

(Model.)

D. BLOOM.

MAIL BAG.

No. 282,152.

Patented July 31, 1883.

Fig. 1.

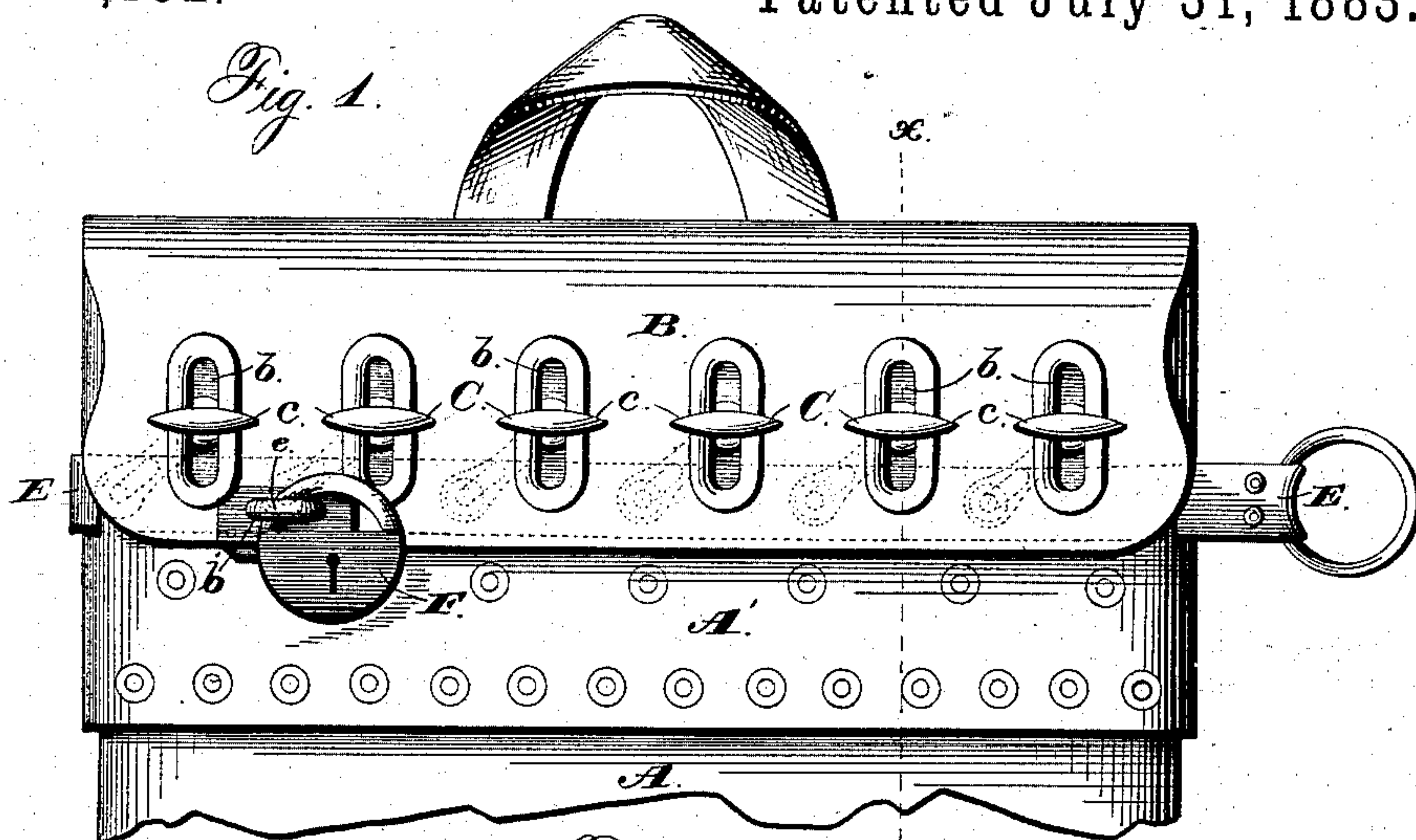


Fig. 2.

