

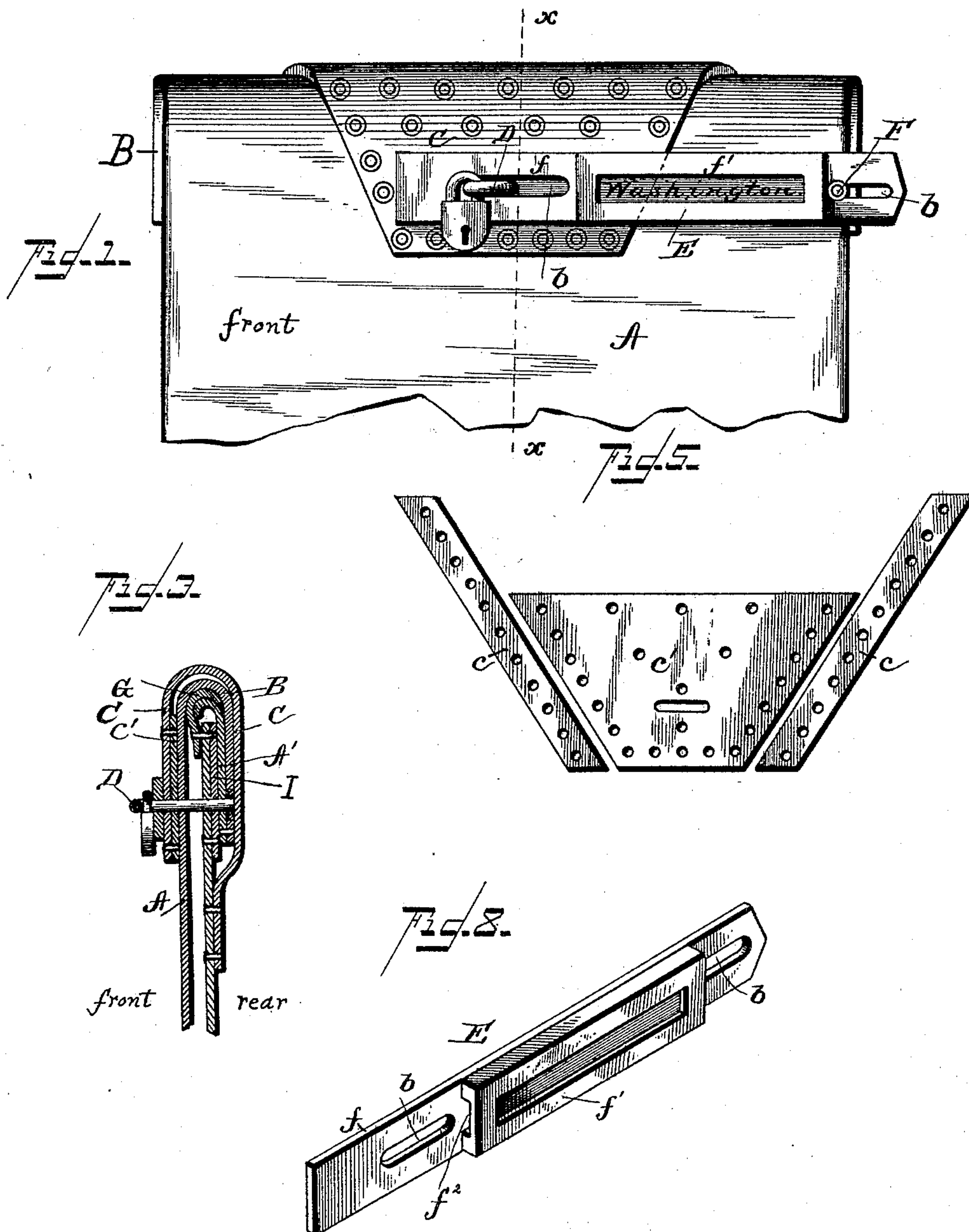
(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

B. EDGAR.
MAIL POUCH.

No. 427,676.

