

C. H. HOLTON.

MAIL BOX.

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934,173.

Patented Sept. 14, 1909.

Fig. 1.

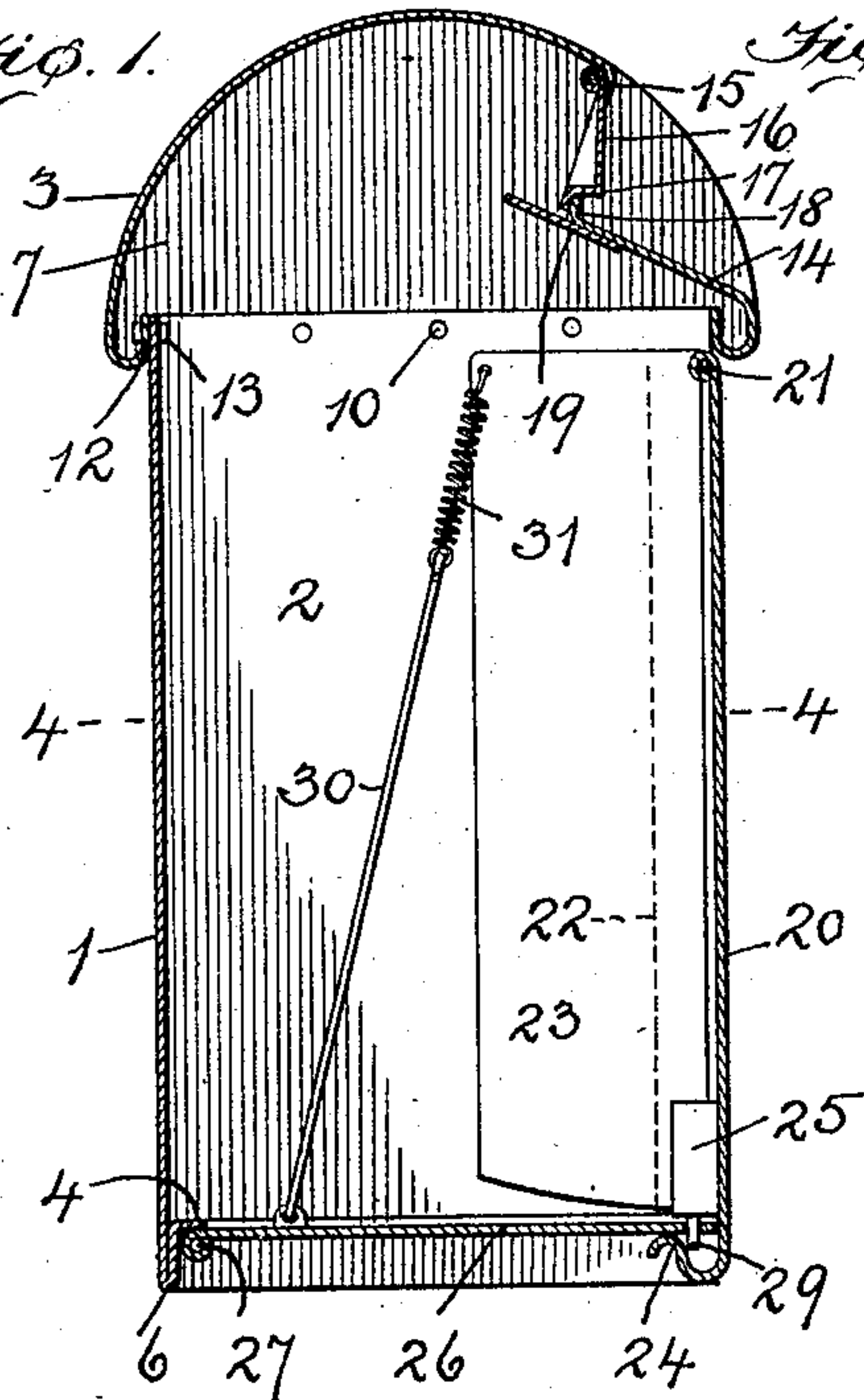


Fig. 2.

