

B. M. DAVIS.
DISCHARGE MECHANISM FOR PEANUT VENDING MACHINES.
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911,945.

Patented Feb. 9, 1909.

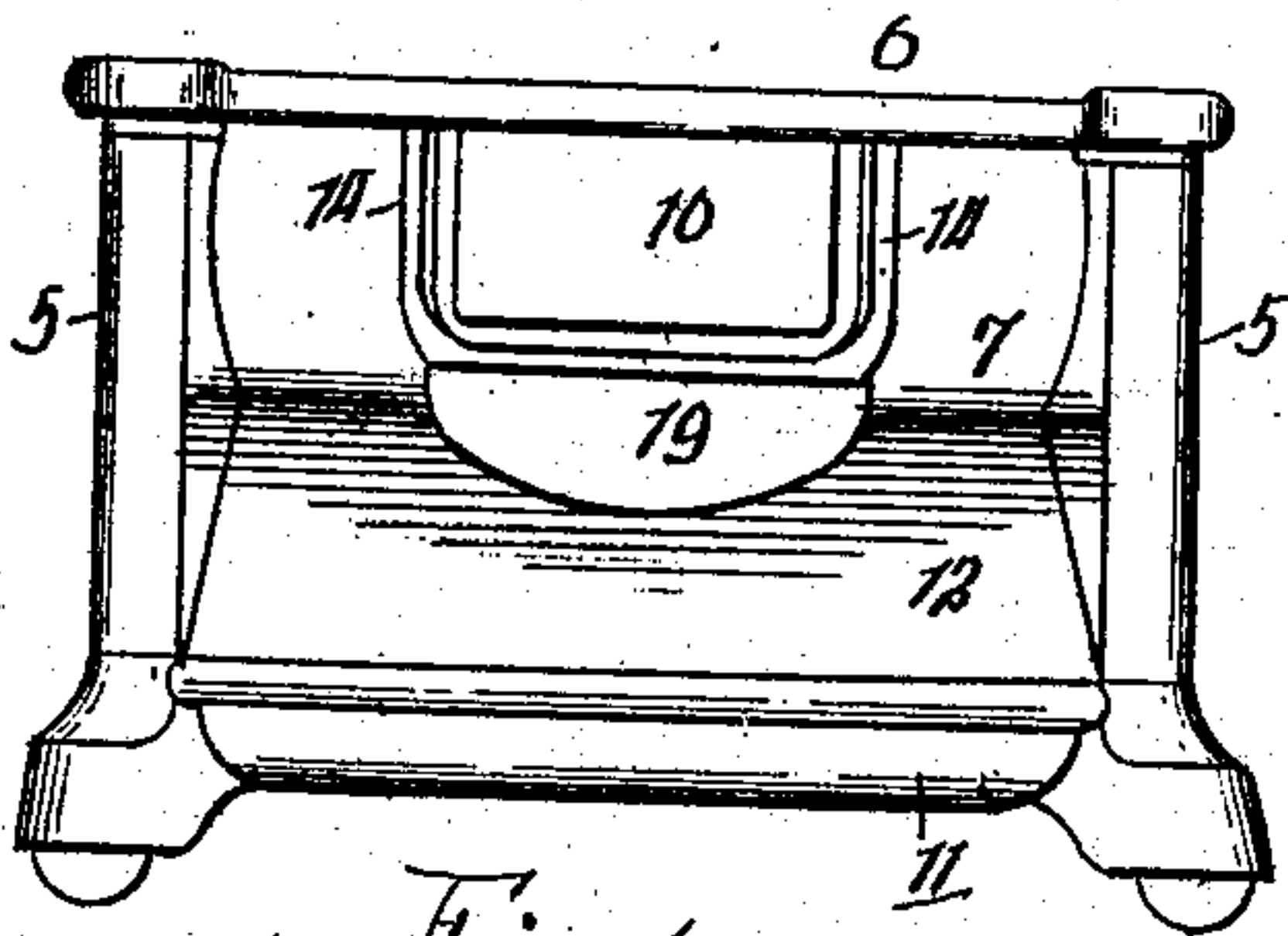


Fig. 1.

