

S. W. BONSTALL.

TRUNK.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 29, 1908.

930,343.

Patented Aug. 10, 1909.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

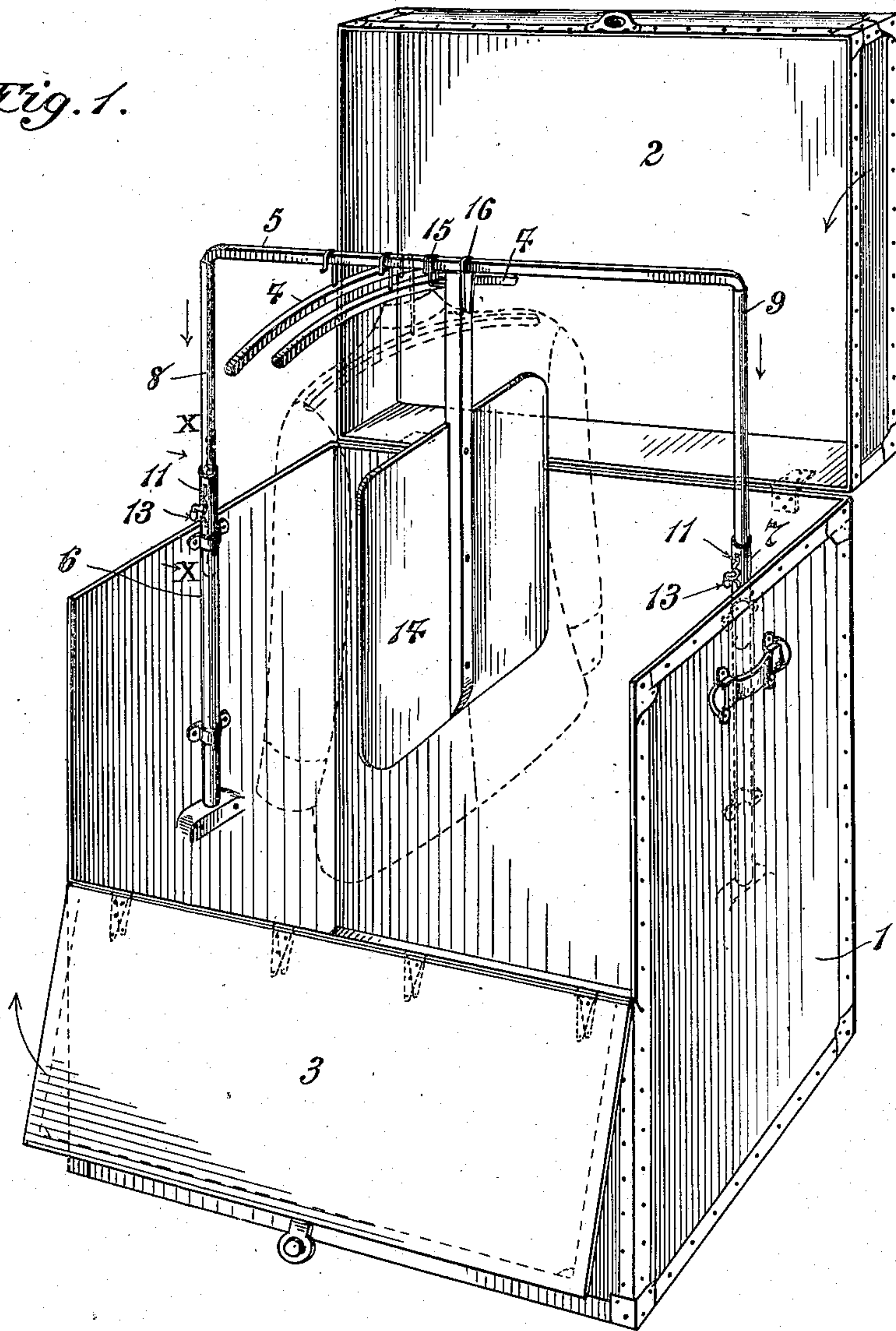
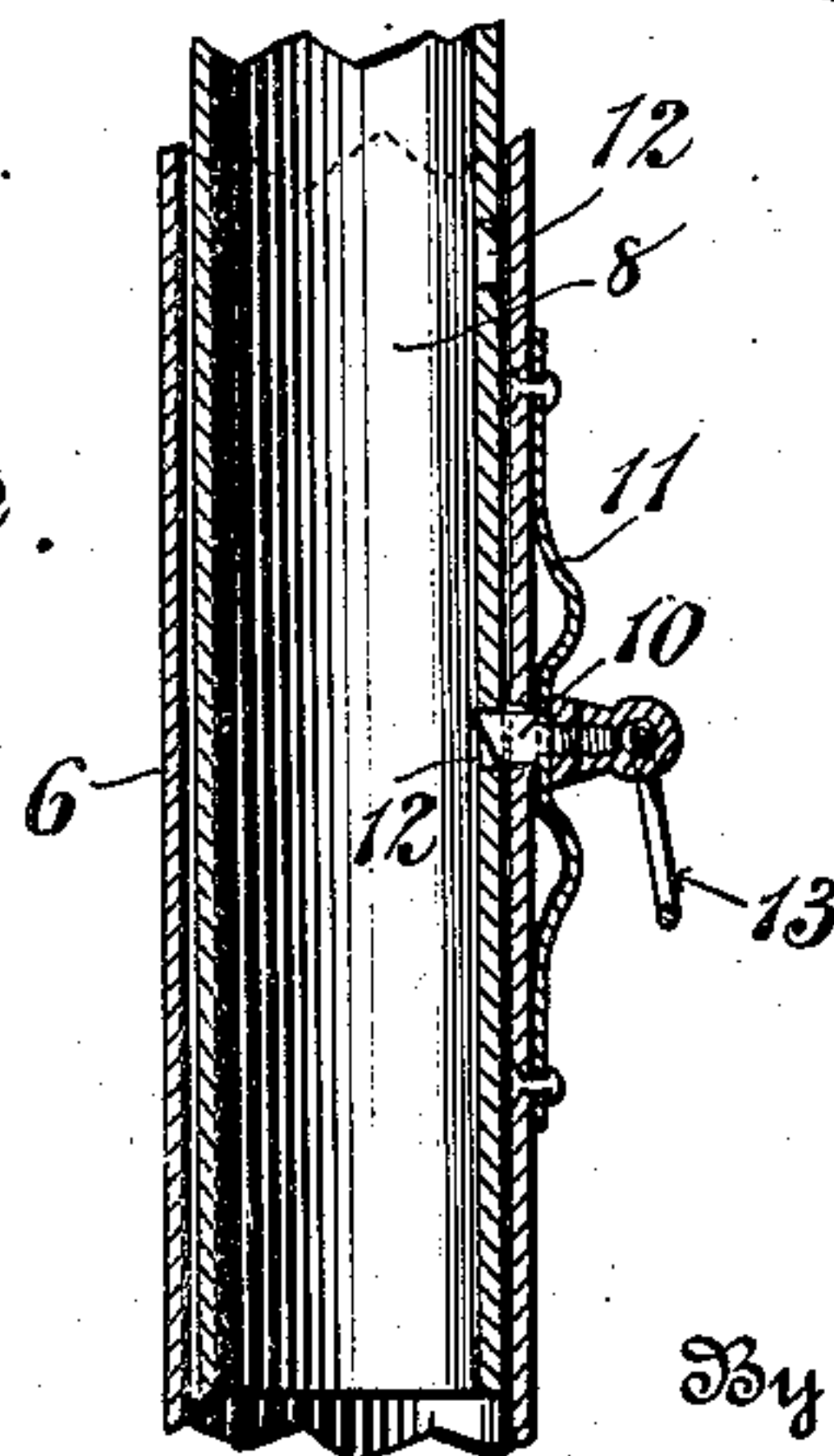


