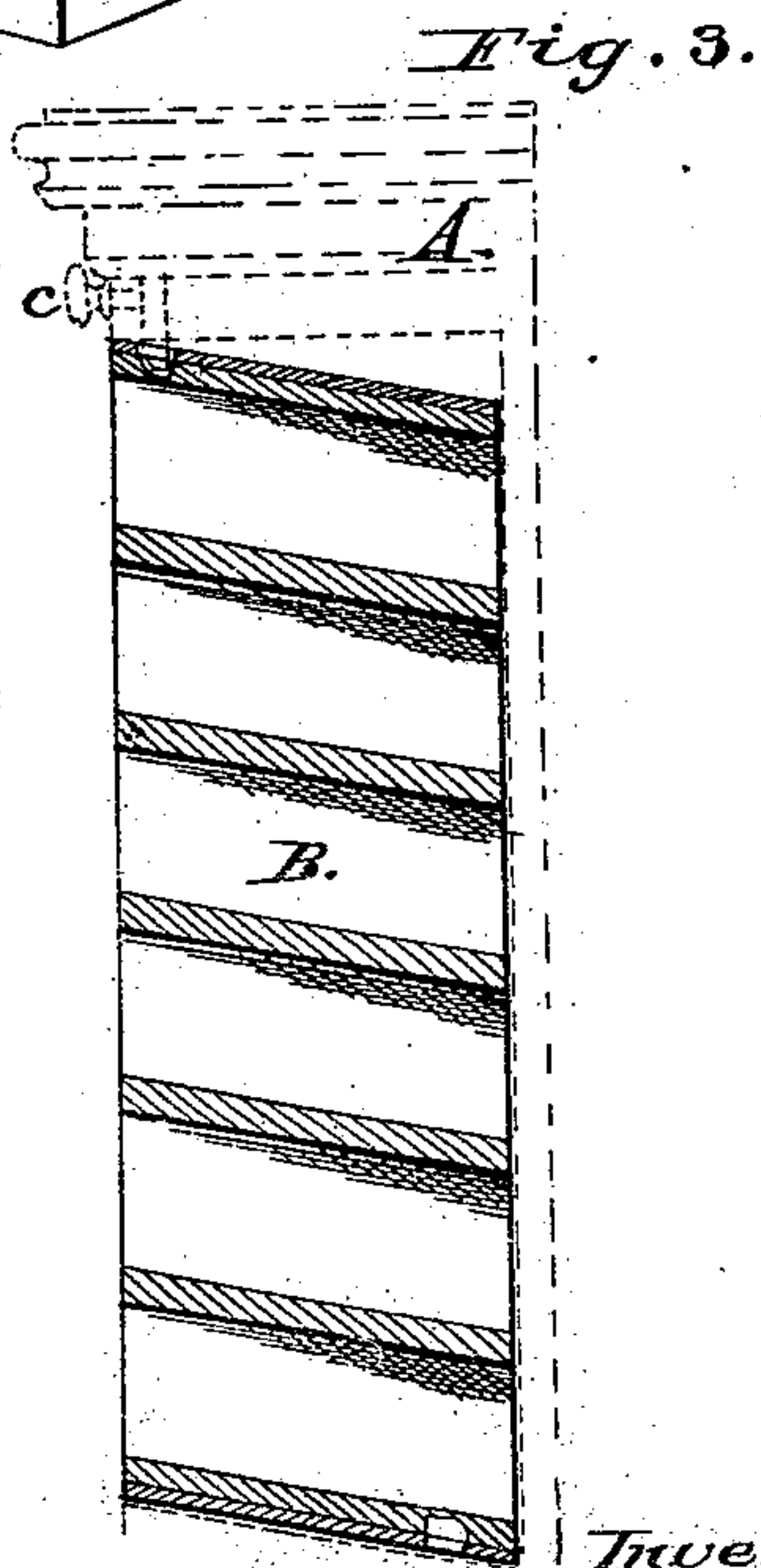
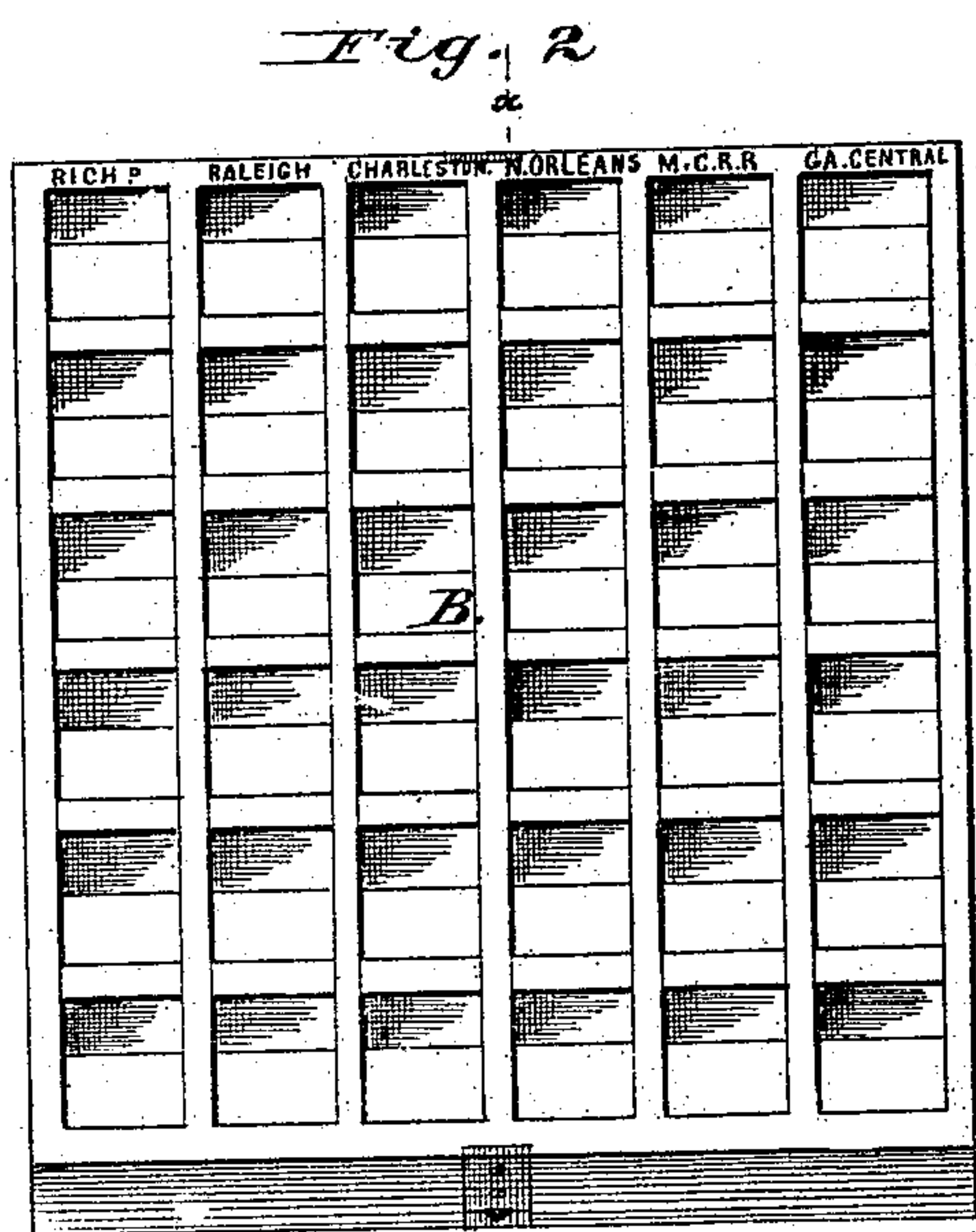