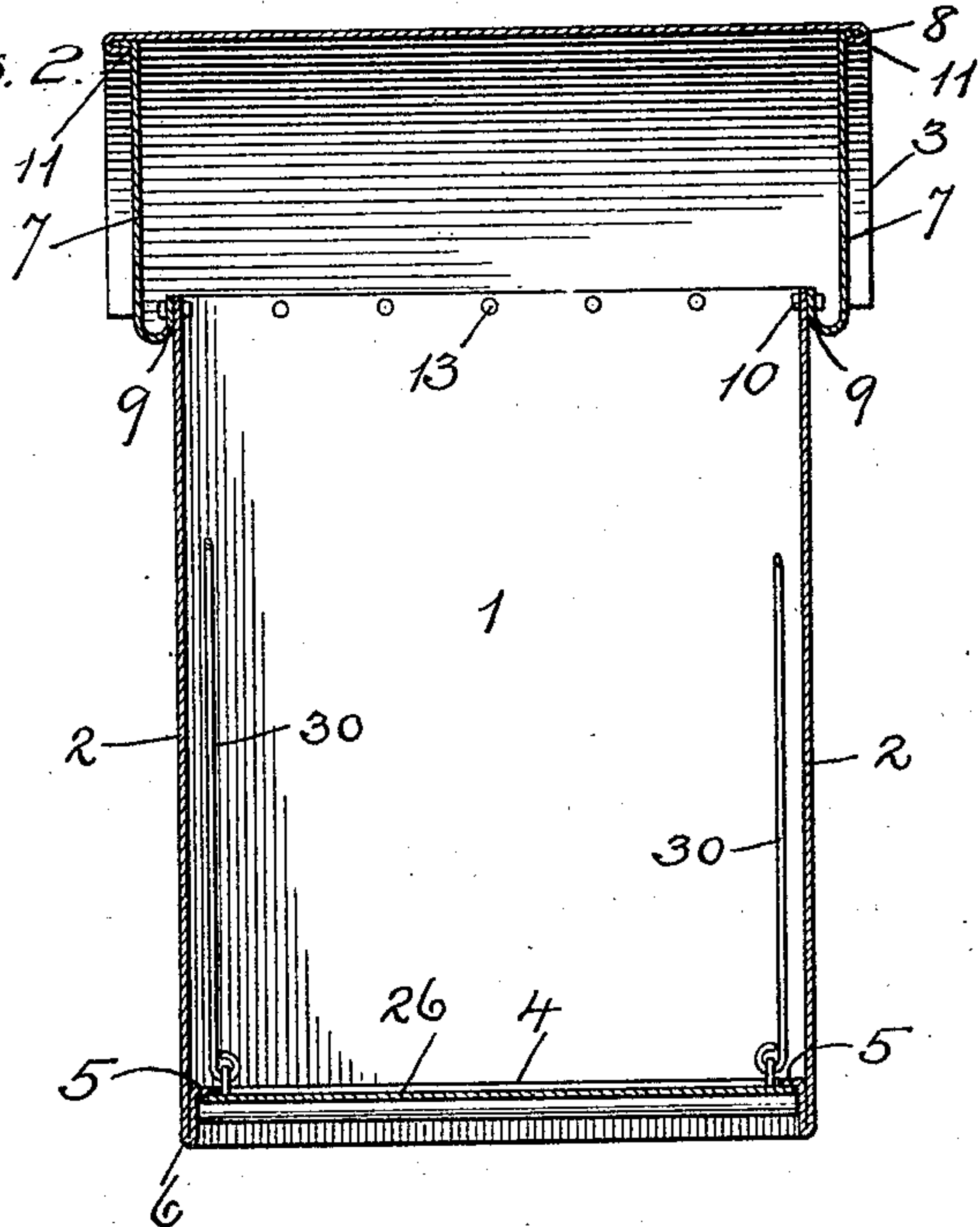


Fig. 3.

