

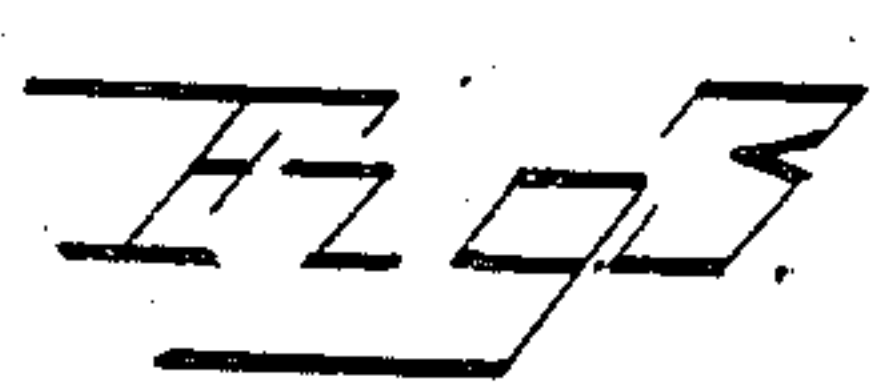
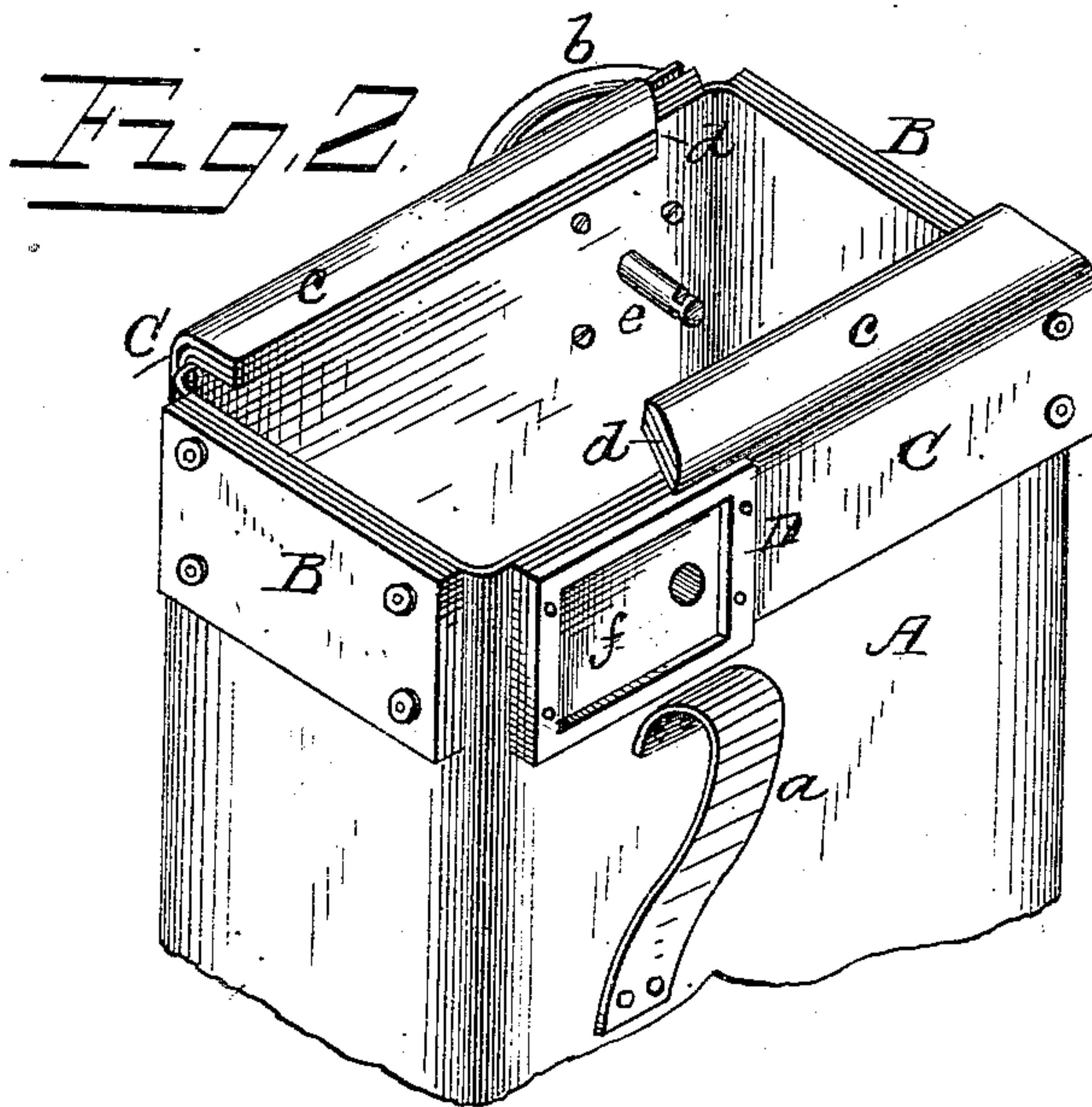
