

B. H. & W. H. CAMP.
POST-OFFICE BOXES.

No. 194,890.

Patented Sept. 4, 1877.

Fig. 2.

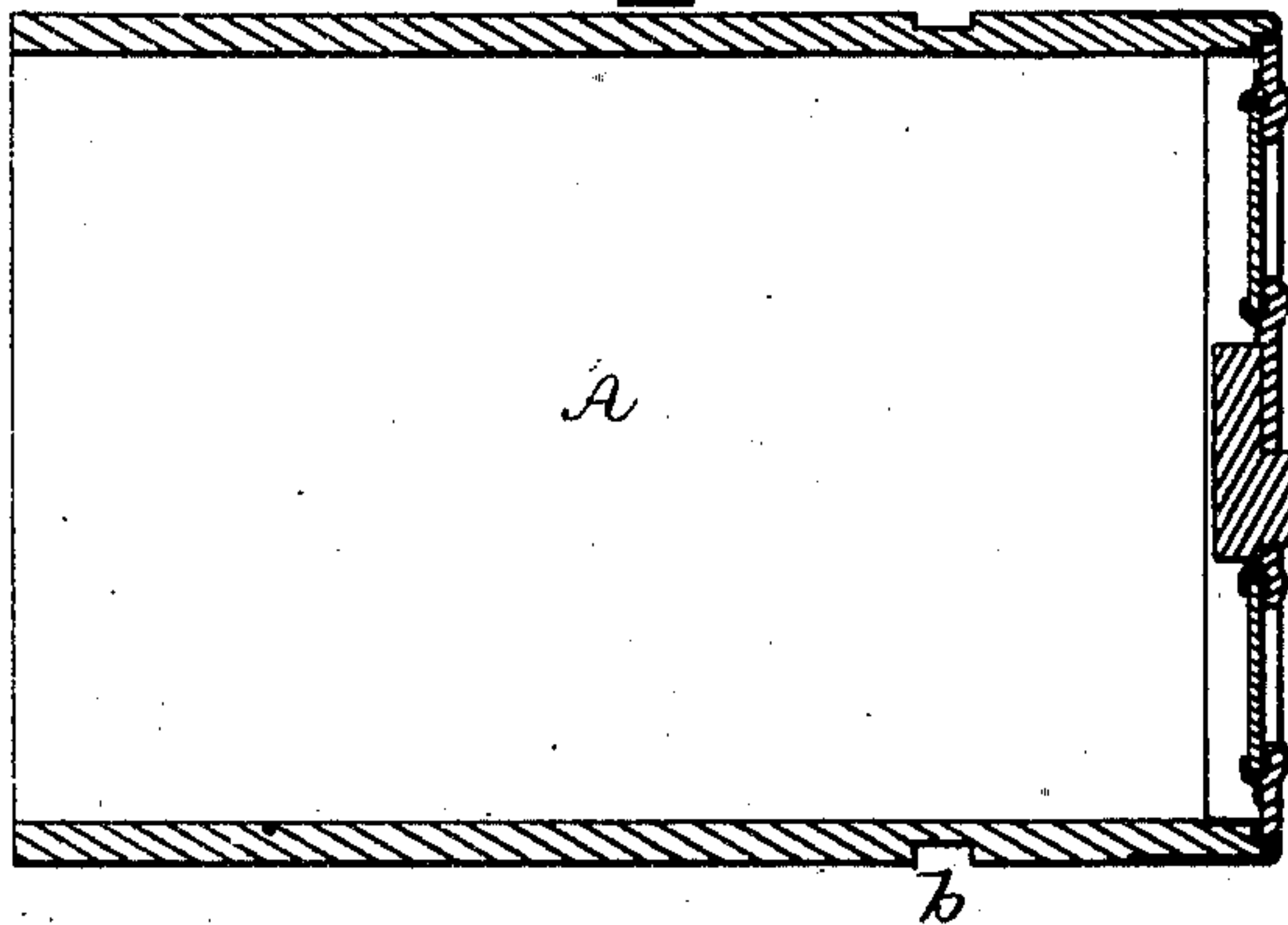


Fig. 3.