Fig. 2.



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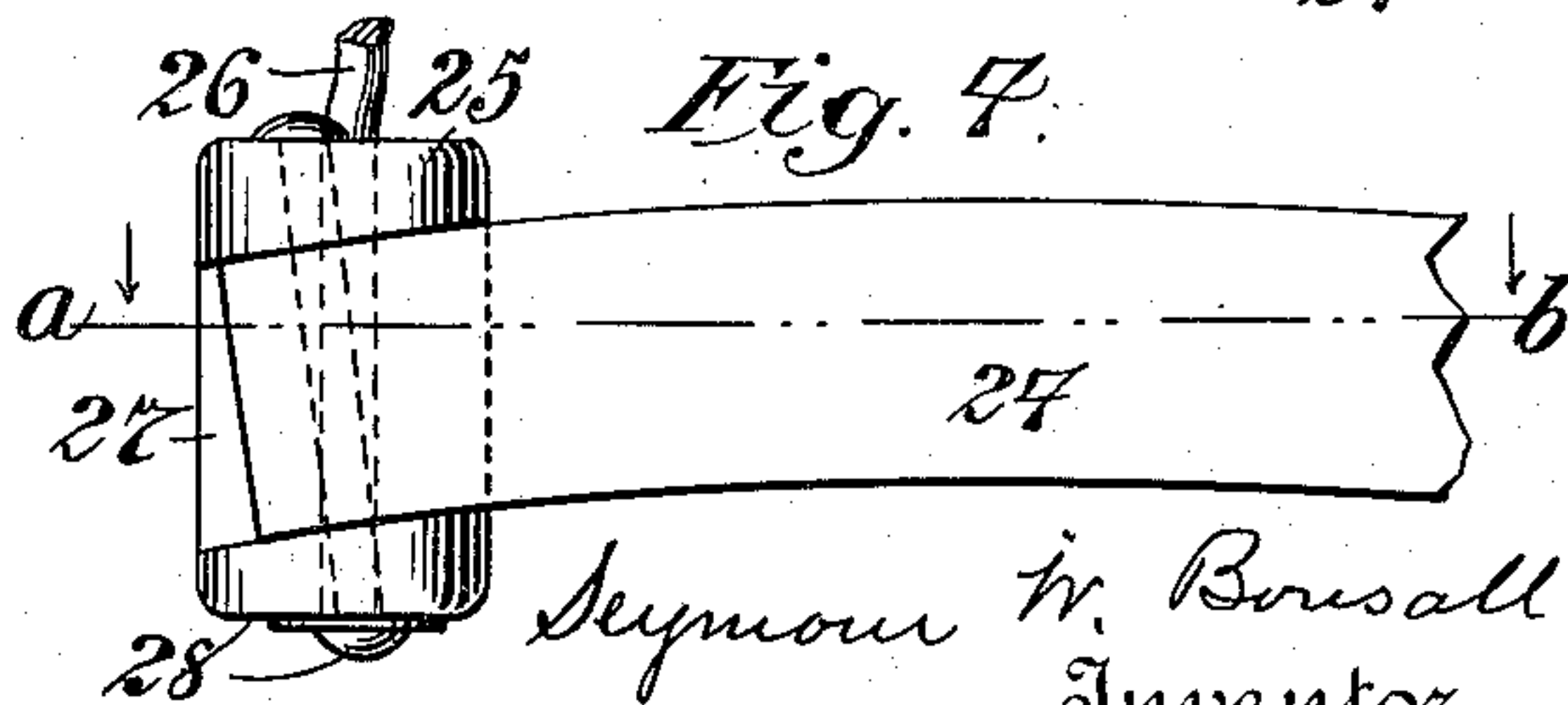
