

(Model.)

T. O. BENNETT & S. TRENBATH.

Mail Bag.

No. 229,358.

Patented June 29, 1880.

Fig. 1.

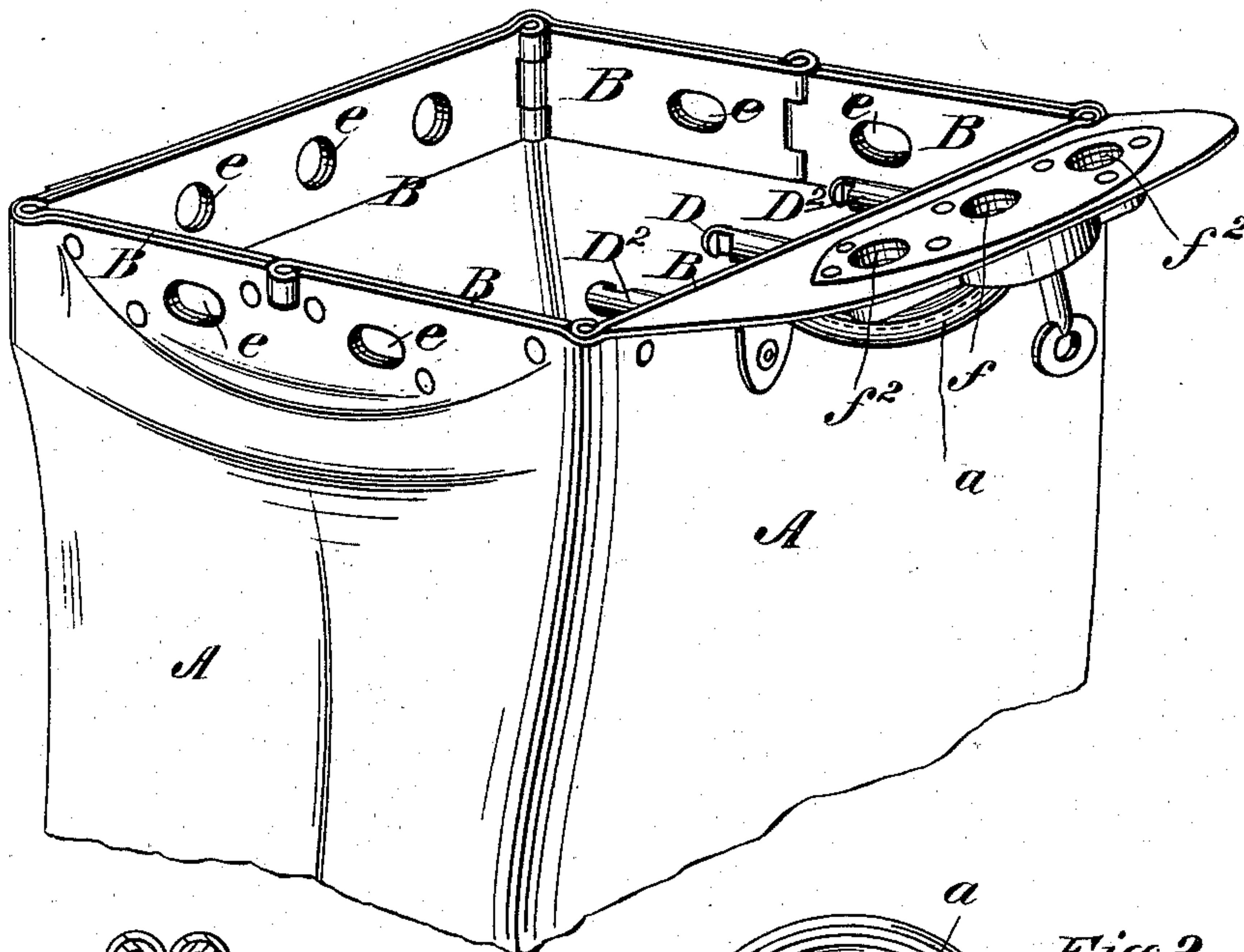


Fig. 2.

