

L. M. TINGLEY.  
INDICATOR FOR VEHICLES.  
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973,726.

Patented Oct. 25, 1910.

Fig. 1.

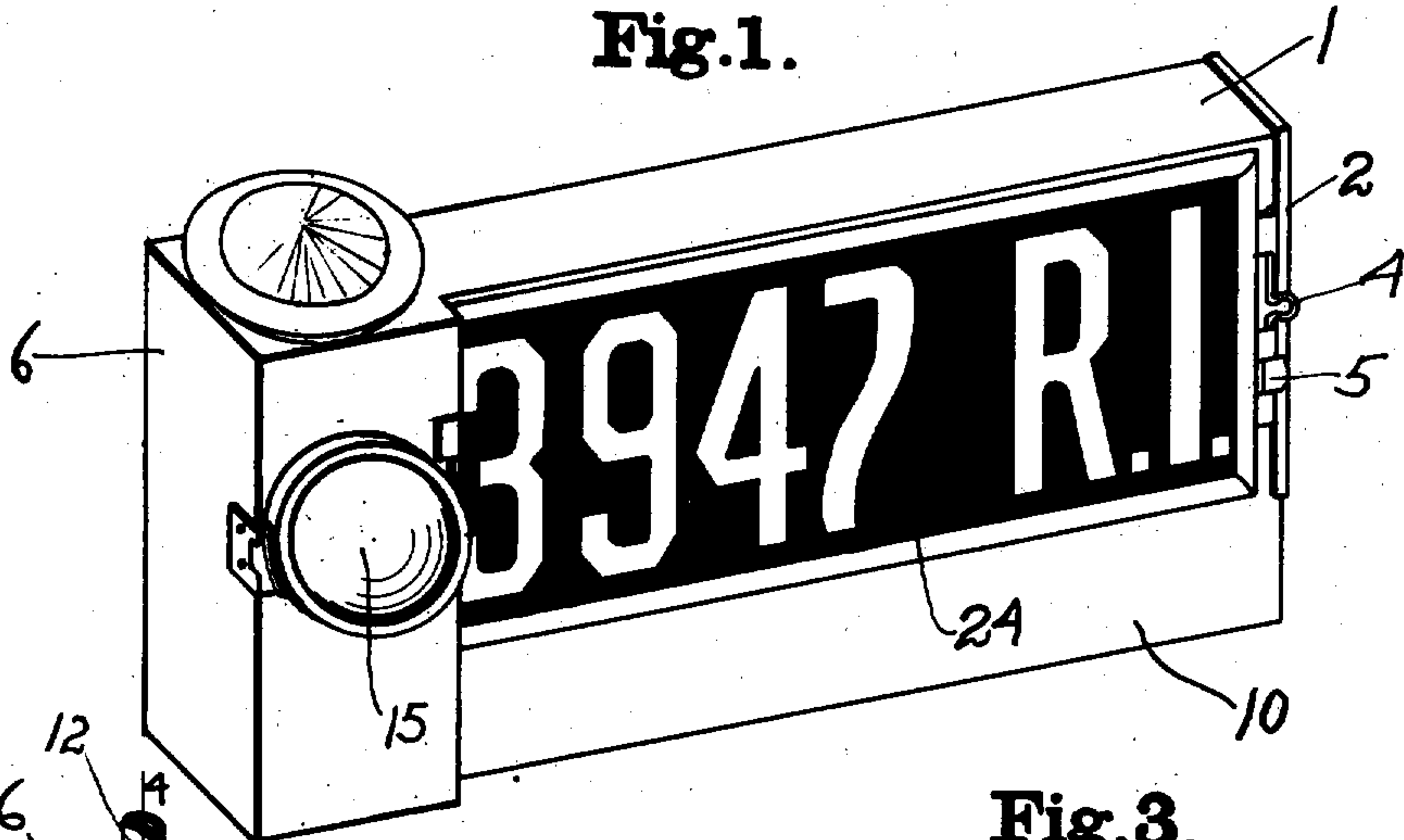


Fig. 3.