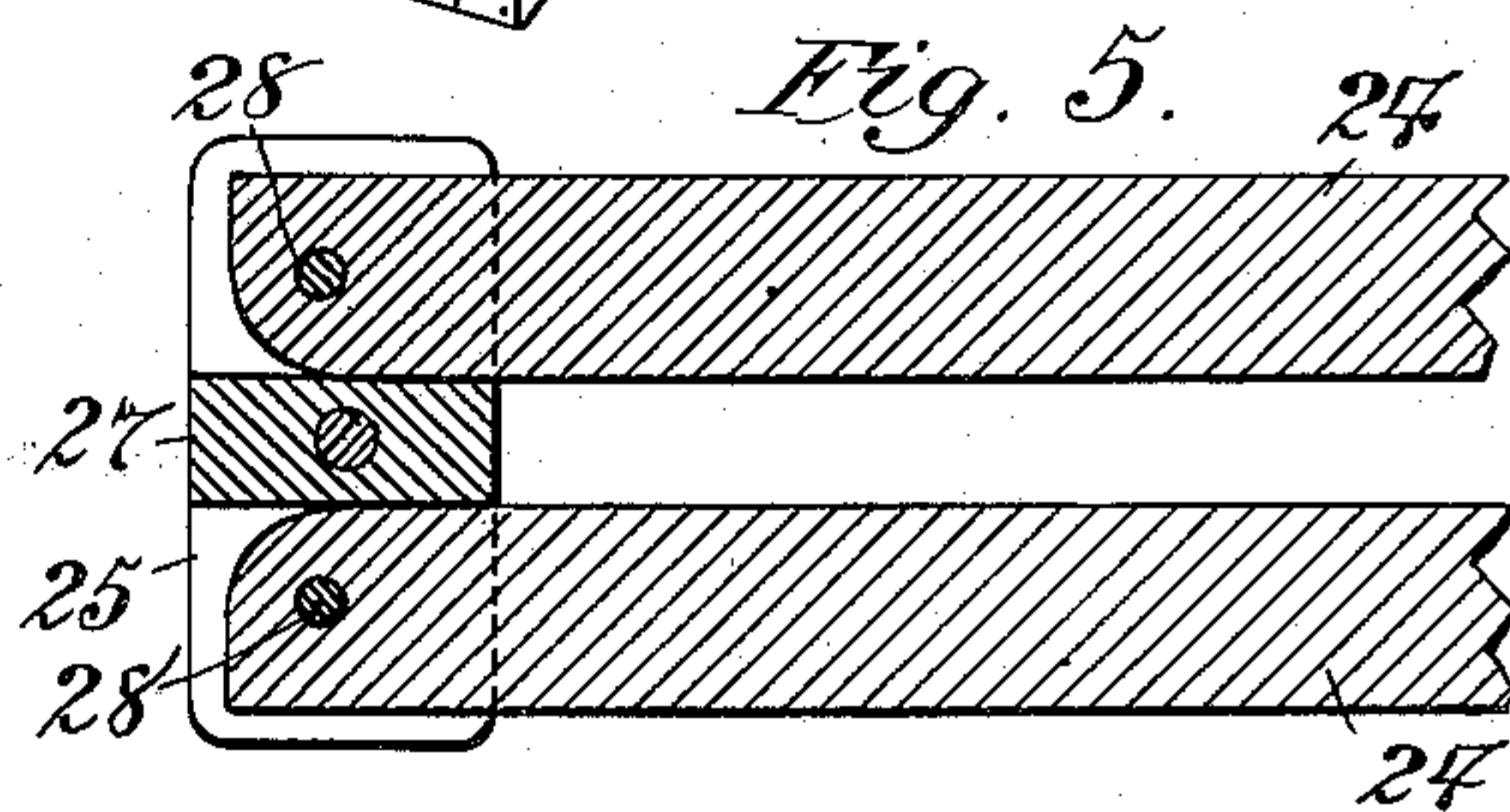
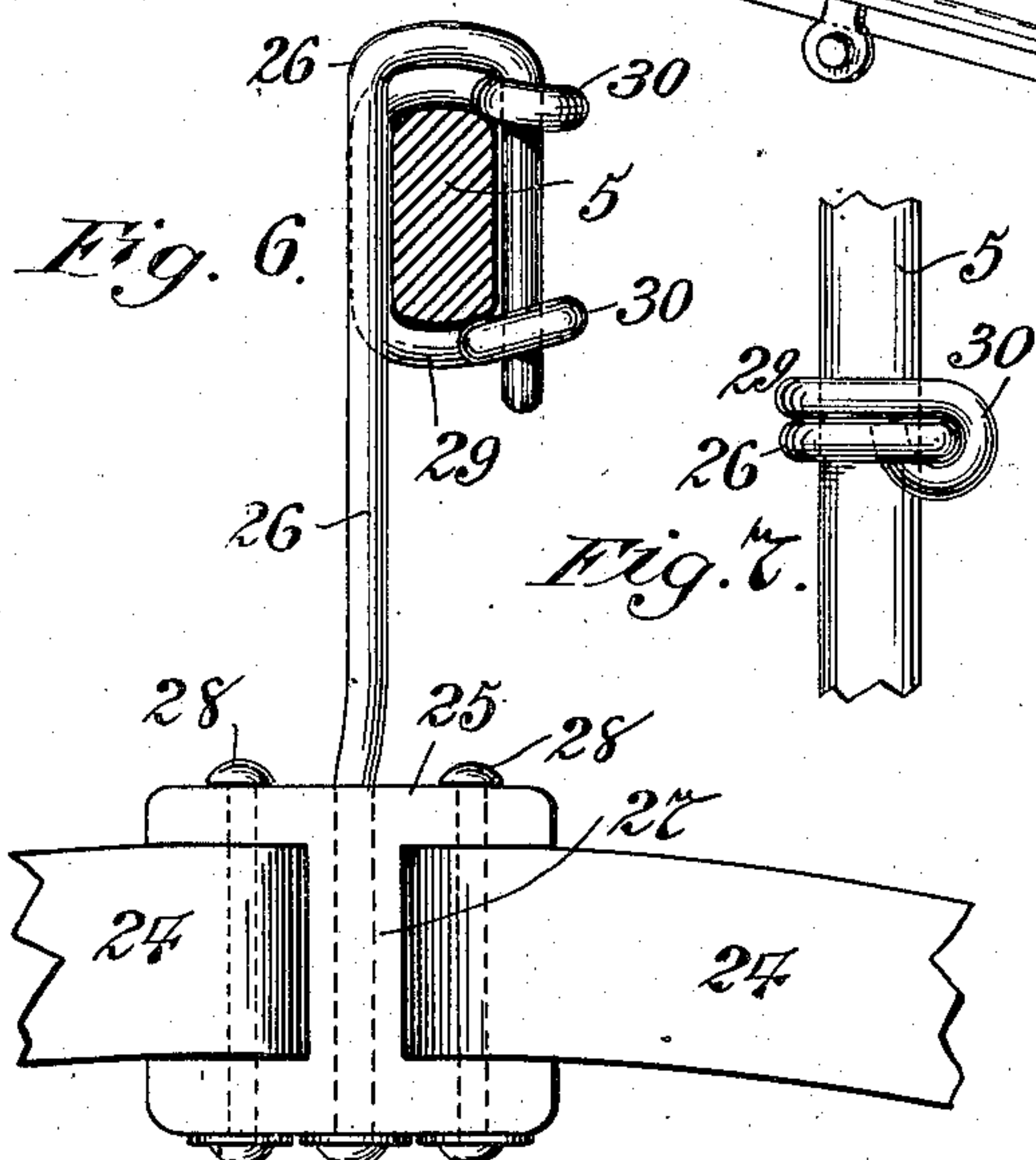
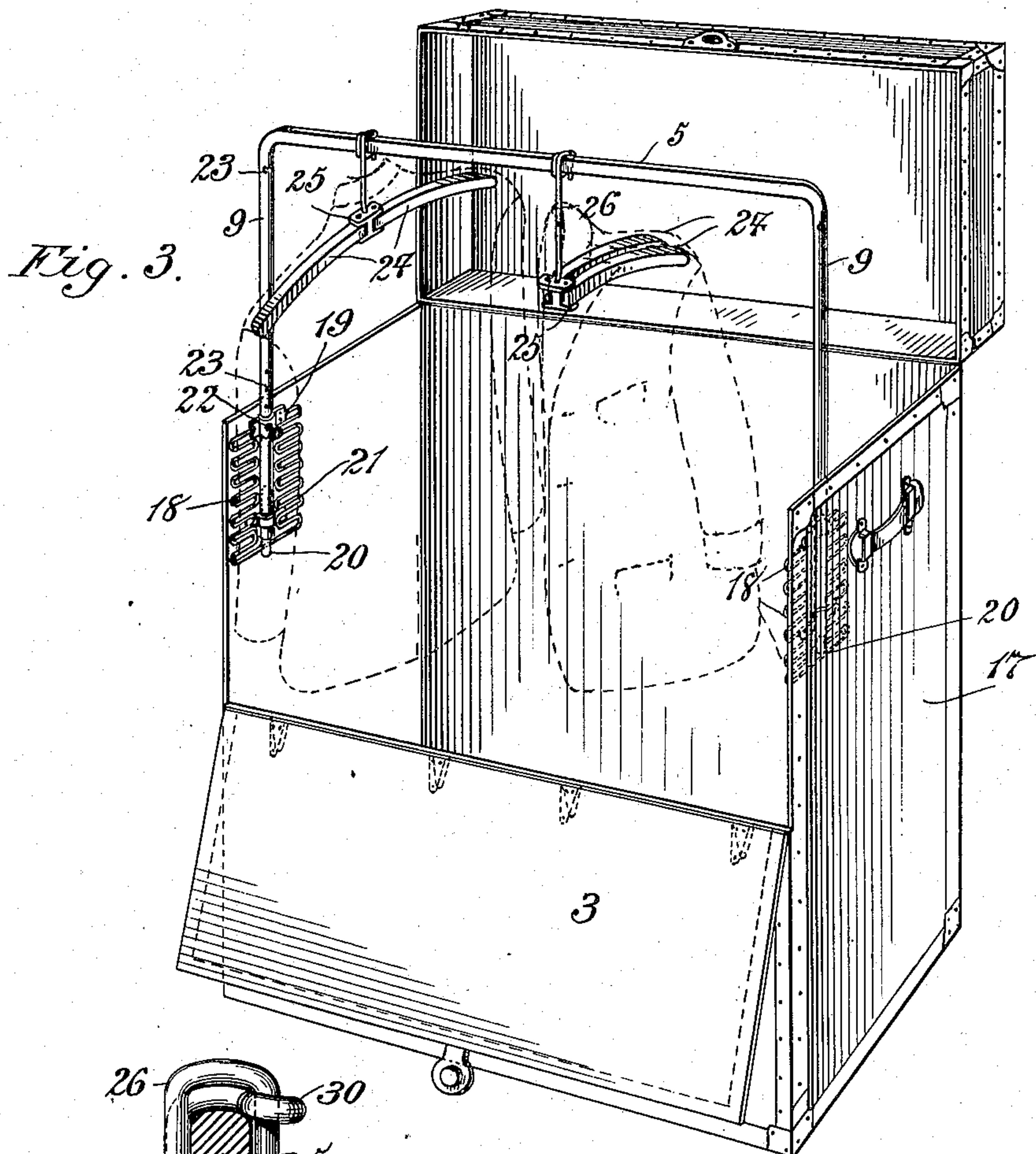
TRUNK.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SEYMOUR W. BONSALE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

