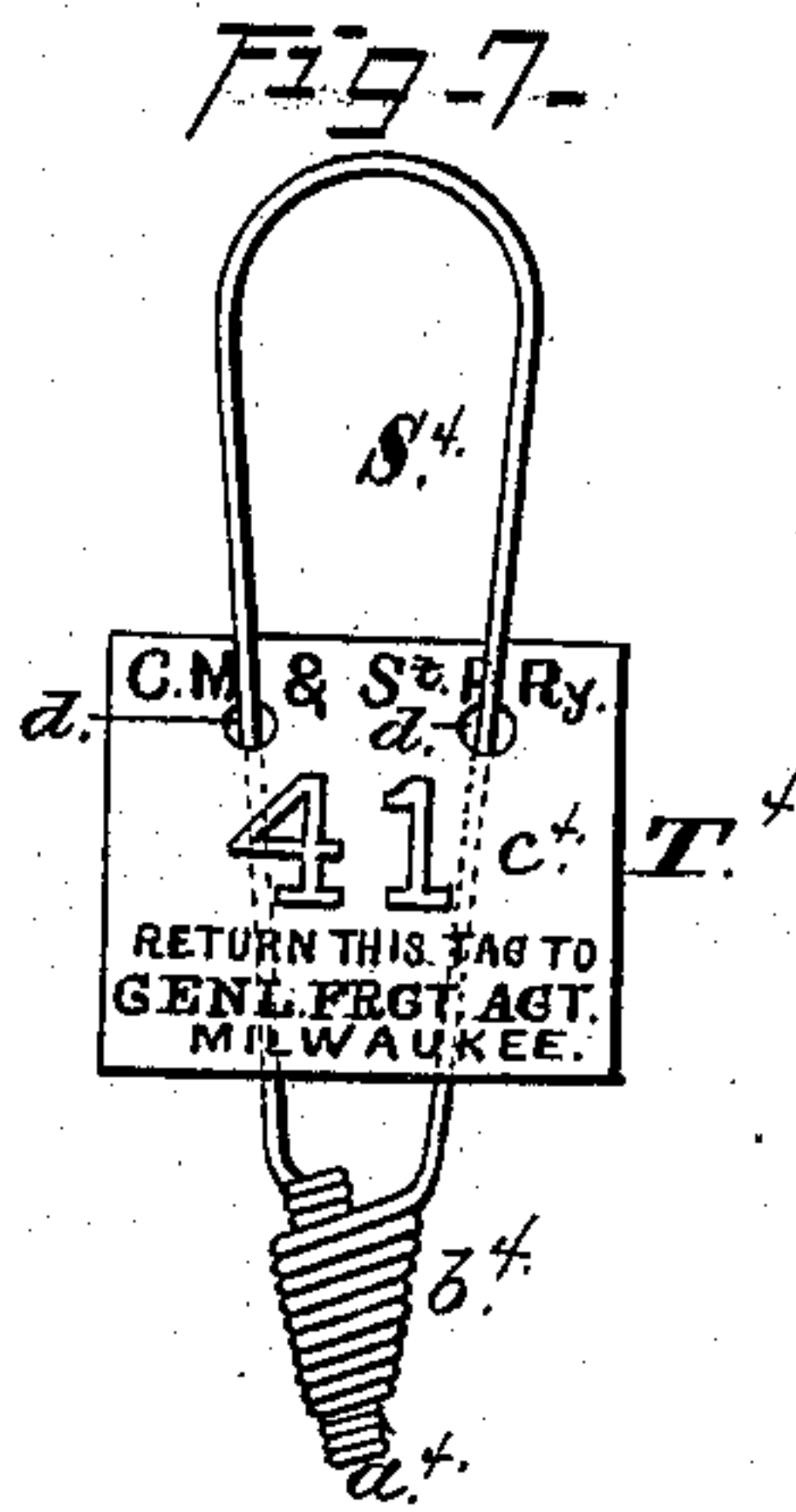
