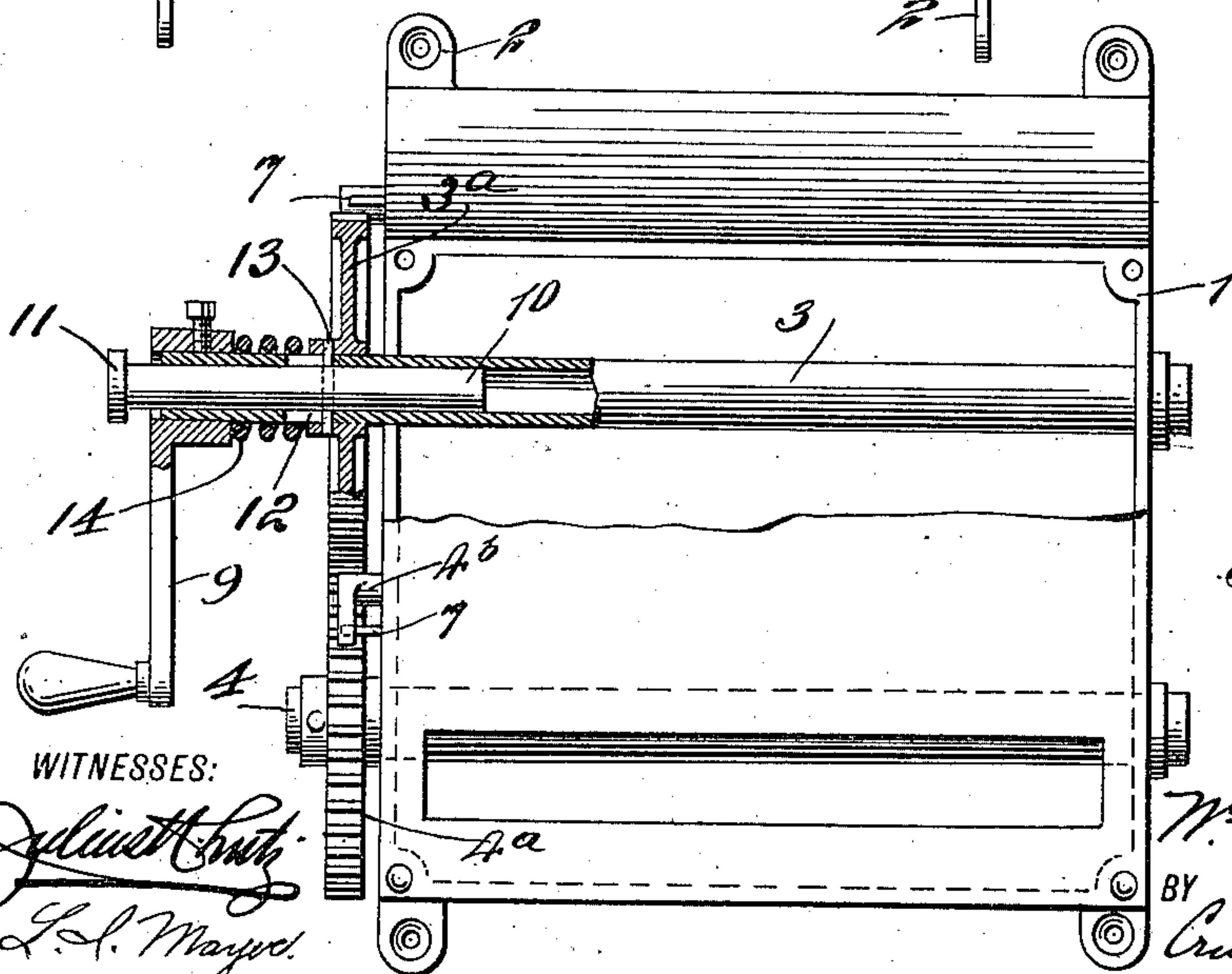
