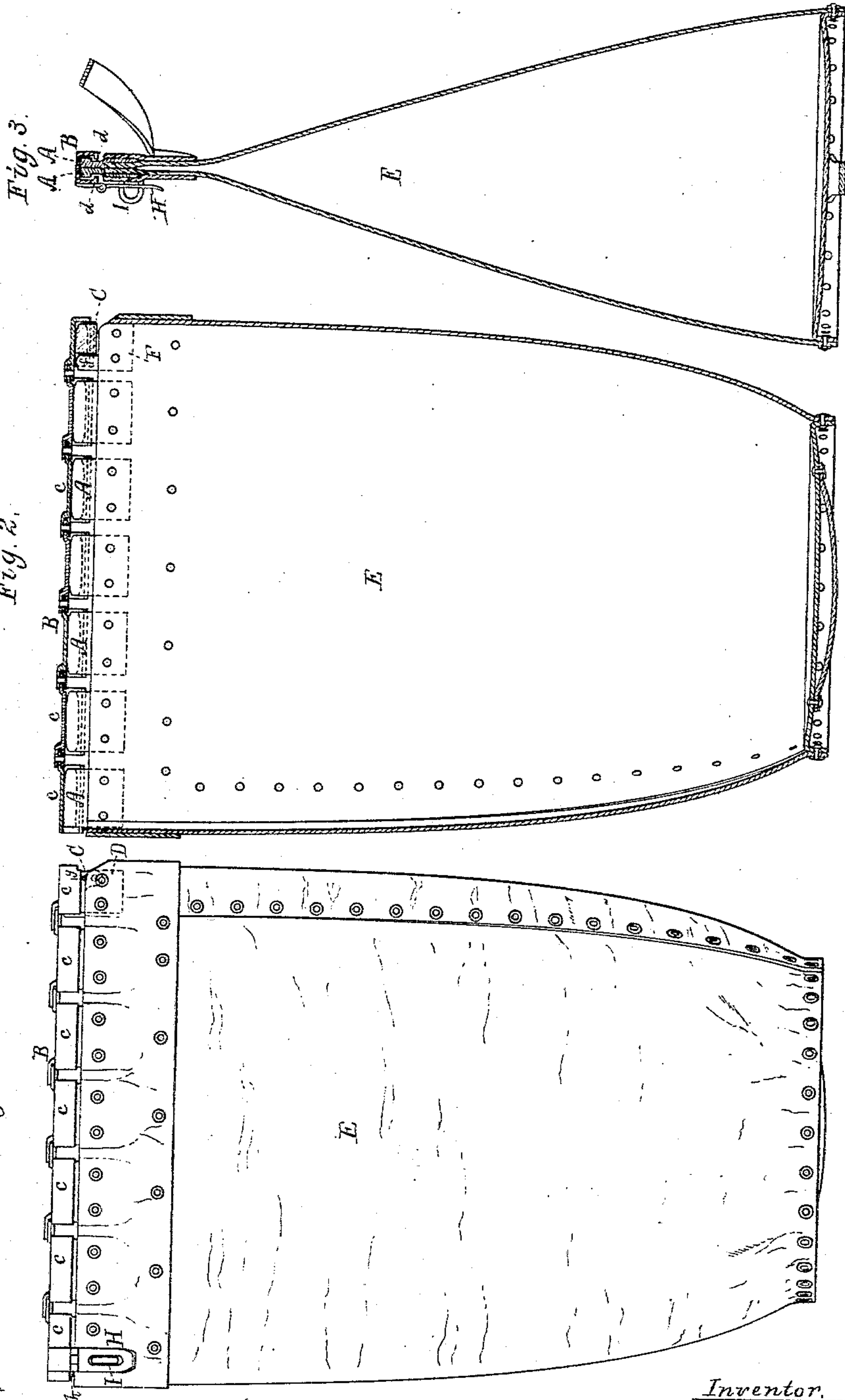


C. E. BAILEY.

## Mail-Bag.

No. 210,899.

**Patented Dec. 17, 1878.**



Witnesses.

S. N. Piper

Wm L Preston

Inventor.

Charles E. Bailey.

by attorney

R. H. Eddy

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Fig. 4.

