

(No Model.)

W. WEBER.

POST OFFICE MAIL INDICATOR.

No. 393,870.

Patented Dec. 4, 1888.

Fig. 1.

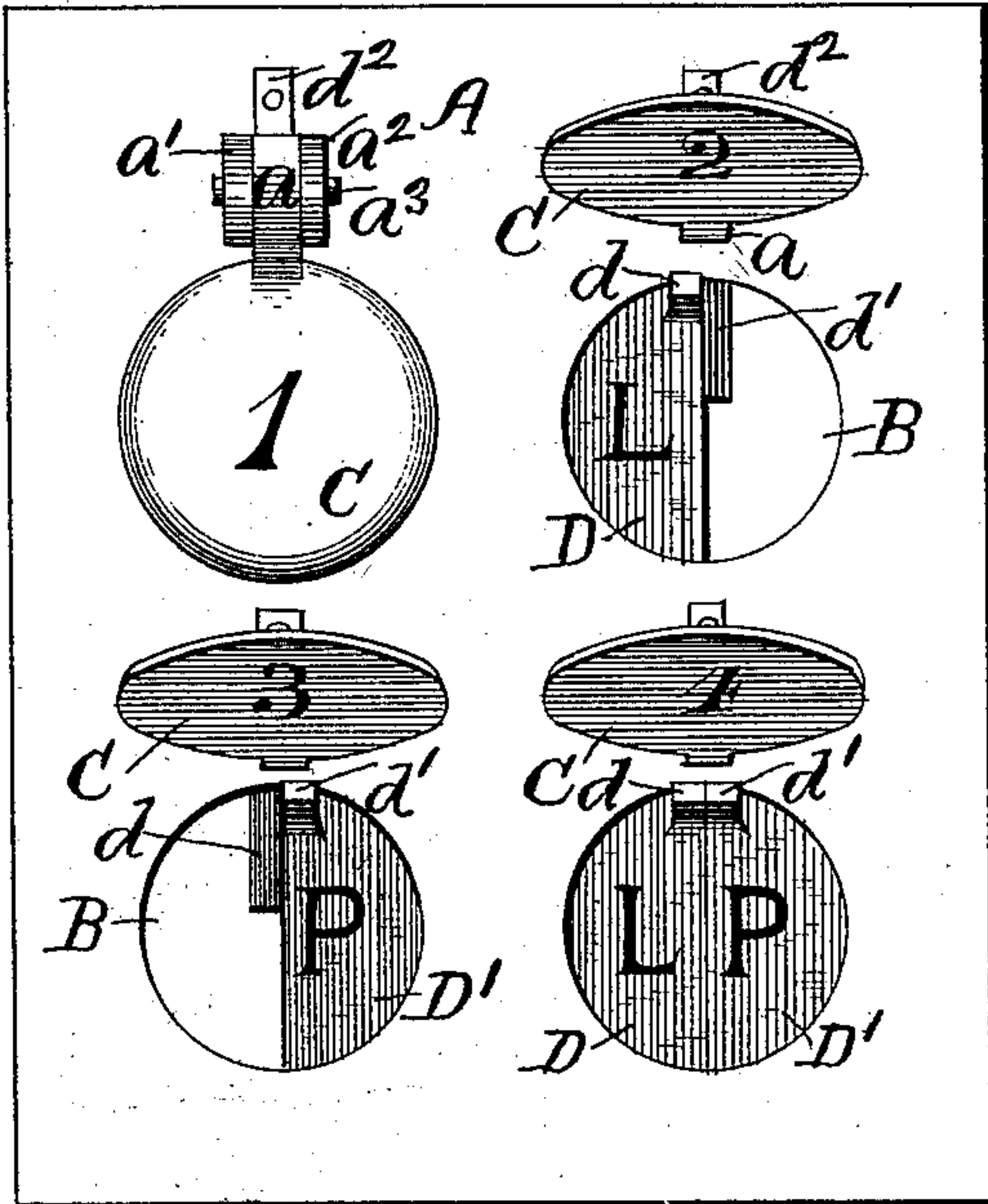


Fig. 2.