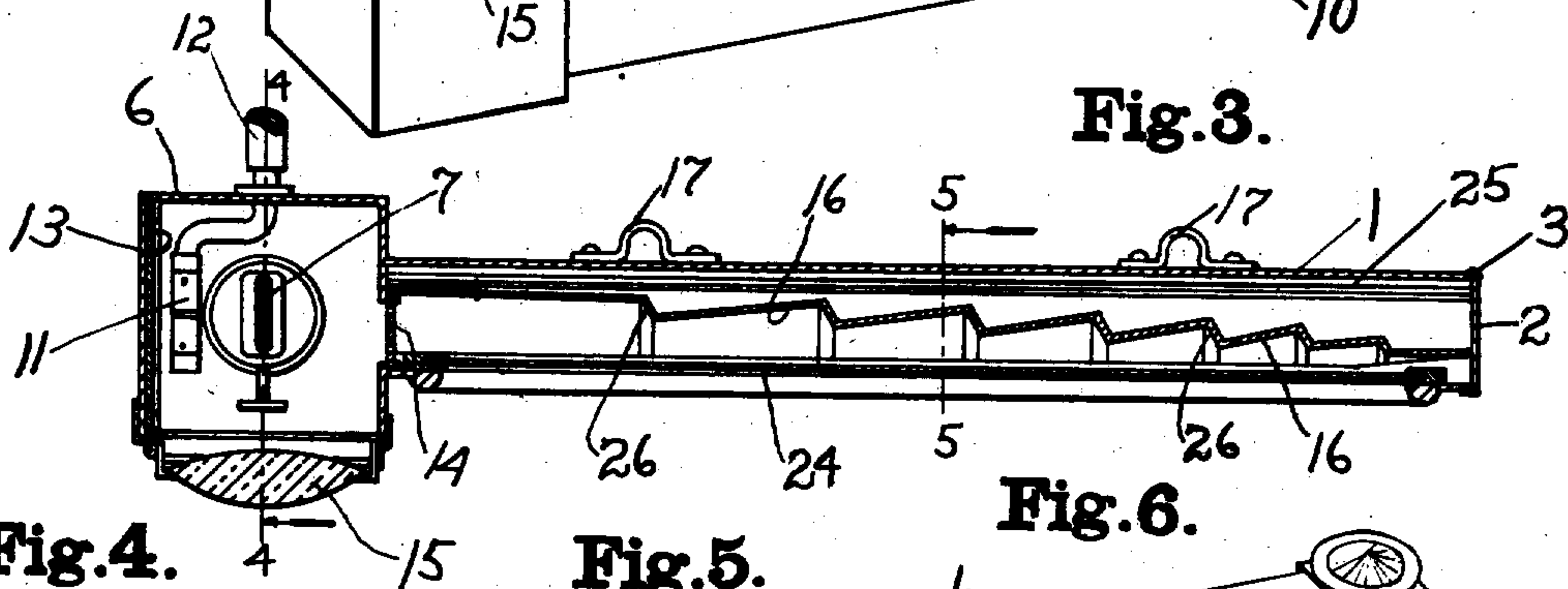


Fig. 6.