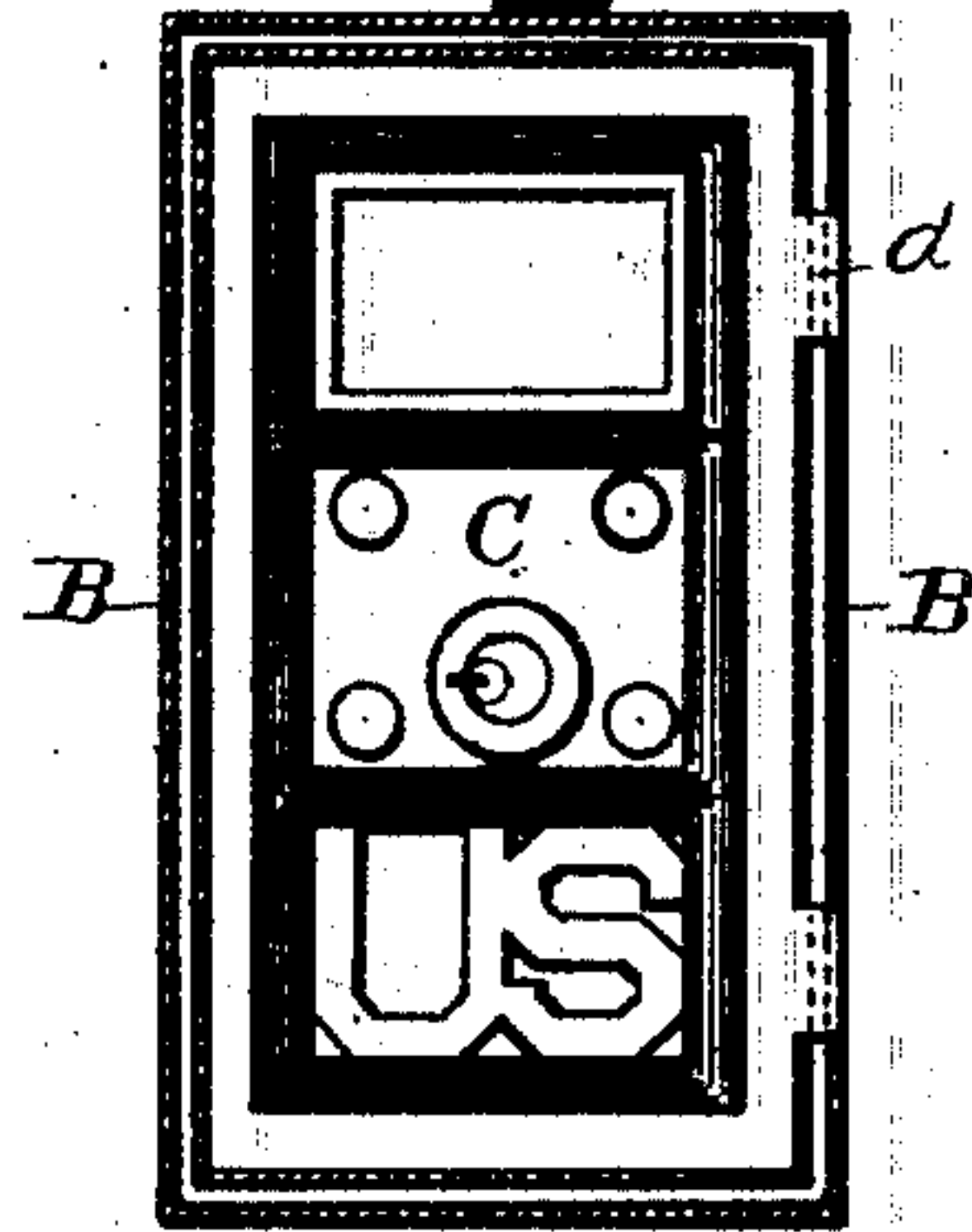


Fig. 4.