TRUNK.

No. 930,343.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 10, 1909.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SEYMOUR W. BONSALE, a citizen of the United States, residing in the borough of Manhattan, city, county, and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Trunks, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates particularly to sample trunks for traveling salesmen and provides an improved means whereby clothing and particularly men's coats can be folded and suspended within a suitable trunk in such a manner that the maximum number of such garments can be securely and safely packed within a trunk of a given size, while preserving the proper folds and creases, so that the same shall be at once conveniently available for inspection and display in such a position that one garment can be removed altogether from the trunk without disturbing the others.

My invention also comprises an improved portable coat-folding hanger, whereby men's coats may be properly suspended as folded with shoulders touching. By the use of this form of hanger, the coats may be accommodated, while suspended in a row and in contact, within a narrower space than would otherwise be possible.

The invention is illustrated in a preferred form in the accompanying drawings wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a trunk made in accordance with my invention shown open and in position for display of garments, Fig. 2 is a sectional detail of a part of the movable support for the suspension bar, Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a modified form of my device, showing the mode of use of my coat-folding hanger, Fig. 4 is a side view of a portion of the coat-folding hanger in folding position, Fig. 5 is a sectional view on the plane *a—b* of Fig. 4, Fig. 6 is an elevation of the hanger joint showing a preferred mode of hanging the same on the suspension bar shown in section, and Fig. 7 is a top view of the preferred alining device together with the hanger hook, showing their relative positions when a coat is suspended.

The trunk body which may be of any suitable form, but is preferably of such a width as to correspond to the width of the garments it is intended to carry, is shown at 1. The cover 2 is shown open and the top portion of the front of the trunk is composed of a hinged

flap 3 which falls into the position shown at Fig. 1 when the clothes are to be displayed. By the use of the flap 3 the height to which the suspension bar must be raised to fully display the clothing is lessened, but it is to be understood that the use of the flap 3 is not essential in my invention.

Within the trunk there are provided hangers 4 which are preferably removable and are suspended cross-wise of the trunk upon a suspension bar 5 which is so mounted as to be movable up and down within the trunk. In the form shown in Fig. 1, this movable mounting comprises guides 6 and 7 preferably tubular as shown in Fig. 2, which are fastened vertically within the trunk at its two ends. The suspension bar 5 is provided with legs 8 and 9 which can be slid downward into the guides 6 and 7 as indicated by the arrows in Fig. 1, and I prefer to provide means whereby, when the suspension bar is raised as shown at Fig. 1, it will be automatically held in that position. One convenient means for this purpose which may be used and which I prefer is shown in the drawings and particularly in Fig. 2, and consists of a beveled sliding pin 10 mounted on a spring, such as 11, fixed to the tube 6 or 7, and projecting through an opening in said tube so as to enter one or another of the openings 12 in the leg 8, according to the height to which the suspension bar is to be lifted. By this arrangement, when the suspension bar is raised the pin automatically locks it in one or another raised position, and when it is desired to lower the suspension bar the pin 10 on the two sides are drawn back by appropriate means, as for instance the handles 13.

The coats or other garments are hung upon the hangers 4, for instance in the manner shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1, and in order to keep the mass of clothing compressed and preserve the shape of the garments when packed, I prefer to use a follower 14 which depends from the bar 5, being supported thereon by means, such as the wire loops 15 and 16, whereby, when the follower 14 is pressed toward the right in the figure by the elasticity of the clothing, the supporting means will bind at the suspension bar 5 and thus maintain the pressure originally placed upon the clothing when it is packed.

In using my trunk for packing garments the clothing is hung as described above upon the suspension bar, which latter is then low-

ered far enough for the cover 2 to be closed. After the garments are thus lowered, pressure is applied by means of the follower 14 and the space left behind the follower can
5 be used for packing purposes.

When the garments are to be displayed or removed, the suspension bar is lifted to the position shown in Fig. 3, where it is to be held by the pin 10 as above described, and
10 the flap 3 is lowered so that all the garments are at once easily available for inspection and for removal. It is obvious that by releasing the pressure of the follower 14, the garments can be separated by sliding the
15 hangers along the suspension bar and thus any one garment may be removed without disturbing the others, either with the hanger, when the same is removable, or without the hanger when not removable.

20 In Figs. 3 to 7 are illustrated the details of a modified form of my device some of which are adapted as well for wardrobes as for trunks. In this form the outer casing 17 is narrower and offers a more convenient shape for some
25 purposes than that shown in Fig. 1. This shape is made available by the coat-folding hangers hereinafter described and claimed.