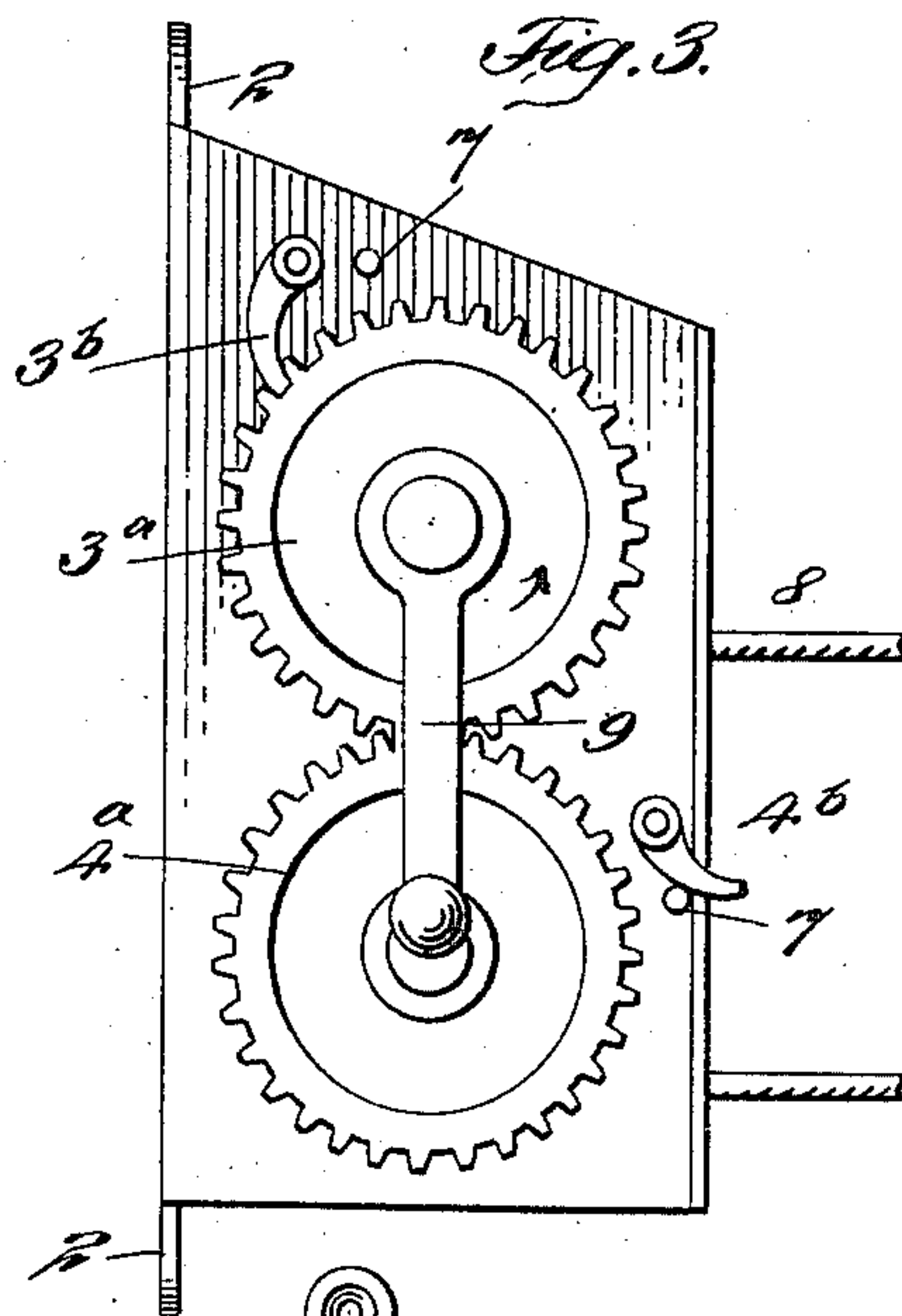
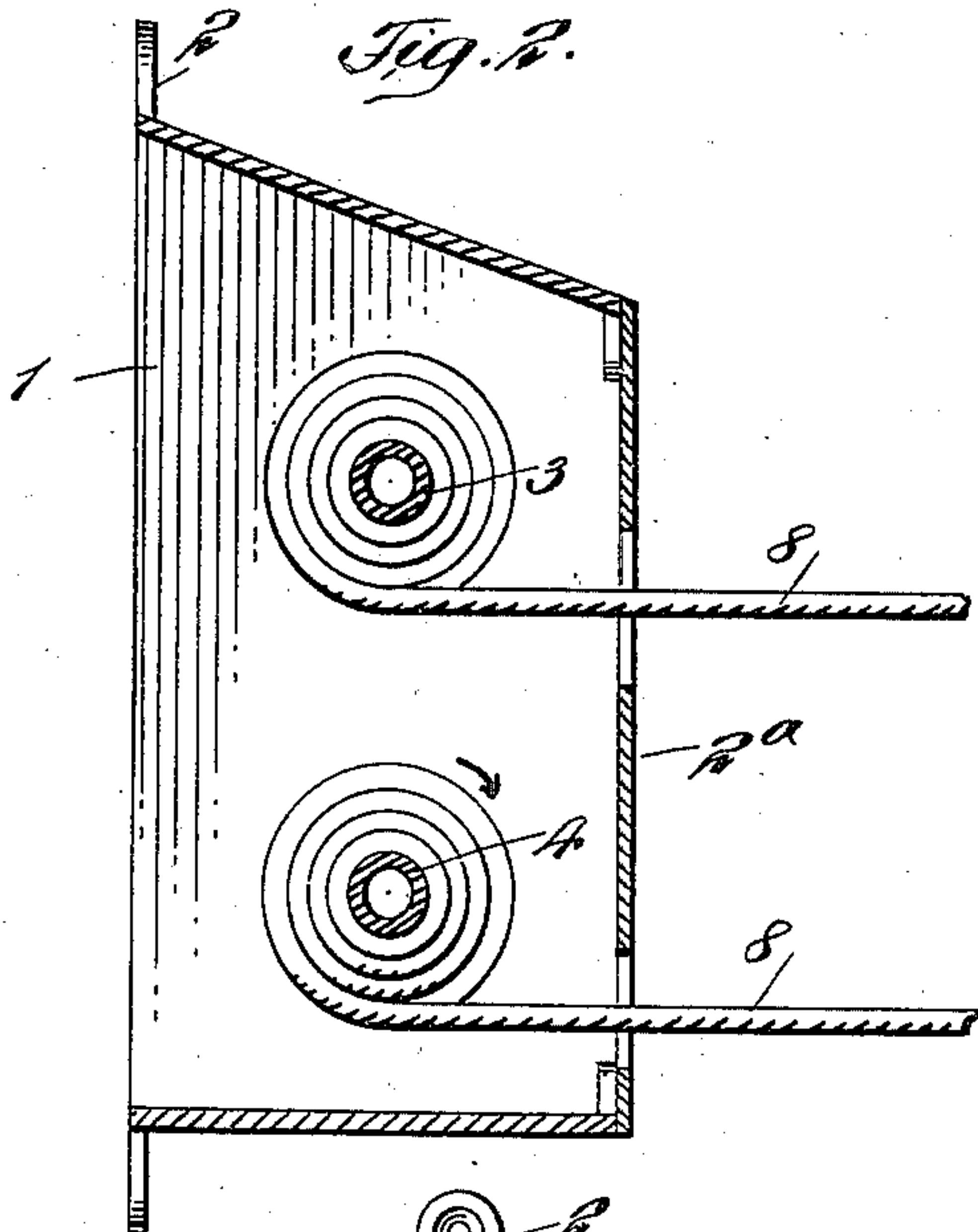
