and as it is unnecessary to detach the sections by reason of their hinged or pivotal connection with their supports, when the sections are swung into and out of operative positions, the alinement of the chute is perserved and unnecessary handling and labor are avoided, and while all portions of the chute are readily accessible to the proper authorities, by employing a suitable locking device, the entire chute will be under exclusive control of the authorities, and malicious tampering with the chute or the matter contained therein is practically impossible.

It is generally preferable to employ a key-lock for controlling the operation or removal of the parts of the chute, for this enables the key to be removed and kept in custody by the proper authorities, and in the present embodiment of the invention the lock-member 18 is adapted to be rotated or otherwise actuated by a suitable key 20 while the said member is in coöperative relation with the corresponding part of the lock 19 in fixed relation with the bracket 9, the latter forming a back or backing adapted to be held in position against a wall or other object 12 by means of the securing screws 11. When the chute is in proper position for service, portions thereof will extend over and conceal the securing or fastening devices 11, and as the lock proper is preferably removable as well as the band or channel 14, the chute may be effectually locked in place by application of the band and actuation of the lock member 18 of the lock by means of the key. However, my invention is not limited to the particular construction shown, as the details in construction and arrangements of the parts and the manner in which the locking means are applied to the chute may be varied.

Some of the features of this invention broadly considered are claimed in my pending application filed October 24, 1904, Serial No. 229,749.

I claim as my invention.

1. A mail chute mounted in pivotal relation with a support.

2. The combination with a support, of a mail chute having a pivotal connection therewith.

3. The combination with a support, of a mail chute embodying two or more sections each having a pivotal connection with the support.

4. The combination with a support, of a mail chute embodying superposed, independently operable sections hinged to the support.

5. The combination with a support, of a mail chute embodying two or more sections detachably hinged to the support.

6. The combination with a mail chute embodying two superposed sections, of a support, and a pivotal connection between the sections and said support.

7. The combination with a mail chute embodying superposed sections, and attaching flanges on the respective sections having hinge members thereon, of a support having hinge members coöperating with those of the flanges for supporting the sections in pivotal relation therewith.

8. The combination with a mail chute embodying superposed sections, and support of a pivot connection between the support and the sections for supporting the latter and permitting them to swing in planes transverse of the chute.

9. The combination with a mail chute embodying superposed sections arranged end to end, of a support, a pivotal connection between the sections and support, and a locking member for controlling movement of the sections.

10. The combination with a mail chute embodying hollow sections placed end to end, a support, and a pivotal connection between the sections and support, of a locking member for controlling movement of the sections and covering the joint between the ends of the sections.

11. The combination with a mail chute embodying sections placed end to end, a support, and a pivotal connection between the

sections and support, of a locking member for the sections embodying a band overlapping the sections and connecting the joint between them, and a lock for preventing unauthorized removal of said band.

12. The combination with a mail chute embodying sections placed end to end, a support, and pivotal connections between the sections and support, of a locking member embodying a yoke-shaped band overlapping the abutting ends of the chute sections and having a detachable connection at one side of the chute with the support, and a lock at the opposite side of the chute for locking said band to the support.

13. The combination with a support, and a movable chute, of a movable member engaging the support at one end extending over the chute and carrying at its other end a key controlled locking device adapted to coöperate with the support to secure the chute in position.

14. The combination with a support and a movable chute, of a movable member detachably engaging the support at one end, extending over the chute and carrying at the other end a key controlled locking device adapted to coöperate with the support to secure the chute in position.

15. The combination with a support and a movable chute, of a band pivotally connected at one side of the chute extending over the latter and carrying at its free end a key lock embodying a movable part coöperating with the support to secure the band in position.

16. The combination with a support and a movable chute, of a band having a detachable pivotal connection with the support at one side of the chute, extending over the latter and carrying at its other end a key controlled lock embodying a movable part cooperating with the support to secure the band in position.

17. The combination with a mail chute, and a stationary support having a projection at one side of the chute, of a removable securing band adapted to extend over the chute having a detachable hinge connection with the support at one side of the chute and a locking device for securing the free end of said band to the support at the opposite side of the chute.

18. In a mail chute, a back plate, and a tube section hinged at one side to said back plate, substantially as described.

19. In a mail chute, a back plate, a hinged swinging tube section mounted thereon, and locking means for coöperating with the upper and lower portions of the side walls of said swinging tube section; substantially as described.

JOSEPH WARREN CUTLER.

Witnesses:
M. BRAGDON,
J. H. GILMORE, Jr.