

Stevens & Knight,

Mail Bag.

N^o 70,480.

Patented Nov. 5, 1867.

Fig. 1.

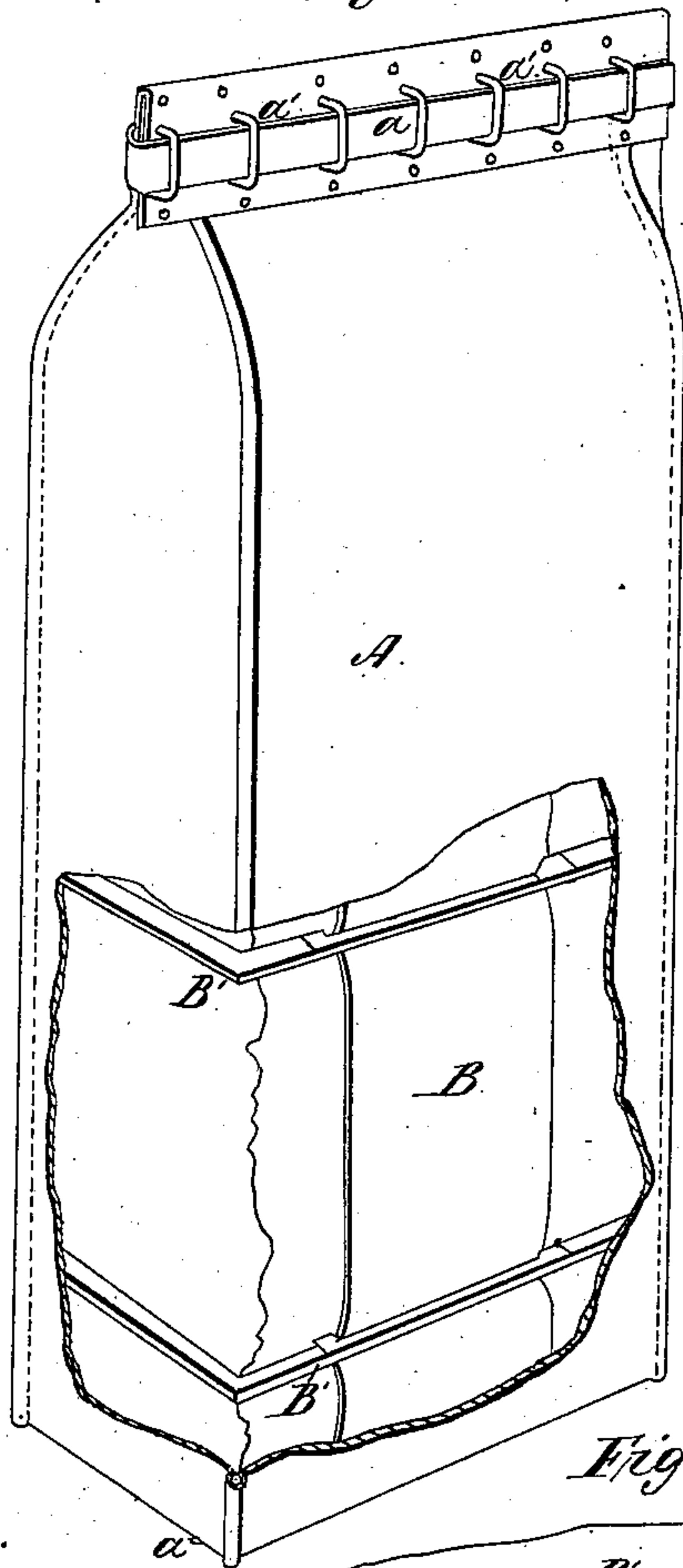


Fig. 2.