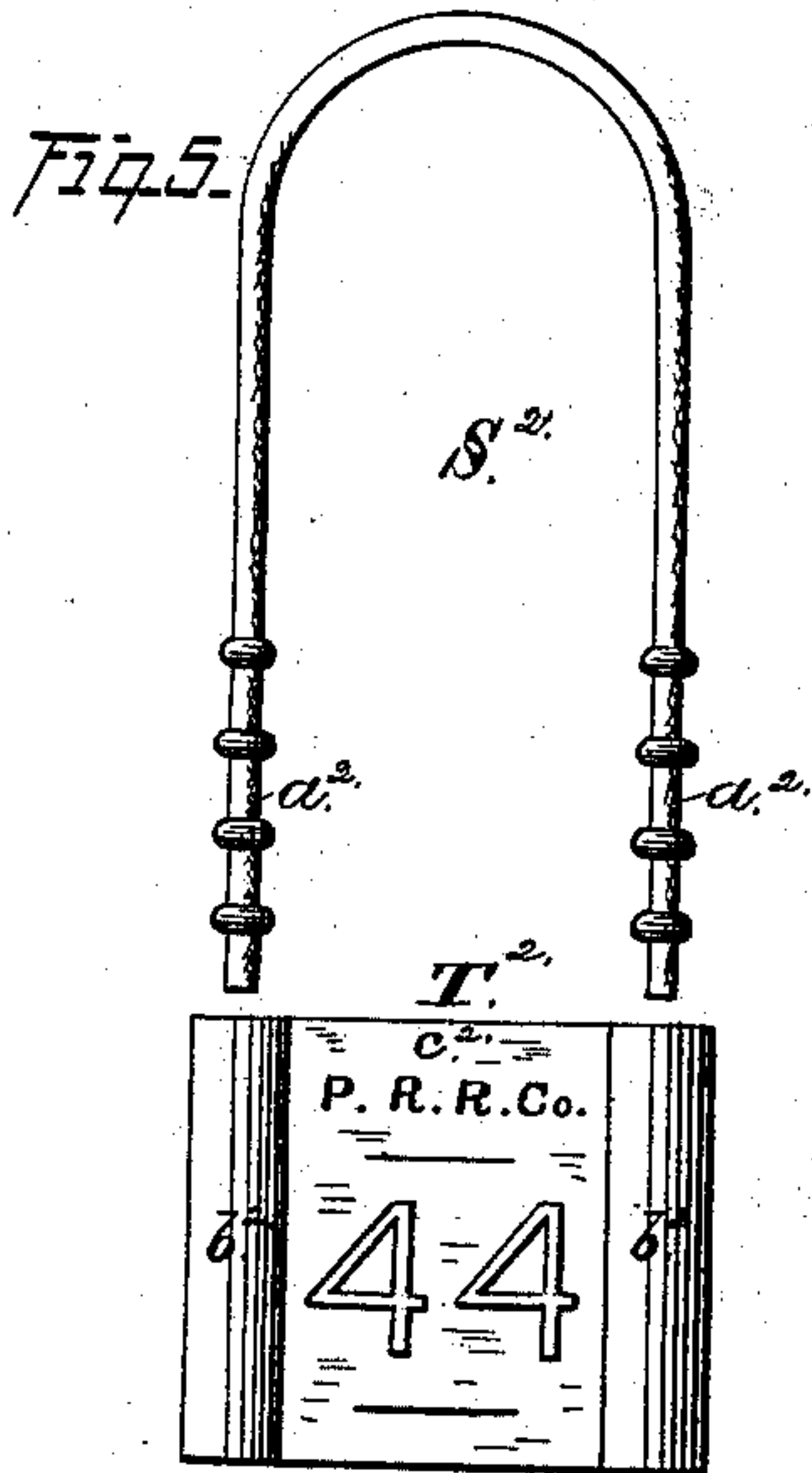
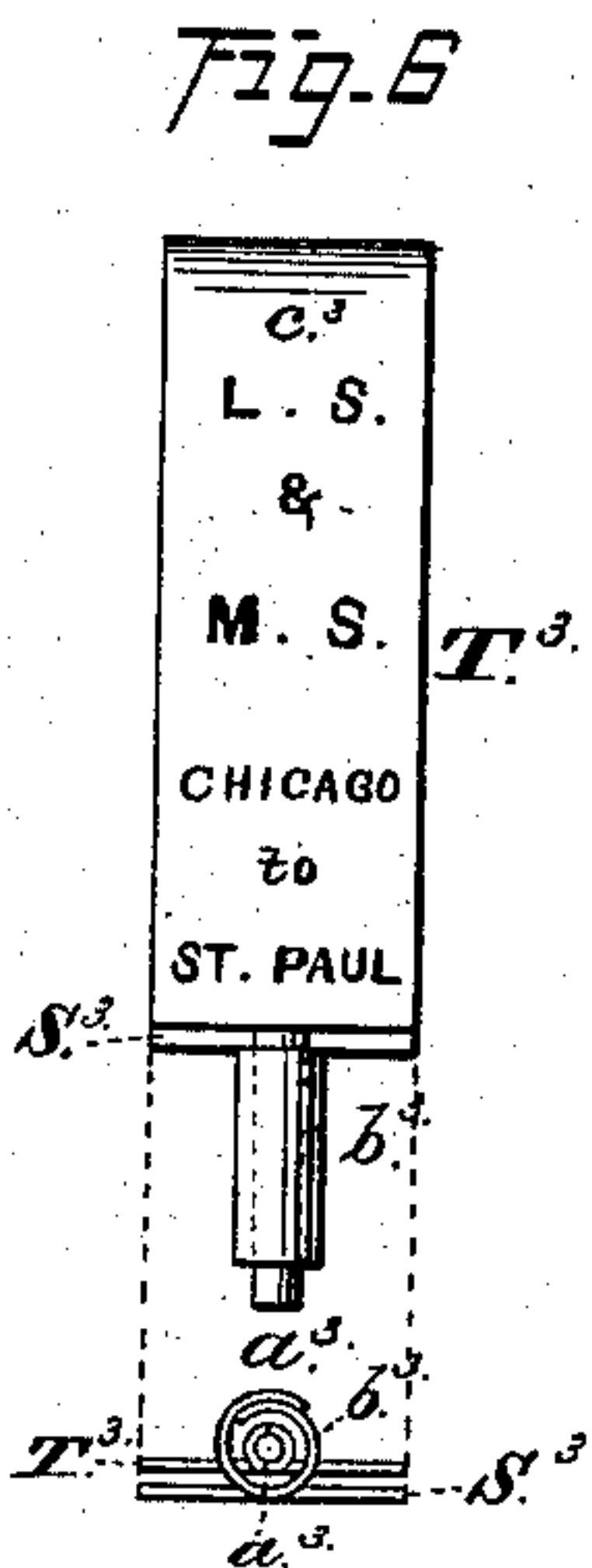