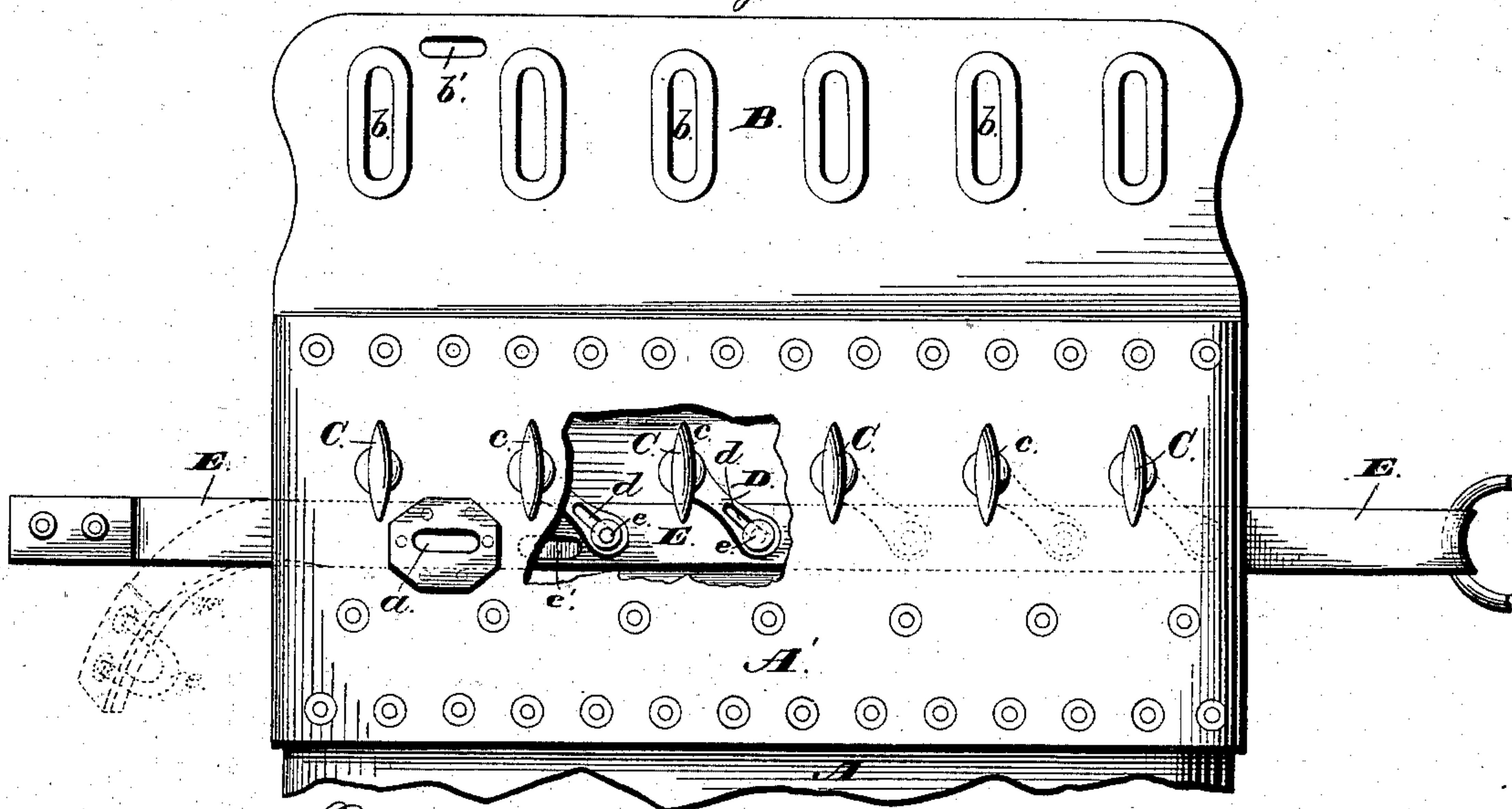


Fig. 4.