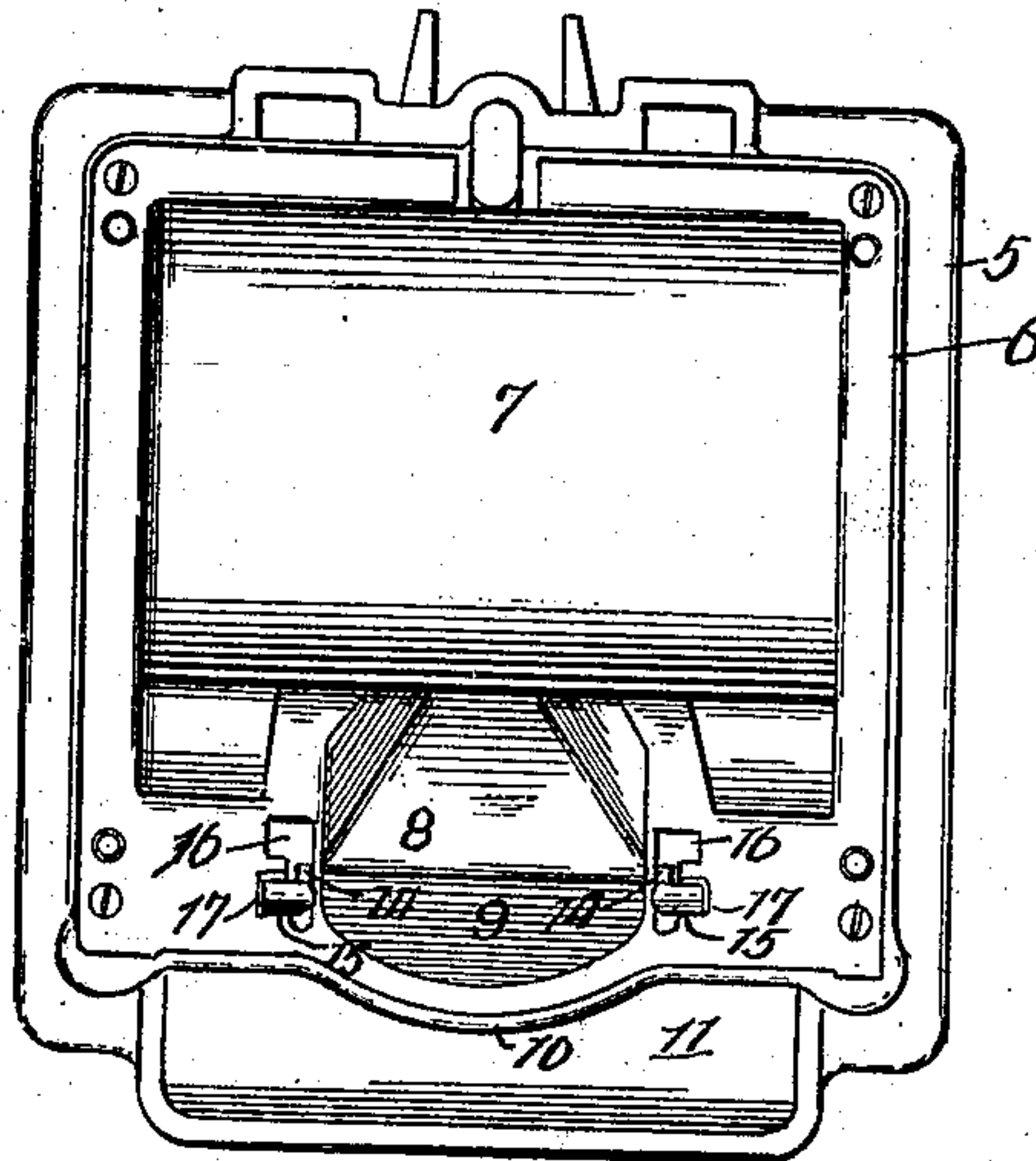


Fig. 2.

