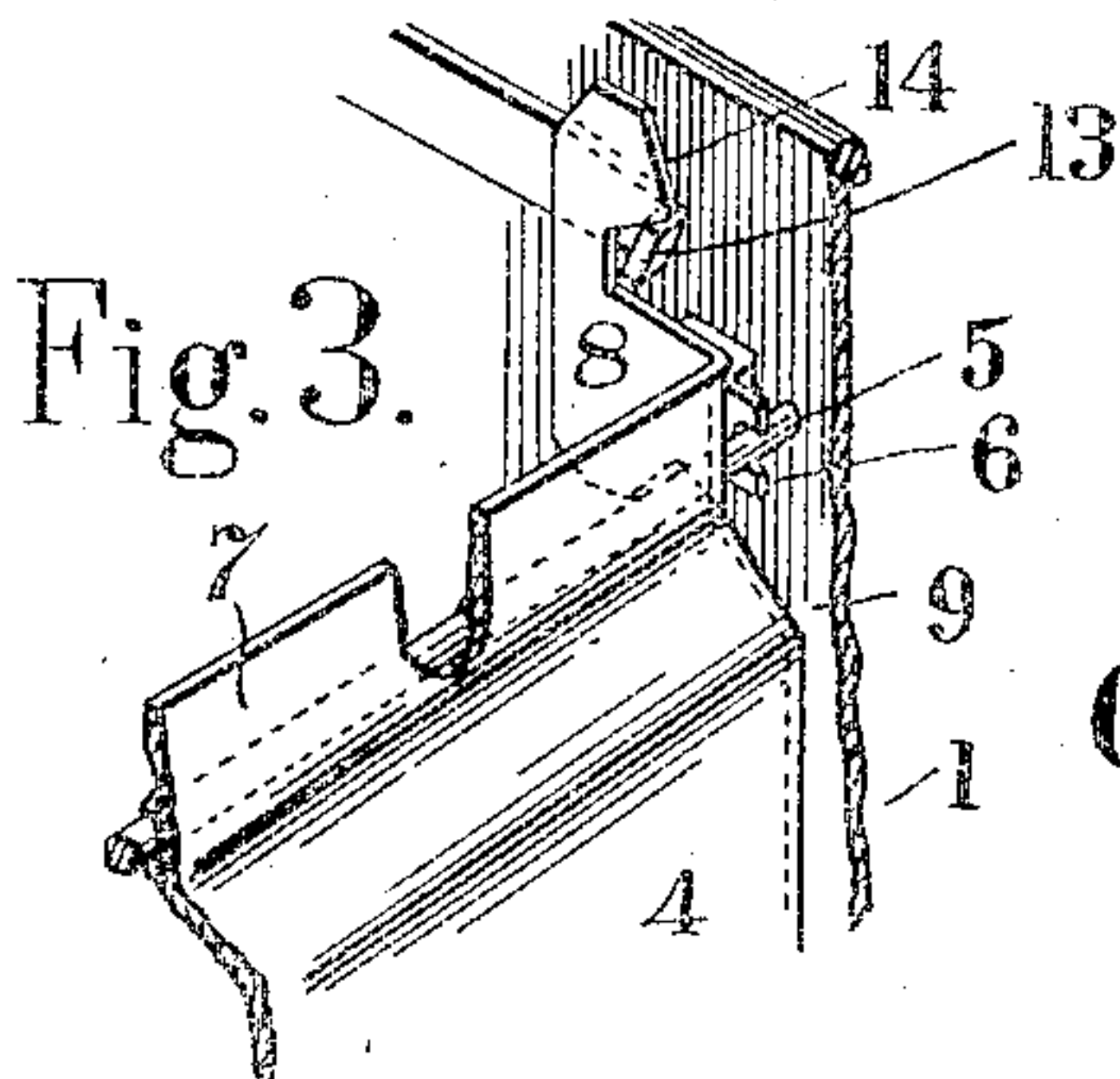