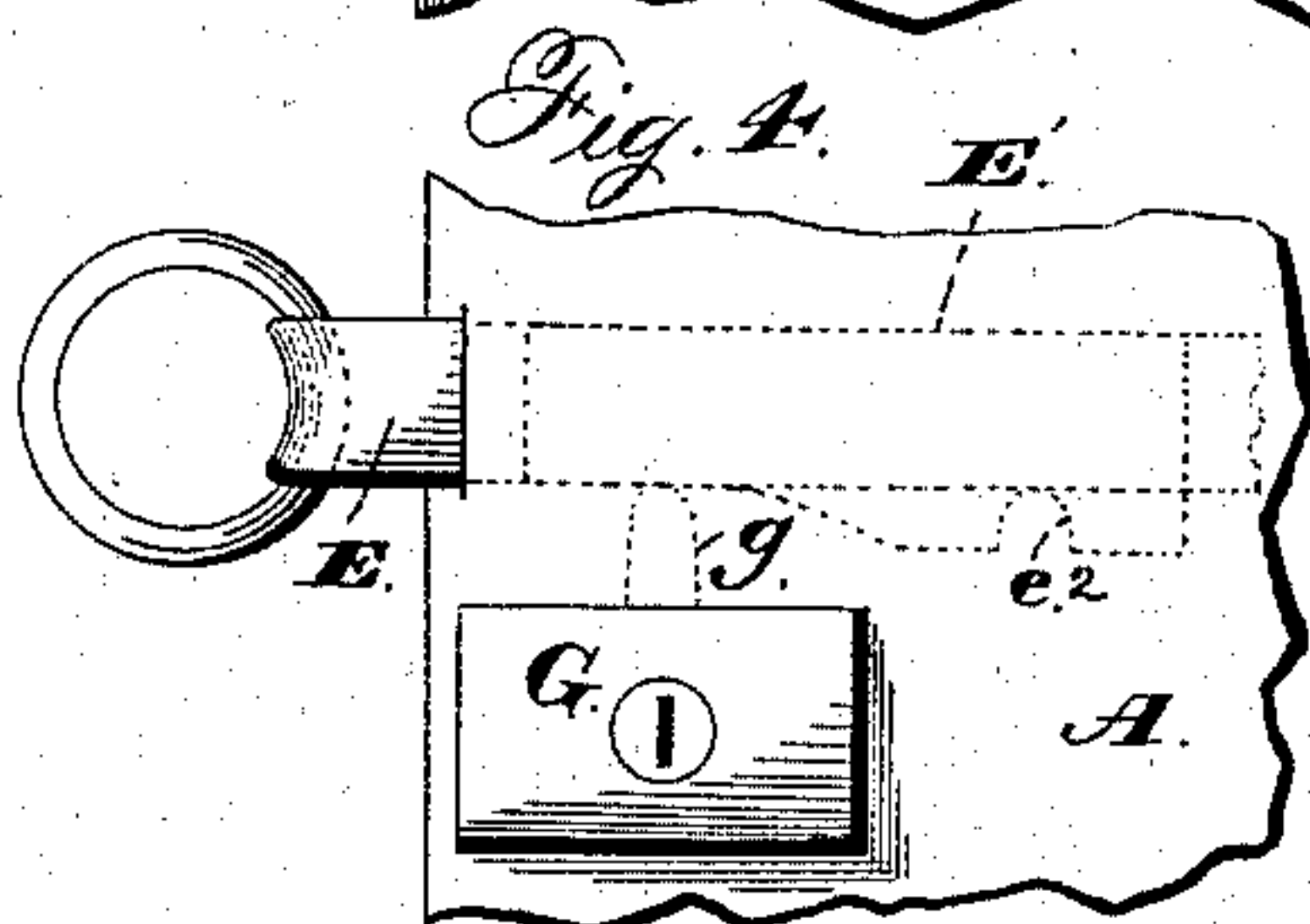