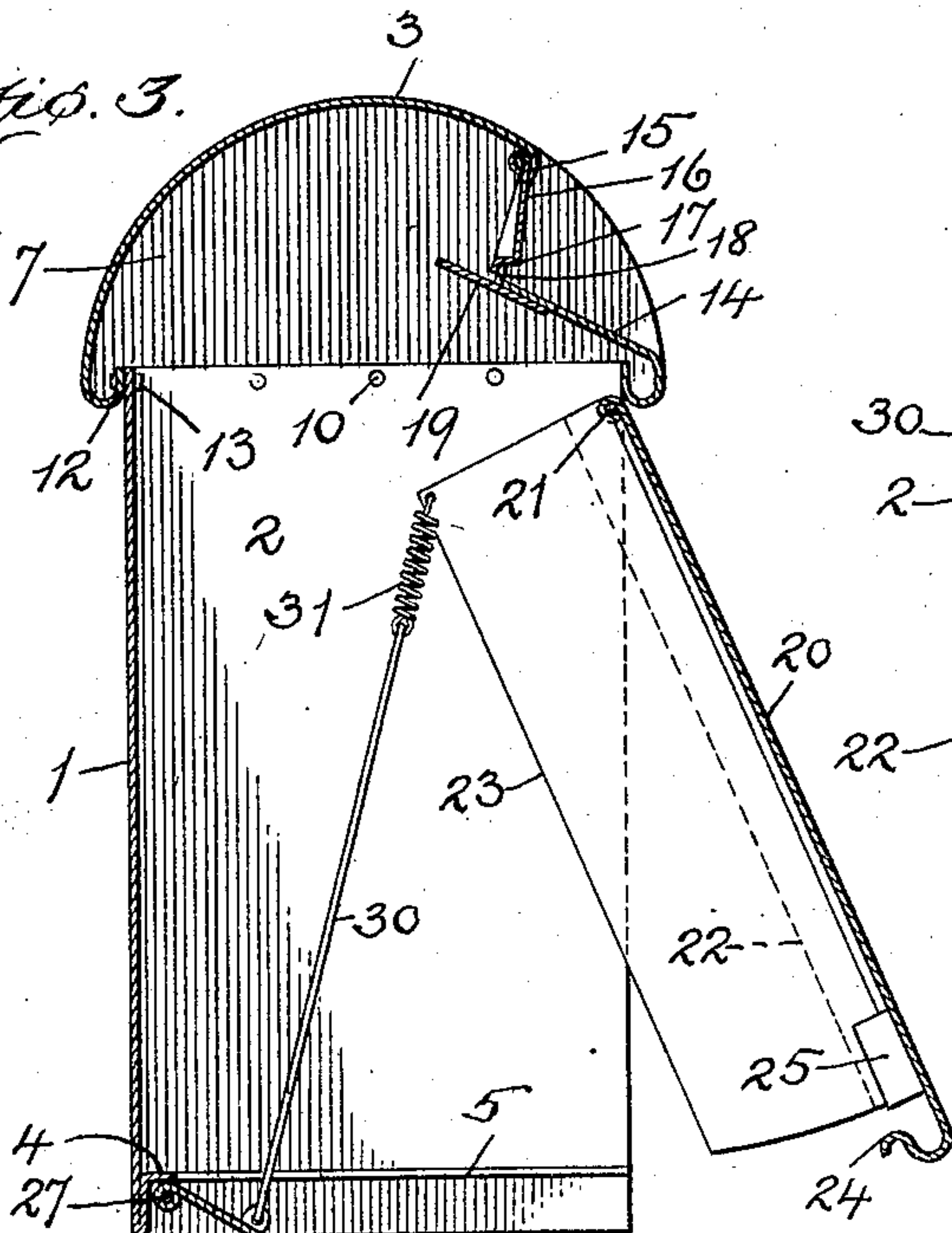
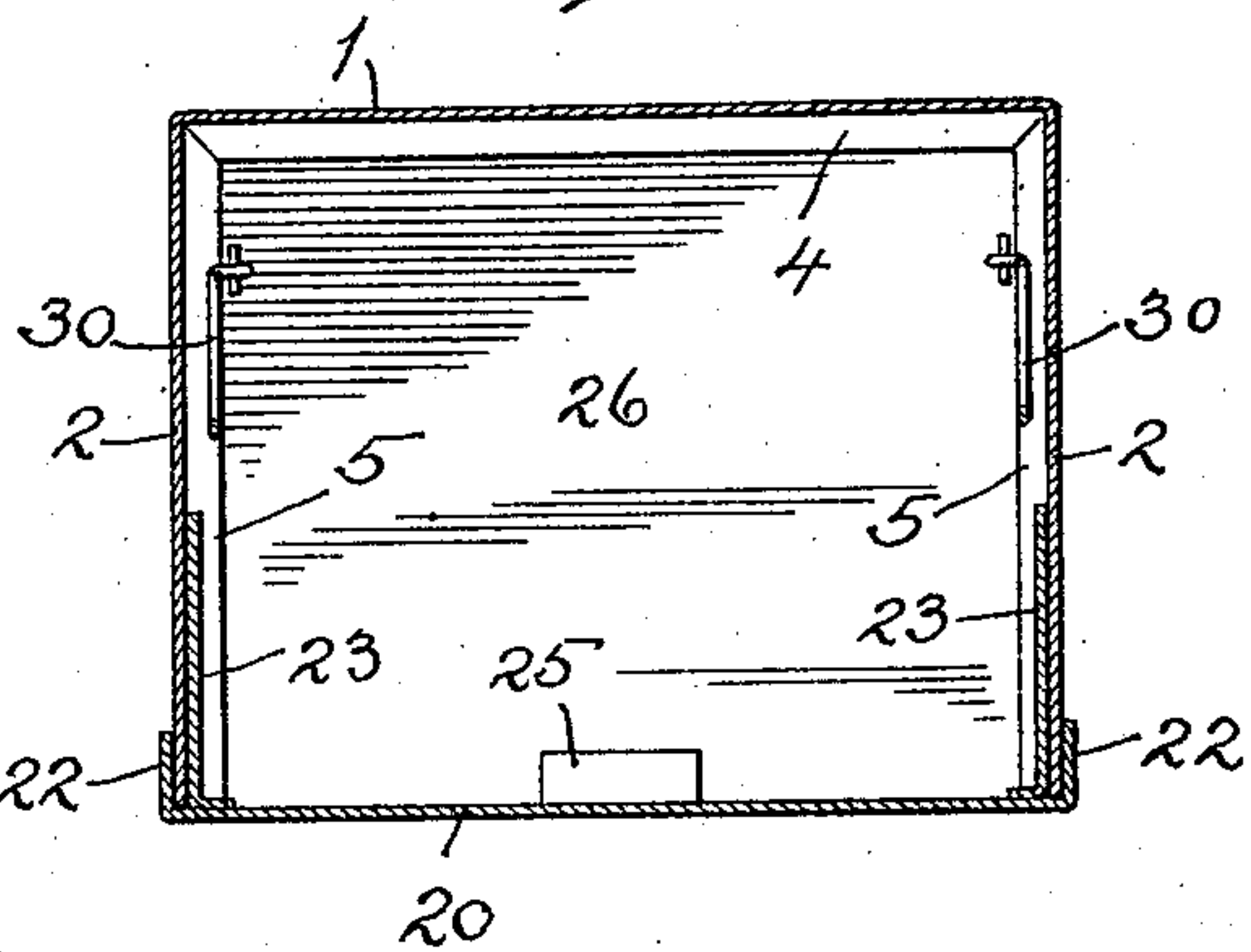