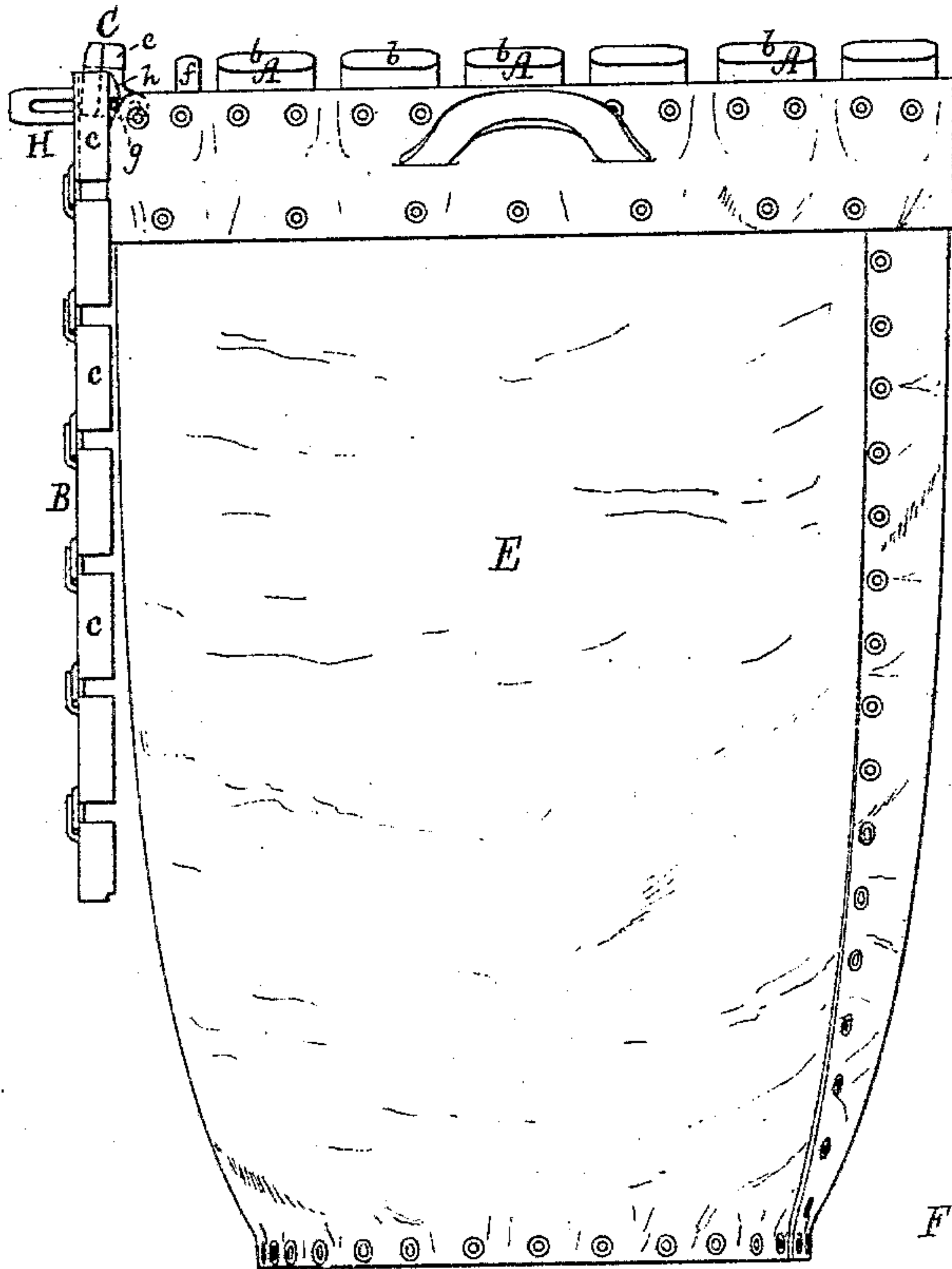


Fig. 5.