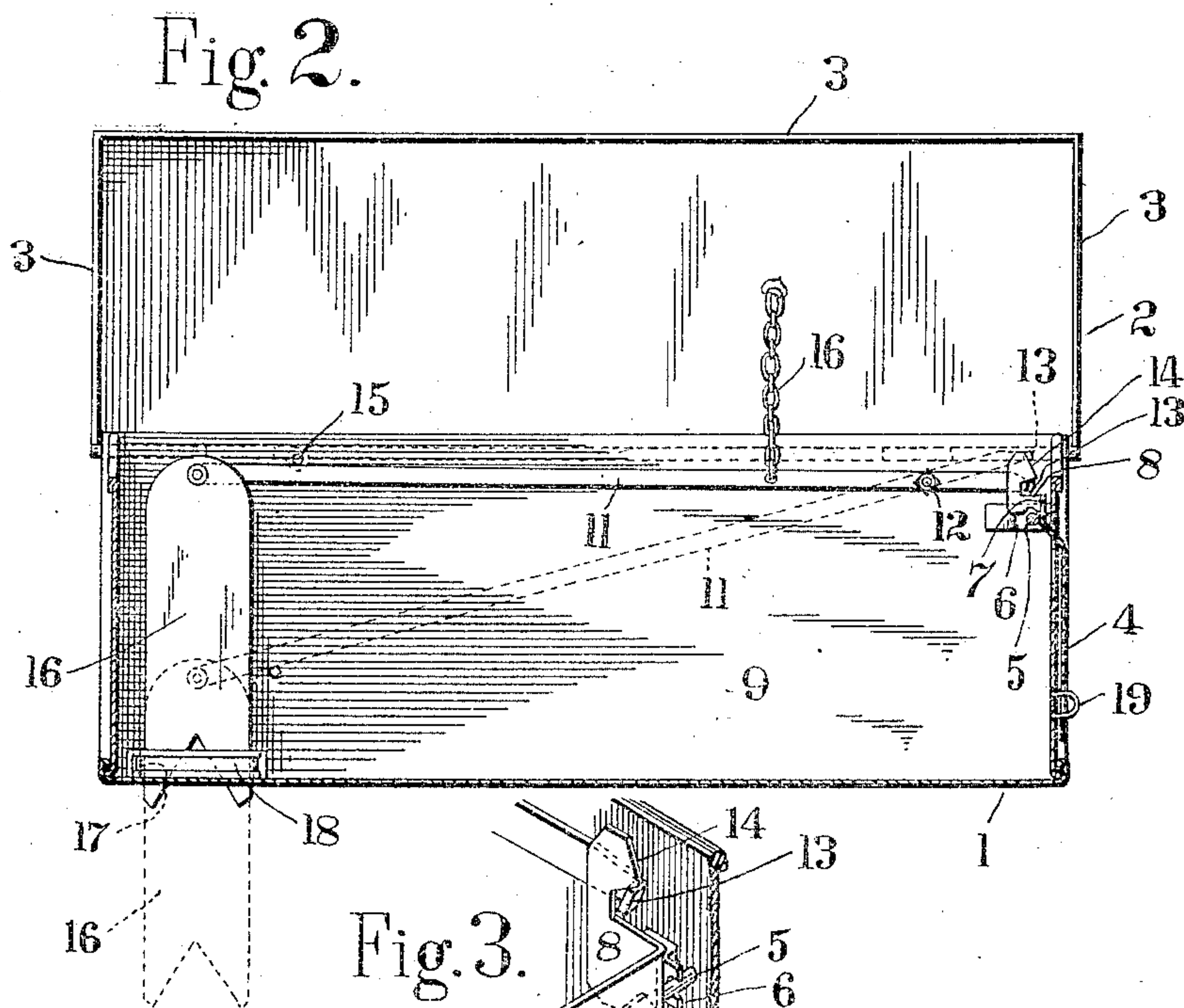