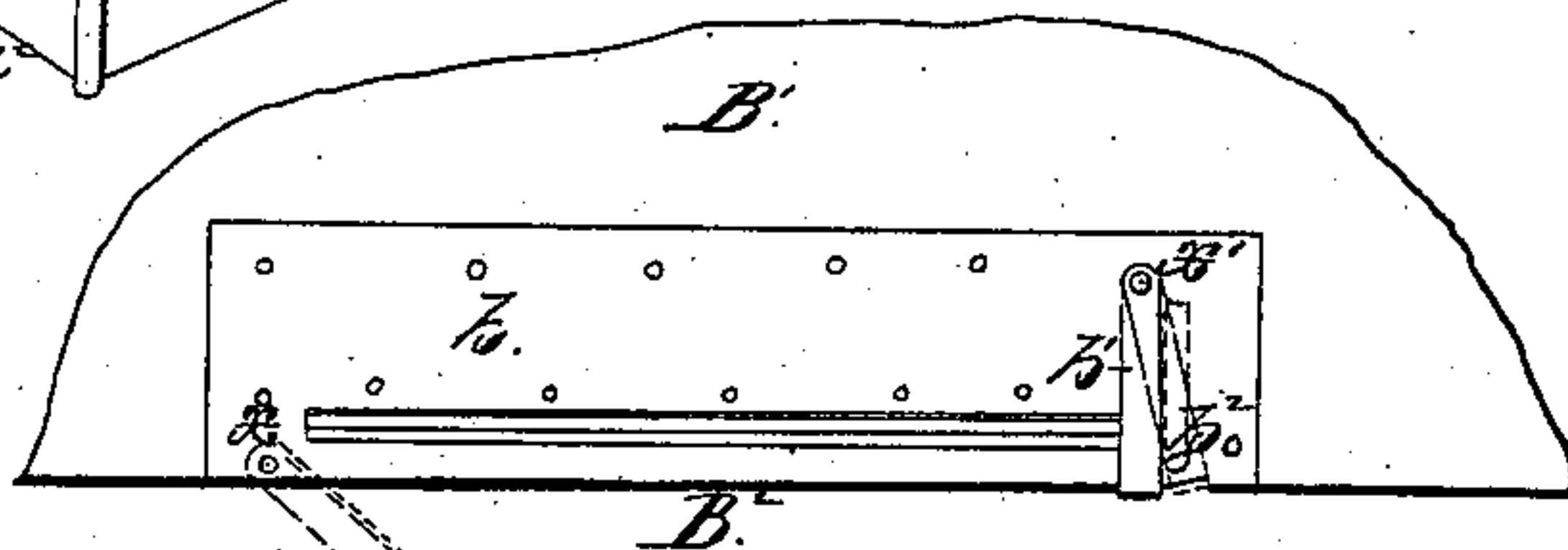
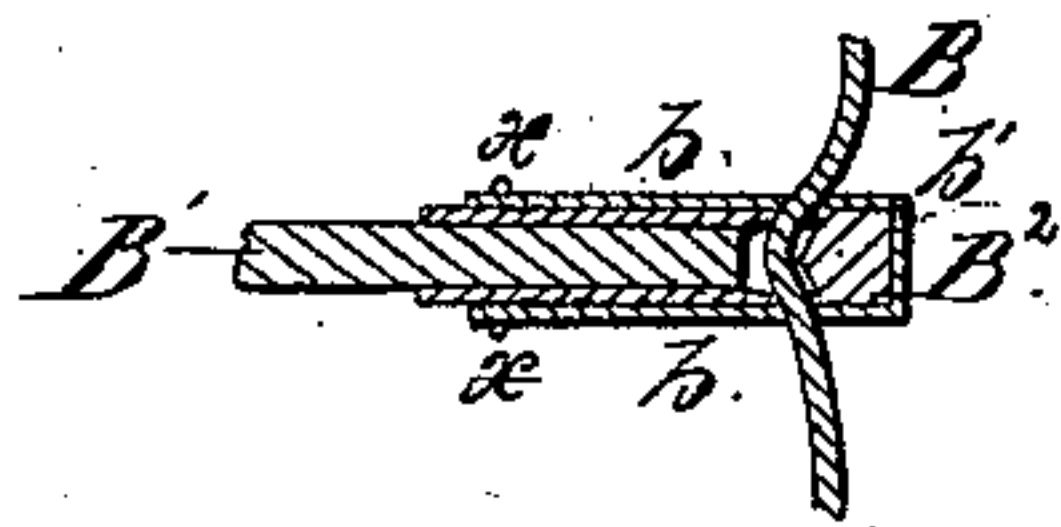


Fig. 3.