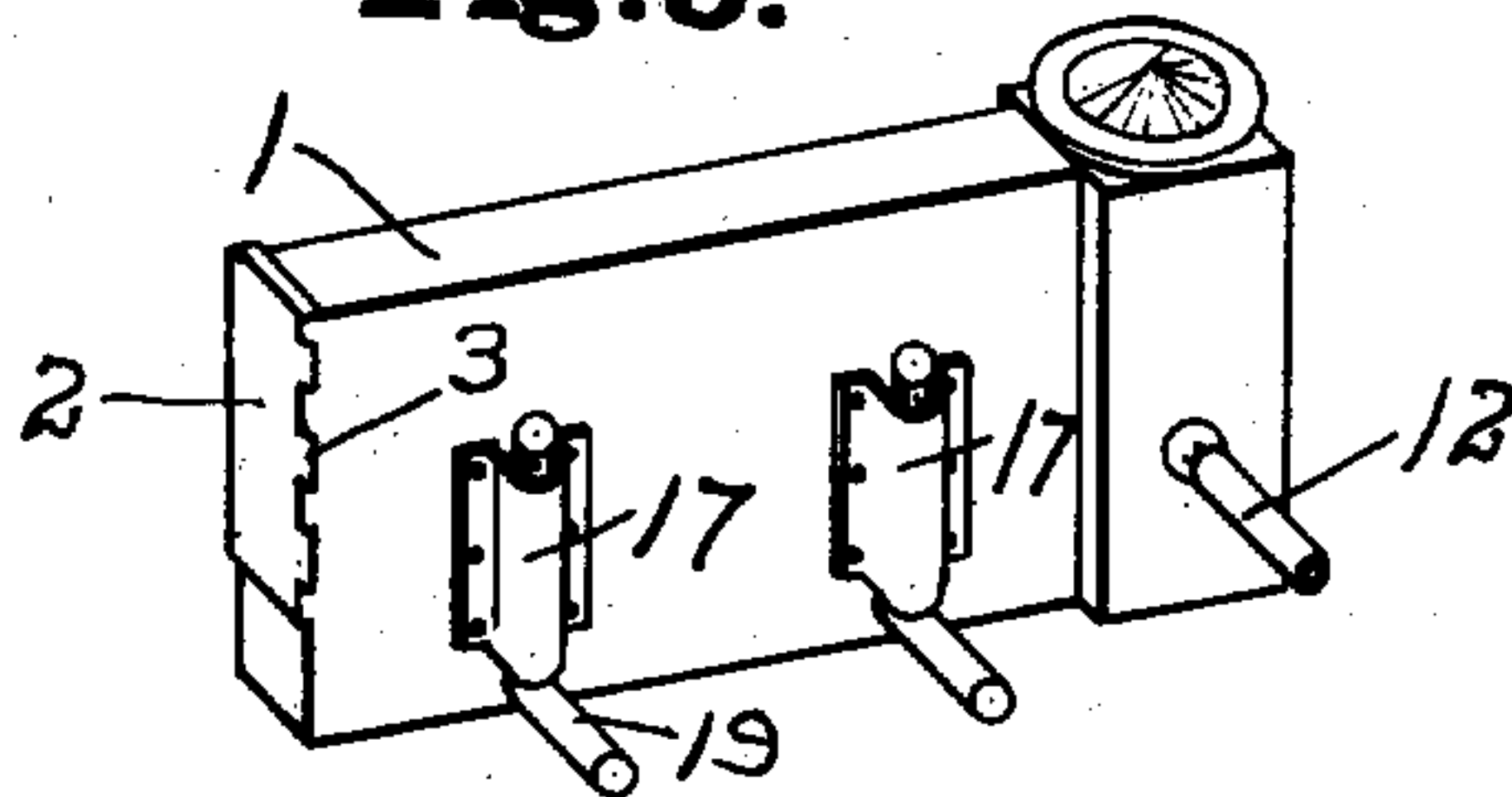


Fig. 2.