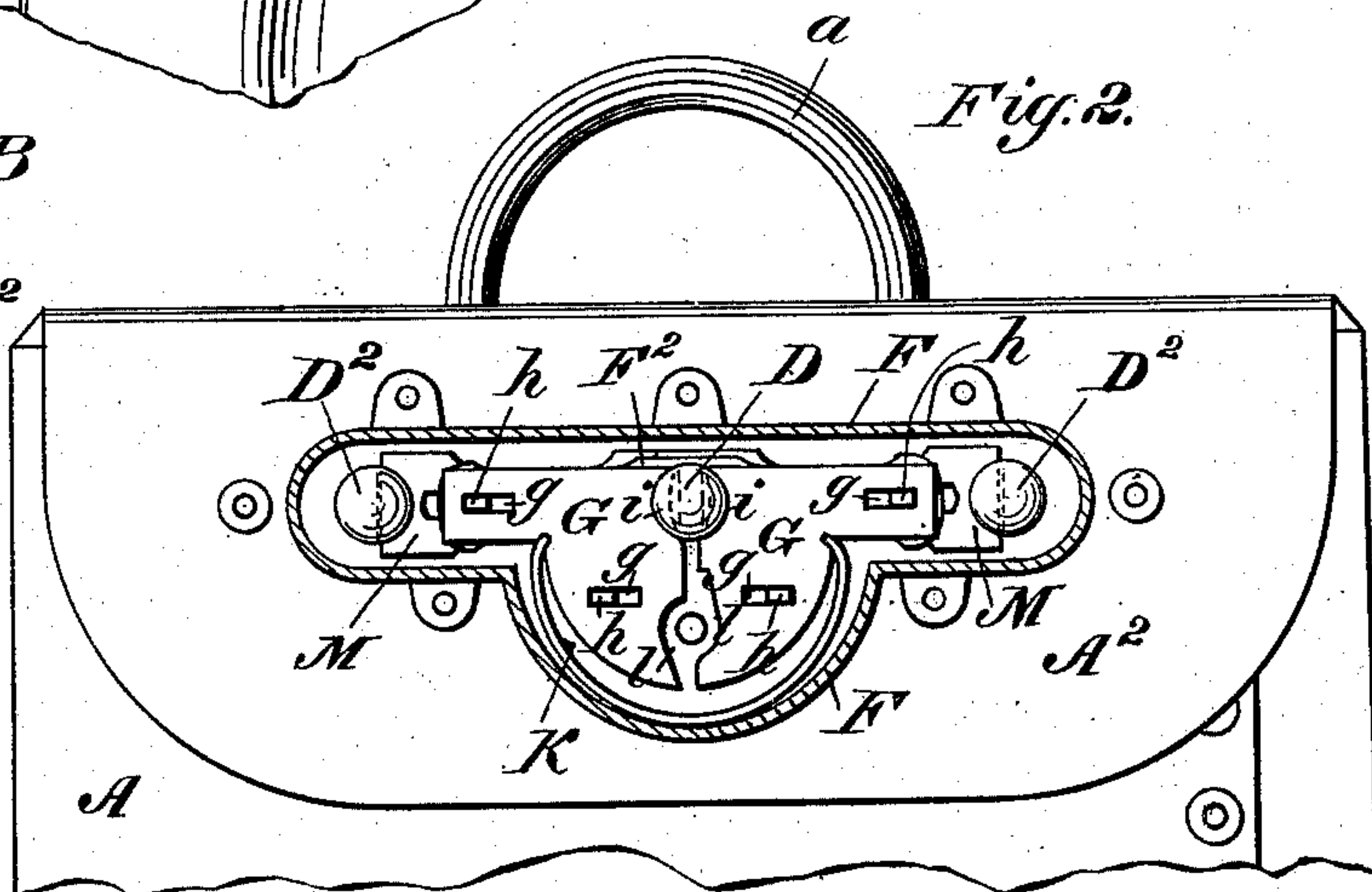


Fig. 4.