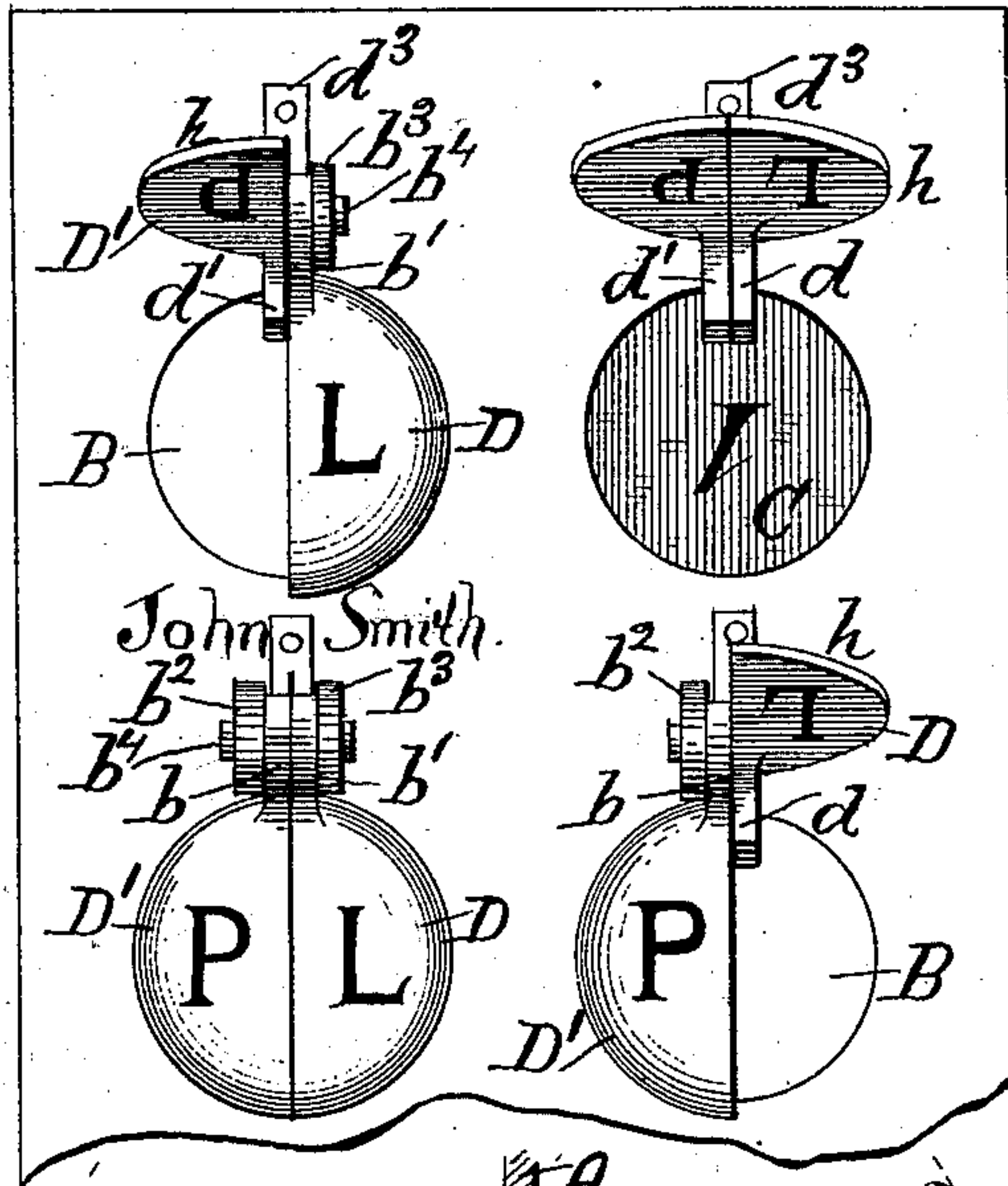