Patented May 13, 1890.



WITNESSES
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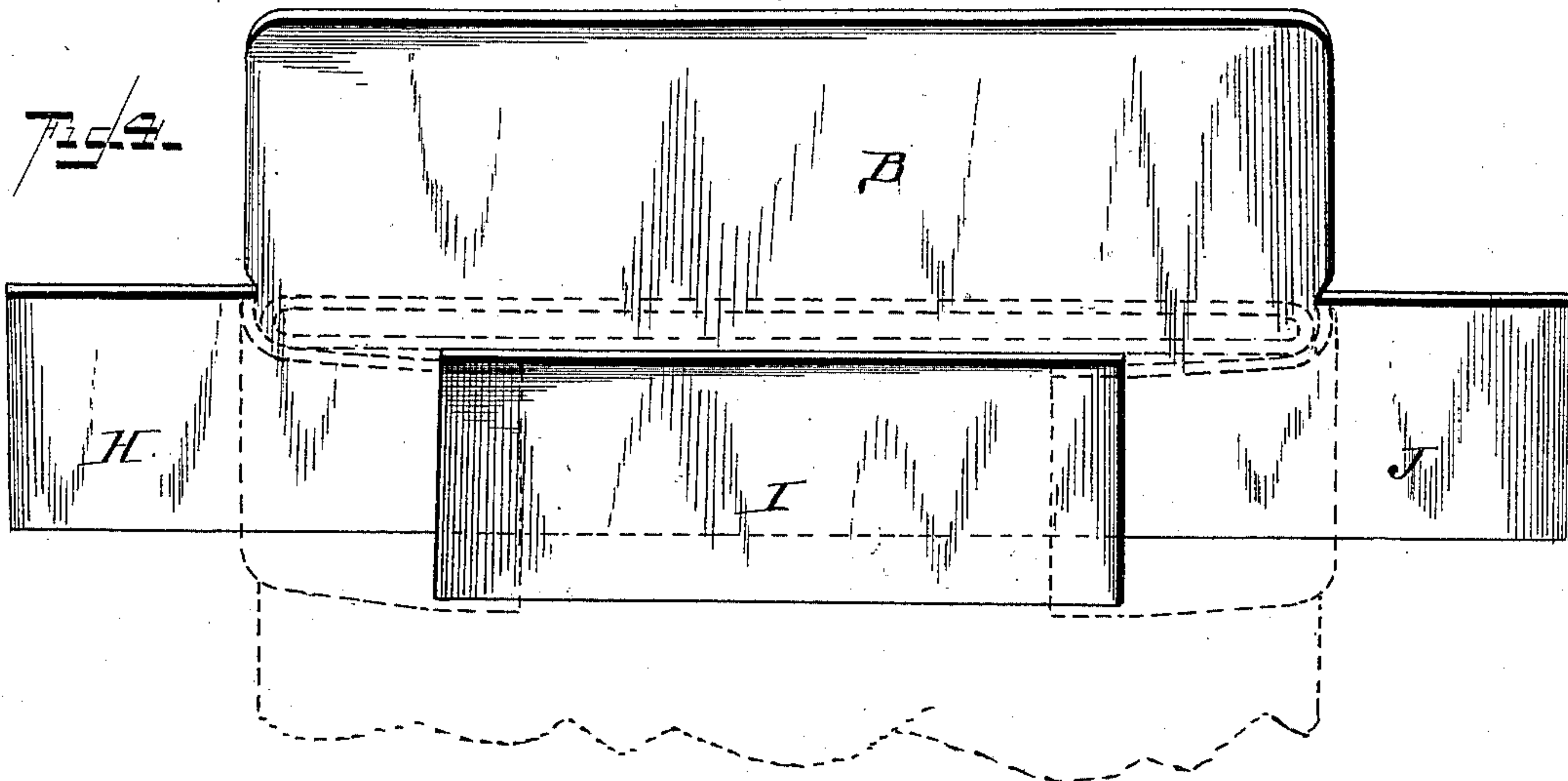
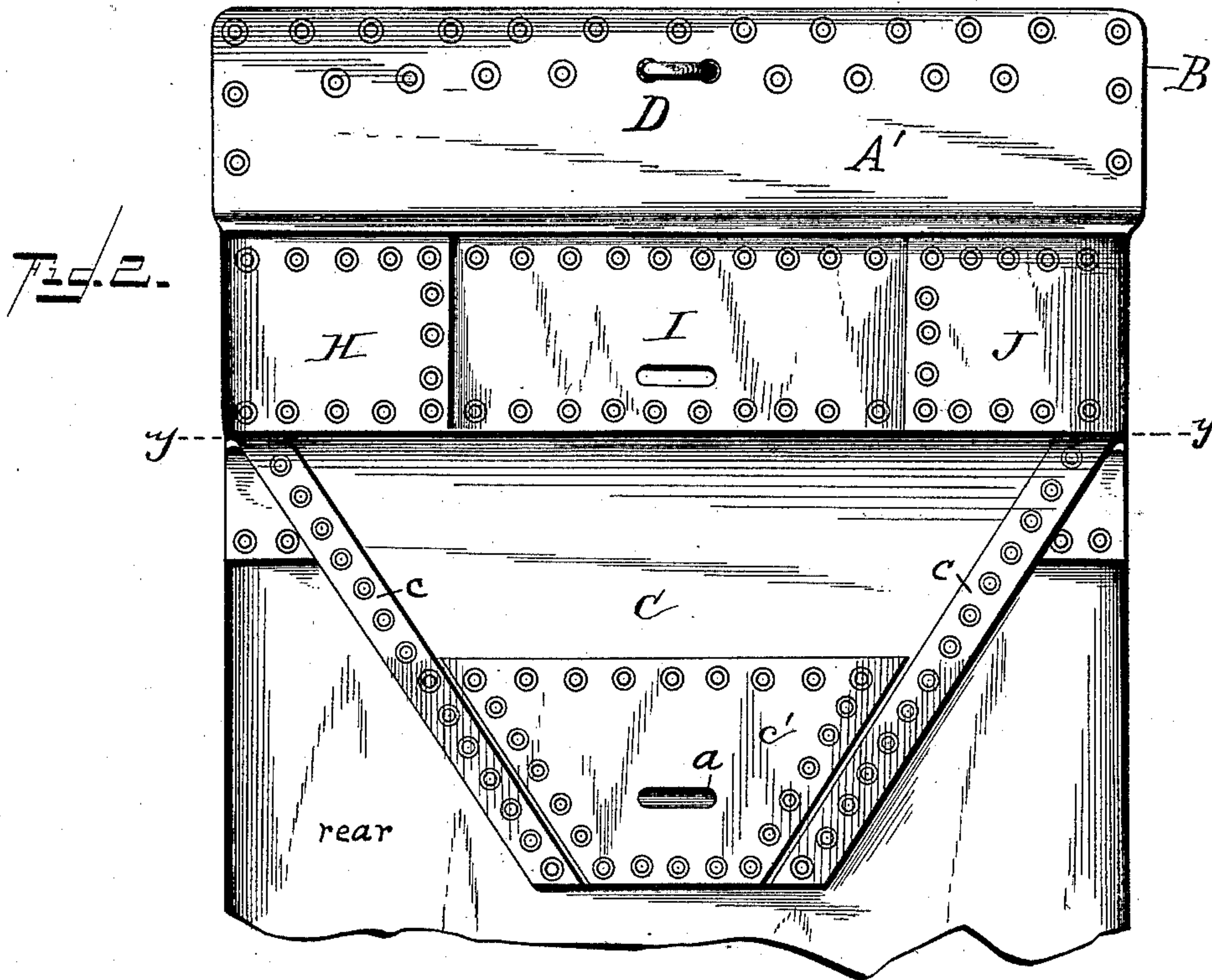
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3 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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WITNESSES