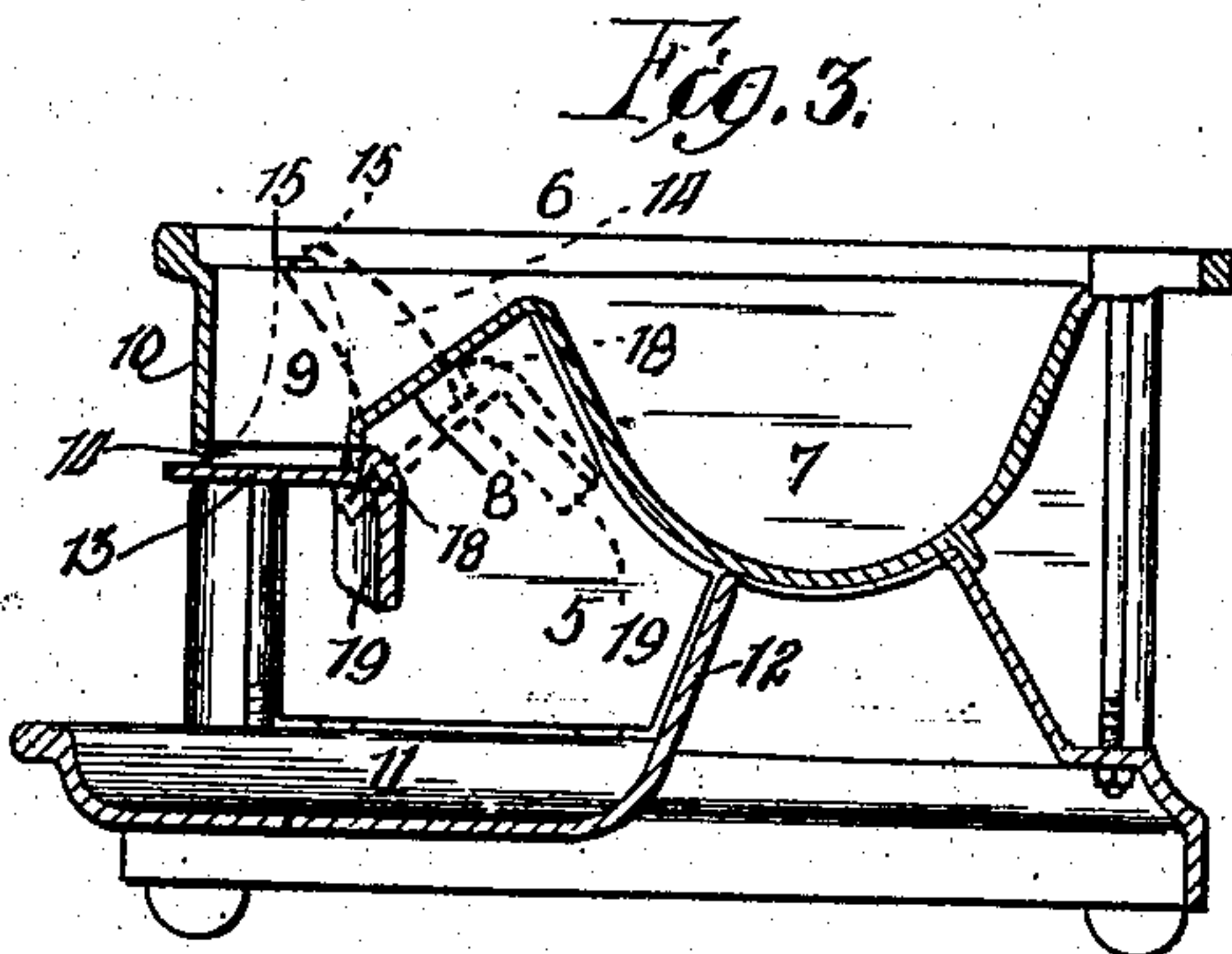


Fig. 3.