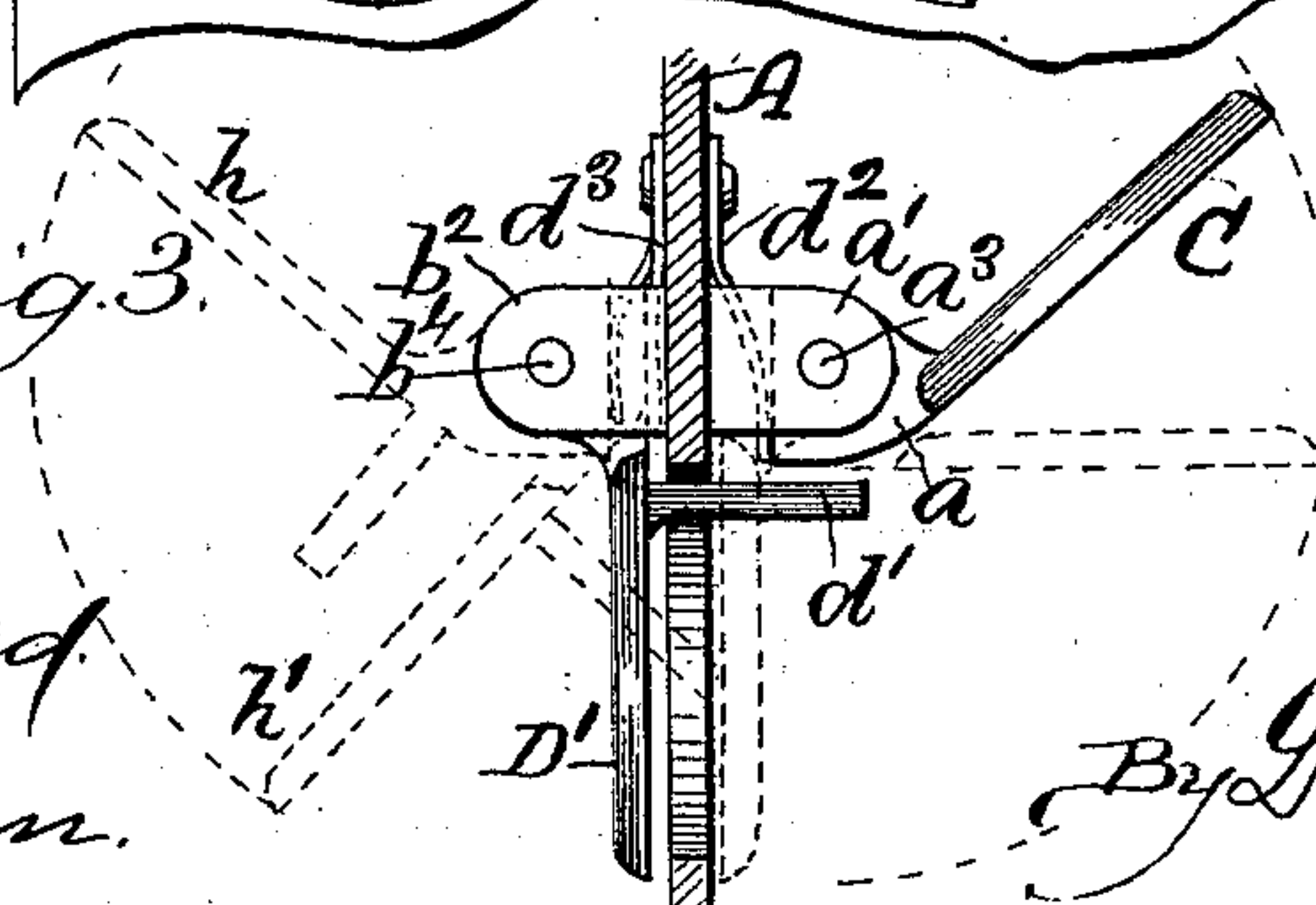