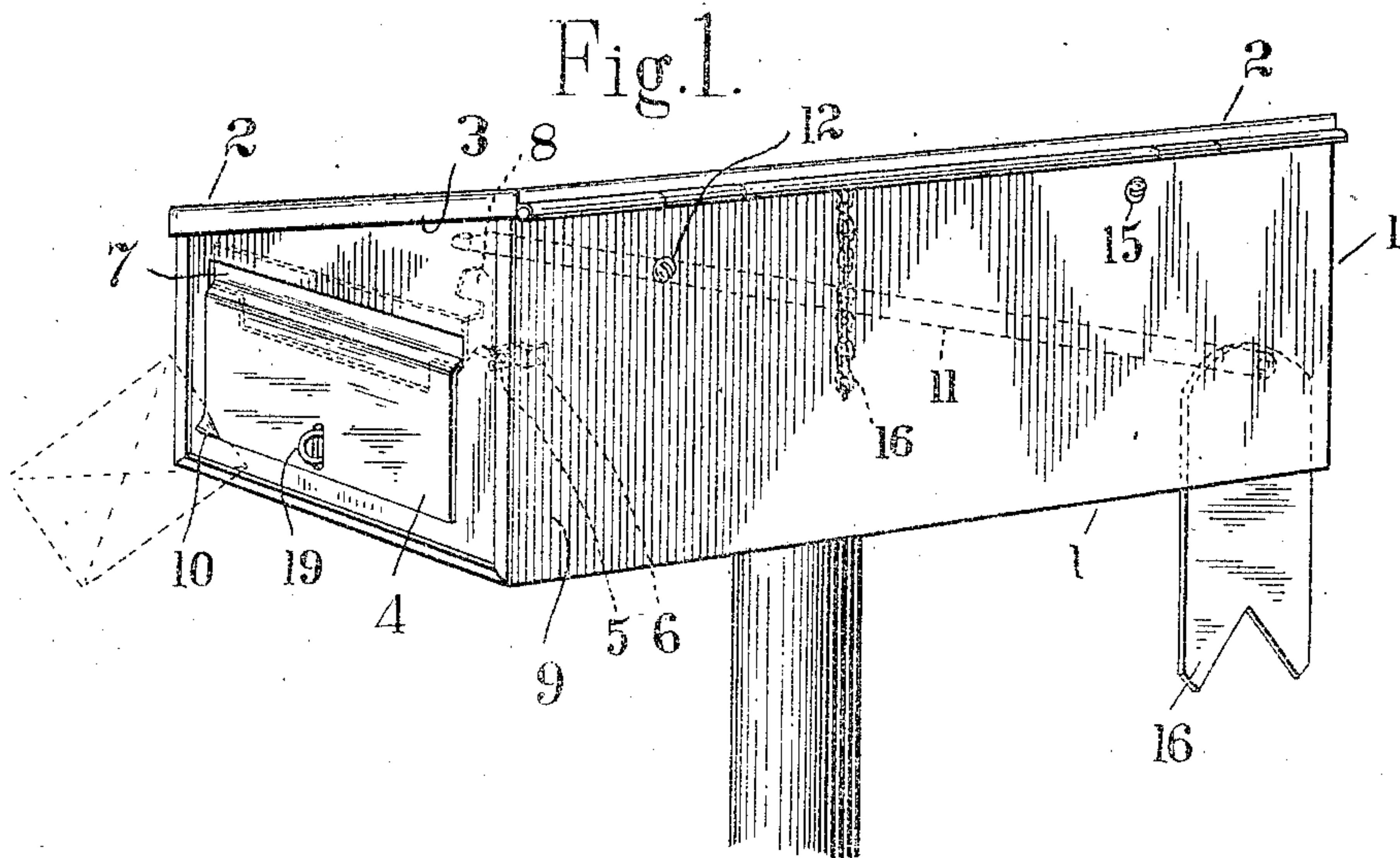