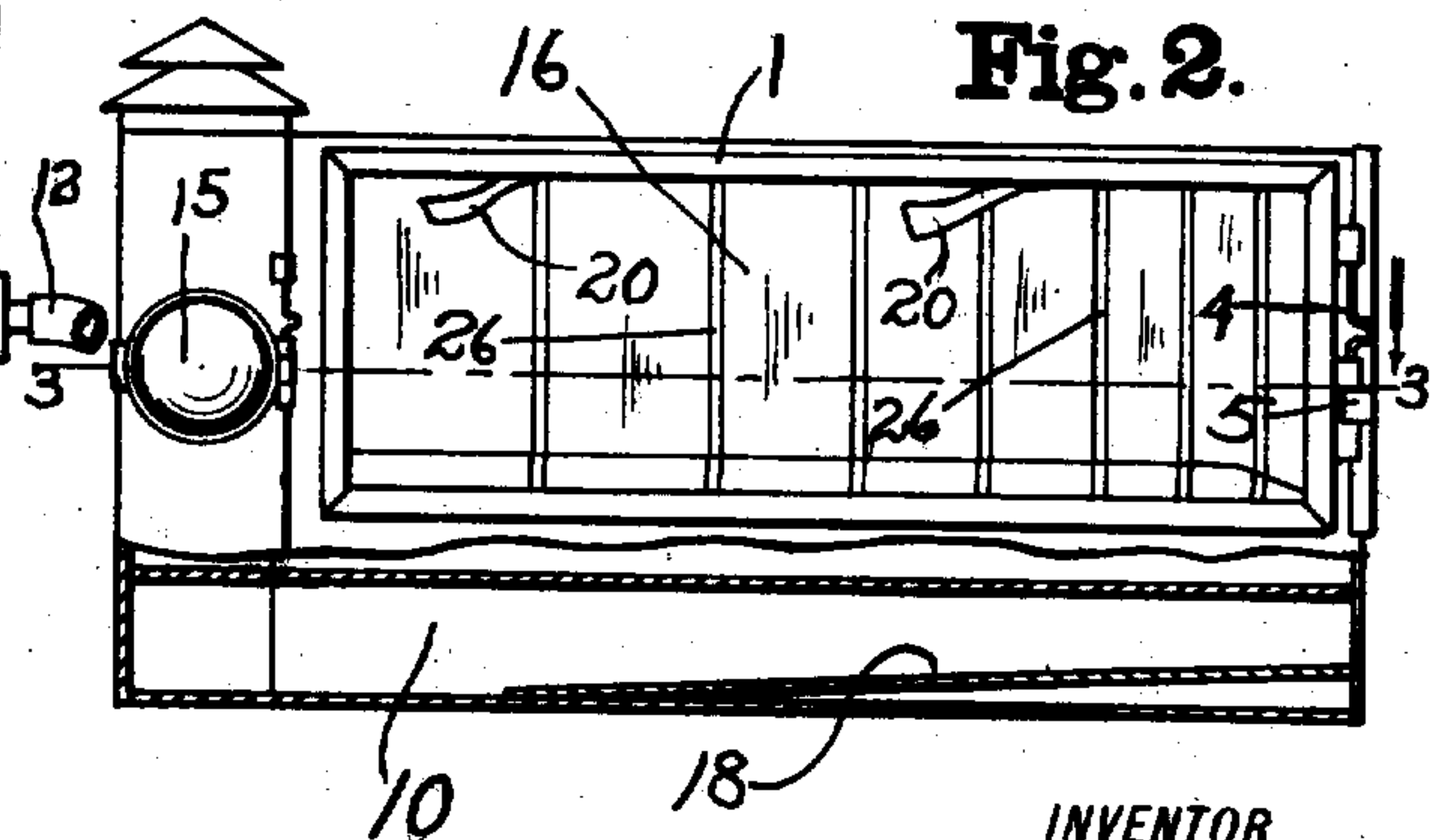


Fig. 4.