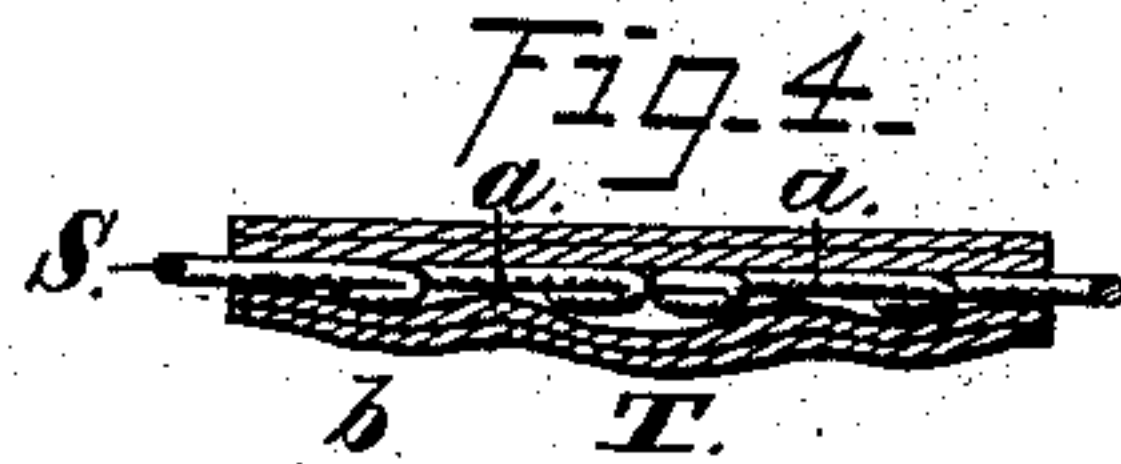