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EDWARD STEVENS AND JOHN A. KNIGHT, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

Letters Patent No. 70,480, dated November 5, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN MAIL-BAGS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that we, EDWARD STEVENS and JOHN A. KNIGHT, both of the city and county of St. Louis, and State of Missouri, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Mail-Bags; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full and clear description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

This invention relates, firstly, to an improvement in the bag itself, whereby its clearly-defined angular corners give it all the advantages of the wooden box, while the yielding nature of the leather or other fibrous material of which it is constructed secures all the benefits of the old leathern mail-bag; secondly, the invention relates to a belt or strap for retaining in their proper positions the several packages of letters within the bag, and also to the partitions which subdivide the several packages of letters one from another. There is also, in connection with this partition, a peculiar retaining device which secures it to the enclosing-strap.

To enable those skilled in the art to make and use our improved mail-bag, we will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a perspective elevation of one of the improved bags, in which view a portion of the side of the bag is broken out, so as to disclose the interior arrangements of the same.

Figure 2 is a sectional elevation of one of the dividing partitions.

Figure 3 is a transverse section of the partition, showing more fully the device for securing it to the strap.

A is the mail-bag, the mouth of which is closed by means of the strap a , passing through metallic loops a^1 , and secured by means of a padlock, (not shown.) This bag is to be constructed of leather, canvas, or some similar fibrous material, yielding and pliable in its nature. There are to be cords a^2 sewed into the corners of the bag, and it is to be cut out and sewed up in such a manner as to make it rectangular in its general form. This gives to the bag all the advantages for stowage of the rectangular wooden boxes, while the yielding nature of the material renders it far superior to the boxes in weight and durability, and equal, in the latter respect, to the old-fashioned leathern bags. The belt B which surrounds the various packages of letters within the bag is combined with several movable partitions, B^1 , which are locked to the belt in a peculiar manner, as herein-after described, for the purpose of securing together in a single parcel those letters which are destined to a single station. The belt may be wrapped around and sewed to the first or back partition, and may be passed through loops or slots in the central partitions, so as to allow the latter to be slid easily in either direction, as more or less letters may be included in either compartment. These partitions should be of thick leather, or some similar material, and should be provided with metal facings for the loops or slots through which the belt is to be passed. The last or end partition should be provided with a locking-bar, B^2 , pivoted to the facing-plates b at x , so as to swing outwardly when released from the retaining-loop b^1 , which is pivoted at x^1 to the same plates. The parts are arranged so that when the bar B^2 is closed, and secured in its position by the loop b^1 , it will compress the strap or belt so that it cannot move in either direction, as is clearly shown in fig. 3, and the various packages between the partitions will, in this manner, be held securely in their proper positions. A spring stud, b^2 , advances beyond the face of the plate b , and holds the loop up over the end of the bar B^2 , as shown in fig. 2. When this stud is depressed below the face of the plate (by a person's thumb, for instance,) the loop may be thrown back, as in the red lines in fig. 2, and the bar will then be allowed to open for the reception of the strap, as is also shown by the red lines in the same figure.

The formation of the bag A must not be confounded with a stiff sole-leather box already patented, as all use of a rigid box of any kind is hereby disclaimed.

Having described our invention, what we claim is—

The bar B^2 , the loop b^1 , and the partition B^1 , combined and operated as herein shown and described.

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Witnesses:

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