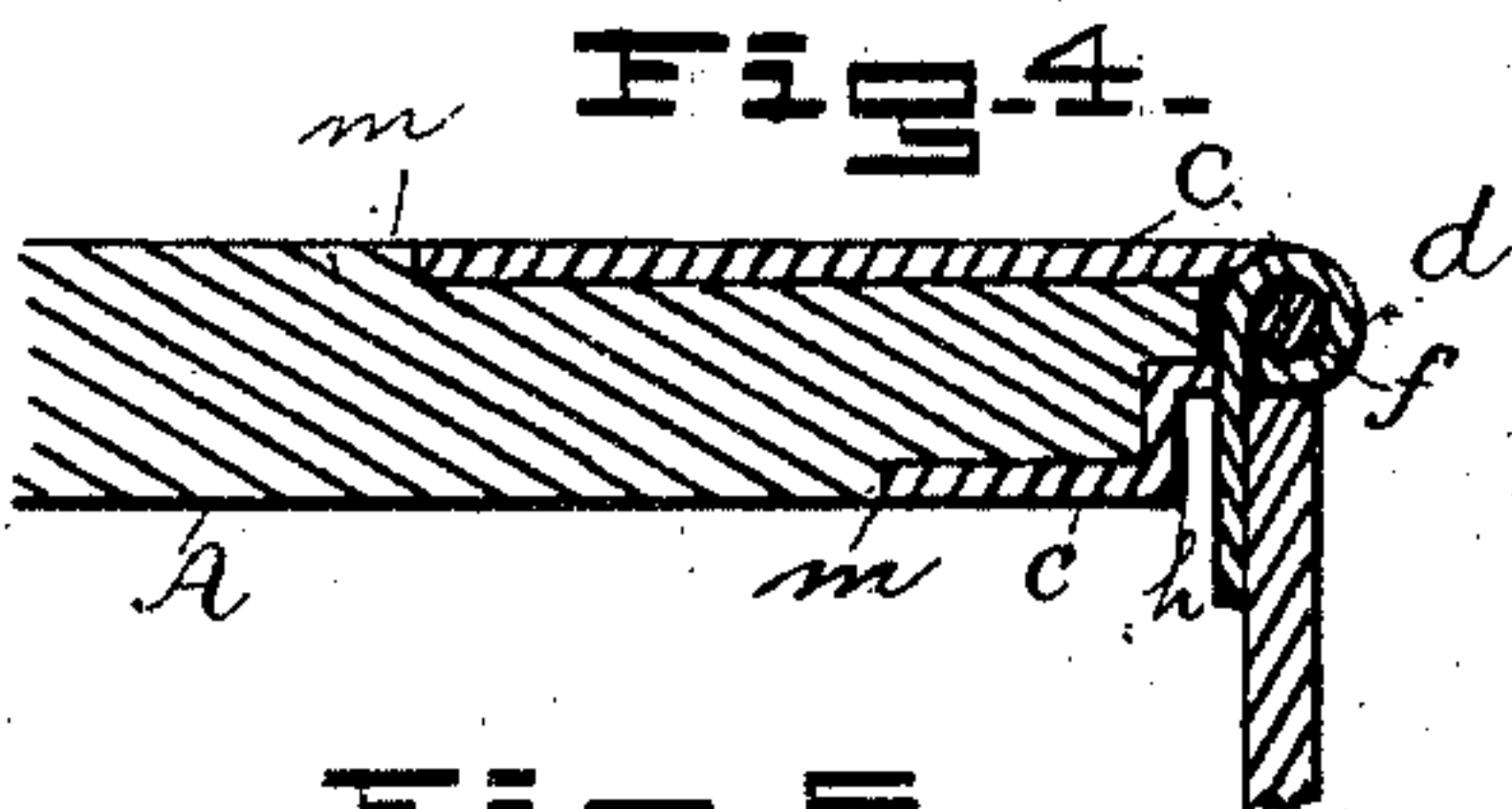


Fig. 5.