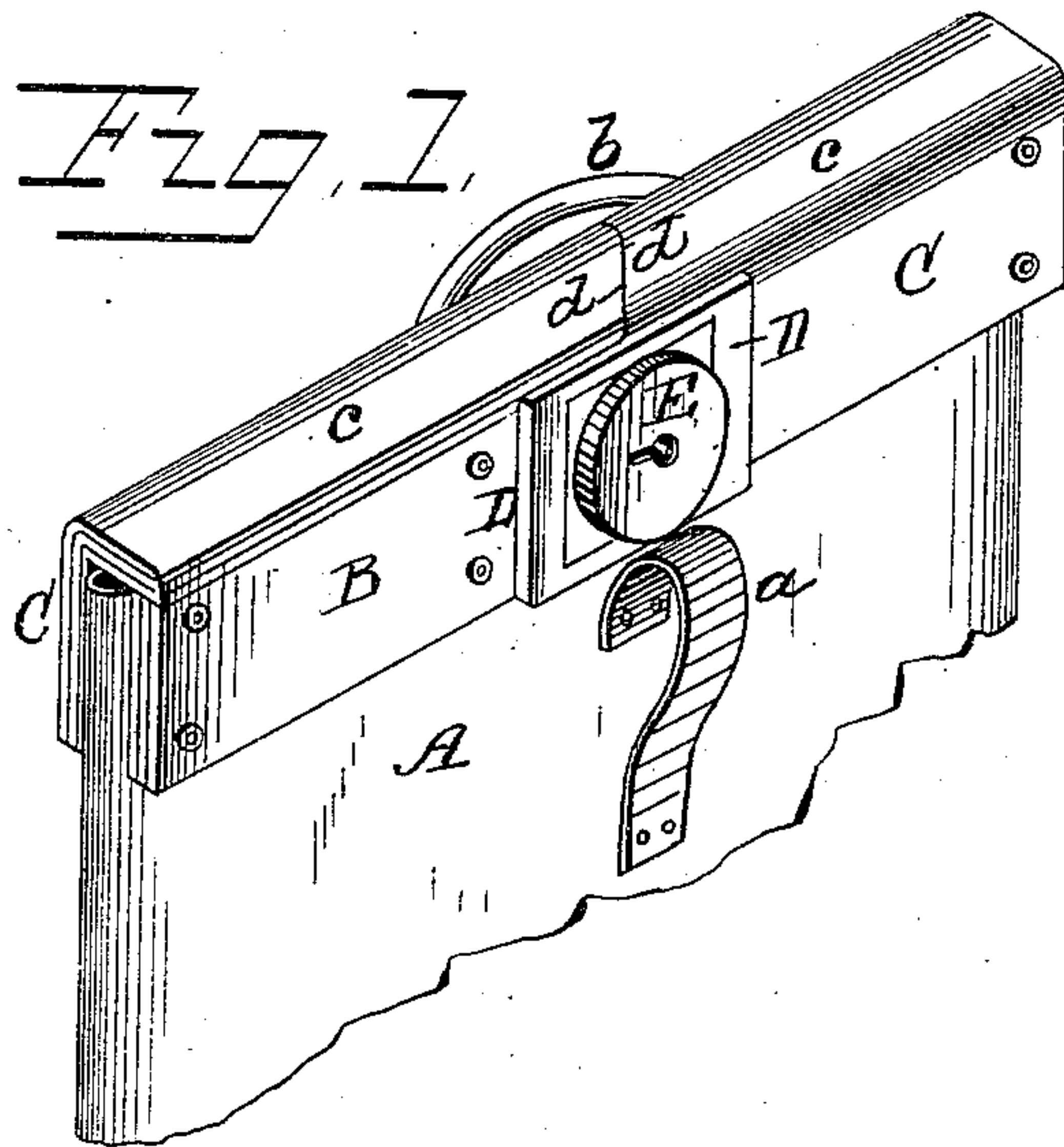
(No Model.)

