(Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

E. A. BRANDAU.

MAIL BAG FASTENING.

No. 256,539. Patented Apr. 18, 1882.

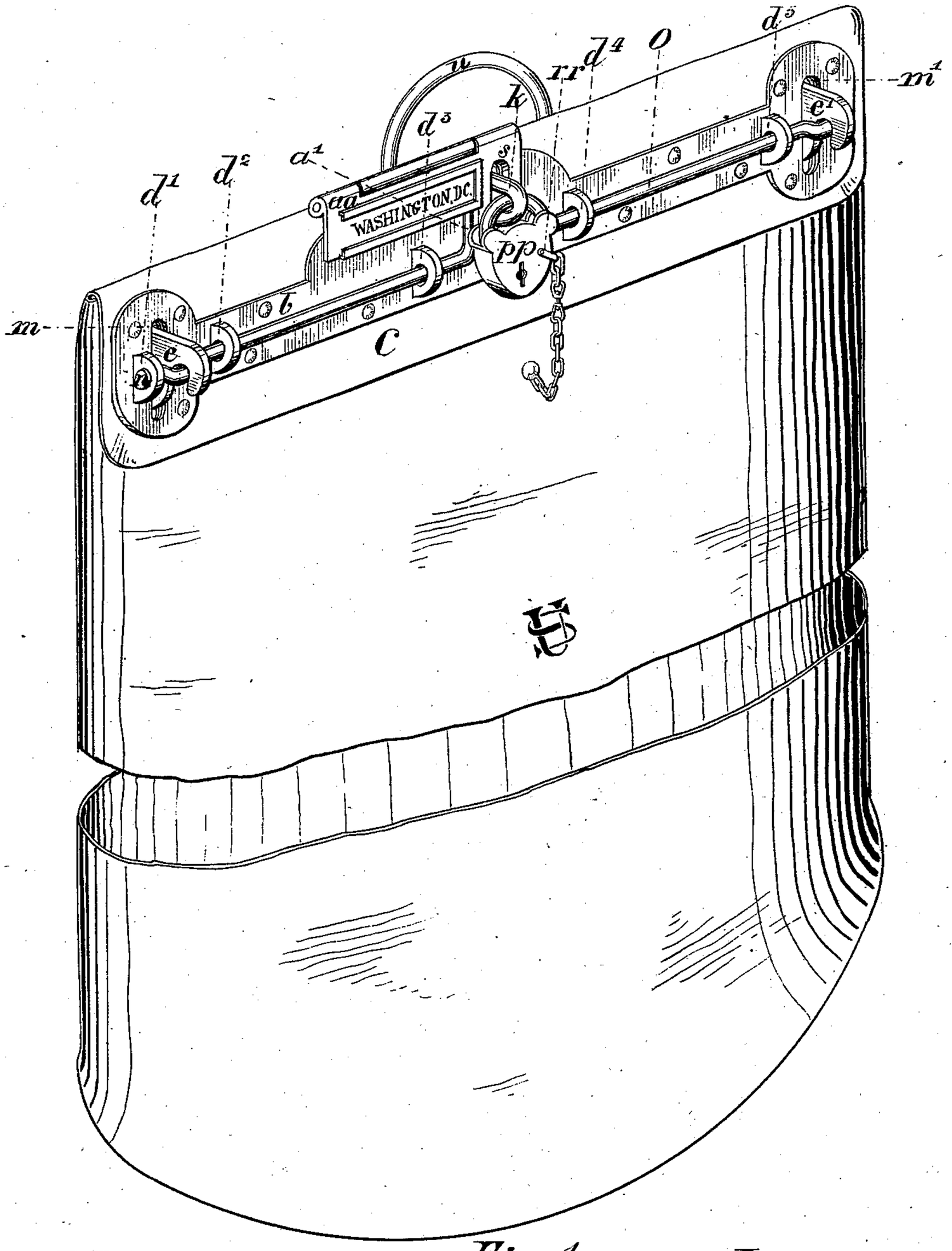

Fig. 1.