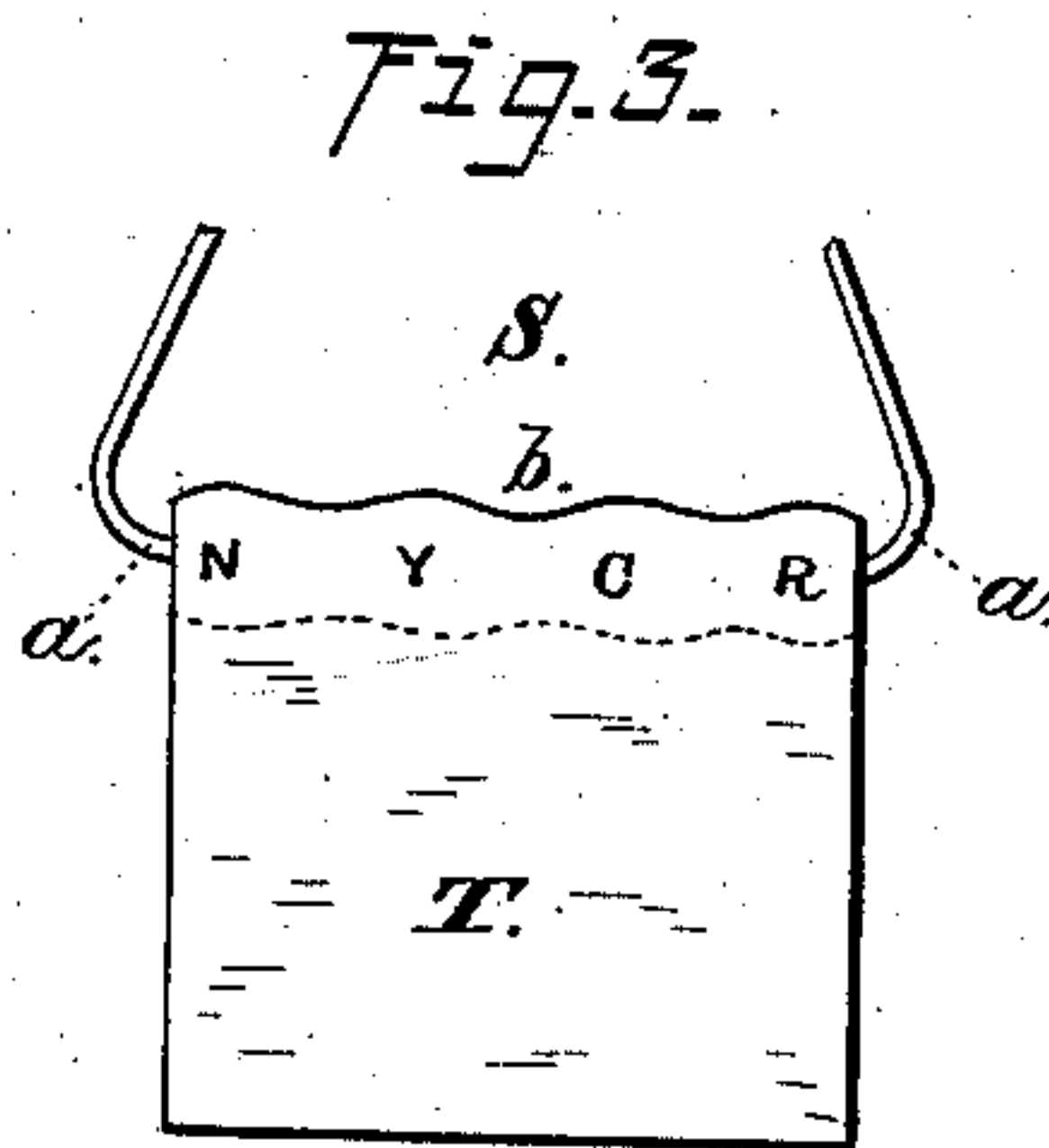
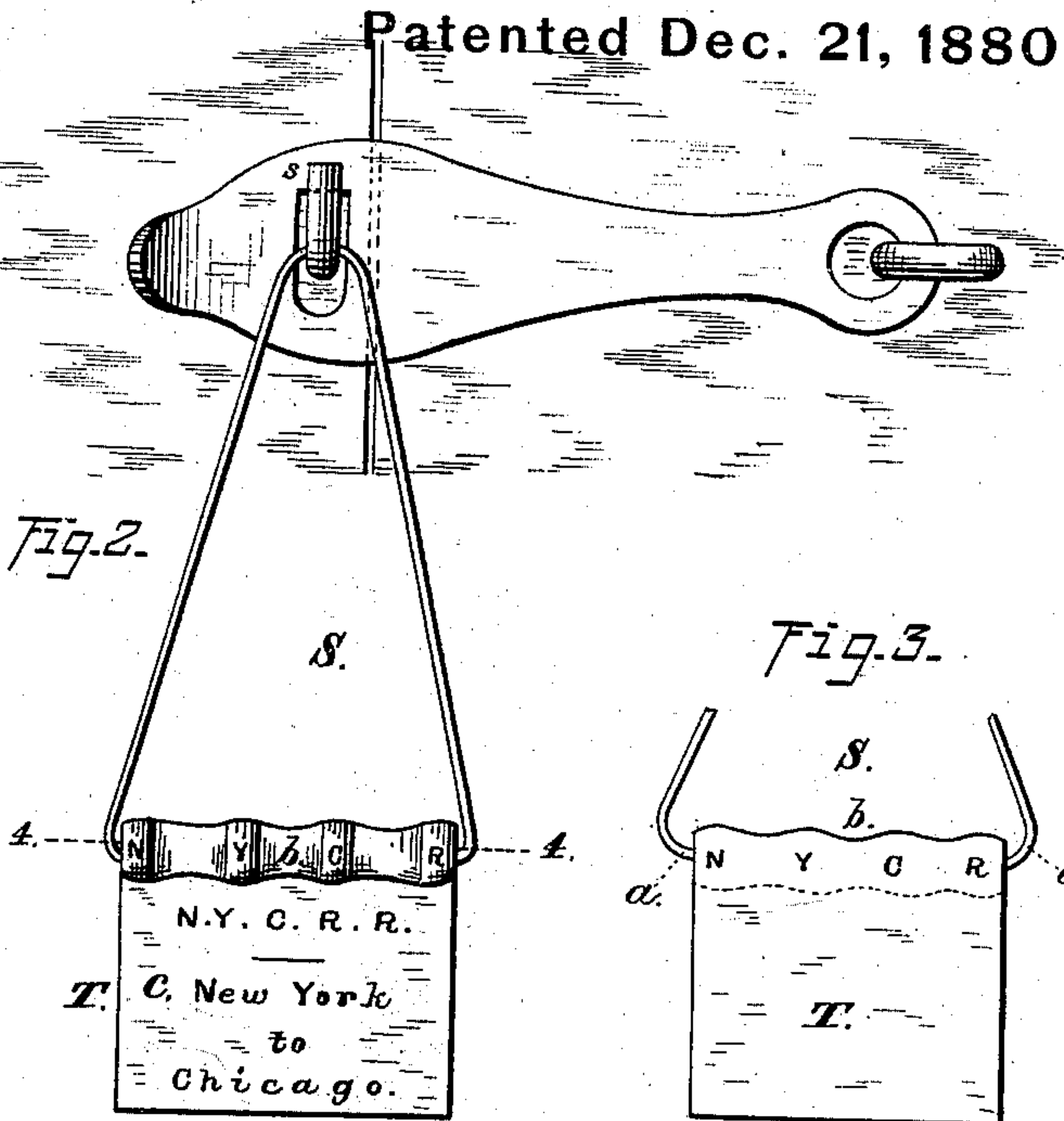
