

J. H. BROCKWAY.
 SIGNAL AND ORDER ATTACHMENT FOR RURAL ROUTE MAIL BOXES.
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905,284.

Patented Dec. 1, 1908.

Fig. 1

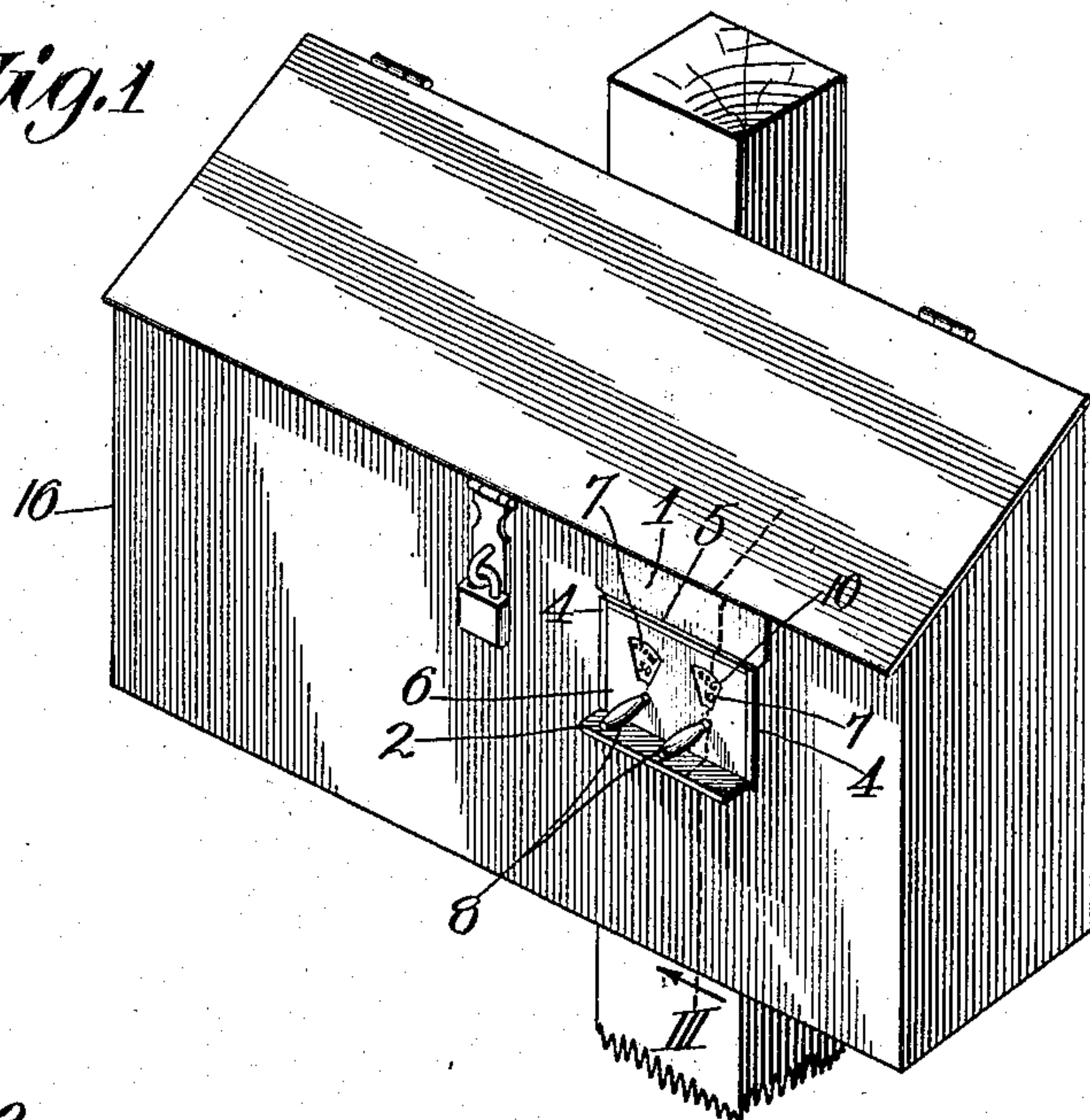


Fig. 3

