

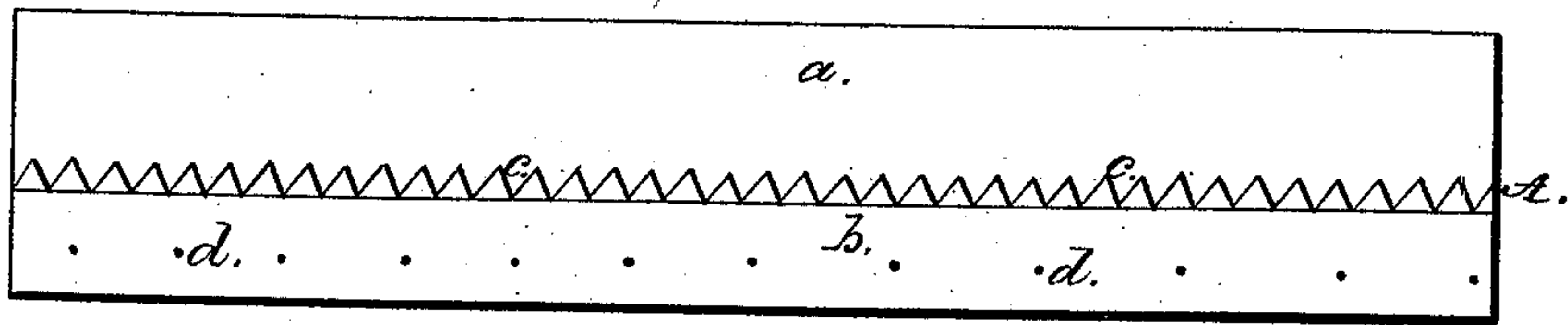
*S. Baker.*

*Safety Strip for Packing Cases.*

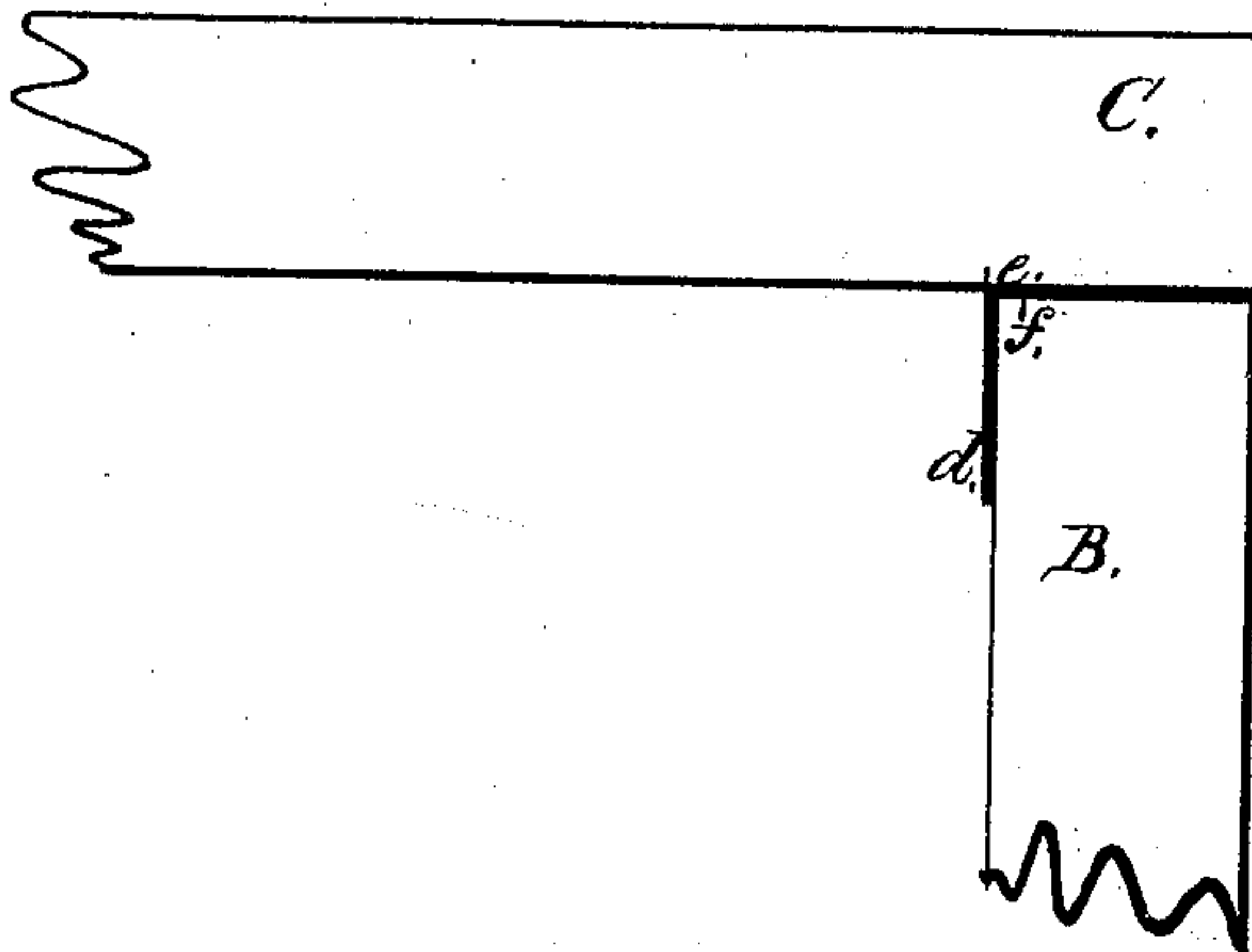
*N<sup>o</sup> 86,492.*

*Patented Feb. 2, 1869.*

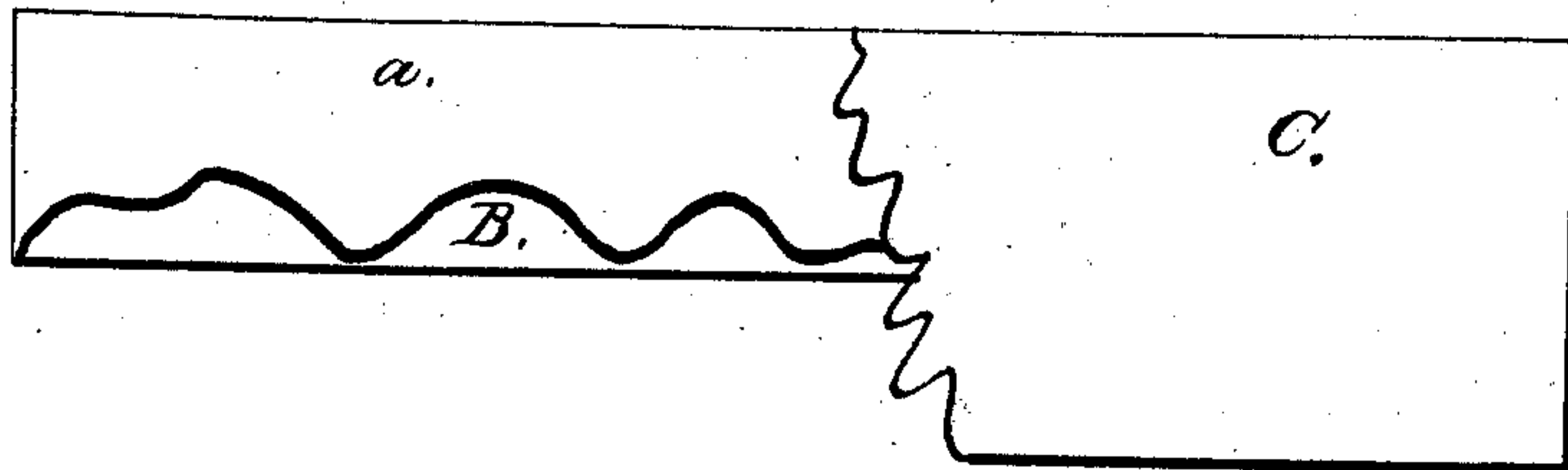
*Fig: 1.*



*Fig: 2.*



*Fig: 3.*



*Witnesses:*

*J. Lawrence*  
*John S. Thornton.*

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# United States Patent Office.

SAMUEL BAKER, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

Letters Patent No. 86,492, dated February 2, 1869.

## IMPROVEMENT IN SAFETY-STRIPS FOR PACKING-CASES.

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

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL BAKER, of the city of Newark, in the county of Essex, and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Safety-Strip for Packing-Cases; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The object of my invention is to provide a means by which any tampering with a package of goods, after it has left the hands of the consignor, may be detected with the utmost certainty, thus avoiding the possibility of loss by the dishonesty of carriers and others through whose hands the package may have to pass in order to reach its destination. It is well-known that of late very numerous and heavy losses have been sustained by merchants and others, through the dishonesty of the carters employed to ship their goods, who have opened the packages entrusted to their care, and abstracted valuable goods, replacing them with others of inferior quality, and thus occasioning heavy losses to the owners, as well as much annoyance and misunderstanding between merchants and their customers, on account of the goods, on arrival, not corresponding with the order.