Fig. 4.



Witnesses

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MAIL-BOX.

934,173.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES H. HOLTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in the construction of mail boxes in which mail matter may be readily deposited for collection.

One object of the invention is to provide an improved box which is of a simple and consequently cheap construction but at the same time substantial.

Another object is to provide an improved construction of box whereby mail matter may be readily deposited therein with one hand and the receiving opening of which will be protected to prevent the entrance of water.

A further object is to provide an improved box which will enable the mail to be discharged upon the opening thereof by the collector, and another object is to improve the construction of box whereby the bottom and one vertical wall thereof may be coupled so as to operate in unison during the opening and closing operations.

With these and other objects in view the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing in which,—

Figure 1 shows a vertical cross-section through a closed box embodying the features of my invention. Fig. 2, a vertical longitudinal section of the same,—the section being taken on a line at right angles to the section shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 3, is a vertical cross-section similar to Fig. 1, but showing the bottom and front wall tilted to the open position to discharge the mail, and Fig. 4, is a horizontal cross-section through the closed box,—the section being taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawing, the numeral, 1, designates the rear wall; 2, the opposite parallel side walls and, 3, the top of the box. These walls and the top may be constructed and secured together in any suitable manner but in the present instance I have illustrated the side and rear walls as formed of an integral piece of metal having a rectangular shape in cross-section. At or adjacent to the lower or bottom edges, the rear and side walls, 1, and, 2, are provided with inturned horizontal flanges, 4, and, 5, respectively,—

these flanges, in the present instance, being formed by turning the lower edge of said walls upwardly to form a bottom fold, 6, and then bending or turning said folded portions laterally, as clearly seen in Figs. 1 and 2.

The side walls, 2, sustain vertical plates, 7, having a lateral flange, 8, extending outwardly at the uppermost curved edge. These plates have upwardly inturned bottom or lower edges, 9, which are secured by bolts or rivets, 10, to the side walls, and by means of this construction a weather-proof joint is made between said walls and plates.

The top, 3, has an arched formation and is provided with inturned hooks or flanges, 11, at its opposite curved ends which project beneath and engage the out-turned flanges, 8, on the vertical side plates, 7, as clearly seen in Fig. 2. The lowermost rear edge of the arched top is also provided with an up-turned flange, 12, which is secured by bolts or rivets, 13, along the rear wall, 1. At the front side, the top is cut away between the side plates, 7, and has a plate, 14, which inclines upwardly from the front of the box and which connects with a slotted plate, 15, which extends at right angles thereto and between the latter and the arched portion of the top. A flap, 16, is pivotally sustained at or adjacent to the upper horizontal edge of the slotted plate, 15, and hangs pendently in the slot. This flap has such a formation and shape as will permit its lower projecting portion, 17, to extend on the outer side of the slot while its extreme lower edge, 18, turns downwardly at the inner side of said slot to completely close the latter. In the present instance I have provided an extension or guard plate, 19, within the box and below the flap to prevent the insertion of a wire or tool in a direct straight line toward the bottom.