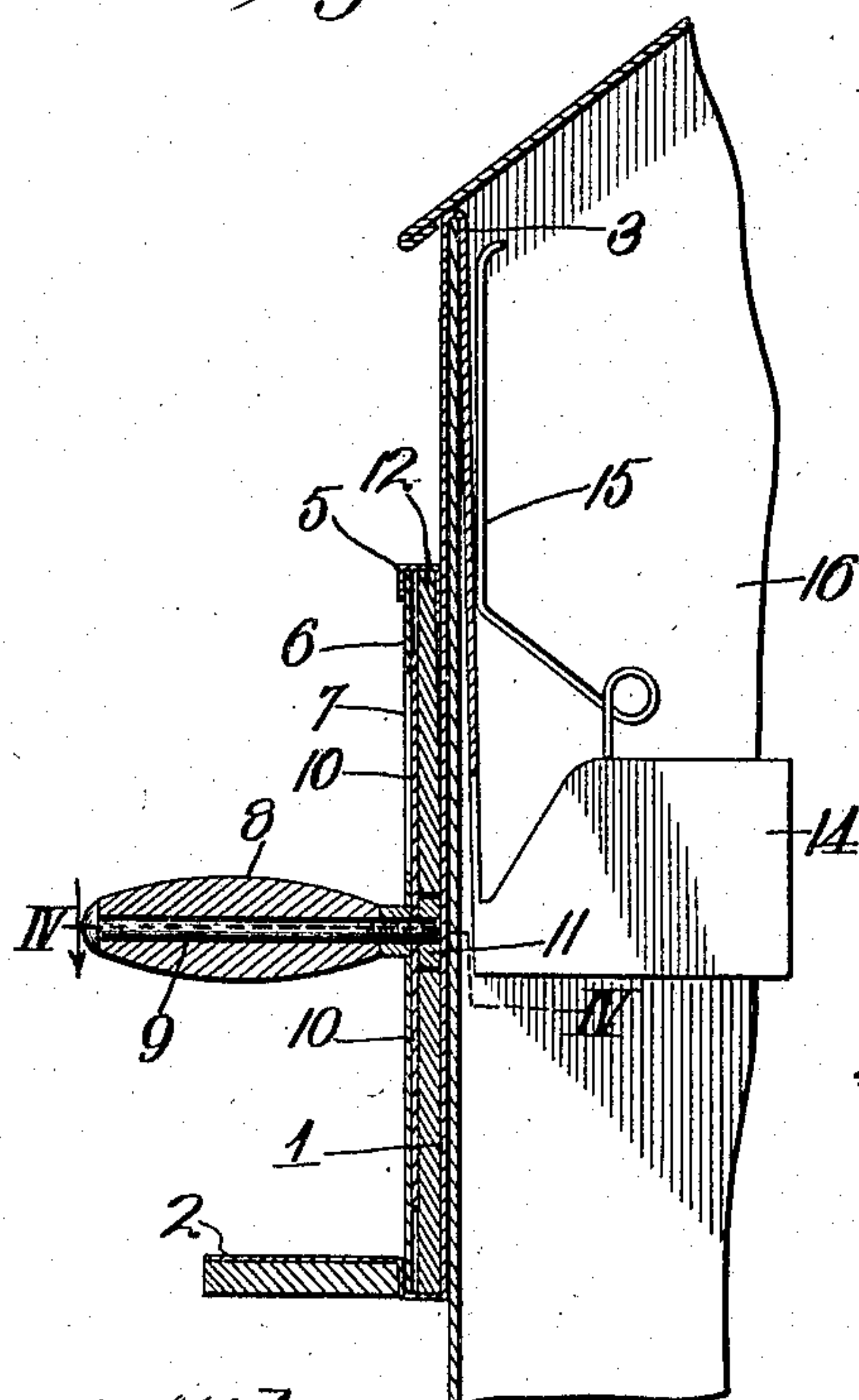


Fig. 2

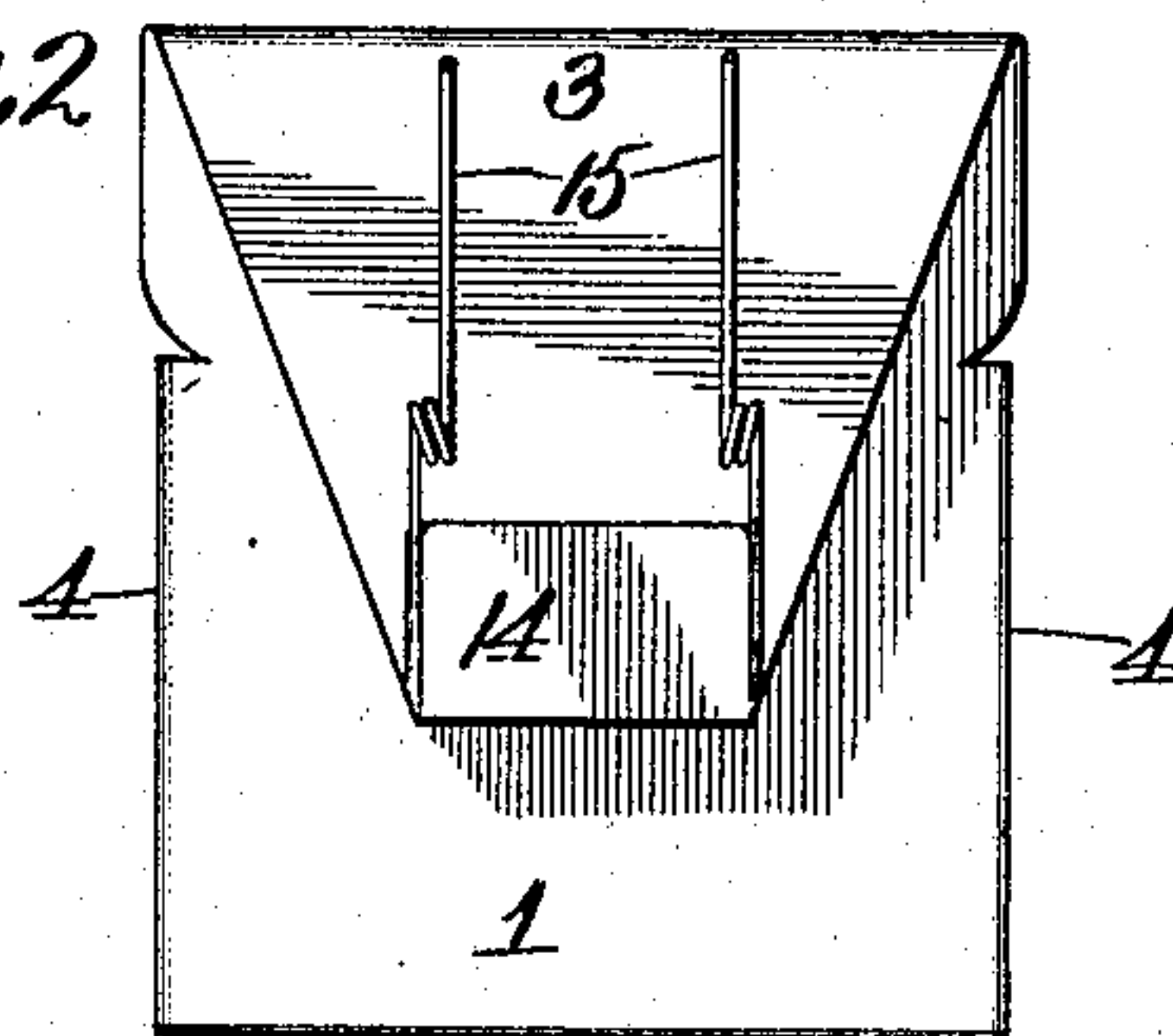
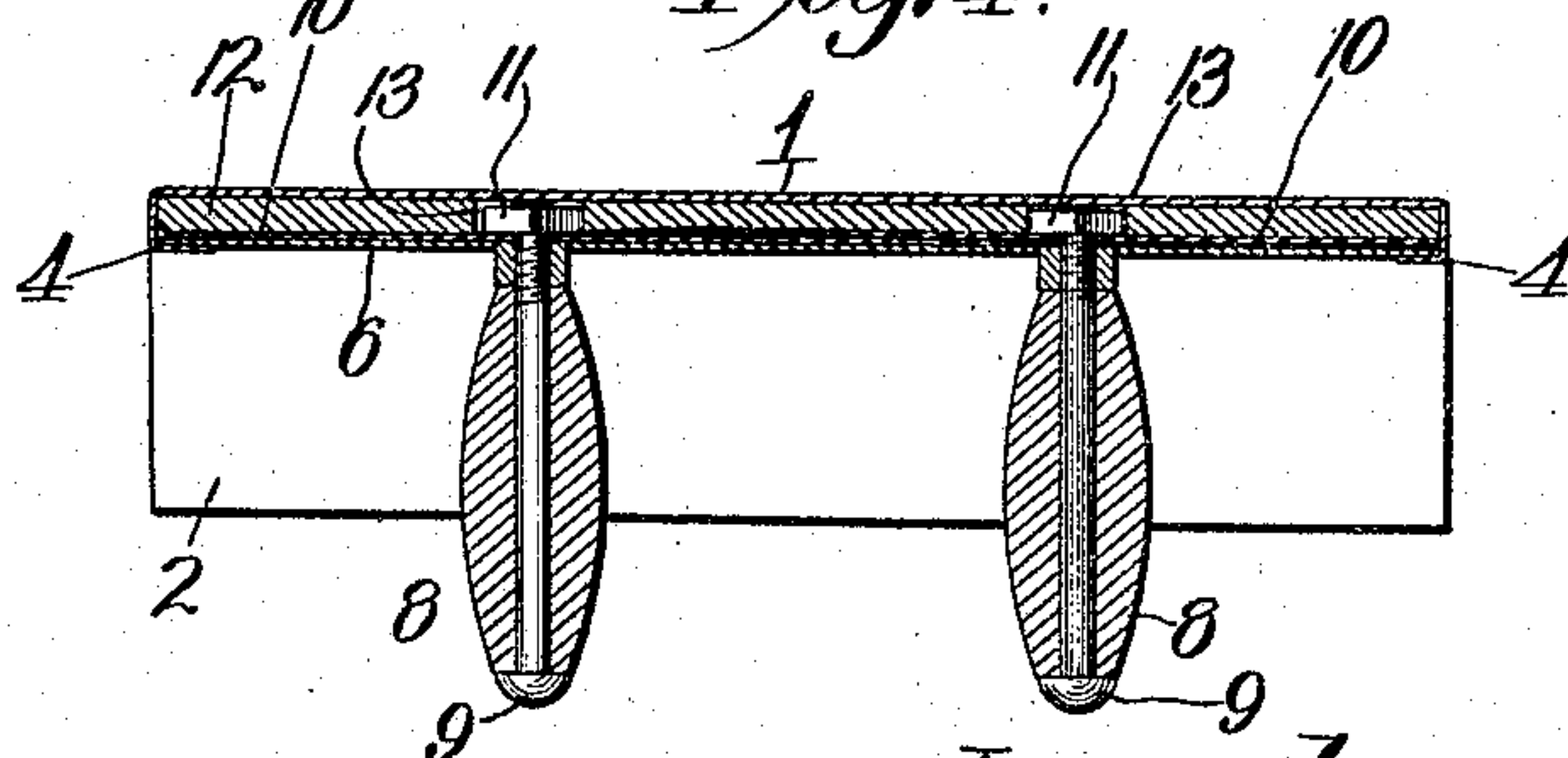