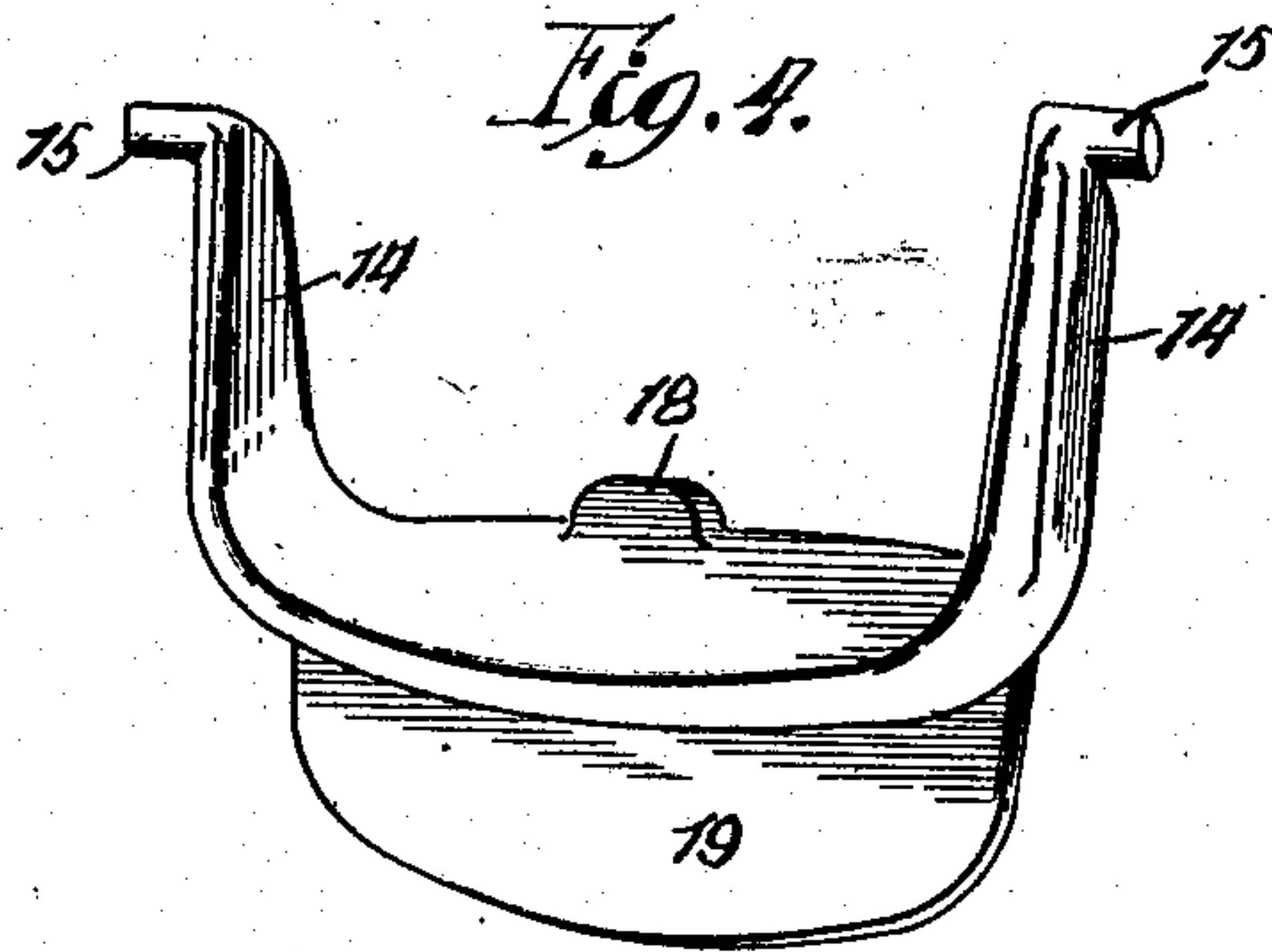


Fig. 4.

Witnesses:

W. P. Bond

Person W. Banning.

Inventor:

by Bethel M. Davis
Banning & Banning
Attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BETHUEL M. DAVIS, OF MORRIS, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO JOSEPH G. COLEMAN, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

DISCHARGE MECHANISM FOR PEANUT-VENDING MACHINES.

No. 911,945.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 9, 1909.

Application filed July 11, 1908. Serial No. 443,118.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BETHUEL M. DAVIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Morris, in the county of Grundy and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Discharge Mechanism for Peanut-Vending Machines, of which the following is a specification.

In peanut vending machines of the ordinary type, the peanuts are discharged directly into a cup-shaped plate, whence they are removed by the hand of the purchaser; and this method of vending peanuts is highly objectionable, for the reason that it is difficult to remove the peanuts from the cup or concavity into which they are discharged, and for the still more important reason that the contact of the fingers or hand of each purchaser in the cup or concavity tends to promote filth or unsanitary conditions, so that people will refuse to purchase peanuts from a machine of this character.

The object of the present invention is to provide a gate, immediately below the mouth of the discharge chute, upon which the peanuts will be discharged in such position as to enable the purchaser to receive them into the hollow of his hand by tilting the gate from a point which prevents the fingers or hand of the purchaser from contacting the surface upon which the peanuts are supported, thereby preventing the accumulation of filth or dirt and overcoming the unsanitary conditions above noted.

A further object of the invention is to so construct and locate the gate that it will be automatically swung out of position by the natural movement of the purchaser's hand, when placing the hand in position to receive the peanuts, thereby obviating the necessity for providing auxiliary means for accomplishing this result or complicating the mechanism to an extent which would render it difficult for the purchaser to understand its operation.