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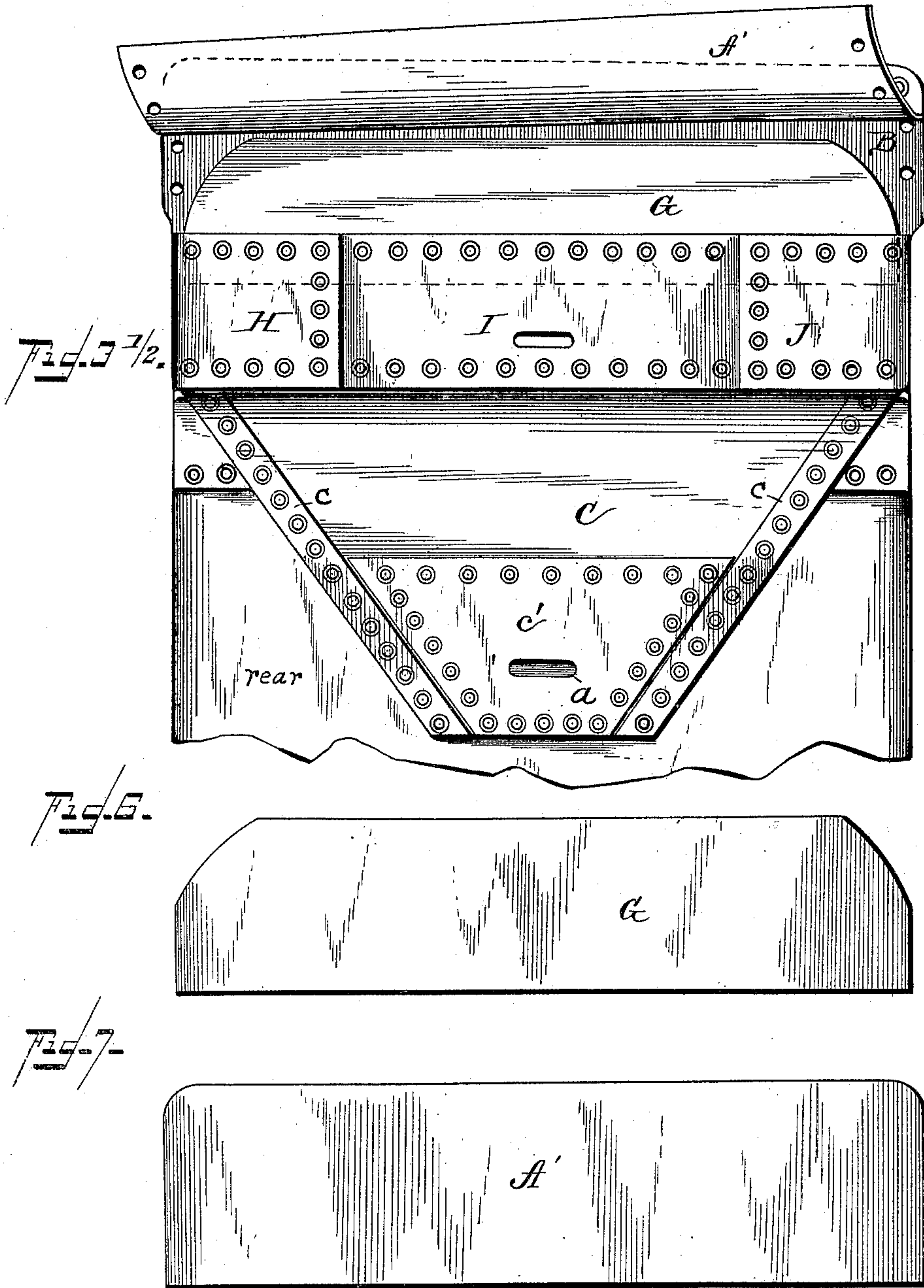
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3 Sheets—Sheet 3.