The front wall, 20, of the box is mounted on a rod, 21, at its upper end so as to hang pendently therefrom and said wall is provided with rearwardly-extending vertical flanges, 22, which project parallel with and at the outer side of the side walls, 2. This front wall is also provided at points between the side walls with guard plates, 23, which extend rearwardly at the inner side of the side walls, 2. By reference to Fig. 4 it will be seen that the side walls, 2, of the box have their front vertical edges projected between the flanges, 22, and the guard plates, 23, of the pendent front wall and

thus a secure and tight joint is produced between said front and side walls. The lower edge of the front wall is provided with an up-turned flange or support, 24, which, when the box is closed, lies in a plane below the flanges, 5, on the side walls. A lock, 25, is also secured to the front wall above the flange or support, 24, and operates in a manner to secure the front wall closed as will presently be more fully described.

The bottom, 26, of the box is pivotally mounted on a rod, 27, just beneath the flange, 4, of the rear wall, 1, and the front end of said bottom is thereby capable of swinging up and down. A slot, 28, is provided in the bottom at its front edge into which the bolt, 29, of the lock, 25, may project when the box is closed, as seen in Fig. 1.

In order to cause a simultaneous movement of the front wall and bottom I have provided rods, 30, which connect the two. These rods in the present instance have their lower ends engaged with the bottom and their upper ends are connected to coiled springs, 31, which latter are attached to the guard plates, 23. The length of the rods, 30, is such that the bottom will be swung up beneath the flanges, 5, as the front wall is moved in toward the side walls and before said front wall is back in place. The springs, 31, will then stretch to enable the front wall to make its further movement. During this latter or further movement of the front wall, the up-turned flange or support, 24, will project beneath the front edge of the bottom and will serve to support the latter. When in this position the lock, 25, will have position directly over the bottom and the bolt, 29, thereof may be projected down into the slot, 28, and thus lock the front wall in the closed position.

By reference to Fig. 3, it will be seen that upon swinging the front wall outwardly the bottom will be tilted downwardly and by simply holding a mail pouch or receptacle in proper place the contents of the bag will be discharged into the pouch.

It will be seen that as the bottom and front wall are connected so as to be moved simultaneously it will require but one hand to close the box. By pushing the front wall inwardly it will cause the bottom to raise and the latter reaches its closed position first so that the front wall can lock it in place.

Having thus described my invention what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is,—

1. A mail box comprising a body having rear, side and front walls and one of said walls being pivotally mounted, and the box also having a pivotally mounted bottom which is normally engaged by the pivoted wall to hold the same closed, a top covering the body, and a yielding connection between the pivotally mounted wall and bottom.

2. A mail box comprising a body having rear, side and front walls and one of said walls being mounted so as to swing outwardly and having a support adjacent to its lower edge; a bottom pivotally mounted with respect to the body and normally sustained by the support on the swinging wall; a top covering the body; a lock on the swinging wall for engaging the bottom, and means connecting the swinging wall and bottom.

3. A mail box comprising a body having rear, side and front walls and one of said walls hanging pendently from its upper end, a bottom having one edge pivotally sustained with respect to the body, a rod directly connecting the bottom and the pendent wall, means on the pendent wall for supporting the free end of the bottom and a stationary top covering the body and having a receiving opening.

4. A mail box comprising a body having stationary rear and side walls, a movable front wall having flanges to project on the outer side of the side walls, guard plates secured to the movable wall at the inner side of the side walls, a pivoted bottom, a rod connecting the bottom and movable wall and a top covering the body.

5. A mail box comprising a body having stationary rear and side walls, a top covering said walls and having a receiving opening, a front wall pivotally sustained from its upper end below the top and hanging pendently therefrom, a bottom pivoted adjacent the rear wall and extending toward the lower end of the pivoted wall; means on the lower end of the pivoted wall to sustain the free end of the bottom, a rod connected to the pivoted bottom, a spring connecting the upper end of the rod and the movable front wall and a lock on the front wall for engaging the free end of the pivoted bottom.

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

CHARLES H. HOLTON.

Witnesses:

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