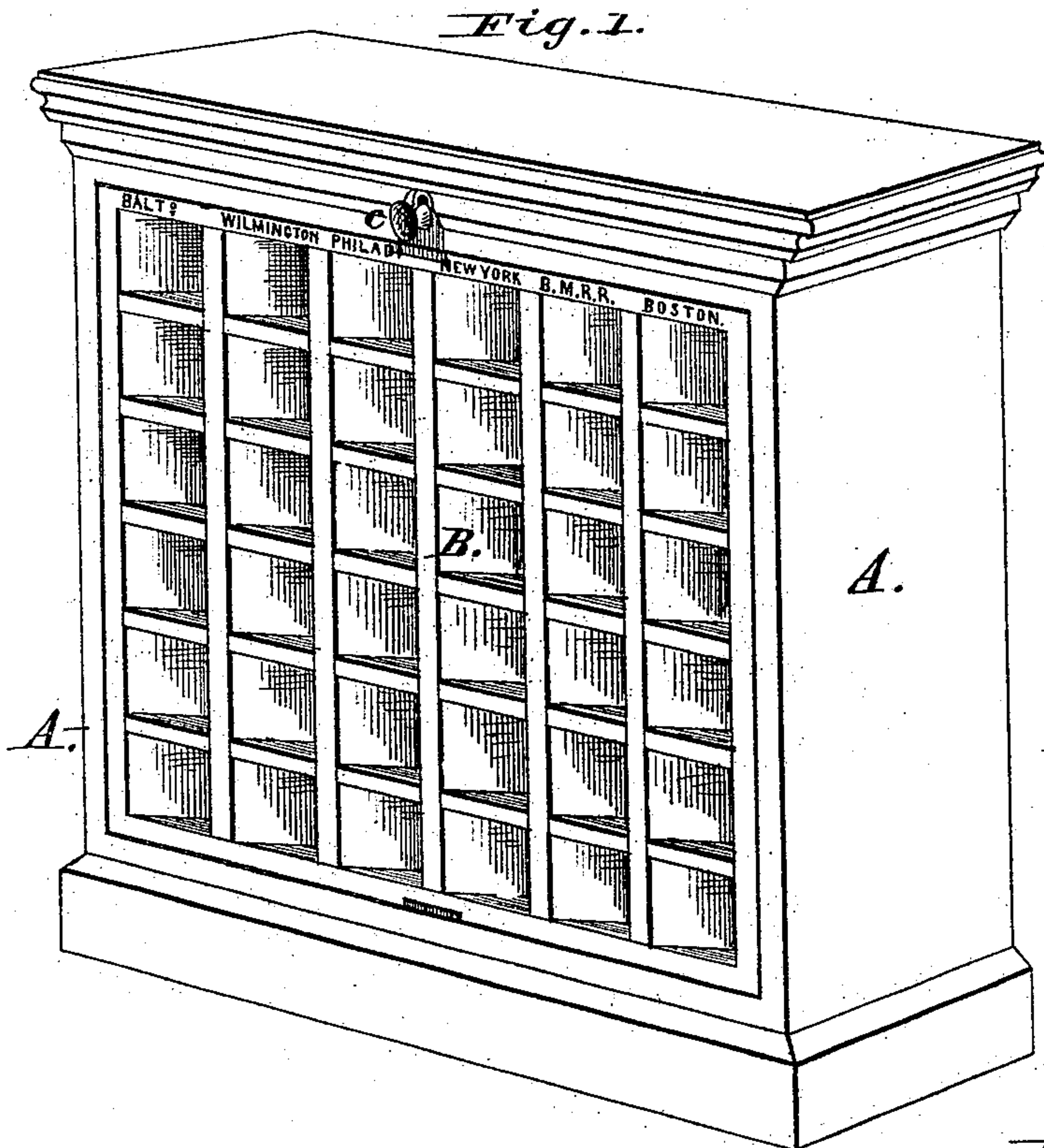