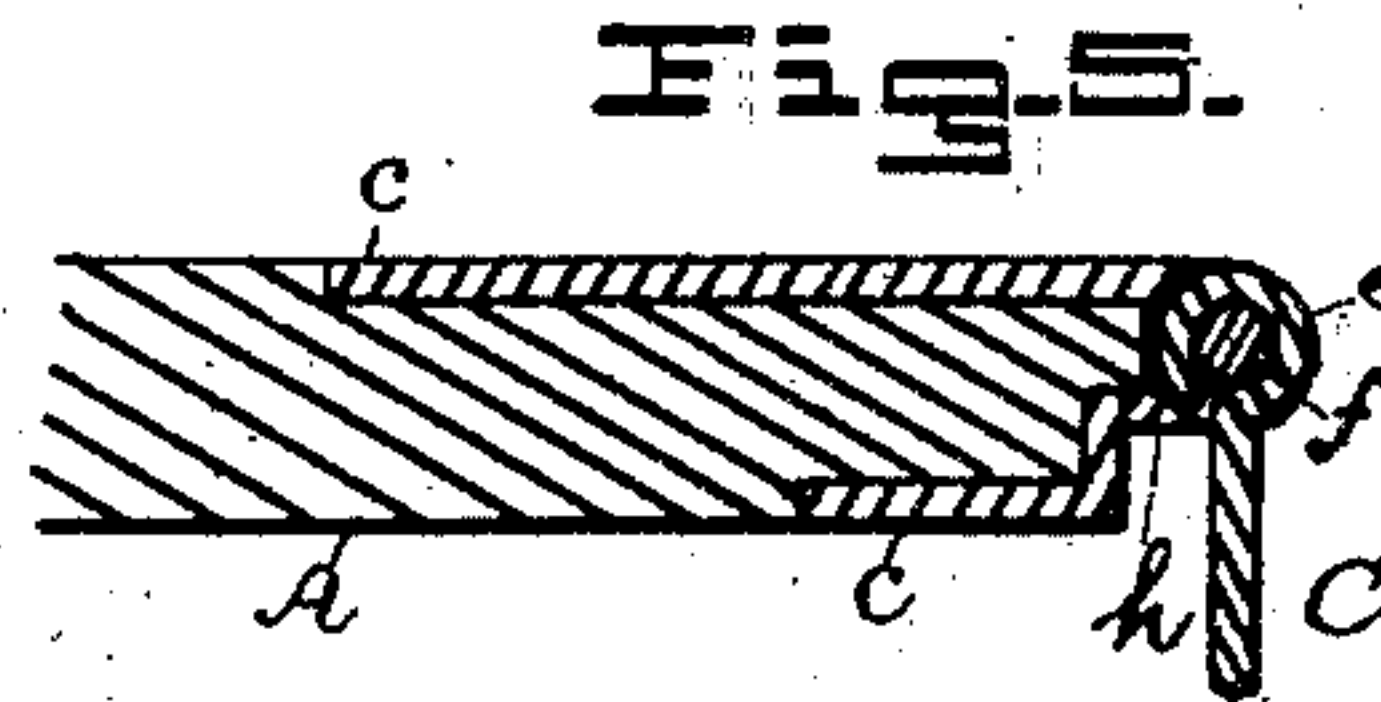


Fig. 6.