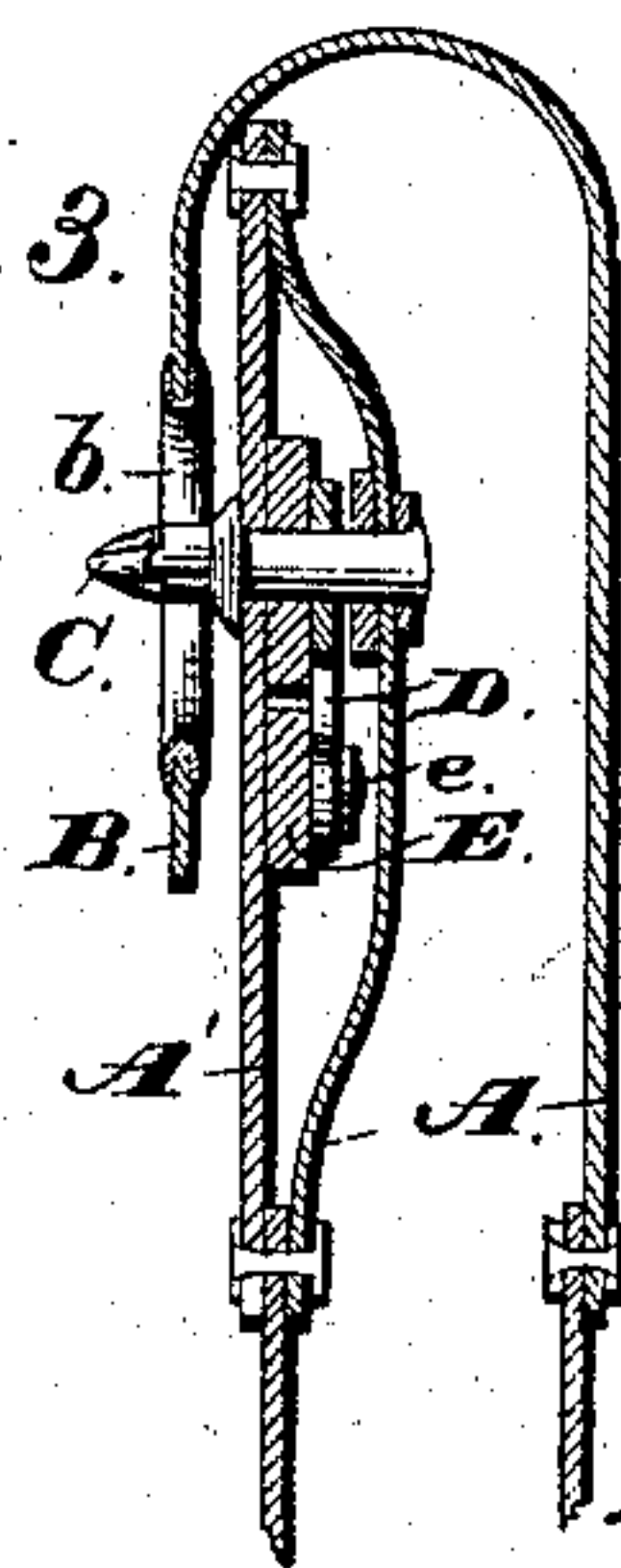