Witnesses.

William Henry Rowland Lee

Manly Delos Williams

Inventor.

Emile August Brandau

(Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

E. A. BRANDAU.

MAIL BAG FASTENING.

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Fig. 2.

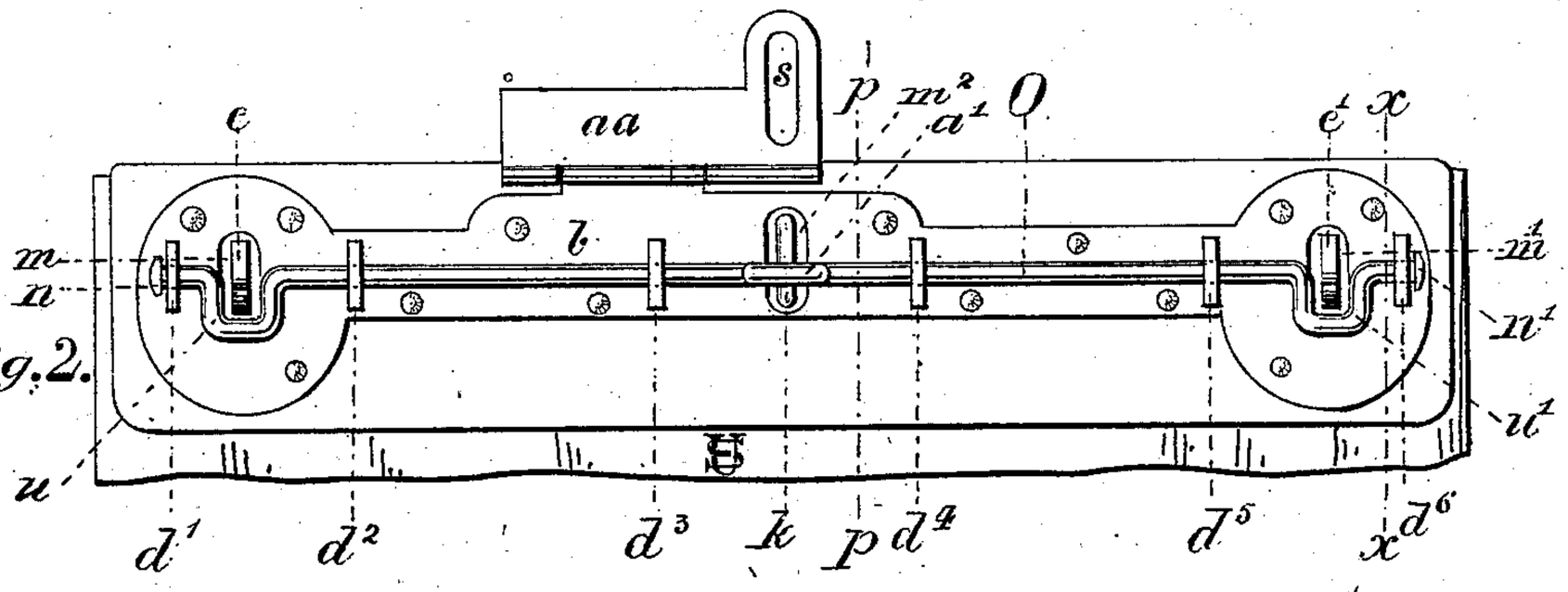
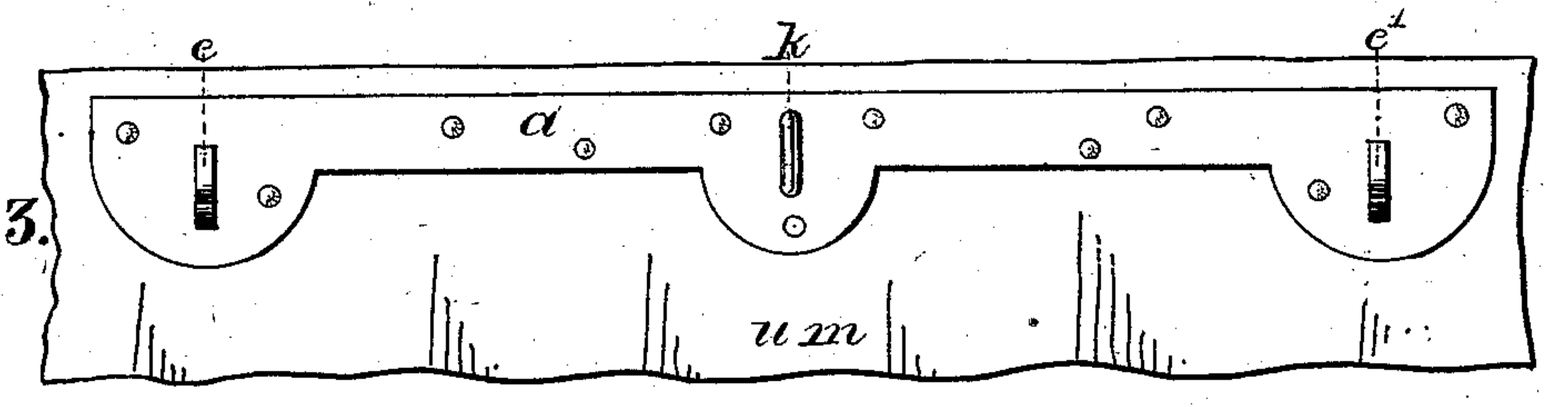