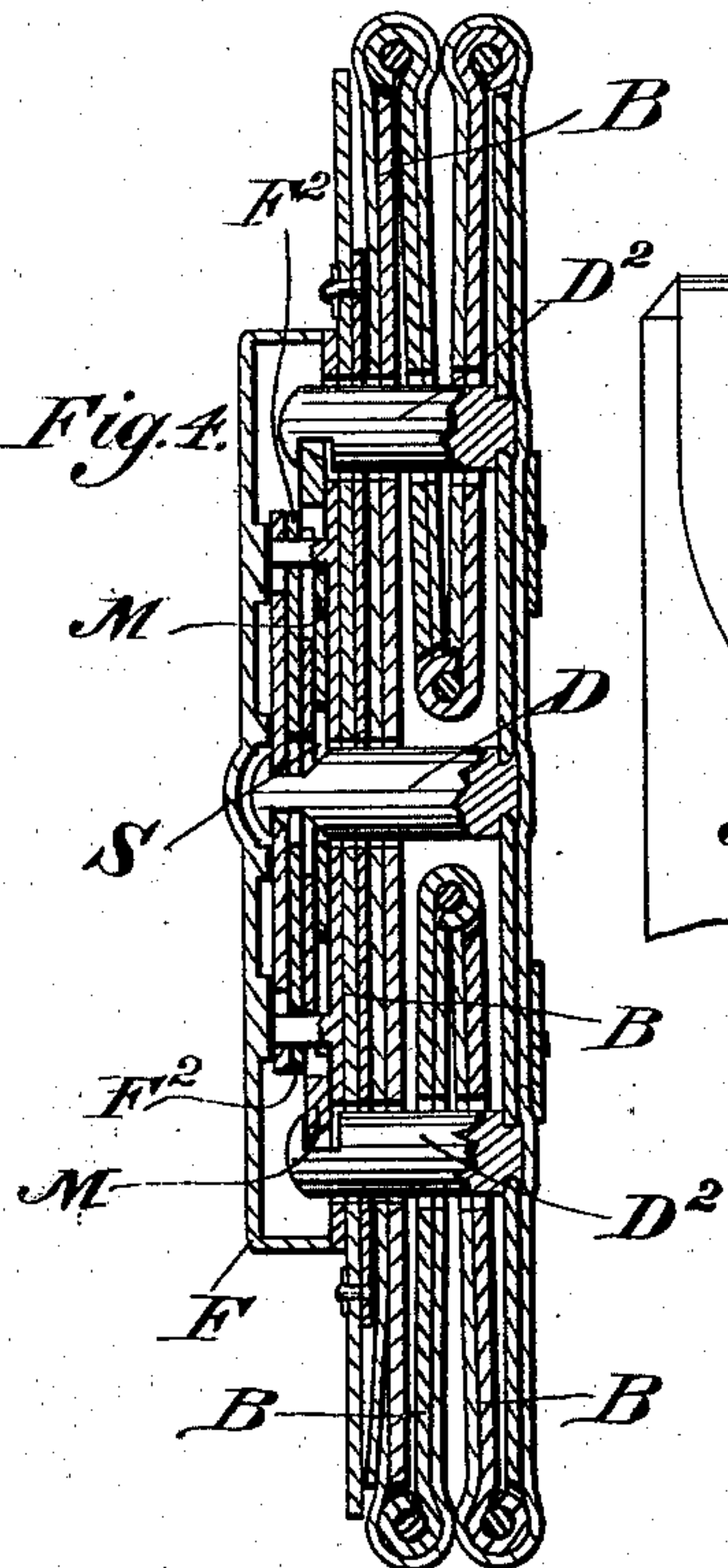
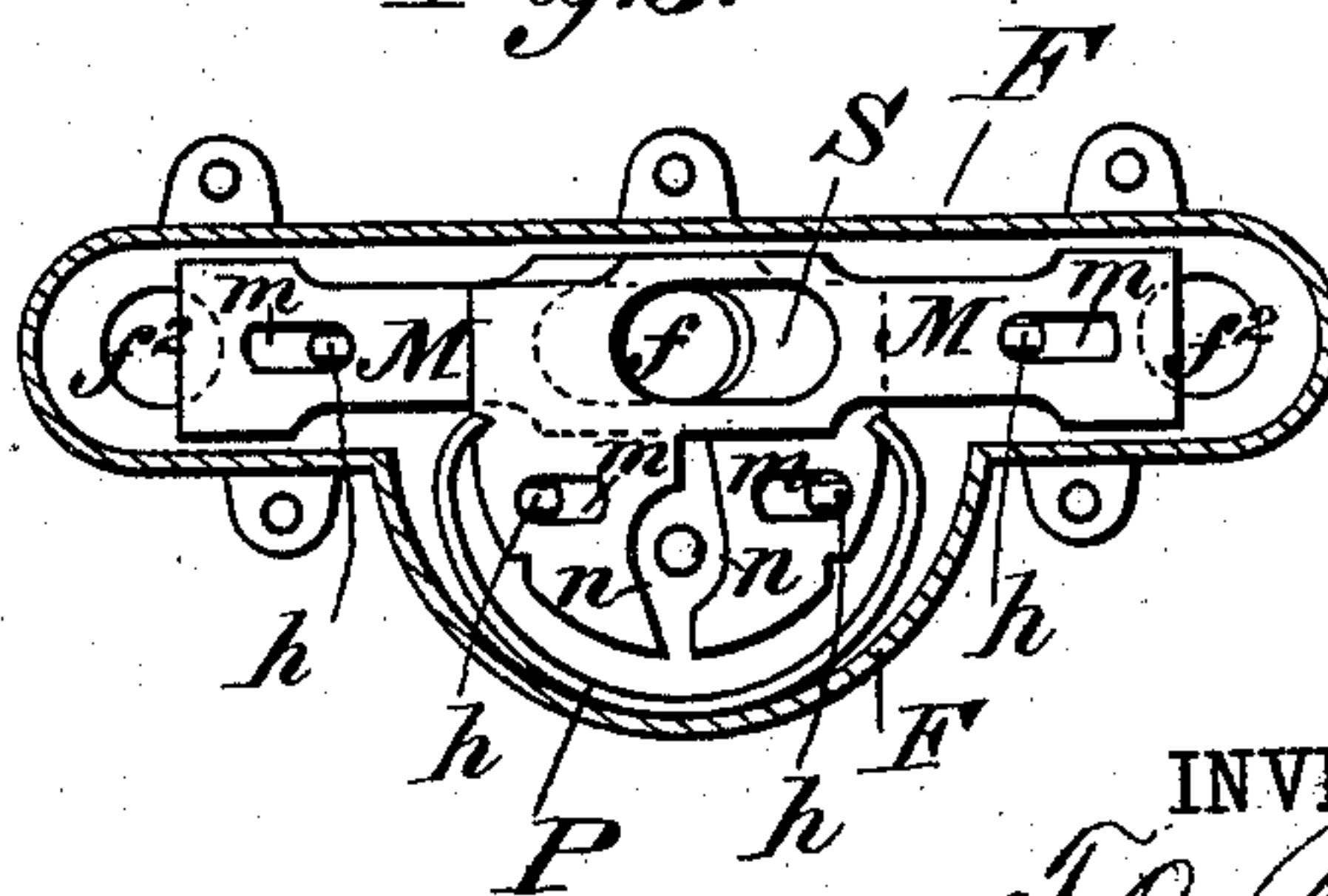


