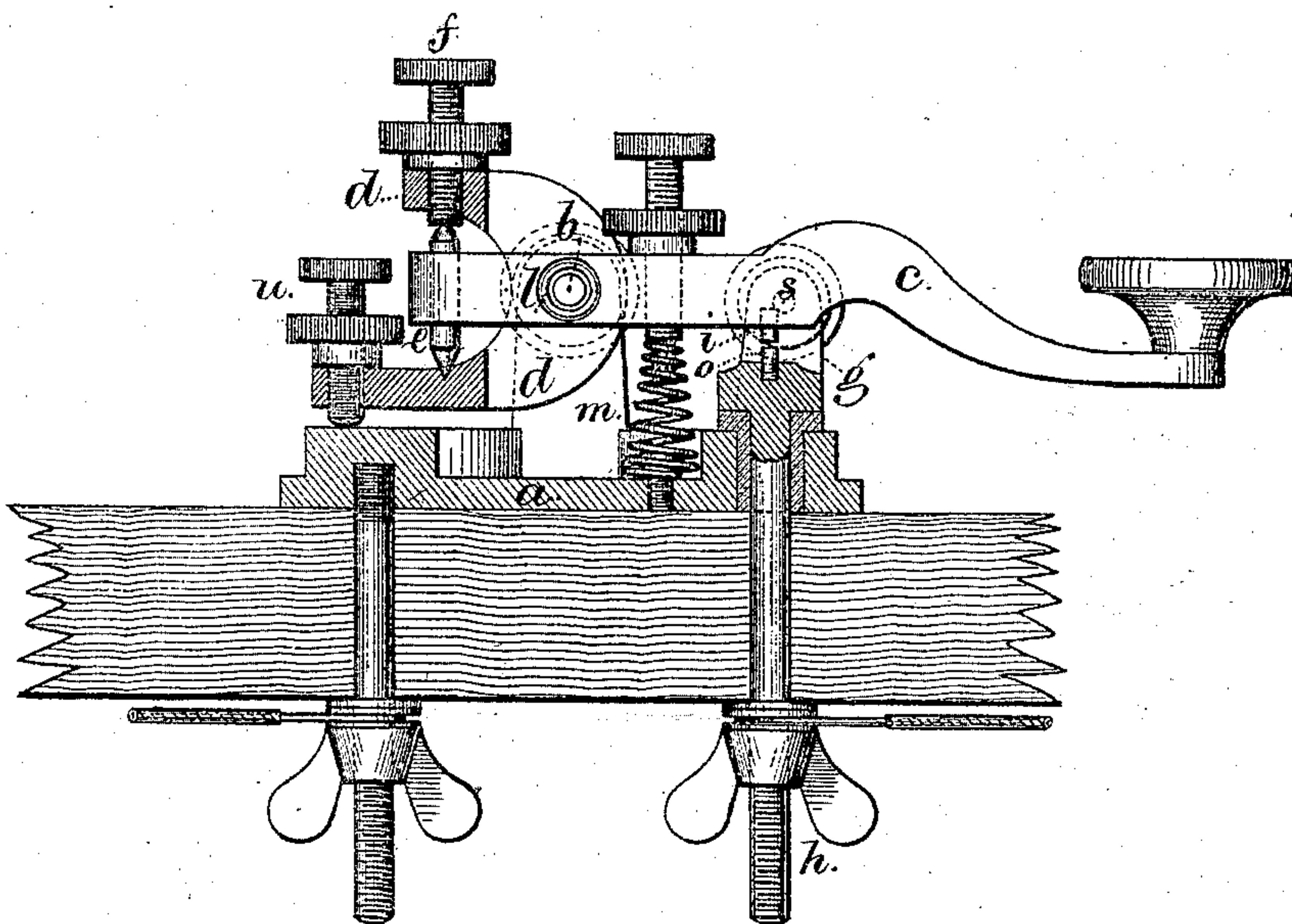


**W. HOCHHAUSEN.**  
**Self-Closing Telegraph Keys.**

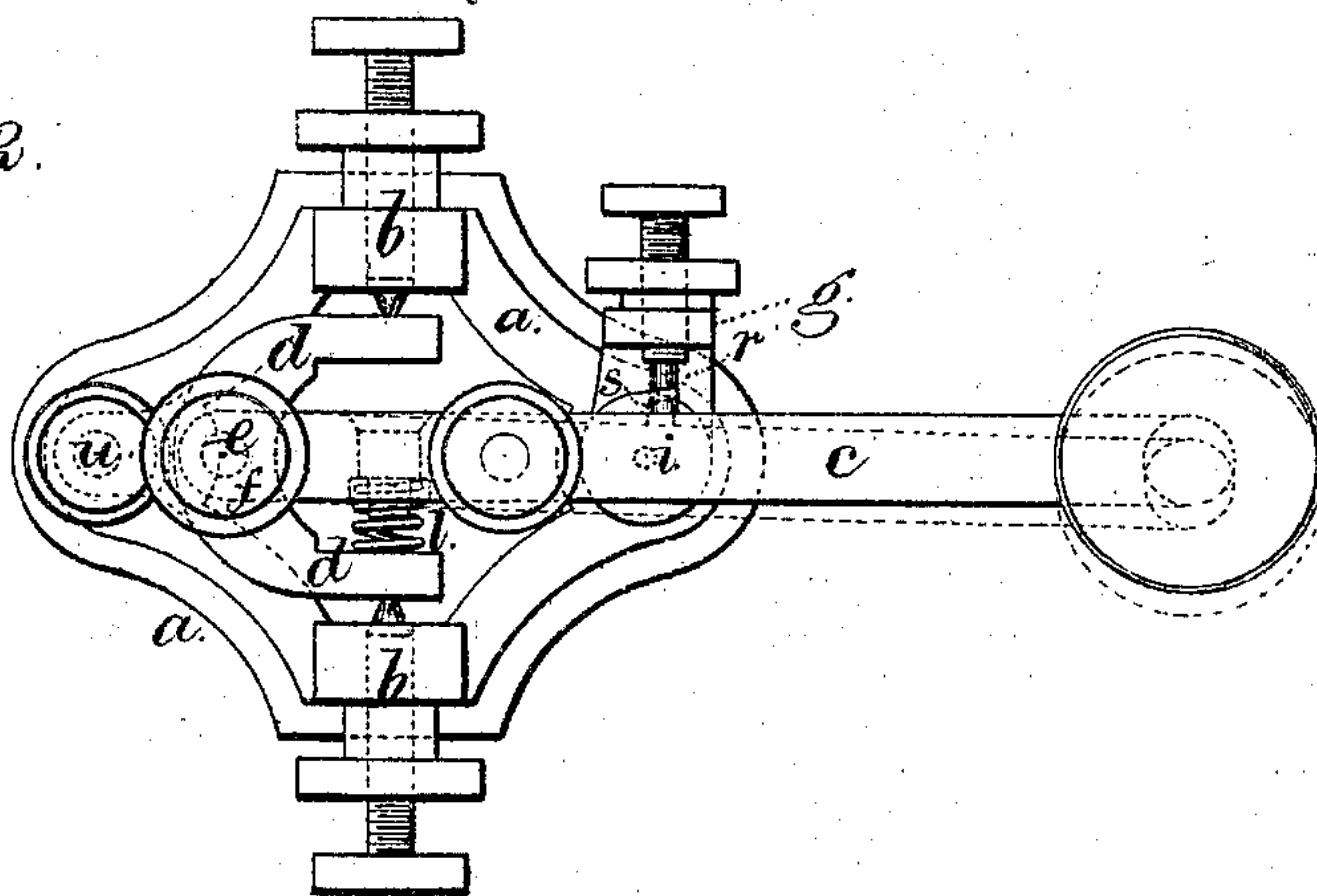
No. 144,274.

Patented Nov. 4, 1873.

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



Witnesses,

*Chas. H. Smith*  
*Geo. T. Pinckney*

Inventor

*W. Hochhausen*  
*per Lemuel W. Serrell*  
*att'y.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM HOCHHAUSEN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## IMPROVEMENT IN SELF-CLOSING TELEGRAPH-KEYS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **144,274**, dated November 4, 1873; application filed October 3, 1873.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM HOCHHAUSEN, of the city and State of New York, have invented an Improvement in Telegraph-Keys, of which the following is a correct specification:

The ordinary telegraph-key has been made with a switch-connection for closing the line-circuit when the key is not in use, and for opening that circuit when the key is to be manipulated.

My present invention relates to a self-closing key, in which the operator breaks the main-line circuit as he commences to manipulate his key, and that circuit is closed by the key when pressure thereon is relieved, so that a separate switch or a switch-connection to the key is rendered unnecessary. I make use of a key-lever that is mounted upon horizontal and vertical axes or centers, the horizontal centers or fulcrums allowing of the ordinary movement in manipulating the key, and the vertical centers allowing the key to be turned aside sufficiently to separate the line-connecting contact-points while the key is being operated; but as soon as the key is liberated, a spring moves the same laterally and closes the line-circuit.

In the drawing, Figure 1 is a vertical section of the finger-key, yoke, and frame, the lever being in elevation; and Fig. 2 is a plan of said key complete.