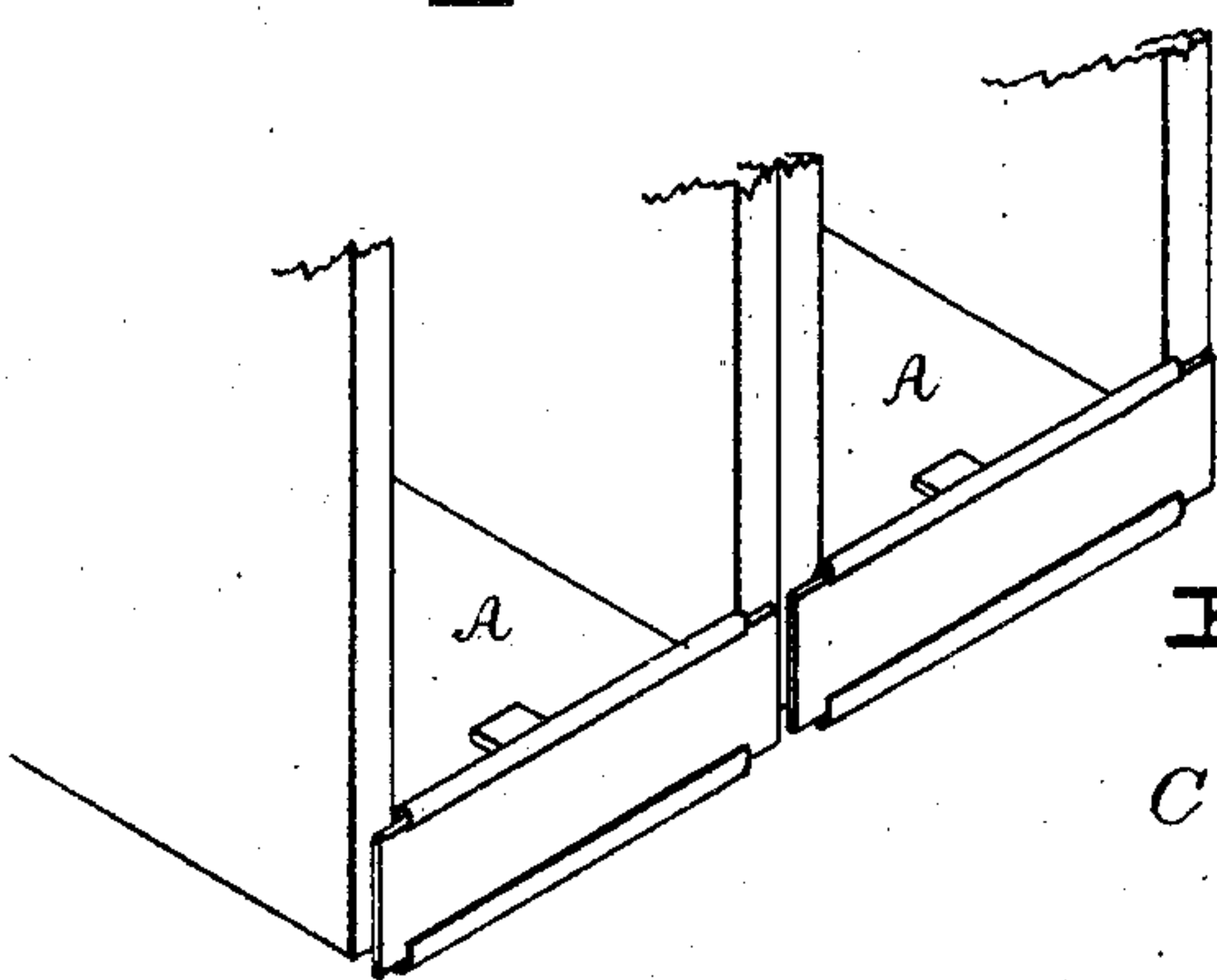


Fig. 7.