C. F. FARRAR.
RURAL MAIL BOX.
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 24, 1908.

924,651.

Patented June 15, 1909.



WITNESSES:

Walter A. Greenburg
Anna M. Dorr.

INVENTOR

Charles F. Farrar

BY

Charles F. Farrar
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES F. FARRAR, OF HOWELL, MICHIGAN.

RURAL MAIL-BOX.

No. 924,651.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented June 15, 1909.

Application filed August 24, 1908. Serial No. 449,963.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES F. FARRAR, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Howell, in the county of Livingston and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Rural Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

10 This invention relates to mail boxes and more especially to a certain arrangement thereof adapting them for rural mail routes whereby an indicator is automatically operated by the placing of mail in a box or its
15 removal therefrom, to show such fact, and whereby a simple construction is obtained which is weather tight, not liable to get out of order and cheap to manufacture.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a
20 view in perspective of a mail box embodying features of the invention. Fig. 2 is a view in longitudinal section of the box with the cover raised. Fig. 3 is a view in detail of a mail slot flap door.

25 Referring to the drawings, 1 indicates a box of any suitable material and shape, preferably of sheet metal and rectangular in form. A cover 2, preferably inclined with end and side flanges 3 closing over the box
30 rim to exclude rain and snow, is hinged in place on its rear edge. A mail slot is formed in one end of the box and a flap door 4 therefor is pivoted thereon by a hinge rod 5 soldered, riveted or otherwise secured on its
35 rear face with its ends journaled in apertured ears 6 secured on the inside of the box, the door, which is preferably of thin sheet metal, having an offset portion 7 above the pivot rod which bears outwardly against the box
40 side when the flap drops. A notched latch lug 8 is secured or formed on the door flap above its hinge rod in substantially parallel relation to the adjacent rear side 9 of the box, and one of the lower corners 10 of the
45 flap is slightly out bent as a convenient means whereby an envelop or the like may be inserted as indicated under the door to raise it and thereby uncover the mail slot, so that the envelop may be pushed through
50 it, enabling the user to place mail in the box with one hand only.

A lever 11, fulcrumed near one end on a pivot bolt 12 to swing on the wall transversely to the flap 4, has an intumed lug 13
55 adapted to slide over an inclined face 14 on the latch 8 when the outer end of the lever

is raised and interlocked therewith when the lever is against an upper stop pin 15. A flexible connecting cord or chain 16 between the cover 2 and lever raises the latter into
60 engagement with the flap latch when the cover is lifted.

An indicator tab or target 16 of suitable design is pivoted or hinged at its upper end on the free end of the lever 11 with its lower
65 end in a slot 17 in the box bottom with a flange 18 secured at its ends to the box side around the slot. This prevents any frost, ice, or snow that may adhere to the bottom of the box being drawn up into the interior
70 by the retraction of the target, to the detriment of the box contents. A staple 19 in the box end entering a slot in the flap, affords a convenient means for attaching a padlock, if desired. By this arrangement, the intro-
75 duction of mail into the box drops the indicator into view, and opening the cover to remove the contents pulls the indicator out of sight. The box is weather tight, not readily injured and is cheap to manufacture.
80

Obviously changes in the details of construction may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention and I do not care to limit myself to any particular form or arrangement of parts.
85

What I claim as my invention is:—

1. In a mail box, an indicator, a mail door in said box, means supporting the indicator adapted to interlock with the door when the indicator is concealed, and to move the indi-
90 cator to display position when disengaged by the door, a movable cover, and means connecting the indicator supporting means and cover adapted to move the latter means into engagement with the door when the
95 cover is raised.

2. In a mail box, an indicator, a mail door in said box, a lever supporting the indicator adapted to interlock with the door when the indicator is concealed, and to move the in-
100 dicator to display position when disengaged by the door, a movable cover, and a flexible connection between the indicator supporting lever and cover adapted to move the lever into engagement with the door when the
105 cover is raised.