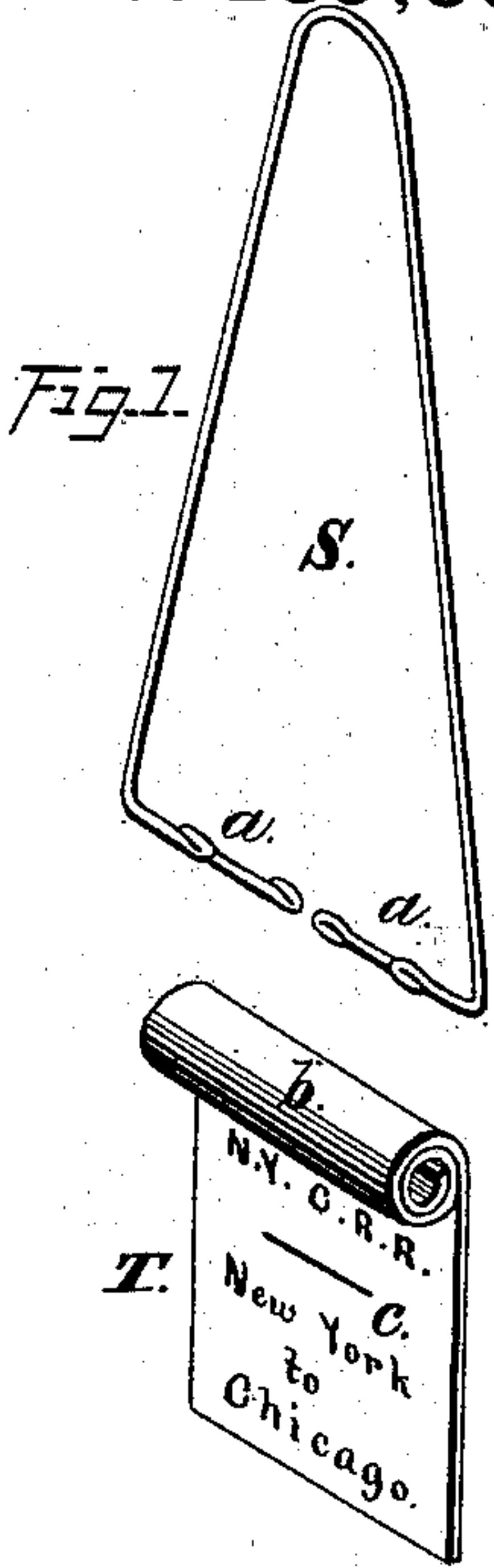