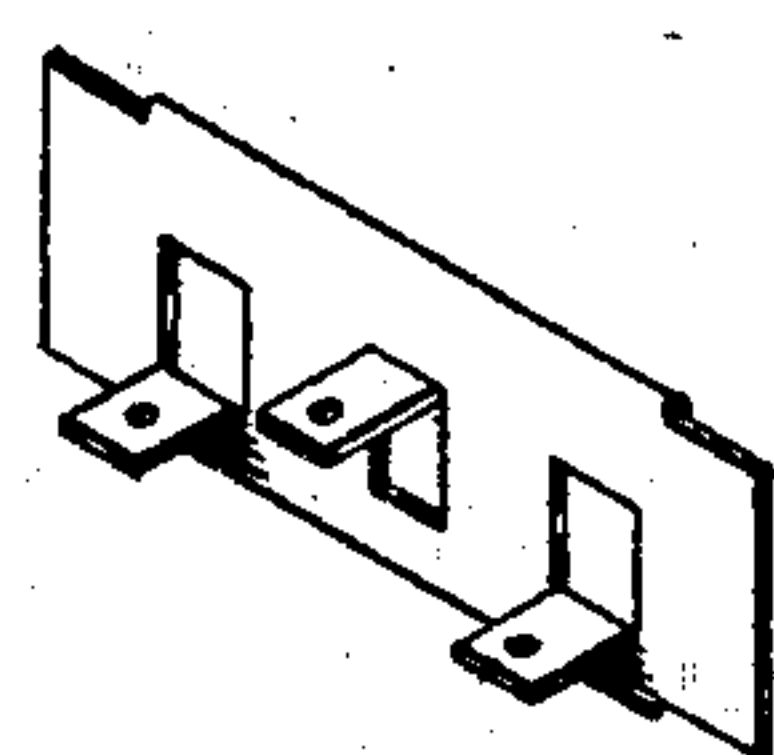
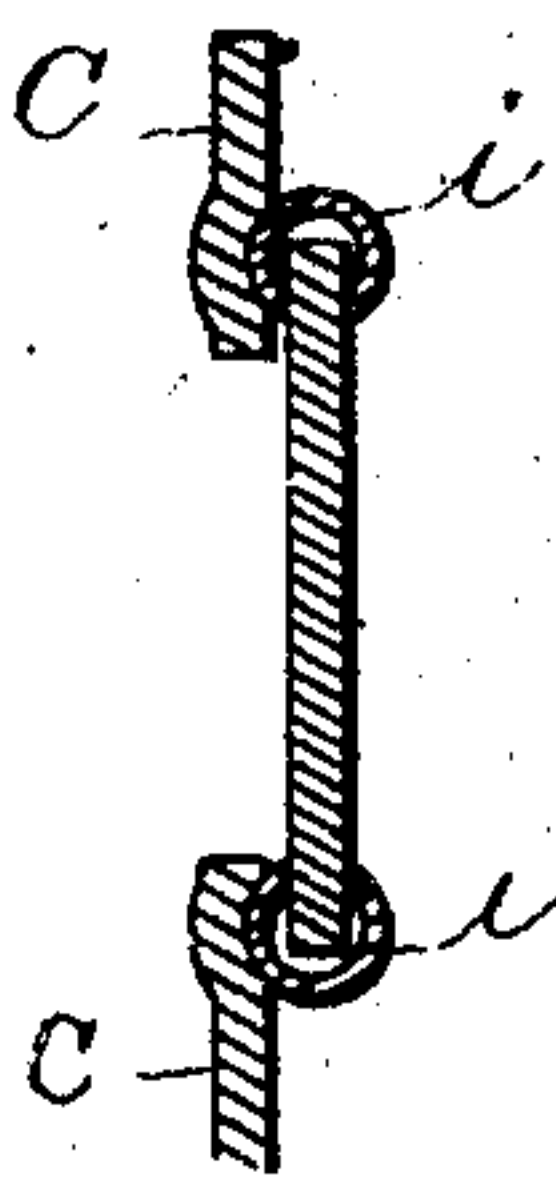


Fig. 8.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BUSHROD H. CAMP, OF CHARLESTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS, AND WALLACE H. CAMP, OF WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN POST-OFFICE BOXES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 194,890, dated September 4, 1877; application filed August 3, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, BUSHROD H. CAMP, of Charlestown, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, and WALLACE H. CAMP, of Waterbury, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Post-Office Lock-Box; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to certain improvements in post-office lock-boxes.