Fig. 3.



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POST-OFFICE MAIL-INDICATOR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 393,870, dated December 4, 1888.

Application filed March 27, 1888. Serial No. 268,639. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM WEBER, of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful
5 Improvements in a Post-Office Mail-Indicator, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, that will enable others to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part
10 of this specification.

The object of this invention is to provide a simple and convenient indicating arrangement for use in post offices, whereby much annoyance and time may be saved to both the
15 postmaster and the applicant for mail, as the applicant can ascertain at a glance whether there is any mail matter or not, and also make known to the postmaster the fact that mail is being called for without an oral indication.

20 This device is more especially intended for the use of applicants who receive mail only at long intervals, and also for those who do not care to be to the expense of renting an individual box.

25 Figure 1 is a front elevation of a device embodying my improved features, looking at the same from the applicant's side of the room; Fig. 2, the reverse, looking from the postmaster's side; and Fig. 3, a vertical section.

30 Referring to the drawings, A represents a plate, which may be composed of wood, metal, or any other suitable material, and of any desired dimensions. The required number of plates will be inserted ordinarily in a framing-
35 sash similar to that of the usual glass fronts of individual boxes. The indicating front may consist of a continuous surface and dispense with the use of sash; but the smaller plates shown will be preferred. Each of the
40 plates is provided with a number of openings, B, covered on the outer or applicant's side by the cap or caps C. These caps are provided with the ears a , which are inserted between the
45 lugs a' a^2 , formed on the plate A, and adjustably secured thereto by means of the pivot-pin a^3 . These caps are numbered in regular consecutive order, as shown, so that every person or applicant will have a number of his
50 own. The number is placed on both sides of the caps C as a matter of convenience, so that the same is visible either when the cap is closed or thrown up to its opposite position, as

shown in Figs. 1 and 3. The inner or postmaster's side of the plate or plates A is provided with adjustable caps, consisting of the two or more independent parts D D'. These parts are respectively provided with the ears
5 b b' , inserted between the lugs b^2 b^3 and mounted on the pivot-pin b^4 . By this arrangement either part may be adjusted independ-
60 ently of the other, or both may be moved together, as circumstances may require. The inner side of the cap parts D D' is provided with push-fingers d d' , which project through the opening or openings B in the plates A
65 when the parts D D' are closed down, as shown in Fig. 3.

The part D has the letter "L" placed on both sides or faces, while the companion part D' shows the letter "P." The first indicates let-
70 ters, the second papers or parcels.

The upper ends of the springs d^2 d^3 are rigidly secured to the respective sides of the plates A, the loose lower ends having a bearing against the several ears formed on the re-
75 spective caps. These springs exert a force to raise and hold the cap parts above the horizontal line, as shown in Fig. 3.

The caps C will be normally closed, so that the applicant, seeing the cap bearing his num-
80 ber in that position, will know that there is no mail matter for him. If the cap is thrown up and the L appears, then there is a letter or letters; if the P, there is a paper or parcel. If both, then the two indicating characters
85 appear, all as illustrated in Fig. 1.

The parts D D' forming the caps on the postmaster's side will be normally in the highest position, h , as shown in Fig. 2, and indicated by dotted lines, Fig. 3. The names of
90 the applicants will appear on the postmaster's side of the plates A, as shown in Fig. 2.

The mail matter will be distributed in the usual manner by placing the same in the different alphabetically-arranged pigeon-holes;
95 but as it is being distributed it may be checked off by pressing down the cap part D on the postmaster's side if it is a letter, and the companion part D for a paper, or both, as may be
100 necessary. The down movement of the parts D D' imparts a corresponding upward movement of the cap or caps C by the contacting push-fingers and the springs. This uncovers the opening B and applicant is informed that

there is mail and also the nature of the same. Applicant now presses down and closes the cap C, which, coming in contact with the push-finger on the inner cap parts, moves the same back to the inclined position *h'*. (Indicated by dotted lines, Fig. 3.) This lower inclined position of the parts D D' indicates to the postmaster that some one is calling for his mail. After delivering the same these parts are thrown up to their highest or normal position, which shows that the mail has been delivered. By this arrangement applicant is informed at a glance as to whether there is any mail or not, and the postmaster is saved the trouble of running through the letters for the persons for whom there is no mail.

The device may be provided with a suitable electric bell, so that the postmaster may be notified, also, that mail is being called for.

The inside caps may be made in three separate parts instead of two, as shown, thus making provision for letters, papers, and parcels.

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

1. In a mail-indicating device of the character described, the combination, with the plate A, provided with openings, of an adjustable cap or caps having numbers on their surface and pivoted to said plates and adapted to

cover said openings on the outer side, the cap parts D D', pivoted to the opposite and inner side of said plate and bearing characters indicating the kind of mail, and provided with push-fingers, whereby said caps may be moved from either side of said plate, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The combination, with the plate A, provided with lugs and having openings, as described, of the cap or caps C, provided with the ear *a* and attached to said lugs by means of the pivot-pin *a'* and the spring *d'*, whereby said cap or caps are arranged to close said openings, or be thrown upward to uncover the same, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. The combination, with the plate A, provided with lugs and having openings, as described, of the two-part caps D D', provided with push-fingers *d d'*, and having ears *b b'* inserted between said lugs and attached thereto by the pivot-pin *b'*, whereby the caps C on the opposite side of the plate A may be thrown upward, so as cover said openings, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

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