Fig. 3 also illustrates an improved feature which is applicable as well to the wider form
30 of trunk. This is the spring support, whereby the lifting of the suspension bar 5 and the garments thereon is facilitated. When a large number of coats is suspended upon the bar 5, the effort necessary for raising them
35 all at once will be considerable, and, in order to lessen this effort I prefer the construction shown, wherein a spring is employed, which tends constantly to raise the bar.

My invention covers the use of any appropriate form and location of spring, but I prefer to use the form shown at 18, consisting of a pair of zig-zag wire springs whose upper
40 ends are made fast to the casing, as, for instance, by means of the guiding bracket 19, and whose lower ends are fixed to a plug or pin 20 which enters a hollow at the lower
45 end of the leg 9. These springs are used on both sides alike, that on the right in Fig. 3 being hidden by the side of the casing.

50 In the modification of my invention shown in Fig. 3, the legs 9 pass through pairs of brackets 19 and 21. A catch 22 is adapted to engage cavities 23 in the leg 9 to hold the suspension bar in any given position. It will
55 be seen that the spring 18 is so arranged as to create no danger of catching in the coats, and at the same time full opportunity for free action of the spring is afforded.

60 In Figs. 3 to 7 I have shown a novel form of hanger so constructed as to make it possible to fold and unfold a coat on the usual lines (that is to say shoulder to shoulder with a crease down the middle of the back) while the coat is on the hanger and without

removing it from the bar 5 or other suspend- 65
ing means. This device I term a coat-fold-
ing hanger, and, while the same is particu-
larly useful in connection with the improved
salesman's trunk shown and claimed herein,
I believe the same to be novel in itself and 70
have so claimed it. As shown, this hanger
comprises two arms 24, pivoted to a common
head 25, at such a distance apart that, when
the arms are turned parallel each to the
other, as shown in Fig. 5, there will be 75
enough space between them to accommo-
date the folds of a coat when in the position
shown on the right hand hanger in Fig. 3. A
suspension hook 26 is attached to the head
25. I prefer to provide the head 25 with a 80
middle rib 27, so placed that, when the arms
24 are brought into parallel position, they
bear against the sides of said rib. I also pre-
fer to shape the ends of the arms 24, as
shown, so that when extended (as in Fig. 6) 85
these ends shall abut against the opposite
sides of the rib 27, thus holding them in line
and preventing their swinging toward each
other on the wrong side of the head. In
Fig. 4 is shown the preferred form of the 90
spaces at each side of the head 25 wherein
the arms 24 are pivoted and in which they
swing. It will be seen that the top and bot-
tom of each of these spaces is inclined upward
toward the back and that the pivots on 95
which the arms 24 swing, shown in dotted
lines at 28, are correspondingly inclined.
Owing to this preferred construction, the
arms when in parallel position, (as in Figs. 4
and 5) will support the folded coat without 100
any tendency to swing apart, while, on the
other hand, as soon as these arms are sepa-
rated, the weight of the coat will tend to
bring them into the open position shown on
the left in Fig. 3, and thereafter this gravi- 105
tative action will act to keep the arms in line
and prevent all tendency toward accidental
folding movement. In combining the coat-
folding hangers with the other mechanism
shown, the hooks 26 will be made revoluble 110
in the heads 25, so that the operation hereinafter described will be facilitated. The top
of each hook 26 fits fairly snug over the sus-
pension bar, and the hangers during trans-
portation take the position of the right hand 115
hanger in Fig. 3, so that the folded coats lie
snugly against each other in a row, suspend-
ed from the bar 5. The number of hangers
which can be so situated side by side is only
limited by the length of the bar and the size 120
of the trunk. In the form shown the hang-
ers are capable of sliding along the bar, but
my invention is not limited to hangers hav-
ing this capacity. The trunk may be used
much as described above with regard to the 125
form shown in Fig. 1. The trunk being
opened as shown in Fig. 3, the suspension
bar 5 is raised, until the lower edge of each

coat is somewhat higher than the junction of the flap 3 with the trunk. The coats may then be separated by sliding the hangers apart and any coat can be unfolded while on its hanger, so as to assume the position shown in dotted lines near the left hand hanger in Fig. 3. To facilitate securing the coat in place, the suspending hook may be slipped through the usual tape loop provided at the collar, or other means for this purpose may be provided. In this position one half of the opened coat will project out beyond its fellows so as to be easily inspected. Of course this may be repeated with as many of the coats as is desired. The convenience and usefulness of this operation where coats are to be exhibited as samples by a salesman are obvious.