(No Model.)

E. J. BROOKS.  
Seal and Tag.

No. 235,668.

Patented Dec. 21, 1880.



Attest:

Jas. E. Hutchinson,  
 W. B. Chaffee

Inventor.

Edward J. Brooks  
 by Jas. L. Ewin Atty.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

EDWARD J. BROOKS, OF EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR TO E. J. BROOKS & CO., OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## SEAL AND TAG.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 235,668, dated December 21, 1880.

Application filed November 3, 1880. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EDWARD J. BROOKS, a citizen of the United States, residing at East Orange, in the State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Seals and Tags, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to the manufacture and use of seals and tags for railway-car doors, baggage, packages of valuable merchandise, &c.; and it relates, primarily, to that class of seals in which shackles of wire or cord are used.

The principal object of this invention is to provide a superior hard-metal substitute for the soft-metal seal-disks commonly used as means for uniting the ends of such shackles, the same to be so constructed that it may be integral with the tag or shackle, and so that it may be secured by a simple pressing act, similar to the operation of pressing lead seal-disks.

To this end the invention consists in the combination of a compressible coiled sealing-sleeve of brittle tin, or its equivalent, and a shackle end adapted to be locked therein by pressing said sleeve, as hereinafter set forth.

Another object of the said invention is to furnish a combined seal and tag adapted for use with my detective shackle-wire, or any wire or cord which may be preferred; to which end it consists in a sheet-metal seal-tag having a coiled sealing sleeve or sleeves integral therewith, and appropriate lettering or marks, as hereinafter described.

Another object of the said invention is to furnish a combined seal and tag which will provide for securing both ends of the shackle simultaneously by a single pressing operation; and to this end it consists in a sheet-metal seal-tag having a longitudinal coiled sealing-sleeve integral therewith, open at both ends to receive both ends of a shackle wire or cord, as hereinafter specified.

In the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the two parts of an unpressed seal and tag illustrating this invention. Fig. 2 is a face view of the same pressed, illustrating

its application to a car-door fastening. Fig. 3 is a back view of the pressed seal-tag, and Fig. 4 is a section thereof on the line 4 4, Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is an elevation of the two parts of another seal and tag unpressed, illustrating certain modifications; and Figs. 6 and 7 are face views of unpressed seals and tags, illustrating other modifications. An end view is appended to Fig. 6.

Like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

The combined seal and tag shown by Figs. 1 to 4, inclusive, consists of a shackle-wire, S, and a sheet-metal seal-tag, T. The wire S is of the description known as my "detective" wire, patented July 3, 1877, with the ends of the wire cut so as to locate a pair of the holding-enlargements at its extremities, and so as to have ends *a a* of proper length turned inward in line with each other. The tag T is a new article of manufacture, consisting of a suitable piece of brittle tin, for example, having a horizontal sealing-sleeve, *b*, integral therewith, and open at both ends, and provided on its face with appropriate lettering or marks *c*, indicating, for example, the name of the railroad on which the seal-tag is used, the station at which the same is applied, and the place of destination.