Fig. 3.



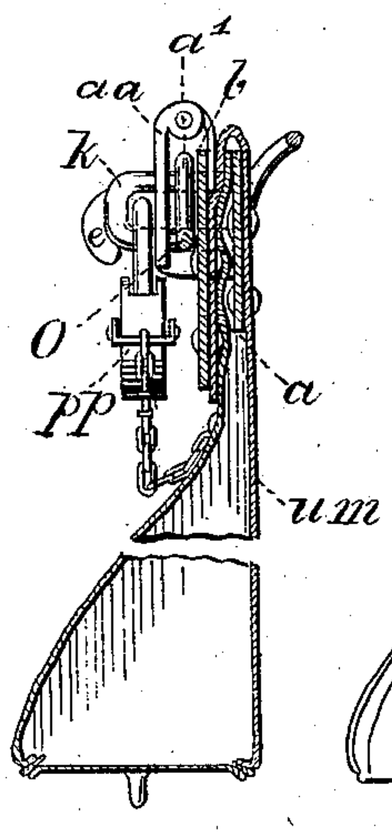


Fig. 4.

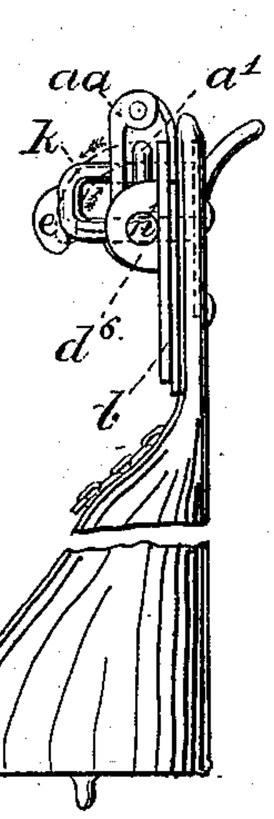


Fig. 5.

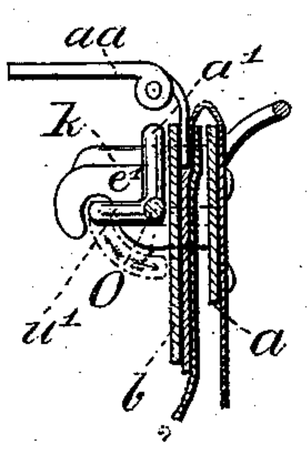


Fig. 6.