B. EDGAR.
MAIL POUCH.

No. 427,676.

Patented May 13, 1890.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BUTLER EDGAR, OF SUNBURY, PENNSYLVANIA.

MAIL-POUCH.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 427,676, dated May 13, 1890.

Application filed February 6, 1890. Serial No. 339,410. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BUTLER EDGAR, a citizen of the United States, residing at Sunbury, in the county of Northumberland and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Pouches; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The object of my invention is to produce mail-pouches simple in construction, durable in use, easily and readily opened by whoever has the right, and as near as can be impossible to be entered without violence by those who have not the right, flexible, yet firm, and in every respect thoroughly adapted to the purpose for which they are made and used.

The nature of my invention is set forth in the specification and claims.

Figure 1 is a front view of the pouch when in use, showing the staple D, the lock which fastens it, and the tag which contains the directions and its connections. Fig. 2 is a rear view of the upper section of the pouch, showing its mouth, the interior flap B, the staple D, and the line of contact where the exterior flap C is attached to the wall of the pouch along the line *y y*. Fig. 3 is a cross-section on the line *x x* of Fig. 1. Fig. 3½ is a rear front view of the pouch when open to receive its contents, showing the interior flap B, exterior flap C, aprons A' and G, and segments H, I, and J and their connections. Fig. 4 is a view of the blank or skeleton for manufacturing the pouch. Figs. 5, 6, and 7 are details of flaps B and C—that is, showing the segments and aprons. Fig. 8 is a perspective view of the tag-holder E, containing the directions.

A, Fig. 1, denotes a mail-pouch of the ordinary size made of heavy durable leather, canvas, or the two combined.

With the exception of certain parts hereinafter described in detail, the pouch may be cut, in its entirety or in sections, from the material of which it is made and firmly riveted together along one side and on the bottom.

B, Fig. 2, is an interior flap, part of the main pouch extending above the line of its mouth from three to four inches, according to the size and capacity desired, and carried out with the square corners a little more than flush with its sides when the pouch is closed. This flap B may be made integral with or attached to the body of the pouch. The purpose in so extending the extremities of the flap a little more than flush with the sides of the pouch is a protection against the mouth of the pouch springing open by rough handling and a general security against entering it by any means which does not result in its destruction. This flap folds down evenly and closely over the mouth of the pouch, and when the pouch is closed for use is firmly held in its place by the staple D and flap C, and, as stated, is designed to prevent egress out of or ingress into the pouch. This flap, when folded into position over the mouth of the pouch, reaches down to and is in complete contact with the flap C where the latter is riveted to the wall of the pouch. Attached to the rear face of this flap B by riveting to its upper edge and partially down its ends is an apron A', Figs. 3½ and 7, made of heavy leather corresponding in length to the length of the flap or width of the pouch and covering the flap down to the mouth of the pouch. The lower side of this apron is not fastened. The open ends of the staple pass through the upper or riveted side of the apron, and by means of an immovable cap may be firmly fastened to it and to the flap B.

H, I, and J, Figs. 2, 3½, and 4, are segments of the flap B, and are designed to strengthen the mouth and to give and preserve the form and firmness of the upper part of the pouch. Two of these segments H and J are extensions and may be made integral parts of this flap. Connected with it and extending therefrom they are folded around, equally in extent, the sides of the pouch and are riveted to the rear of the pouch immediately below its mouth. The segment I is detached—that is, not an integral part of the flap B—and of the same width as the segments H and J, and occupies the full space between them and the same position in relation to the mouth of the pouch, and like those just described is firmly riveted to the rear of the pouch immediately below its mouth.

G, Figs. 3½ and 6, is an apron of about the same size as that of the apron A', above described, and may be said to be a companion piece to it. It is riveted to the rear front wall and within the mouth of the pouch on the side opposite the flap B, which flap is a part of or secured to the front of the pouch. This apron G is fastened within the mouth of the pouch sufficiently down from its edge to insure complete firmness and extends sufficiently far above the line of its mouth to correspond to the unfastened portion of the apron A'. The length of this apron G corresponds to the width of the pouch measured on its inside. When the pouch is closed for use, the apron G slips under the apron A' between it and the flap B, thus absolutely sealing the mouth of the pouch.