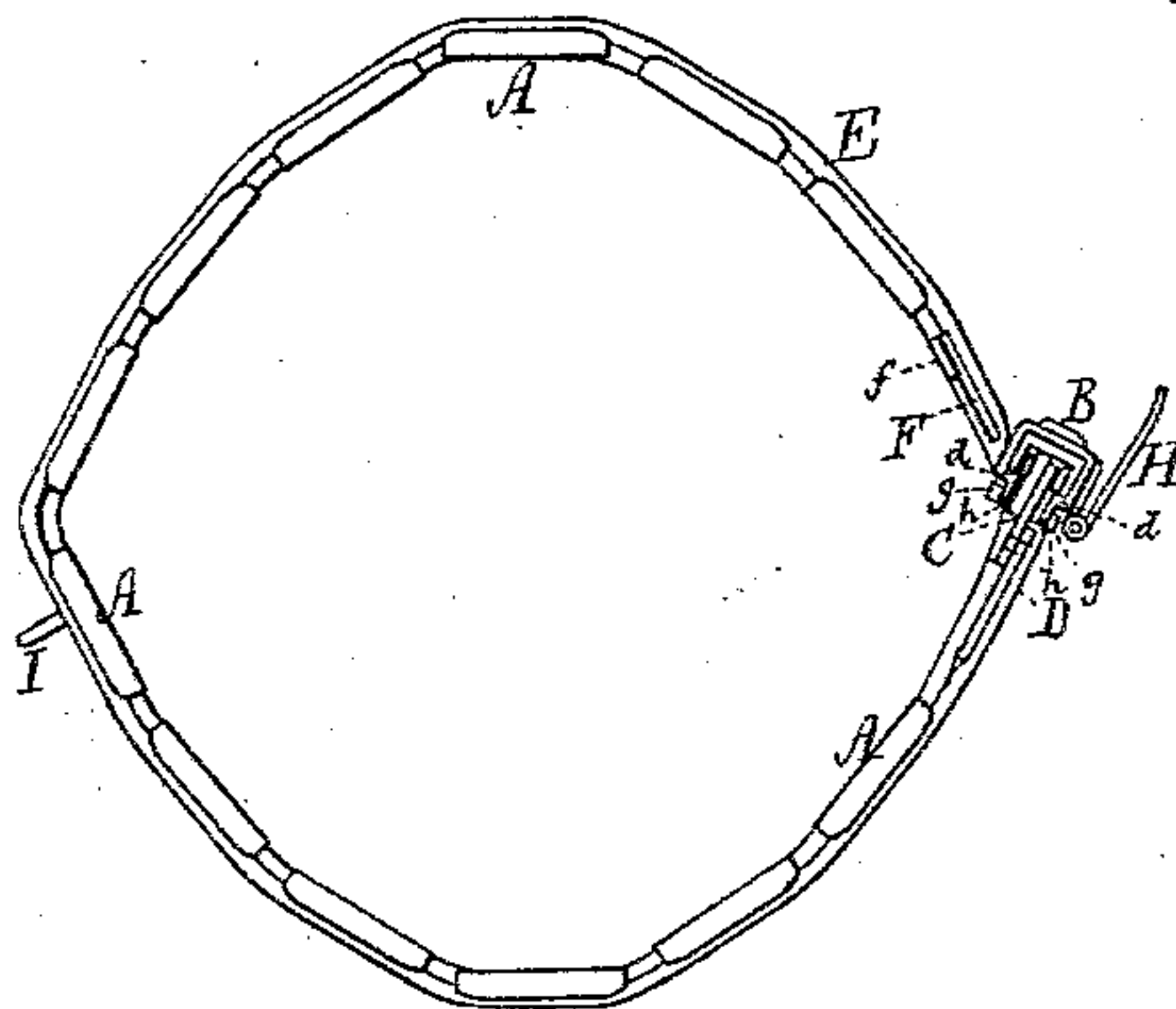


Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.



Fig. 8.



Fig. 9.

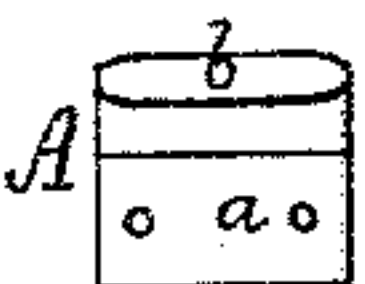


Fig. 10.



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES E. BAILEY, OF NORTH SCITUATE, MASSACHUSETTS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN MAIL-BAGS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 210,899, dated December 17, 1878; application filed November 29, 1878.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES E. BAILEY, of North Scituate, of the county of Plymouth, of the State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Mail-Bags; and do hereby declare the same to be described in the following specification and represented in the accompanying drawings, of which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation, Fig. 2 a longitudinal section, and Fig. 3 a transverse section, of a bag provided with my invention, such bag being shown in the said figures as closed. Fig. 4 is a side view, and Fig. 5 a top view, of it as open. Fig. 6 is an inner side view, Fig. 7 an end view, and Fig. 8 a top view, of the pivotal supporter of the flexible sliding clasp, to be hereinafter explained.