W. HAWN.

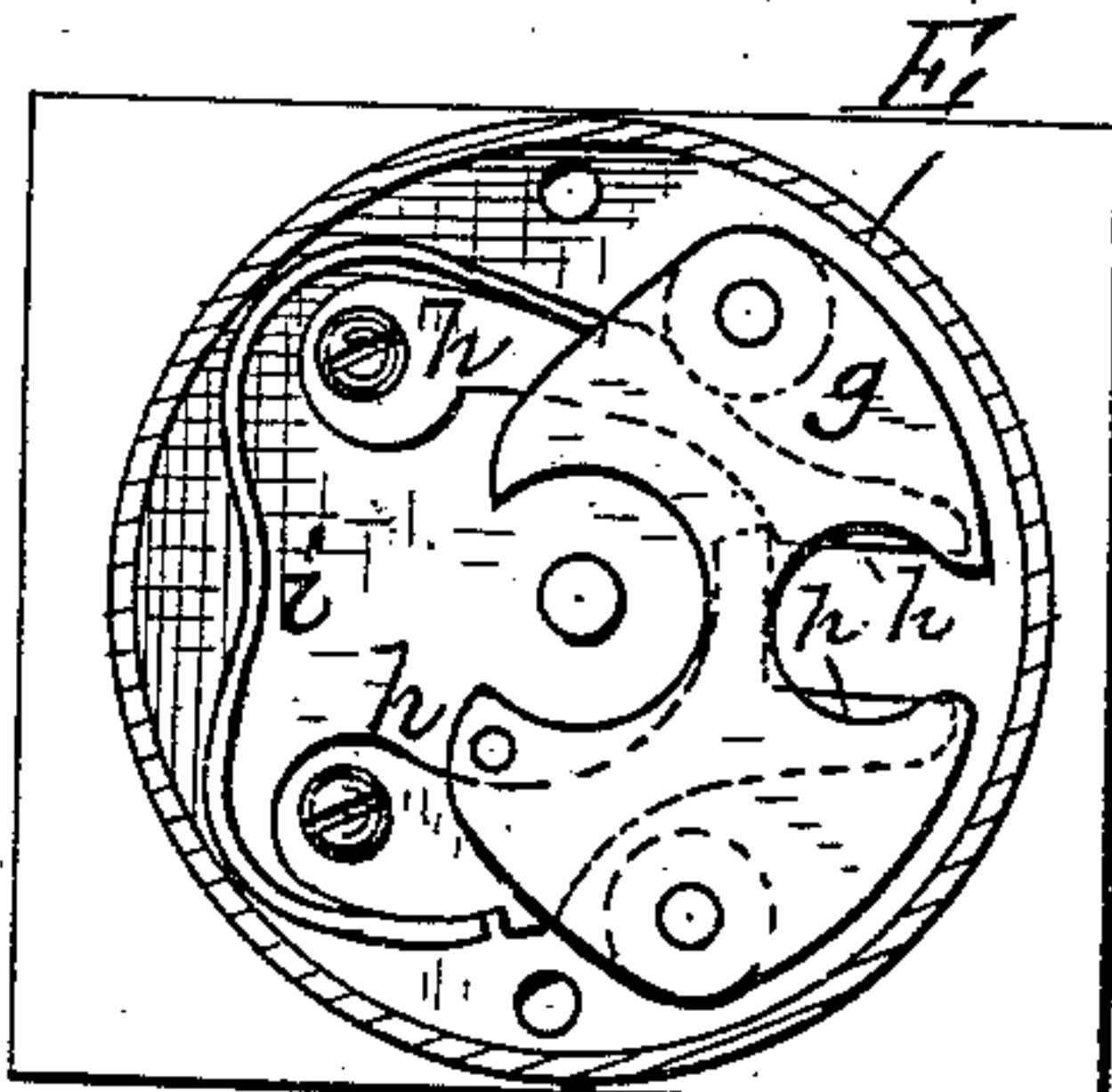
MAIL BAG.

No. 259,309.

Patented June 13, 1882.



WITNESSES
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MAIL-BAG.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 259,309, dated June 13, 1882.

Application filed April 27, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM HAWN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Knoxville, in the county of Knox and State of Tennessee, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bags; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the upper portion of the mail-bag constructed in accordance with my invention, the same being closed and locked; Fig. 2, a similar view, showing the bag open ready for filling and the lock removed; and Fig. 3, a plan view of the lock with the casing removed to show the interior construction.

The present invention has relation to that class of mail-bags provided at their mouths with four metal bars or plates hinged together at their ends, so that when extended they will form a rectangular or nearly square opening at the mouth of the bag to facilitate filling the same, and also the closing of the bag by folding the hinged plates or bars together. These bars or plates being of metal, it was necessary to employ hinges in connecting them together, so that they could be extended or closed at pleasure. One of the many objections to the use of metal hinges is not only the additional expense attending the manufacture of the bag, but the great liability of the hinges becoming rusty from continued exposure to wet weather and broken or otherwise injured by rough handling of the bag, thereby rendering the hinged bars or plates difficult of closing or opening, besides the metal bars or plates greatly increasing the weight of the bag and making it laborious to handle.