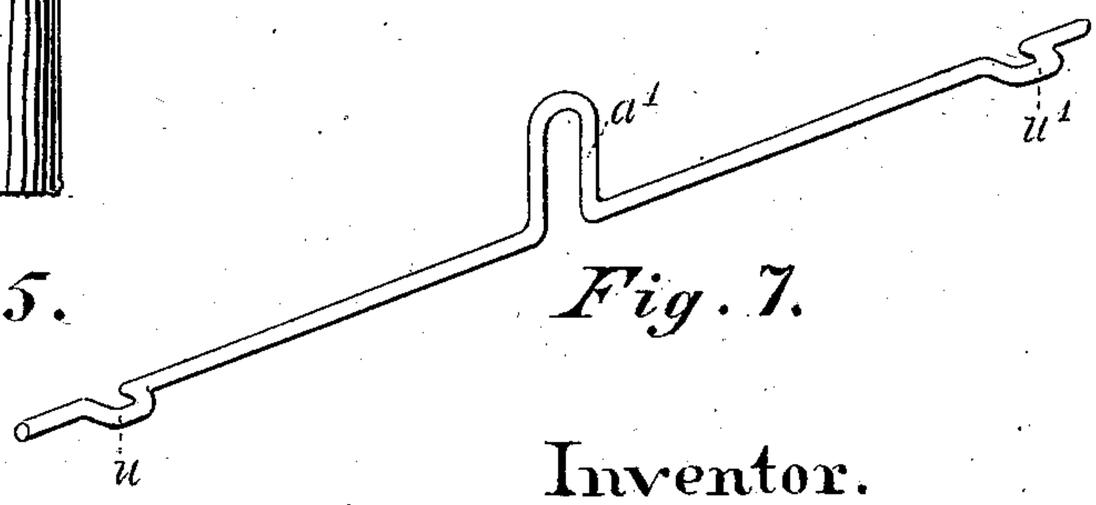


Fig. 7.

Witnesses.

William Henry Rowland Lee

Manly Delos Williams

Inventor.

Emile August Brandau

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EMILE AUGUST BRANDAU, OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

MAIL-BAG FASTENING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 256,539, dated April 18, 1882.

Application filed July 13, 1881. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EMILE AUGUST BRANDAU, holding a declaration of intention of citizenship of the United States, residing at Los Angeles, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented a certain new and useful Mail-Pouch Fastening; and I do declare the following to be a clear and exact description of the invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the figures of reference thereon, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements in mail-bag fastenings in which a permanently-fixed cranked rod by a quarter rotary movement operates in conjunction with two jaws and a staple.

The objects of my improvements are, first, to avoid the turning around of the mail-bag; second, to secure in a more firm manner the opening of the bag; third, to afford facilities for the greater dispatch and delivery of mail-matter. I attain these objects by the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an isometrical view of a mail-bag, showing the fastening locked; Fig. 2, a front elevation showing the fastening unlocked; Fig. 3, a front elevation of the rear bed-plate; Fig. 4, a section on the line 1 2, Fig. 2, showing the fastening unlocked; Fig. 5, a side elevation; Fig. 6, a section taken on the line 3 4, Fig. 2; Fig. 7, an isometrical view of the cranked rod O.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

The bed-plate *b* is attached on the front of the cover of the mail-bag. Forming part of the same bed-plate are the bearings d' d^2 d^3 d^4 d^5 d^6, in which rests and operates in a quarter rotary movement the cranked rod O, constituting the principal feature of the fastening.

The address-plate *a a* is hinged to the top part of the bed-plate *b*, and is provided with a slot, *s*, in a corresponding position to the center of the bed-plate *b*.

Secured to the inside face of the rear part of the mail-bag is a similar bed-plate, *a*. (See Fig. 3.) Attached to this bed-plate, and forming part of the same, are the jaws *e e'* and the staple *k*, in a corresponding position to the cranks of the rod O.