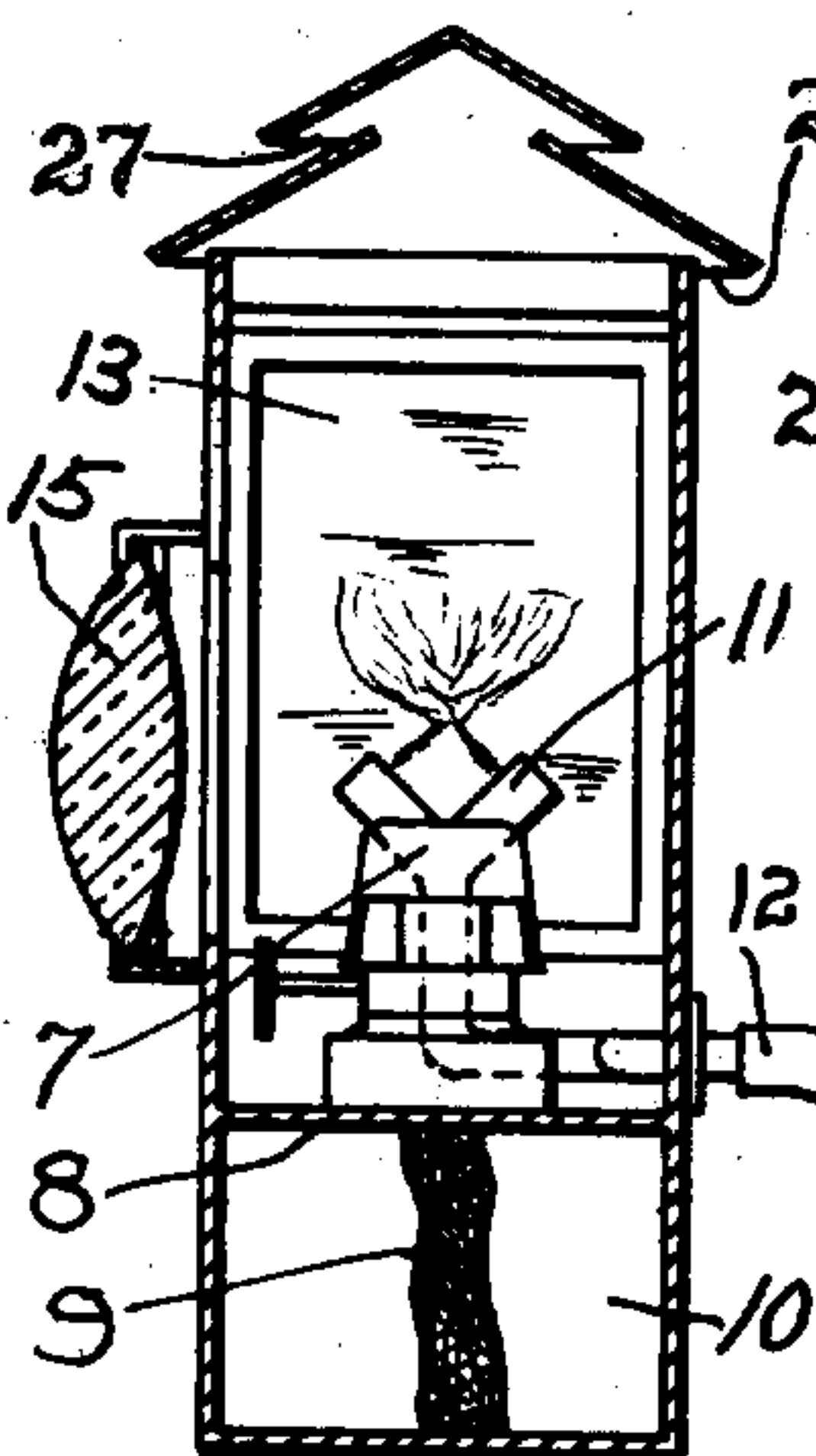
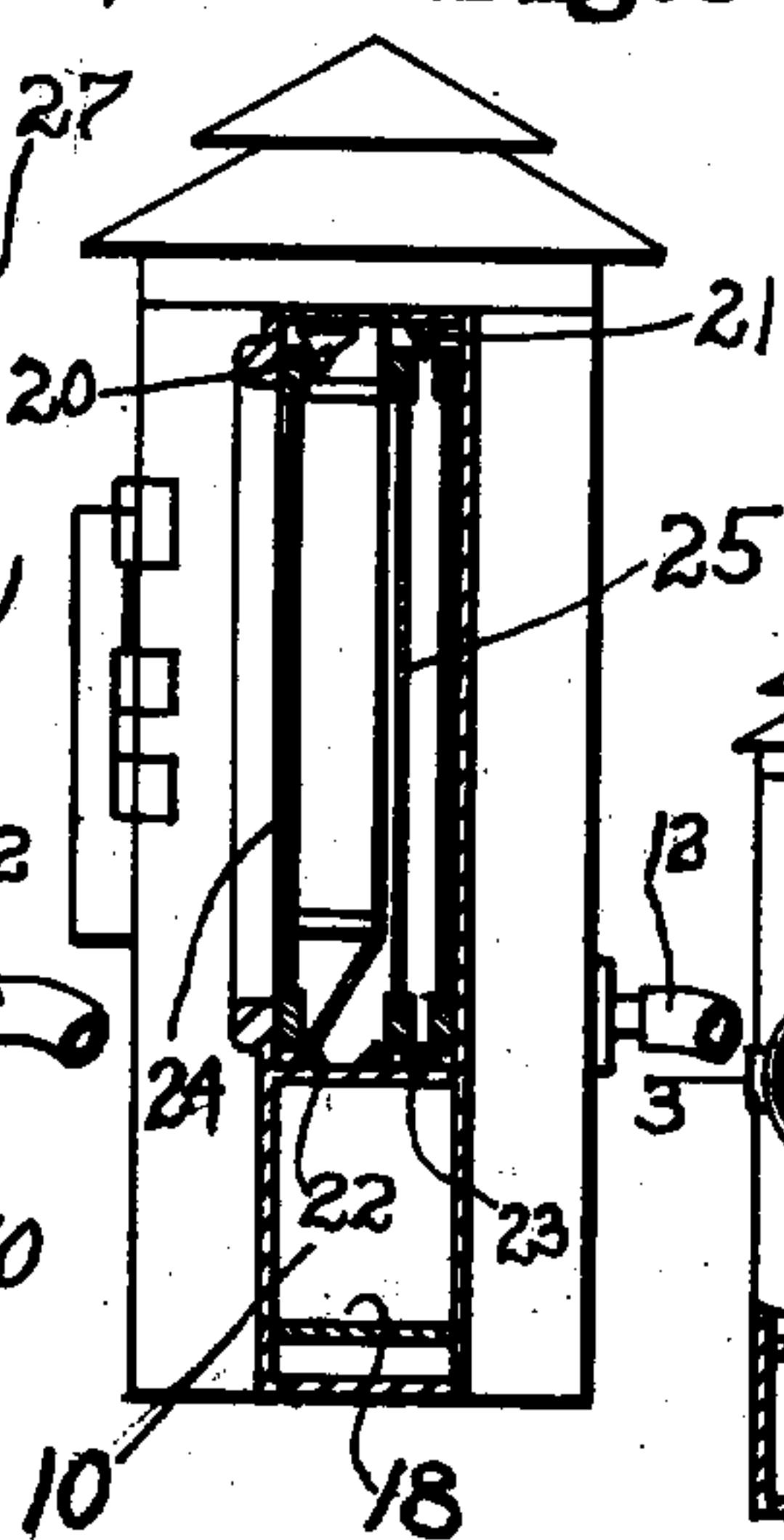