The object, therefore, of my invention is to entirely dispense with the metal bars or plates and the hinges ordinarily used, whereby lightness, durability, and cheapness are the result; also, in providing a locking device capable of being detached from the bag when opened, rendering it unnecessary to have a lock permanently attached to each mail-bag. These several objects I attain by the construction sub-

stantially as shown in the drawings and hereinafter described.

In the accompanying drawings, A represents a mail-bag, preferably of leather, provided with the usual handles, *a b*.

The bag A, at its open end, is re-enforced by riveting or otherwise securing thereto sections B and sections C, formed of several thicknesses or layers of leather, said sections, when extended, as shown in Fig. 2, forming together a rectangular opening or parallelogram.

The sections B, as will be noticed, are somewhat shorter than the sections C, the latter being formed at their upper edge with inwardly-extended flanges *c*, which are horizontal or at right angles to said sections, and of such width as to cover the total thickness of the bag when closed, as shown in Fig. 1. When the bag is open the flanges *c* will be diagonally opposite each other, and are about two-thirds the length of the sections C, or sufficiently shorter, so that when the bag is closed the two flanges will make a continuous covering throughout the width of the bag. The contacting ends of the flanges *c* are beveled, as shown at *d*, so as to permit the sections to come together with a close joint.

It should be understood that the four sections, when taken together, are not, properly speaking, a "frame," as would be the case in the four metal bars or plates hinged together. The sections do not, as in the hinged metal bars or plates, encircle or completely surround the four sides of the bag; but a sufficient space is left between the ends of the sections B C, so that the leather of the bag itself will form the hinges. By this manner of attaching the sections to the bag the metal hinges heretofore employed are entirely dispensed with and made unnecessary, and consequently there is no danger of the sections becoming inoperative by the rusting of the hinges or their becoming broken or otherwise injured.

The employment of the leather sections not only materially decreases the weight of the bag and enables it to be more conveniently handled, but it is less liable to become broken or injured by the breaking or bending of the sections, as would be the case were they of metal.

A further advantage is the greatly-reduced cost with which the bag can be manufactured, it being much simpler in construction, and the flanges *c* being on the two sections opposite
 5 each other, instead of upon the sections at right angles to each other, as in the hinged metal sections heretofore employed, or, in other words, the flanges being parallel to or
 10 opposite each other, instead of at right angles, there is not as much movement of the sections required to close the bag, and when it is closed it is much more secure and less liable to be tampered with.

Projecting into the bag A is a notched bolt,
 15 *e*, suitably fastened to said bag, and upon the outside of the same, or to one of the sections C, is fastened a plate, D, countersunk to form a seat and guide, *f*, for the base-plate of a suitable lock, E. This lock may be of any suitable
 20 construction that will operate in connection with a suitable bolt projecting from the inner side of the bag.

I have simply shown one form of lock to better illustrate my invention, the same consisting of a guide-plate, *g*, between which and
 25 the base-plate of the lock the free ends of pivoted arms *h* work, held in engagement with the notched end of the bolt *e* by curved spring *i*, as shown in Fig. 3.

30 When the bag is opened the lock is detached or removed therefrom. Hence it makes it unnecessary to have a lock permanently attached to each mail-bag, and the countersunk plate serves both as a seat and guide in placing the
 35 lock in such position that the notched bolt readily penetrates the lock and fastens in it, thereby securely locking the bag closed.

Having now fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by
 40 Letters Patent, is—

1. A mail-bag having four sections of leather connected to its sides around its open end, substantially as shown, whereby the material from which the bag is composed between the
 45 ends of the sections will operate as hinges in closing the bag, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. A mail-bag having leather sections secured around its sides at its open end, substantially as shown, the intervening spaces of
 50 the material from which the bag is composed serving as hinges in opening and closing the bag, two of the sections having overlapping flanges which cover the mouth of said bag
 55 when closed, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

3. In a mail-bag, the combination, with the leather sections B, of the leather sections C, formed with or having flanges *c* diagonally
 60 opposite and parallel with each other when opened, the sections B C being of such length and connected to the bag, as shown, that the material composing it or the leather of the bag between the ends of the sections will
 65 operate as hinges in opening and closing the bag, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

4. In a mail-bag, the combination, with the bolt *e* and plate D, countersunk to form a
 70 guide and seat, *f*, of a suitable lock, E, removable therefrom, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM HAWN.

Witnesses:

H. W. WOOLF,
 W. W. MCKOWN.