3. In a mail box having an internally flanged slot in its bottom, an indicator in the slot, a lever in the box articulated at the outer end to the indicator, a mail door in the
110 box adapted to interlock with the inner end of the lever when the latter is in raised posi-

tion and the indicator housed, and when opened to leave the lever free to drop and display the indicator, a cover for the box, and means articulating the cover and lever adapted when raised to swing the latter into engagement with the door.

4. In a mail box having an internally flanged slot in its bottom, an indicator in the slot, a lever in the box articulated at the outer end to the indicator, a mail door in the box adapted to interlock with the inner end of the lever when the latter is in raised position and the indicator housed and when opened to leave the lever free to drop and display the indicator, a cover for the box, and a flexible connecting member articulating the cover and lever adapted when raised to swing the latter into engagement with the door.

5. In a mail box having a mail opening, and an indicator slot in its bottom, a door for the opening closed by gravity, a latch on the door within the box, a lever pivoted in the box, an indicator on one end of the lever reciprocable through the slot, the other end of the lever being adapted to engage the latch when the indicator is within the box, a cover for the box, and means articulating the cover and lever adapted when raised to swing the lever into engagement with the door latch.

6. In a mail box having a mail opening in its wall, and an indicator slot in its bottom, a gravity closed door for the opening, a latch on the door within the box, a lever oscillatory in the box having one end adapted to interlock with the door latch when fully depressed, an indicator on the other end of the lever reciprocable through the bottom slot, a cover on the box and means on the cover adapted when raised to move the lever into engagement with the latch.

7. In a mail box having a mail opening in its wall and an indicator slot in its bottom, a door pivoted on the box adapted to seat itself by gravity over the opening outside the box and provided with an outturned lower corner, a latch on the door within the box, an indicator reciprocable through the slot, means supporting the indicator adapted to interlock with the latch when the door is closed and the indicator retracted and when disengaged to allow the indicator to drop through the slot, a cover, and flexible connections between the cover and supporting means adapted to move the latter into engagement with the latch when the cover is raised.

8. In a mail box having a mail opening in its wall and an indicator slot in its bottom, a horizontally pivoted flap door extending through the opening adapted to seat itself by gravity on the outside of the box over the

opening and provided with an outturned lower corner, an offset portion of the door extending above its center of oscillation, an inturned latch lug on the offset portion, an indicator reciprocable through the slot, means supporting the indicator adapted to interlock with the latch when the door is closed and the indicator retracted, and when disengaged to allow the indicator to drop through the slot, a cover, and flexible connections between the cover and supporting means adapted to move the latter into engagement with the latch when the cover is raised.

9. In a mail box having a mail opening in its wall and an indicator slot in its bottom, a horizontally pivoted flap door extending through the opening adapted to seat itself by gravity on the outside of the box over the opening and provided with an outturned lower corner, an offset portion of the door extending above its center of oscillation, an inturned latch lug on the offset portion, a lever pivoted within the box having a lug on one end adapted to interlock with the latch when the door is seated and the other end of the lever raised, an indicator pivoted on the other end of the lever adapted to drop through the bottom slot when the latch releases the lever lug, a cover for the box and a flexible connection between the cover and the indicator end of the lever adapted to swing the lever into engagement with the door latch when the cover is moved.

10. In a mail box having a mail opening in its wall and an indicator slot in its bottom, a horizontally pivoted flap door extending through the opening, adapted to seat itself by gravity on the outside of the box over the opening and provided with an outturned lower corner, an offset portion of the door extending above its center of oscillation, an inturned latch lug on the offset portion, a lever pivoted within the box having a lug on one end adapted to interlock with the latch when the door is seated and the other end of the lever raised, an indicator pivoted on the other end of the lever adapted to drop through the bottom slot when the latch releases the lever lug, a cover for the box, a flexible connection between the cover and the indicator end of the lever, adapted to swing the lever into engagement with the door latch when the cover is moved, and a flange strip secured around the rim of the bottom slot.

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

CHARLES F. FARRAR.

Witnesses:

C. R. STICKNEY,
A. M. DORR.