The nature of my invention consists in the use or employment of a strip of tin or other suitable sheet-metal, and elastic rubber or other suitable elastic material, the strip of metal being serrated on the edges, and doubled longitudinally up the middle, so as to bring the serrated edges together, between which is inserted the elastic strip, of suitable width, and firmly fixed by the two sides or serrated edges of the metal strip being pressed closely together. A suitable length of the strip, made after this manner, is nailed inside the end of the packing-case on which it is desired to use it, in such a manner that the serrated edges shall rise a little above the edge of the case, when the serrated edge next the wood is turned down, and pressed or driven into the upper surface of the end of the packing-case, while the elastic strip is stretched over the end of the packing-case to its utmost tension, and tacked down temporarily on the outside. When the packing-case has been filled with the goods, the lid or cover is nailed down in the ordinary manner, when the serrated edge of the strip which remains not turned down will form indentations or impressions on the inside of the lid, and the nails used to nail down the lid will pierce through the strip of rubber stretched over the end, as aforesaid, which is then cut off close to the joint made by the end of the case and the lid. By these means an infallible detector is procured, as it will be found impossible to remove the lid and nail it down again without making a second series of indentations or impressions on the lid, and equally impossible to stretch the rubber, a second time so as to allow the nails to pass

through the holes made in it by the nails at the time the lid was first nailed down.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction.

Figure 1 is a plan view of a length of my safety-strip.

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view of part of a packing-case with my safety-strip attached.

Figure 3 is a plan view of the end of a packing-case with the elastic strip stretched over it, a portion being broken off to show the recession of the elastic strip.

The safety-strip A is composed of a strip of elastic rubber, or of other suitable elastic material, *a*, of suitable width and thickness, a portion of which is introduced and fixed between the two sides of the strip *b*, which may be made of tin, or any of the well-known sheet-metals, or other suitable material, and which may either be in one piece, doubled longitudinally up the middle, so as to bring the serrated edges, *c*, together, or it may be made in two separate strips, of similar or different material, fastened together, with the elastic strip *a* between them. The strip made after this manner is punctured at suitable intervals, so as to admit of its being tacked to the inside of the packing-case, as shown at *d*, the perforations also serving to secure the elastic strip *a* more firmly in its place between the two sides of the metal strip *b*.

The safety-strip, made as above described, is designed to be tacked or nailed to the inside end of the packing-case B, so that the serrated edges may rise a little above the edge of the packing-case B, and form impressions or indentations on the inside of the lid C, when it is nailed down, as plainly indicated at *e*.

Before the lid C is nailed down, the elastic strip *a* is stretched at its utmost tension over the end of the case B, and temporarily tacked down on the outside thereof.

The inner side of the metal strip *b* may or may not be provided with serrature on its edge, but when it is serrated, the serrated edge is turned down and pressed or driven into the end of the packing-case B, as shown at *f*.

It will be readily seen that, when my safety-strip has been attached in the manner above described, before nailing down the lid, when the lid is nailed down the serrated edge, *c*, of the outer side of the metal strip will make a series of indentations on the inner side of the lid C; also, that the nails will pass through the elastic strip *a*, stretched over the end of the case B; also, that it would be impossible to take off the lid and nail it down a second time without making a second series of indentations on the inside of the lid C, thus leaving indubitable evidence that the package had been tampered with; likewise, that the elastic strip, having been cut off close to the joint made by the end of the case B and the lid C, after the lid was



nailed down, would, by its elasticity, fly back to the nails, and could not by any means be brought into the same position a second time, if the lid were taken off and nailed down again, and that thus a second series of holes made by the nails would likewise furnish proof that the package had been opened and the lid nailed down a second time.

The advantages of my invention are apparent, for the reason that any tampering with the package while *in transitu* will be at once detected when it has reached its destination and is opened, as the second series of indentations on the lid and the second series of holes through the elastic material will furnish proof of the fact.

It will be observed that the rubber or other elastic material may be used or employed alone as a detector or safety-strip. The metal strip may also be used without the elastic material for the same purpose, and all of the above-described strip may be used in sections or in a continuous strip, as may be desired.

Having thus described my invention,

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. The strip A, composed of the metal plate *b*, and the rubber or other elastic material *a*, the said metal plate being provided with serratures *c*, substantially as herein shown and described and for the purposes set forth.

2. The metal strip or plate *b*, either with or without serrated edges, and with or without rubber, when used, as herein described, as a safety-strip for packing-cases.

3. Also, any elastic material when placed between the ends or sides of a packing-case and the lid or cover thereof, to serve the purpose of a safety-strip, substantially as herein shown and described.

4. Either of the above-described forms separately, or in connection with each other, in combination with a packing-case, B, and the lid C, substantially as herein shown and described.

Witnesses:

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