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID BLOOM, OF SANDWICH, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR, BY DIRECT AND MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO MOSES J. S. MARSHALL, OF BOSTON, AND SAMUEL G. LANE, OF CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

MAIL-BAG.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 282,152, dated July 31, 1883.

Application filed April 14, 1881. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID BLOOM, of Sandwich, in the county of De Kalb, and in the State of Illinois, 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 thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the upper portion of a bag provided with my improved mechanism, said bag being closed and locked. Fig. 2 is a like view of the same unlocked and open. Fig. 3 is a vertical section upon line *xx* of Fig. 1; and Fig. 4 is an elevation of the locking end of the strap with the surrounding parts, and shows a modification in the locking mechanism.

Letters of like name and kind refer to like parts in each of the figures.

The design of my invention is to furnish in a simple and inexpensive form means whereby mail-bags may be easily and securely closed and fastened, and as easily opened; and to this end it consists, principally, in the means employed for locking the flap in a closed position, substantially as and for the purpose hereinafter specified.

It consists, further, in the means employed for actuating the flap-locking mechanism, substantially as and for the purpose hereinafter shown.

It consists, further, in the means employed for locking the strap employed for operating the flap-locking mechanism, substantially as and for the purpose hereinafter set forth.

It consists, finally, in the bag-locking mechanism, constructed and operating in the manner and for the purpose substantially as shown and described.

In the annexed drawings, *A*' represents a mail bag or pouch of usual form, and having at its upper open end a flap, *B*, which, when turned downward and forward, closes said end.

Within the flap *B* are formed a series of oblong parallel slots, *b*, that are preferably arranged with their longest axes in a vertical line, and are each bound with metal for the

purpose of insuring strength and durability. Directly beneath each slot, when said flap is turned downward, is a button, *C*, which has a head, *c*, that corresponds in size and shape to and is capable of being passed through said slot. The shank of said button is journaled within the front wall of the bag *A*, and is capable of partial rotation, so as to cause said head *c* to occupy a position in line with or at a right angle to said slot.

Each button *C* has secured upon its shank a bar, *D*, which, when said button occupies its normal position, extends downward and laterally outward, and has its lower end connected with a strap, *E*, by means of a stud, *e*, that projects from said strap into a longitudinal slot, *d*, that is formed in said bar.

The strap *E* is contained between the front wall of the bag *A* and a re-enforce strip, *A'*, which is secured upon the latter at its upper end, and is capable of a longitudinal movement only, and when drawn in one direction will cause the buttons *C* to be simultaneously brought into line with their slots *b*, so as to permit the flap *B* to be passed over or removed from engagement with said buttons. When said strap is drawn in the opposite direction, said buttons will be turned into position at a right angle to said slots, and lock said flap in place, if the same has been closed.

It will be seen that by a simple pull upon the strap *E* the operator can release from or lock in a closed position the flap *B*, and that no more time is required for the movement of all of the buttons *C* than would be necessary for the passage of a strap through or its withdrawal from one of the many staples ordinarily used upon mail-bags.

Any desired form of fastening may be employed for securing the strap *E* in longitudinal position after the flap has been locked down; but I prefer that shown in Figs. 1 and 2, in which the locking end of said strap is carried around the edge of the bag, and is provided with a staple, *e*, which passes forward through openings *a* in the front and back walls of said bag, and through opening *e'* in said strap and an opening, *b'*, in said flap, and projects sufficiently to receive a padlock, *F*. When

said flap is closed down, said openings a and b' coincide, and when said strap is drawn to the limit of its motion in the direction necessary for locking the bag its said staple E will
5 be in position for entering said opening.

Another form of lock is shown in Fig. 4, in which a metal plate, E' , is attached to the strap E , and at the lower edge of said plate is provided a notch, e^2 , which may be engaged by
10 an arm, g , that extends upward from a lock, G , secured upon or within the front wall of the bag. Said arm g may be caused to engage with said notch e^2 by means of a spring, and then released by means of a key; or the latter
15 may be employed for producing both movements.

Having thus fully set forth the nature and merits of my invention, what I claim as new is—

20 1. As a means for locking in a closed position the flap of a mail-bag, a series of T-shaped turn-buttons pivoted within the front wall of said mail-bag, and adapted to pass through a corresponding number of narrow slots formed
25 in such flap, in combination with mechanism, substantially as described, whereby said buttons may be simultaneously turned into line

with or at right angles to said slot, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. As a means for locking the flap of a mail- 30 bag, a series of T-shaped turn-buttons pivoted within the front wall of said mail-bag, and adapted to pass through correspondingly-shaped slots formed in such flap, in combination with a strap which is connected with said
35 turn-buttons, and by a longitudinal motion will simultaneously turn the same into line with or at a right angle to said slots, substantially as and for the purpose shown.

3. The combination of the bag A , having 40 the flap B and openings a and b' , the operating-strap E , provided with the staple e and opening e' , and the lock F , substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

4. In combination with the bag A , provided 45 with the flap B , slots b , and openings a and b' , the pivoted buttons C , having the bars D , the strap E , provided with the staple e , and the padlock F , substantially as and for the purpose shown and described.

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Witnesses:

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