Fig. 4



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SIGNAL AND ORDER ATTACHMENT FOR RURAL-ROUTE MAIL-BOXES.

No. 905,284.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 1, 1908.

Application filed March 31, 1908. Serial No. 424,300.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH H. BROCKWAY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Buckner, in the county of Jackson and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Signal and Order Attachments for Rural-Route Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a signal and order attachment for rural route mail boxes, and my object is to produce a device of this character for attachment to a rural route mail box to indicate to the carrier that the box contains a letter to be forwarded or that the owner of the box desires certain supplies or other service.

A further object is to produce a device of this character whereby the carrier is instructed regarding the particular service desired.

A still further object is to produce an attachment of the character outlined having a box to receive an amount of money sufficient to pay for registering a letter or for a supply of stamps of the desired denomination and character or for postal cards, stamped envelopes or money orders.

A still further object is to produce an attachment of the character described of simple, strong, durable compact and cheap construction and which can be easily and quickly engaged with or disengaged from the mail box, and which furthermore can be secured reliably in position against removal by an unauthorized person by simply fastening the lid of the mail box.

With these objects in view and others as hereinafter appear, the invention consists in certain novel and peculiar features of construction and organization as hereinafter described and claimed; and in order that it may be fully understood reference is to be had to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1, is a perspective view of a rural route mail box equipped with an attachment embodying my invention. Fig. 2, is an enlarged rear view of the same. Fig. 3, is a section on the line III of Fig. 1, on a larger scale than Fig. 2. Fig. 4, is a horizontal section taken on the line IV—IV of Fig. 3.

In the said drawing, a piece of sheet metal 1, tapering at its upper end is bent to provide the forwardly projecting step 2 at its lower end and to provide the downwardly

disposed hook 3 at its rear side and upper end, which hook is adapted for engagement with one of the vertical walls of a mail box, as hereinafter more particularly referred to.