In applying this device to a car-door or other object one end of the shackle S is passed through a fastening-staple, *s*, or like part adapted to receive it, and both ends *a a* are then inserted into the respective ends of the sealing-sleeve *b* of the seal-tag T. The latter is next pressed so as to lock the shackle ends therein and simultaneously impress the same with distinguishing-marks, as indicated in Figs. 2, 3, and 4, the holding-enlargements on the shackle ends being located between the points of compression, so as to be retained by them.

S<sup>2</sup>, Fig. 5, represents a shackle of my indented wire patented June 27, 1876, bent so that its ends *a<sup>2</sup> a<sup>2</sup>* are separated but parallel; and T<sup>2</sup> represents a sheet-metal seal-tag, having a pair of sealing-sleeves, *b<sup>2</sup> b<sup>2</sup>*, at its vertical edges, with lettering or marks *c<sup>2</sup>* between.

T<sup>3</sup>, Fig. 6, represents what may be termed a



“shackle-tag,” made of a single piece of sheet metal, with a small tubular threading end,  $a^3$ , at one extremity, a longitudinal sealing-sleeve,  $b^3$ , at its other extremity, and lettering or marks  $c^3$  on its face.

$S^4$ , Fig. 7, represents a shackle of plain wire having a single threading end,  $a^4$ , in the form of a tight spiral coil, with a sealing-sleeve,  $b^4$ , formed by a large tapering coil, at its other extremity; and  $T^4$  represents a return-tag having appropriate lettering or marks  $c^4$ , and combined with the shackle by means of holes  $d$   $d$  in the tag to receive the wire.

A shackle having a sealing-sleeve integral therewith, as illustrated by  $S^4$ , may be made either of wire or of suitable sheet metal, and may be used with or without a tag; but a separate tag, such as shown at  $T^4$ , forms no part of my present invention.

The combined seal and tag shown in Fig. 5 and that shown in Fig. 6 are used in substantially the same manner as the one first described. The absence of distinct holding-enlargements on the threading ends of the shackles obviates any special location thereof in the sealing-sleeves, and also obviates confining the compression to isolated points; but narrow transverse indentations are considered the most effective form. The sealing-sleeve of the shackle  $S^4$ , Fig. 7, may be pressed or stamped in like manner after being applied.

My seal-tags (apart from the lettering or marks thereon) are intended to be made by machinery out of brittle tin or other hard sheet metal by cutting the same into blanks of any desired shapes and sizes and coiling the same to form the sealing-sleeves. The latter should be of several coils if thin metal be used, care being taken to preclude opening them after they are pressed without injuring or defacing the tags, so as to insure detection. They can be so manufactured by machinery already in

the market for making buckles and other articles, the same being capable of adaptation by slight or ordinary changes to the production of seal-tags of either of the forms above described.

The lettering or marks, or any part thereof, such as station-numbers, may be stamped in the metal during the shaping process; but I prefer to paint the faces of the tags red, or of any preferred color, to form a background, and to print the lettering or marks thereon in a contrasting color, or to print the same first and then shellac them.

Any suitable press or stamp may be used for compressing the sealing-sleeves, and the impression thereof with distinguishing-marks may be omitted, owing to the marks on the tags; but additional marks of a distinctive character are readily formed at the pressing or stamping operation, or subsequent thereto, and afford a double security.

The following is what I claim as new and of my present invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, namely:

1. The combination of a compressible coiled sealing-sleeve of hard metal and a shackle end adapted to be held therein when said sleeve is pressed, substantially as herein specified.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a sheet-metal seal-tag having a coiled sealing-sleeve integral therewith, and provided with appropriate lettering or marks, substantially as herein described.

3. A sheet-metal seal-tag having a horizontal coiled sealing-sleeve integral therewith, and open at both ends to receive both ends of a shackle wire or cord, substantially as herein specified, for the purpose set forth.

EDWARD J. BROOKS.

Witnesses:

ARTEMAS B. SMITH,  
P. E. FARNSWORTH.