J. B. HARLOW.  
POST-OFFICE BOXES.

No. 188,512.

Patented March 20, 1877.



Attest  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

JOHN B. HARLOW, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

## IMPROVEMENT IN POST-OFFICE BOXES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **188,512**, dated March 20, 1877; application filed March 3, 1877.

*To all whom it may concern :*

Be it known that I, JOHN B. HARLOW, of St. Louis, in the county of St. Louis and State of Missouri, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Distributing Pigeon-Holes for Postal-Cars, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification, and accompanying drawings.

Postal-cars are provided with cases of pigeon-holes, labeled with the names of the principal post-offices along the route, or on connecting postal-routes, and the letters are distributed to their appropriate pigeon-holes by postal-clerks on the cars. A car going north from Washington, for instance, will have its pigeon-holes labeled Baltimore, Wilmington, Philadelphia, New York, and so on; but if the same car travels south from Washington, it must have a case of pigeon-holes differently labeled—as Richmond, Petersburg, Atlanta, St. Louis, and so on.

Heretofore changeable labels have been used for each pigeon-hole, to be attached or detached whenever a change is required to be made; or the partitions between the pigeon-holes, forming their tops and bottoms, have been constructed to slide in and out of their seats, having different labels upon opposite edges, so that by reversing each of said sliding partitions different labels will be brought to the front. Both of these plans are objectionable, not only because of the time required to change the labels, but because in the case first mentioned the changeable labels are liable to become accidentally detached and lost, and in the last-mentioned case the sliding partitions are liable to become loose and to warp.

My invention consists in making the entire case of pigeon-holes detachable from the frame in which it is seated, and reversible, with the pigeon-holes permanently and differently labeled on each side, so that, by withdrawing the case from its frame and reversing it, the labels will all be changed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a front perspective view of a case of pigeon-holes seated in its frame, adjusted for going north from Washington. Fig. 2 is a view of the same case of pigeon-holes detached from its frame and reversed, preparatory to going south, and Fig. 3 is a sectional side view of the case detached from the frame.

A is the inclosing-frame, which has a back to it, making a box open in front. B is the reversible case, and *c* a spring-catch to hold the case securely in the frame. The top and bottom of the case B are made beveling, as shown in Fig. 3, and the bottom plate of the frame A is set on a corresponding bevel, so that the bottom of the case requires no other fastening to hold it securely in the frame. The case can be withdrawn from the frame, reversed, and replaced easily, and in very little time; and every time it is so withdrawn and reversed, all the dust collecting in the pigeon-holes will be removed, whereas in the pigeon-holes as heretofore constructed the dust collecting in them has been a great annoyance, and difficult to clean out. Furthermore, in taking letters out of the pigeon-holes, one or two are liable to be accidentally left in the bottom, and the frequent reversing of the case obviates all danger of this kind.

Having thus fully described my invention, and the manner of using it, what I claim, and desire to secure, is—

The combination of the frame A, with its interior inclined at the top and bottom, the reversible case B, labeled on opposite sides, and inclined at the top and bottom, and the spring-catch *c*, substantially as and for the purpose described.

JOHN B. HARLOW.

Witnesses:

J. W. HAMILTON JOHNSON,  
JOS. L. COOMBS.