Fig. 5.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LLOYD M. TINGLEY, OF PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND, ASSIGNOR, BY DIRECT AND MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, OF ONE-THIRD TO SAMUEL GEE, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, AND ONE-THIRD TO BYRON H. NIXON, OF SUMMIT, RHODE ISLAND.

## INDICATOR FOR VEHICLES.

973,726.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 25, 1910.

Application filed February 25, 1909. Serial No. 479,921.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LLOYD M. TINGLEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of Pawtucket, in the county of Providence and State of Rhode Island, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Indicators for Vehicles, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawing.

My invention relates to number displaying devices and is an improvement on my Patent No. 904,101 of November 17, 1908.

The object of this invention is to provide a lantern of simple and practical construction that is, more particularly adapted to carry the license numbers of motor vehicles, such as automobiles, and the like, said lamp being provided with transparent or translucent plates on which the numbers are displayed, the lantern being adapted to be illuminated from its interior whereby said plates shall be as readily readable by night as by day. These plates may be also colored to indicate the State in which the number is registered so that the owner of the vehicle may be quickly identified in case of accident or violation of the local laws.

A further object of the invention is to form the lantern as small and compact as possible, and to locate the light at one end of the casing or holder and provide suitable reflecting means for throwing said light into said holder and to provide efficient means in the holder, back of the number plate, for reflecting the light through the plate.

A further object is to so construct the lantern that it shall be capable of being readily attached to any portion of an automobile and easily adjusted to suit conditions under which it may be operated. The casing is also provided with means whereby an extra supply of plates may be stored, which feature is also illustrated in my said Patent No. 904,101. This lantern is also provided with means for showing a powerful red light through a lens as a danger signal at night.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, as will be more fully described and particularly pointed out in the appended claim.