The frame *a* and horizontal centers *b* are of usual character; but instead of the centers *b* receiving the axis or fulcrum of the finger-key lever *c*, such centers receive the yoke *d*, and the lever *c* is connected therewith by the vertical axis *e*. The center-screw *f* receives one end of this axis *e*, and by means thereof

the parts are kept closely in contact, and looseness is prevented. The contact-point *i* on *c* and anvil *o* are of usual character; but the latter is connected with the bracket *g*, as well as with the attaching-screw *h*; and upon this bracket *g* is an adjusting-screw and contact-point, *r*, contiguous to a contact-point, *s*, upon the lever *c*. The spring *l* presses the lever *c* and point *s* toward *r*, so that the line-circuit will be closed through the points *r s* and bracket *g* when the key is not in use; but when the manipulation of the key is commenced the operator first moves the lever *c* laterally to separate the contact-points *r* and *s*, and then the movement is given to the key as usual. The spring *m* serves to raise the finger-key, and the screw *u* adjusts the amount of movement. The bracket *g* may be swung around upon either side of the lever *c* to suit the convenience of the operator, the spring *l* being placed upon the opposite side of the lever. Usually the parts will be positioned as shown; but some may prefer to press the key laterally toward the right to separate the points *r s*, instead of pressing the key toward the left.

I claim as my invention—

The telegraphic key in which the lever is mounted upon two centers, to allow of a lateral as well as of a vertical movement, in combination with the circuit-closing points *r s*, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

Signed by me this 30th day of September, A. D. 1873.

W. HOCHHAUSEN.

Witnesses:

GEO. T. PINCKNEY,  
CHAS. H. SMITH.