My invention is to effect the secure closing of the mouth of a mail-bag, or other article of like character, by a flexible connection or closing mechanism, which may be expeditiously manipulated or worked, whether for closing or opening the bag.

In carrying out my invention I affix to the bag E, on opposite sides of its mouth, two sets of flanged plates or "locking-ways," as they may be termed, they being shown at A A, &c. Each of them consists in a rectangular or other proper shaped piece of sheet metal, *a*, having a flange or rib, *b*, projecting from it, as represented in Fig. 9, which is a front view, and in Fig. 10, which is an end view of one of such flanged plates. The flanges are on the outer sides of the said plates. The plates of each set are disposed very closely together or at short distances apart, they being, respectively, opposite those of the other or fellow set, and firmly fastened by rivets or other suitable means to the bag. These plates are to operate in conjunction with the flexible sliding clasp B, which is composed of a series of metallic sections, *c c c*, &c, shaped as shown, and hinged together at their ends and upper parts. Each of the said sections is U-shaped transversely or is grooved lengthwise, as shown, to receive and clasp two of the locking-ways A A, and is provided at its lower parts with flanges *d d*, to extend inward, as shown, and under the flanges of such locking-ways. The rearmost section is to be closed at its rear end. Furthermore, each section is

not connected to that next it by a link, but by a hinge, such as will permit either of the two sections so hinged together to be swung or turned around laterally either way relatively to the other. The sliding clasp is connected to the bag E by the pivotal supporter C and its sustaining-plate D, the latter being riveted to the bag, and arranged next to the rear flanged plate A of one of the two sets of such plates. The supporter is hinged to the plate D, so as to be capable of being either turned into line with the flanged plates or back and down at a right angle therewith. The supporter is T-shaped in transverse section, like a common T-rail for a railway, without its bottom flanges. Furthermore, it is notched or recessed at its front end, as shown at *e*, to receive a projection, *f*, extending up from a plate, F, arranged with the bag in manner as represented, and fastened thereto. Projections or stops *g h*, extending from the supporter C and the first of the sections *c*, serve to keep the sliding clasp B from being separated from the supporter. Furthermore, there is hinged to the first section of the clasp a hasp, H, to engage with an eye or staple, I, projecting from the first of the flanged plates A of one set thereof.

On bringing in contact the two sets of plates A, and sliding the clasp forward upon and over them, the mouth of the bag will be closed, after which, by turning down the hasp upon the staple and applying to the latter a padlock and locking it, the bag will be locked by a flexible connection to its mouth.

To open the bag, we have only to unlock and remove the padlock from the staple, turn up the hasp, and slide back the clasp and turn it down, as shown in Fig. 4.

From the above it will be seen that the flexible clasp is permanently attached to the bag, so that it cannot be lost or separated therefrom.

I am aware that it is not new to compose a mail-bag-mouth fastening of two sets of ribbed ways or plates, a series of U-shaped sections, and a series of wire links, or a leather cap or cover to connect the said sections, the said series of sections not being permanently connected with the bag, as is the case with the sliding clasp of my invention. I do not make



use of links embedded in the clasp-sections and pivoted to them, but I hinge the sections together in manner as described; and, furthermore, to prevent the mouth of the bag from being forced open near the clasp-supporter, I apply to it the projection *f*, to enter the notch *e* of the clasp-supporter.

I claim as my invention as follows, viz:

1. The combination of the pivotal supporter C and the flexile clasp B, for use with the flanged plates A, when made and applied to a bag substantially as set forth.

2. The combination of the pivotal supporter C and its sustaining-plate D, arranged with and applied to such supporter essentially as set forth.

3. The combination of the supporter C, pivoted to the bag or to a plate or device fixed thereto, with such bag, the flexile clasp B, and the flanged plates A, applied as specified.

4. The combination of the projection *f* with the bag, the recessed pivotal supporter C, the flexile clasp B, and the flanged plates, arranged and applied substantially as set forth.

5. The combination of the stops *g h* with the flexile clasp B and its pivotal supporter C, constructed, arranged, and applied substantially as set forth.

CHAS. E. BAILEY.

Witnesses:

R. H. EDDY,  
S. N. PIPER.