Fig. 3.



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THOMAS O. BENNETT AND SAMUEL TRENBATH, OF CLIFTON, MICHIGAN.

MAIL-BAG.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 229,358, dated June 29, 1880.

Application filed April 30, 1880. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, THOMAS O. BENNETT and SAMUEL TRENBATH, of Clifton, in the county of Keweenaw and State of Michigan, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Mail-Bags, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to the construction of the bag itself and of a lock for securing it, and is particularly applicable to the leather pouches used for transporting the mails.

The invention consists in a novel construction of a hinged metallic frame attached to the mouth of the bag, and of a lock used in connection therewith, whereby provision is made for holding the mouth of the bag open when desired and for securely locking it when closed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a mail-pouch embodying our improvements, showing the pouch open. Fig. 2 is a front view, showing the pouch closed and locked and the outer lock-plate removed. Fig. 3 is a view of the lock with two of the bolts and an interior plate removed. Fig. 4 is a sectional view transversely of the bag and longitudinally of the lock, showing the position of all the parts when the bag is closed and locked.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The bag A is of such construction that its mouth is square when the bag is open. This square form is imparted to the mouth by means of a frame composed of six flat metallic bars, B, having their ends joined one to another by hinges. Two of the bars are of a length about equal to or slightly greater than one-quarter of the circumference of the bag, and are arranged so as to form two opposite sides of a square. The other four bars are arranged in two pairs, each pair being opposite the other pair, and intermediately between the two bars first mentioned, so that when the bag is open they will form the two remaining sides of the square, as shown in Fig. 1, and when it is closed they will fold inward toward each other and lie between the two bars first mentioned, as shown in Fig. 4.