The invention consists in a post-office box as a new article of manufacture complete in itself, admitting of any number of boxes being combined and secured together; also, in the special construction and arrangement of parts, which will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In order to enable others skilled in the art to which our invention appertains to make, construct, and use the same, we will now proceed to describe its construction and operation, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view, showing four boxes placed in a casing, shown part in section. Fig. 2 is a central vertical longitudinal section of one of the boxes. Fig. 3 is a front view of the box-door, showing the face of its frame removed. Fig. 4 shows the door provided with one side of a hinge. Fig. 5 shows the door having a tongue formed into one side or member of a hinge. Fig. 6 is a view showing the back part of the box provided with a device for holding the name of the person using the box. Fig. 7 is a view showing the name-holding device detached, also its means of attachment. Fig. 8 is a central vertical section through the door-glass and its supporting device.

A represents the box provided on both sides with vertical grooves *a* and on the top and bottom with transverse grooves *b*. The front of the box is cut away at *m* to receive the flanges *c* of the frame B, in order that the smoothness or uniformity of the sides may not be obstructed.

To the frame B is hinged the door C, which is cast or stamped from sheet metal, as may be desired. When the door is cast it is provided with hinges *d*, and when stamped from sheet metal it is formed with extensions *e*, which are bent to form a hinge.

The door is hung by passing the hinge into recesses cut in the frame, and through the eye of the hinge is passed a wire, *f*, which extends all around the frame in the trough between the flanges *c*. This wire strengthens and prevents the face *g* of the frame from being mashed in.

The frame is also provided with a recess, *h*, into which the door fits, so as to be somewhat back of the face, thereby rendering it difficult to be opened by passing a sharp instrument of any kind into the crack around the door.

The door is provided with glass at the top and bottom to admit light and enable persons to see the contents of the box. The glass is held by cylinders *i* slit on one side, soldered to the door. One corner of each cylinder is turned up and the glass forced in. Said cylinders are made of suitable metal, so that they will act as a spring, thereby securely retaining the glass in place and preventing any rattling on shaking the door.

At the back of the box is placed a device for holding the name of the person using the box. This device also prevents any papers or letters that may be in the box from falling out.

When any number of these boxes are placed in position—*i. e.*, side by side and one above the other—the grooves *a* and *b* are in a line down and across the boxes. Into these grooves are placed fins D E, which, with the grooves, form feather-joints, thereby locking them together and preventing any displacement of any one of the boxes.

Any desired number of the boxes may be placed in a casing, F, having grooves *a'*, *b'*, and *c*, and any number of cases locked together with fins. These cases also serve as a receptacle, into which the boxes may be packed for transportation.

Our intention is to construct each box complete in itself, as an article to be made in such a way that one box may be used or any num-

ber combined and secured together in any desired form.

Having thus fully described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. As a new article of manufacture, a post-office letter-box, A, being made independent and complete in or of itself, and provided with means, substantially as described, which admit of any number of boxes being combined and secured together.

2. The box A, provided near the back with grooves *a* on two vertical sides, and near the front, on the top and bottom, with grooves *b* to receive fins D and E, by which means they are locked together to prevent one or more of the boxes from being withdrawn, substantially as described.

3. The casing F, having grooves *a'*, *b'*, and *c*, in combination with the boxes A, provided with grooves *a b* and fins D and E, substantially as described.

4. A post-office letter-box door, provided with slit cylinders *i*, substantially as shown and described, each adapted to receive one edge of the glass, and, by its constant pressure, secure the glass in place and prevent its rattling, as set forth.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as our own we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

B. H. CAMP.
W. H. CAMP.

Witnesses:

C. L. NORTON,
EUGEN L. JACQUES.