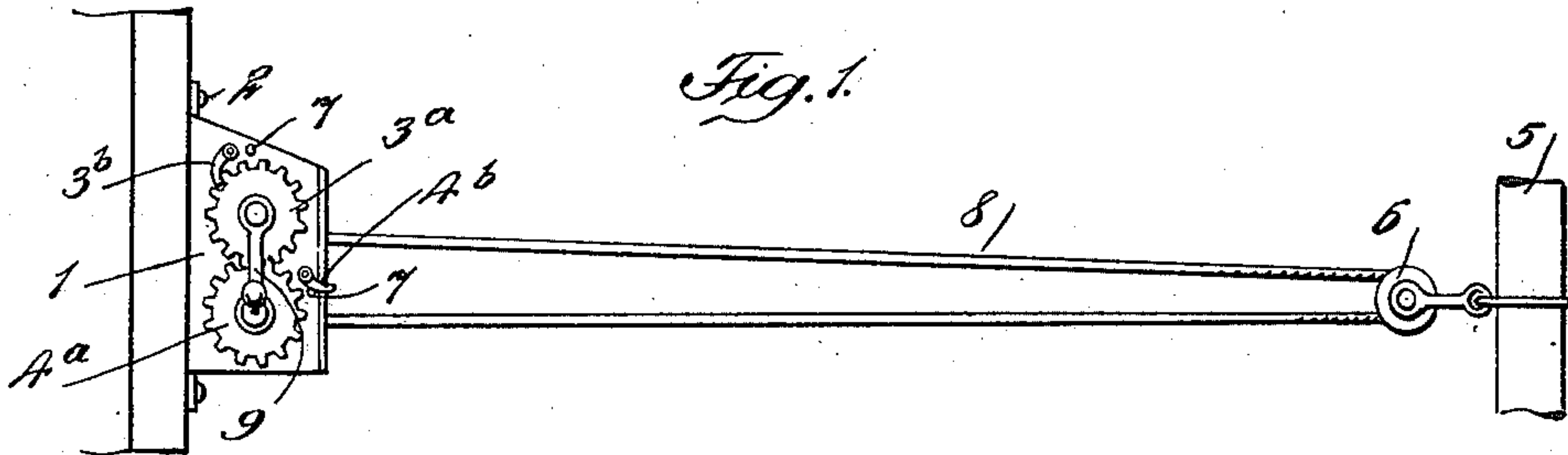