Further objects will appear from a detailed description of the invention, which consists in the features of construction and combination of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation of the base of the peanut vending machine, showing the gate of the present invention; Fig. 2 a top or plan view of the

base, showing the discharge chute and the method of supporting the gate; Fig. 3 a sectional elevation of the discharge chute, showing the gate closed, in full lines, and indicating, in dotted lines, the position of the gate when open; and Fig. 4 an enlarged perspective view of the gate.

The device of the present invention is applied to the base of a vending machine having side walls 5 which inclose a floor 6, which floor, in its rear portion, is dished to provide a coin receptacle 7. The dished wall forming the coin receptacle merges into a sloping front wall 8 which, in conjunction with surrounding side walls 9 and a front wall 10, gives to the structure a chute formation adapted to discharge peanuts near the front of the machine and immediately above the base plate 11, the rear end 12 of which is upturned to an extent sufficient to contact the under face of the coin receptacle 7. The front side of the machine is open above the base plate 11 to afford ingress for the purchaser's hand below the mouth of the chute.

The gate 13, which more especially forms the subject matter of the present invention, is in the form of a flat plate normally suspended a short distance below the open mouth of the chute by means of hangers 14 which embrace the sides of the chute and terminate, at their upper ends, in trunnions 15 which are adapted to be entered through bayonet slots 16 in the upper floor of the base portion of the machine laterally adjacent the chute. The trunnions rest within recesses 17 cut in the top of the floor, and the gate is provided, on its top edge, with a lug 18 which is adapted to contact the rear side of the chute to limit the forward swing of the gate. The gate is further provided, on its rear edge, with a depending flange 19 which serves as a stop or abutment for the fingers of the purchaser when the hand is inserted beneath the chute.

In use, the rear edge of the gate being weighted in excess of the front edge will normally hold the gate in its forward position with the lug 18 in contact with the rear edge of the chute, and the surface of the gate will occupy a position slightly below the mouth of the chute, so that, when the peanuts are discharged, they will be visible to the purchaser through the crack thus afforded. The crack, however, is not suffi-

cient to permit the purchaser to insert his finger or hand under the chute and in contact with the supporting surface of the gate, which latter is thereby protected against the accumulation of filth or dirt which might contaminate the peanuts. In order to receive the peanuts into the hand, the latter will be inserted beneath the chute in the natural manner, thereby bringing the finger tips against the flange 19, so that continued movement of the hand will swing back the gate and allow the peanuts to discharge into the hollow of the hand. Contact of the hand against the gate being limited to the under surface thereof, the upper surface will be protected at all times not only against contamination by the hand of the purchaser but also against the accumulation of dust or cinders which frequently collect in the cup or receptacle employed to receive peanuts in vending machines of the usual type.

The invention is of such simple character that it does not materially complicate the mechanism nor impose upon the purchaser the necessity of manipulating the discharge other than by a natural movement of the hand to position to receive the peanuts. At the same time the entire discharge of peanuts will be received into the palm of the hand, which obviates the necessity of scraping the peanuts up out of the dish or receptacle, and is a much easier method of securing peanuts than that previously employed.

What I regard as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a vending machine, the combination of a discharge chute having the edges of its discharge mouth lying in a substantially horizontal plane, a flat gate normally lying in a horizontal plane underneath the mouth of the discharge chute and secured thereto

in a manner to permit of a retraction from the mouth of the chute, and a stop depending from the rear side of the gate and at a point beneath the rear edge of the chute and adapted to be engaged by the fingers of the purchaser for moving the gate rearwardly as the palm of the hand is moved to position beneath the chute, substantially as described.

2. In a vending machine, the combination of a discharge chute having the edges of its discharge mouth lying in a substantially horizontal plane, a flat swinging gate pivoted to and normally lying in a horizontal plane beneath the mouth of the chute, and a stop depending from the rear side of the gate and substantially in line with the rear edge of the chute and adapted to be engaged by the finger tips of the purchaser for swinging the gate rearwardly away from the mouth of the chute as the palm of the hand is moved to position beneath the chute, substantially as described.

3. In a vending machine, the combination of a chute, a gate comprising a floor normally occupying a position slightly below the mouth of the discharge chute, hangers connected with the floor and embracing the sides of the chute, means for pivoting the hangers, a lug adapted to engage the rear side of the chute when the gate is swung to its normal position, and a flange depending from the rear of the chute and adapted to be contacted by the hand of the purchaser for swinging back the gate as the hand is moved to position beneath the chute, substantially as described.

BETHUEL M. DAVIS.

Witnesses:

E. WAINWRIGHT,
JAS. W. PENN.