C, Fig. 2, is an exterior flap—that is, one designed to be folded over the interior flap B—and is made of heavy leather or other suitable material firmly riveted to the rear wall of the pouch along the line *yy* and at such distance below its mouth as to be just below the end of the flap B when the latter is folded down to its place, as above described. The lower or fixed end of the flap covers the surface of the pouch fully from side to side and sufficiently below the mouth of the pouch to rivet it securely. This flap folds over the flap B and over the work end of the pouch in the direction of its length. From the point in this flap where it is riveted to the pouch it is truncated equally on both sides toward its outer end to about one-half its width, as may be necessary in use. The outer end, by means of the slot *a*, slips over the staple D and is there secured by the lock. (Shown in Fig. 1.) Along the inside of this flap, riveted to each edge, from its outer end to the line of attachment to the main body of the pouch, are two segments *c c*, Figs. 3½ and 5, about two inches wide, as use may require. Also there is attached to this flap, to the inside of the outer end, for about one-third its length, the segment *c'*, filling the entire space between the segments *c c*. The segments *c c* are designed and are put in their place to prevent the stretching and enlarging of the flap to which they are attached, and the segment *c'* is designed to give firmness and strength to the flap where it receives the staple D.

D, Figs. 1 and 3, is an iron staple of suitable length and strength, its open ends securely riveted onto the front side of the flap B and onto the opposite side of the same flap by an immovable cap, if need be, near its center measured laterally and about one inch from its upper edge. When the pouch is closed for use, this staple passes through both walls of the pouch and through the outer or movable end of the flap C and through one end of the tag E, and then receives the lock.

E, Figs. 1 and 8, is an adjustable tag-holder, whose length and breadth are regulated by use, made of two pieces of heavy leather of

unequal lengths *f f'*. The bottom or longer piece *f* exceeds the upper in length and projects at either end sufficient to permit cutting in each end two parallel slots *b b*. The upper or shorter piece *f'* is riveted to the lower along their corresponding edges, except so much of the end next the staple necessarily left open at *f²*, Fig. 8, to introduce the card containing the directions. This tag-holder lies across the pouch when it is fastened at right angles to its length, and is kept in position at one end by a metallic-capped button F, Fig. 1, inserted through the slot *b* and riveted to the side of the pouch, and the other end, by means of a similar slot, slips over the staple D. These slots *b b* are of sufficient length to give to the tag-holder a moderate freedom of motion transversely to the axis of the pouch, which does not interfere with or impair its flexibility or utility. The function of this tag-holder is to receive and protect the mailing directions of the pouch inserted through the opening *f²* in the end next the staple and secured in its place by said staple if the space between the upper and lower parts of the tag-holder is not a sufficient guard.

Here it may be remarked that my device contemplates only one staple, which closes and controls all and every egress and ingress of the pouch and renders unnecessary straps and all other appendages except the tag-holder and lock.

Having thus described my improvement, I claim—

1. In a mail-pouch, the interior flap B, having the segments H, J, and I, and the apron A', secured to said flap, in combination with the exterior flap C, having the strengthening-segments *c* and *c'* secured thereto, and the apron G, secured to the rear wall of the pouch within its mouth and adapted to engage with the apron A' on the flap B, all substantially as described.

2. In a mail-pouch, the flap B, having the segments H and J folded around the sides of the pouch and secured to its rear wall, the segment I, filling the space between the segments H and J and likewise secured to the rear wall of the pouch, and the apron A', secured to the outer edge of the flap B, in combination with the flap C, secured to the rear wall of the pouch and strengthened by the segments *c* and *c'*, the staple D whose open ends are riveted to the front side of the flap B, and the tag-holder E, secured to the front of the pouch by the button F and adapted to engage the said staple, whereby the pouch is securely locked, all substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

BUTLER EDGAR.

Witnesses:

L. T. ROHRBACH,
C. STORRS.