W. J. WALSH.
CLOTHES LINE.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 22, 1910.

975,811.

Patented Nov. 15, 1910.



WITNESSES:

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JOHN CUMMINGS FARROW, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

CLOTHES-LINE.

975,811.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 15, 1910.

Application filed April 22, 1910. Serial No. 557,082.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. WALSH, a subject of the King of Great Britain, residing in Jersey City, county of Hudson, and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clothes-Lines, of which the following is a specification.

The main object of this invention is to provide a simple and easily operated line reel that may be used as a clothes line reel, or as a hoisting device.

Another object of the invention is to provide a line reel of simple construction which may be easily operated, the line drums being within a suitable housing to protect them and the line thereon.

A further object of the invention is to provide means whereby the two winding reels may be disconnected from each other in order to take up or let out slack in the line.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of the device applied as a clothes line reel. Fig. 2 a vertical sectional view of the reels and the housing therefor. Fig. 3 a side elevation of the reel housing and the operating gearing; and Fig. 4 a front elevation of the housing showing the reels and driving gears in position thereon.

Referring to the various parts by numerals, 1 designates the reel housing which is provided with lugs 2 by means of which it may be fastened to the side of a house or other suitable support. The top of the housing is downwardly and outwardly inclined to shed rain and moisture. The outer side of the housing is closed by a plate 2^a, suitable slots being formed therein to permit the line to pass into and out of the housing, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4. Extending across the housing, that is to say, from side to side thereof, are two parallel reel shafts 3 and 4, said shafts being properly and suitably journaled in the sides of the housing, and being provided within the housing with any suitable means for permitting the ends of the line to be secured thereto.

The reel shafts are hollow, and in the end of the shaft 3 is inserted a short plug 10, said plug being longitudinally slidable and one of its ends projecting beyond the end of the shaft and having a head 11. On the shaft 3 is slidably mounted a gear 3^a which normally meshes with a similar gear 4^a secured to the shaft 4. The shaft 3 is slotted