In the accompanying drawings: Figure 1— is a perspective view of my improved lantern illustrating the general construction

of the same. Fig. 2— is a front view of the lantern showing the number plate removed and the bottom of the lantern, which serves as the oil tank, in section. Fig. 3— is a section looking down, on line 3—3 of Fig. 2, also showing the indicating plate in position in section. Fig. 4— is a section on line 4—4 of Fig. 3. Fig. 5— is a section on line 5—5 of Fig. 3. Fig. 6— is a rear view of the lantern showing the fixtures by which the same may be attached to a vehicle.

Referring to the drawings, 1 represents the casing in which the number plates are retained. This casing is preferably made of thin sheet metal and as neat, small and compact as possible. The length of the casing is a little more than the length of the display number plate, and its height sufficient to receive the display number plate, and also to provide an oil tank 10 in the lower portion thereof. The thickness or width of the casing is sufficient to receive and retain the display number plate, 24, which is in position before the opening, and also a limited number, say two or three extra plates 25, containing the registered number of different States which may be changed or placed in position upon crossing the line of the State about to be entered. The thickness or width of this casing is also sufficient to receive a reflecting partition plate 16 which extends on an angle from one end of the casing to the other, said reflector plate being formed of a series of vertically arranged corrugations or ribs 26—26 which are adapted to receive and reflect the light through the number plate. One end of this casing is provided with a swinging door 2 for manipulating the plates, said door being hinged to one edge 3 of the casing and provided with a sliding lock pin 4 adapted to enter an ear 5 in the door to lock the same in a closed position see Fig. 1. The opposite end of this casing is provided with an enlarged portion 6 to serve as a lamp or illuminating medium and receive an oil burner 7 which rests on a partition 8, the wick 9 of which extends down into the oil tank 10, below. A gas burner 11 is also located in this portion of the lantern which is vented at 27 at its top and provided with a pipe connection 12 leading out through the rear thereof. An electric lamp may also be connected in place of this gas burner, if de-



sired, and the wires led out through the same tube 12, or in any other convenient way. This lamp portion is provided with a large reflector plate 13 fixed on the side of the lamp opposite the casing for the purpose of throwing the light sharply into said casing to illuminate the display plate. A transparent plate 14, such as glass, mica, or the like, is placed between the light and the casing containing the plates so as to shut off any draft of air from the light which might enter through the casing when the same is opened.

A false bottom or plate 18 is fixed on an incline in the oil tank 10 so as to insure the fuel all running to that end where the lamp wick is located.

An essential feature of this construction is that a red transparent lens 15 is set into the lamp portion 6 directly in front of the light so that when the lamp is lighted, in addition to illuminating the number plate, a powerful danger signal will also be displayed.

An essential feature of this invention is the arrangement and construction of the reflector plate 16 which extends on an angle from one end of this casing to the other, said plate being formed of a series of vertically arranged corrugations or ribs 26 the projecting edge of each step being set at the proper angle to receive and reflect the light as it enters from one end of the casing, thereby forming a series of reflectors which receive the light from the side and throw it directly ahead brightly illuminating the number plate.

Sockets 17—17 are provided on the back of the casing for the reception of suitable brackets 19 to retain the lantern on the vehicle. The front plate is held in position by spring fingers 20—20 against the opening where it is displayed, and the extra plates

are also retained by similar spring fingers 21 in the rear of the lantern, the lower edges of the plates resting in grooves 22 and 23, which grooves have beveled or inclined faces for the purpose of firmly retaining the plates in position.

This device is extremely neat and compact in appearance and is very efficient in its operation, and by its use the interchangeable number plates, which conform strictly to the requirements of the local State laws, are large and legible and easily read by day. By the attachment of a lamp to the plate carrying casing the number may also be brightly illuminated from within by night, and the same light also serves to show a powerful red or danger indicating signal.

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

A lantern of the character described comprising an elongated casing provided with an opening in the front wall thereof, a door pivoted to one end of said casing, the other end of said casing being provided with an enlargement forming a burner chamber, an indicating plate for closing said opening, means engaging the back of said indicating plate to hold the same in position, a reflector arranged diagonally across said elongated casing and provided with a plurality of angular reflecting faces, a storage space being formed between said reflector and the rear wall of said casing, and a second reflector in said burner chamber arranged to direct the light rays into the first mentioned reflector.

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

LLOYD M. TINGLEY.

Witnesses:

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