The bed-plate *b* is provided with slots *m* m' m^2, and the thicknesses of the material of the mail-bag that rests on the bed-plate *a* are also provided with corresponding slots or eyelets, which are not particularly marked on the drawings or specially designated herein.

In order to give a free passage to the jaws *e e'* and the staple *k* through the slots in the bed-plate *b*, it is necessary that the cranks *u* u' should lie flat against the bed-plate *b*, which, upon being pressed down on the bed-plate *a*, allow the jaws *e e'* and the staple *k* to come through their corresponding slots, *m* m' m^2, in the bed-plate *b*; the cranked rod O, upon being turned so that the crank a' passes over the staple *k*, simultaneously brings the cranks *u* u' into the openings of the jaws *e e'* and forms a lock with the same. The address-plate *a a* is then brought over the slot *s* in the same, closing over the staple *k*, which projects far enough out from the face of the address-plate *a a* to allow of the introduction of the hasp of the padlock. By utilizing the address-plate *a a* in this manner it serves as a check upon the cranked rod O being turned, and upon the releasing of the cranks *u* u' from the openings in the jaws *e e'* after the padlock is attached.

The jaws *e e'* and the staple *k*, instead of being on one continuous bed-plate, may each have a separate bed-plate, so as to decrease the weight of the entire fastening.

I prefer to carry out this feature of my invention as shown on Fig. 3, as it insures a more ready adjustment of the jaws *e e'* and the staple *k* to their corresponding slots in the bed-plate *b* and to the cranks *u* u' a'.

The reverse of the above-described movements unlocks the fastening and opens the mail-bag.

To each end of the cranked rod O is riveted a nut, *n* n', which prevents the rod moving in a lateral direction.

To insure greater security to the mail-bag, there may be provided two eyelets in each side of the mail-bag of similar shape to the slots in the bed-plate *b*. These eyelets will be in such a position that in folding in each side at the top toward the center or inside they will come to-

gether and allow the jaws *e e'* to pass through, so that when the cover of the mail-bag is closed down and the fastening locked the folding in of the sides will effectually prevent any mail-matter passing out or of being abstracted at the top of the sides of the mail-bag.

When the pouch is filled with mail-matter it will be the means of giving it a wedge shape at the top, as would be seen in a section taken from the front to the rear of the bag, thus drawing the jaws *e e'* in a downward direction and causing the cranks *u u'* to press well up into the openings of the jaws, leaving no chance of the cranks being moved from their locked position.

Riveted to the padlock *p p* is a bar, to which is attached one end of a swivel-chain, the other end of the chain being riveted to the mail-bag in the manner shown in Fig. 1, so that when the padlock is removed from the fastening of the bag there is less probability of its being lost or mislaid than when it is not so secured.

I am aware that prior to my invention mail-bag fastenings have been made and used with staples, and the address-plate used in conjunction with a staple and a padlock. I therefore do not claim such a combination, broadly; but

What I do claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, in a mail-bag fastening consisting of the rod O, turning in bearings or supports upon the closing-flap of the bag, and provided with cranks, which may be engaged and held, after the bag is closed, by hooks or jaws *e e'* and the staple *k*, projecting from the rear of the bag through slots in the plate upon which the cranked rod is mounted, substantially as herein described.

2. The bag having the flap or cover provided with a shaft, O, having cranks adapted to engage hooks or jaws *e e'* and staple *k*, which projects through the cover from the rear wall of the bag, in combination with the hinged slotted address-plate *a a*, which may be folded down over the staple, and the crank *a'*, substantially as and for the purpose herein described.

3. In a mail-bag in which the side portions are adapted to be turned or folded into the body, as described, the openings or eyelets through the folded portions, in combination with the jaws *e e'*, the staple *k*, the cranked rod O, and the hinged folding address-plate *a a*, substantially as and for the purpose herein described.

EMILE AUGUST BRANDAU.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM HENRY ROWLAND LEE,

MANLY DELOS WILLIAMS.