longitudinally, as at 12, and extending through the hub of the gear, through said slot and through the plug 10, is a pin 13, said pin securing the gear to the plug and also to the shaft 3, so that it will turn therewith. Rigidly secured to the end of the shaft 3 is a crank 9, and between the hub of said crank and the hub of the gear 3^a is arranged a coil spring 14, said spring normally holding the pin 13 against the inner wall of the slot 12, and the gear 3^a in mesh with the gear 4^a. In order to disconnect the gears 3^a and 4^a, the head 11 may be grasped and the plug 10 and the gear 3^a drawn outwardly against the tension of the spring 14. When it is desired to have said gears re-engage each other, it is only necessary to release the plug 10. When the gears are disconnected, the line shafts or reels may be independently rotated for the purpose of taking up or letting out slack in the line. The gears 3^a and 4^a are of equal diameter whereby the reels may be driven at the same speed and in opposite directions. At a suitable distance from the reel housing is arranged a support 5 to which is connected a pulley block or sheave 6. One end of a line 8 is fastened to one of the reels, for instance, reel 3, and is then carried out and around the pulley or sheave 6. The surplus length of line is now wound upon the shaft to which said line is connected, and the other end of the line is then secured to reel 4. By gearing the two reels together so that they rotate in opposite directions, it will be seen that when the line is wound upon reel 4, it will be unwound from reel 3, and the reverse.

On the outer side of the housing and in a convenient position to engage the teeth of the wheels 3^a and 4^a are pawls 3^b and 4^b, said pawls being adapted to be thrown out of engagement with their respective gears, and to rest against stops 7. When the pawl 4^b is out of engagement with gear 4^a said gear may be rotated in the direction of the arrow in Fig. 2, and with the line arranged as shown in said figure, it will be wound upon the reel 4 and unwound from reel 3. It is clear from Fig. 3 that the pawl 3^b will slip over the teeth or gear 3^a during this operation of the device. When it is desired to rewind the line on the upper reel 3, it is necessary to first throw the pawl 4^b into engagement with its gear, 4^a and to then throw out

of engagement the pawl 3^b from its gear 3^a. The direction of rotation of the gear and the attached shaft or reel may be reversed, and the upper reel driven in such manner as to
 5 rewind the line thereon. When it is desired to hold the line, both pawls are thrown into engagement with their gears.

It will be readily seen that the device may be employed as a hoisting device or as a
 10 clothes line reel as may be desired, and that for both of said uses it is simple, compact, cheap to manufacture, durable and efficient.

When used as a clothes line the articles are secured to the lower portion of the line
 15 8 and as they are fastened thereto the gears are operated to carry that portion of the line and article away from the operator to provide space for additional articles. In removing the articles after they are dried the
 20 operation of the gears is reversed.

When used as a hoisting device, of course, the hoisting will be in a higher position than the support 5 and by attaching the rope 8 to the article to be hoisted, the same may be
 25 readily and easily elevated by operating the gears as hereinbefore set forth.

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

30 1. A line reel comprising a support, a pair of shafts mounted therein, a gear slidably mounted on the end of one of said shafts but arranged to turn therewith, means for moving the slidable gear said gears intermeshing
 35 whereby the said shafts will be rotated in opposite directions, a pawl adapted to engage each of said gears, and an operating

crank adapted to be connected to the shaft on which the slidable gear is mounted.

2. A line reel comprising a support, a pair 40 of shafts therein, a longitudinally movable plug in the end of one of said shafts and projecting beyond the end thereof, a gear slidably mounted on said shaft, a similar gear mounted on the other shaft, said gears 45 intermeshing, means for rigidly connecting the slidable gear to said plug whereby the plug, the gear, and the shaft will be secured together for rotation, a pawl for each of said gears, and an operating crank adapted to be 50 fitted to the shaft on which the slidable gear is mounted.

3. A line reel comprising a support, a pair of shafts therein, a longitudinally movable plug in the end of one of said shafts and 55 projecting beyond the end thereof, a gear slidably mounted on said shaft, a similar gear mounted on the other shaft, said gears intermeshing, means for rigidly connecting the slidable gear to said plug whereby the 60 plug, the gear, and the shaft will be secured together for rotation, a pawl for each of said gears, an operating crank adapted to be fitted to the shaft on which the slidable gear is mounted and a spring interposed between 65 said gear and said crank to hold the gears normally in mesh.

This specification signed and witnessed this 9th day of April A. D. 1910.

WILLIAM JAMES WALSH.

Witnesses:

L. I. MAYER,
 LESTER C. TAYLOR.