In order to secure greater regularity and certainty of action in carrying out the operation above described, I prefer to combine the elements above set out with alining means whereby each hook 26 may be kept substantially at right angles to the suspension bar 5. A separate means may be provided for each hook, and this is the preferred arrangement. I also find it best to make all of these separate alining devices capable of sliding upon the suspension bar, so that the separation of the coats as above described may be rendered easy. In the preferred form shown, each alining device consists of a wire clip 29, bent over and sliding easily upon the suspension bar 5. At the two ends of each clip, loops or openings 30 are provided, and these are placed in a line crossing the bar 5. When the hook 26 is hung upon the bar 5, its tip passes through the openings or loops 30, (see Figs. 6 and 7) and the hook is thus kept properly alined with respect to the suspension bar 5. By this means is corrected all tendency of the hanger with its hook to hang crookedly or to give trouble when it is desired to open any given garment, and the operations above described may be carried out with ease, rapidity and certainty. At the same time there is no interference with the process of putting on and taking off the hangers.

Various changes can be made in the device above described without departing from my invention and I do not limit myself to the details shown and described.

What I claim is—

1. A trunk comprising an outer casing, a suspension bar therein, guides within the casing, legs on said bar sliding on said guides and means for supporting said legs on said guides said suspension bar and legs being so placed and proportioned as to be adapted to slide down together into said trunk, substantially as described.

2. A trunk comprising a casing having a front flap and cover, garment-suspending

means within the casing and a movable mounting therefor, said garment-suspending means and mounting being so placed and proportioned as to be adapted to slide down together into said trunk, substantially as described.

3. A trunk comprising a casing having the upper portion of its front hinged to open outward, the lower portion being fixed and stationary, a suspension bar extending from side to side of the casing, a mounting for said bar for raising and lowering it at will, and garment-attaching means on said bar, the whole so proportioned and arranged that, when said bar is lowered, garments suspended thereon may be dropped behind the stationary portion of the front of the casing, and that said garments may be lifted above said stationary portion by raising said bar, substantially as described.

4. A trunk comprising an outer casing, sockets therein, a suspension bar extending horizontally across the trunk when the same stands open for use, legs on said suspension bar adapted to slide within said sockets and springs each having one end fixed to the casing and the other end abutting upon the bottom of said legs, substantially as described.

5. A trunk comprising an outer casing, sockets therein, a suspension bar extending horizontally across the trunk when the same stands open for use, legs on said bar adapted to slide within said sockets, a pair of springs for each leg fixed to the casing and a plug or pin on said springs entering hollows in the bottom of said legs, substantially as described.

6. A trunk comprising an outer casing, a vertically movable suspending means mounted within said casing near its forward edge, and coat-folding hangers hung on said suspending means so as to project inward from the edge of the casing and be inclosable within the same when the trunk is closed, substantially as described.

7. A trunk comprising an outer casing, a vertically movable suspending means mounted within said casing near its forward edge, a flap opening outward on the front of the casing, and coat-folding hangers hung on said suspending means so as to project inward from the edge of the casing and be inclosable within the same when the trunk is closed, substantially as described.

8. A trunk comprising an outer casing, a vertically movable suspending means mounted within said casing near its forward edge, a coat-folding hanger adapted to fit across and within said casing, said hanger having two arms pivoted so as to be brought in line or parallel at will, and rotatable means for hanging said hanger upon the suspending means, whereby a coat on said hanger may be unfolded and brought partly out of the

trunk without removing the hanger from the suspending means, substantially as described.

9. A trunk comprising an outer casing, a vertically movable suspension bar mounted therein close to the forward edge thereof and adapted to be movable into and out of the trunk casing, and coat-folding hangers hung so as to be capable of sliding along said bar, substantially as described.

10. A trunk comprising an outer casing, a vertically movable suspension bar mounted therein close to the forward edge thereof, coat-folding hangers having arms pivoted so as to be capable of swinging into line or parallel at will, and revoluble means for hanging said hangers from said bar adapted to slide along the bar, substantially as described.

11. A trunk comprising an outer casing, a suspension bar therein and near the front thereof, a front flap on the casing adapted to open outward and coat-folding hangers carried by swiveled supports capable of sliding on said bar, whereby a coat on each hanger may be folded for packing in the trunk or

may be unfolded and brought partly outside the trunk without taking it from the hanger, substantially as described.

12. A trunk comprising an outer casing, a vertically movable suspension bar near the front edge thereof, coat-folding hangers supported slidably from said bar by swiveled hooks and means connected at each hook for keeping the same in proper position with respect to the bar, substantially as described.

13. A trunk comprising an outer casing, a vertically movable suspension bar near the front edge thereof and alining devices on said bar and capable of sliding along the same; in combination with coat-folding hangers each comprising a head, two arms pivoted to the head and a hook swiveled on said head and adapted to fit over said bar and engage with said alining devices, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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