The frame constructed as above described is attached to the bag A by means of rivets, or

in any suitable manner, and it serves to hold it open, as shown in Fig. 1, and enables it to be folded, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4. All of the bars are provided with holes *e*, for the purpose hereinafter described.

On the inner side of one of the bars B first mentioned there are three studs, D D² D², the inner or rear ends of which are secured to said bar by riveting, or in any other suitable manner. The outer or front ends of said studs are provided with heads for engagement with a lock, which is constructed and operated as follows:

The frame F of the lock is of a shape approximating to that of an elongated ellipse with a semicircular extension on one side. In the bottom of the frame are three holes, *f f*² *f*², for the purpose hereinafter described.

The lock is provided with four bolts, two of which are for engagement with the stud D, and the other two are for engagement with the studs D² D². Of the two bolts G G (see Figs. 2 and 4) each is composed of a straight bar with a quadrantal arm or extension. The straight portion works in the elongated portion of the frame, and the quadrantal portion works in the semicircular portion of the frame. Both bolts lie near the top plate of the lock-frame and in the same plane, so that they may work toward and from each other. They rest upon an intermediate plate, F². (See Fig. 4.) Both are provided with slots *g*, which fit over guide-pins *h*, projecting from the bottom of the frame, by which means their play is limited and their rectilinear motion is preserved. The inner edge of each bar G is at a right angle with its length, and is a radial line as compared with the quadrantal extension of said bar, and said radial edge is arranged for engagement with the head of the stud D, being provided with a curved notch, *i*. Below this notch *i* (referring to Fig. 2) is a curved notch, *l*, for engagement with a double-armed key, as hereinafter described. The two bolts are kept pressed toward each other by means of a semi-elliptical spring, K, the ends of which engage with the points of junction of the quadrantal portions with the straight portions of said bolts.

Beneath the intermediate plate, F², and in the bottom of the frame F, lie two bolts, M M,

which are of similar shape to the bolts G G, but longer. (See Figs. 3 and 4.) These bolts are provided with slots *m*, for engagement with the guide-pins *h*, and with curved notches *n*, for engagement with a key, in the same manner as above described with reference to the bolts G, and they are also provided with a semi-elliptical spring, P, for pressing them in the same direction as the bolts G. Instead of lying in the same plane, the bolts M lie one upon another, but they work in parallel planes; and instead of the notches *i* they are provided with slots S, through which the stud D passes freely.

The lock constructed as described, and covered by a top plate, is attached to the flap A² of the bag by rivets, or in any other suitable manner.

When the bag is open it is held so and in square form by means of the bars B, as shown in Fig. 1. It may then be suspended by its handle *a* without the necessity for the employment of four hooks, as is usual in post-offices, railway mail-cars, and other places where such devices are necessary for holding bags as at present constructed.

When the bag is to be closed the two pairs of hinged short bars are folded inward toward each other, so as to lie between the two long bars, as shown in Fig. 4. The middle stud, D, passes through the middle hole, *e*, of the bar B, then through the middle hole, *f*, of the bottom plate of the lock, and is then engaged by the notches *i* of the inner edges of the bolts G G, actuated by the spring K. At the same time the studs D² D² pass through the holes *e* of the bars B, then through the holes *f*² of the bottom plate of the lock, and are then engaged

by the outer ends of the bolts M M, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4.

By this means the bag is securely locked, and can only be opened by means of a double-armed key, the two arms of which, engaging with the inner edges of the bolts G G and M M, force said bolts in opposite directions and disengage them from the studs D and D² D², respectively.

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

1. The combination, with the bag A, of the six flat metallic bars B, having their ends hinged together, two of said bars forming opposite sides, while the other four are arranged in opposite folding pairs, as shown and described.

2. In a lock for mail or other bags or pouches, the combination, with the frame F, of the bolts G G and spring K, for engagement with a central stud, and the bolts M M and spring P, for engagement with two studs on either side of said central stud, substantially as herein described.

3. The lock constructed as herein described, in combination with a bag or pouch, A, and its flap A², a folding frame formed of hinged bars B, having perforations *e* and studs D D² D², extending from one of said bars and passing through the perforations in the other bars when folded, substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

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Witnesses:

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