The body portion of the metal plate is bent at its side margins to form the inwardly disposed angles 4, a downwardly disposed angle 5 being secured to said body portion and between the upper ends of the angle portions 4. A front plate 6 fits against the riser portion of the step 2 and against the inwardly projecting arms of the angle portions 4, and the downwardly projecting arm of angle portion 5, and is secured to said portions in any suitable manner, the said front plate being provided with one or more sight openings 7. Vertically below the sight openings, handles 8 project through the front plate and said handles are equipped with bolts 9, which project through disks 10, clamped against the front plate by nuts 11 engaging the inner ends of the bolts and fitting in holes 13 in the filling strip 12 of cardboard or equivalent material. This filling strip not only stiffens or strengthens the structure but forms a frictional surface which will prevent the disks from accidental turning, it being noticed in this connection that the disks may lap at their inner edges as by doing the attachment can be reduced in size.

The disks are adapted to bear on their faces different inscriptions, such as one-cent stamps, two-cent stamps, stamped envelopes, postal cards, money order, registered letter and analogous matter, any of which inscriptions can be disclosed by turning the handles until the desired inscription appears through the sight opening.

Attached to the lower end and rear side of the hook 3 is a coin box 14 to contain the amount of money necessary to pay the carrier for the supplies desired and secured to said box and disposed contiguous to the rear face of the hook is a pair of springs 15 for clamping a letter reliably against the hook and thus make it easier for the carrier, particularly in very cold weather, to perform his work.

Assuming that the device is equipped with an ordinary letter properly stamped, the owner will turn the disk so as to dispose a blank space through the sight opening, and then hang the attachment, by means of the hook, on the box, 16, for instance. He then

closes the lid of the box and secures it in such position and thus prevents an unauthorized person from removing the attachment or from extracting the letter. The equipment of the box with the attachment is a signal that the carrier is wanted, and by noting that the blank space on the disk is exposed, he will understand that a letter is to be forwarded. If a money order is desired, this will show on the disks through the sight-opening, and the carrier will raise the lid of the box 16 and remove the attachment so that he can empty anything that the box 14 contains into his hand or lap. In the same manner any particular service desired can be indicated, it being obvious that if any particular directions are needed they can be embodied in a note secured in place by the springs 15.

In cold weather when the carrier's hands are so cold as to prevent the free use of his fingers, this attachment will be found most convenient and will materially facilitate his work. After he has performed the service required, of whatever nature it may be, he rehooks the attachment back onto the box 16 and closes and locks the lid thereof, the attachment remaining in such position until the owner removes it.

From the above description it will be apparent that I have produced an attachment for rural route mail boxes possessing the features of advantage enumerated as desirable and I wish it to be understood that I do not desire to be restricted to the exact details of construction shown and described as obvious modifications will suggest themselves to one skilled in the art.

Having thus described the invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters-Patent is:—

1. An attachment for mail boxes comprising a downwardly-disposed hook, a spring clamp carried by the attachment at the rear side of the terminal or free end of said hook pressing yieldingly toward said side to clamp an object thereagainst, and means at

the front or exposed side of the attachment for indicating to the mail collector the presence of said object.

2. An attachment for mail boxes comprising a downwardly-disposed hook, a receptacle at the terminal or free end of said hook, and means at the free or exposed side of the attachment for indicating to the mail collector that there is something for collection in said box.

3. An attachment for mail boxes comprising a downwardly-disposed hook, a box carried at the terminal or free end of said hook, a spring clamp rearward of said hook and adapted to press an object yieldingly thereagainst, and indicating means at the front or exposed side of the attachment.

4. The combination with a rural route mail box, of an attachment comprising a plate having a downwardly disposed hook to engage a vertical wall of said box and be secured thereto by the lid of the mail box when fastened, a front plate spaced from and forward of the first-named plate and provided with a sight-opening, a rotatable disk between said plates and partially exposed through said sight-opening, and means for turning said disk.

5. The combination with a rural route mail box, of an attachment comprising a plate having a downwardly disposed hook to engage a vertical wall of said box and be secured thereto by the lid of the mail box when fastened, a front plate spaced from and forward of the first-named plate and provided with a sight-opening, a rotatable disk between said plates and partially exposed through said sight-opening, means for turning said disk, and a box attached to the hook and disposed inward of the mail box.

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

JOSEPH H. BROCKWAY.

Witnesses:

ASA E. VAUGHAN,
JOSEPH H. BOTTS.