

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

A. S. JOHNSTON.
LETTER BOX.

No. 429,922.

Patented June 10, 1890.

Fig. 1.

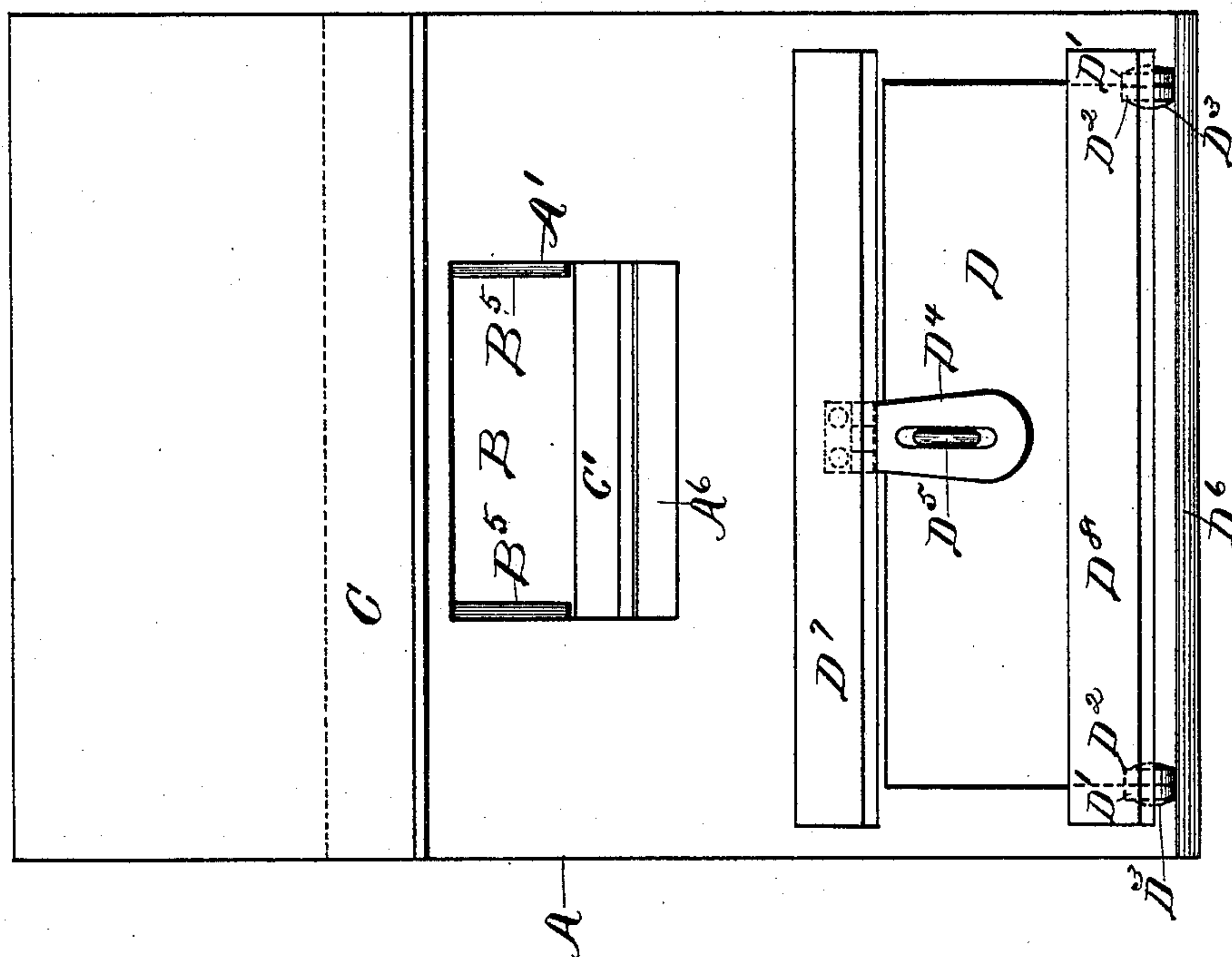
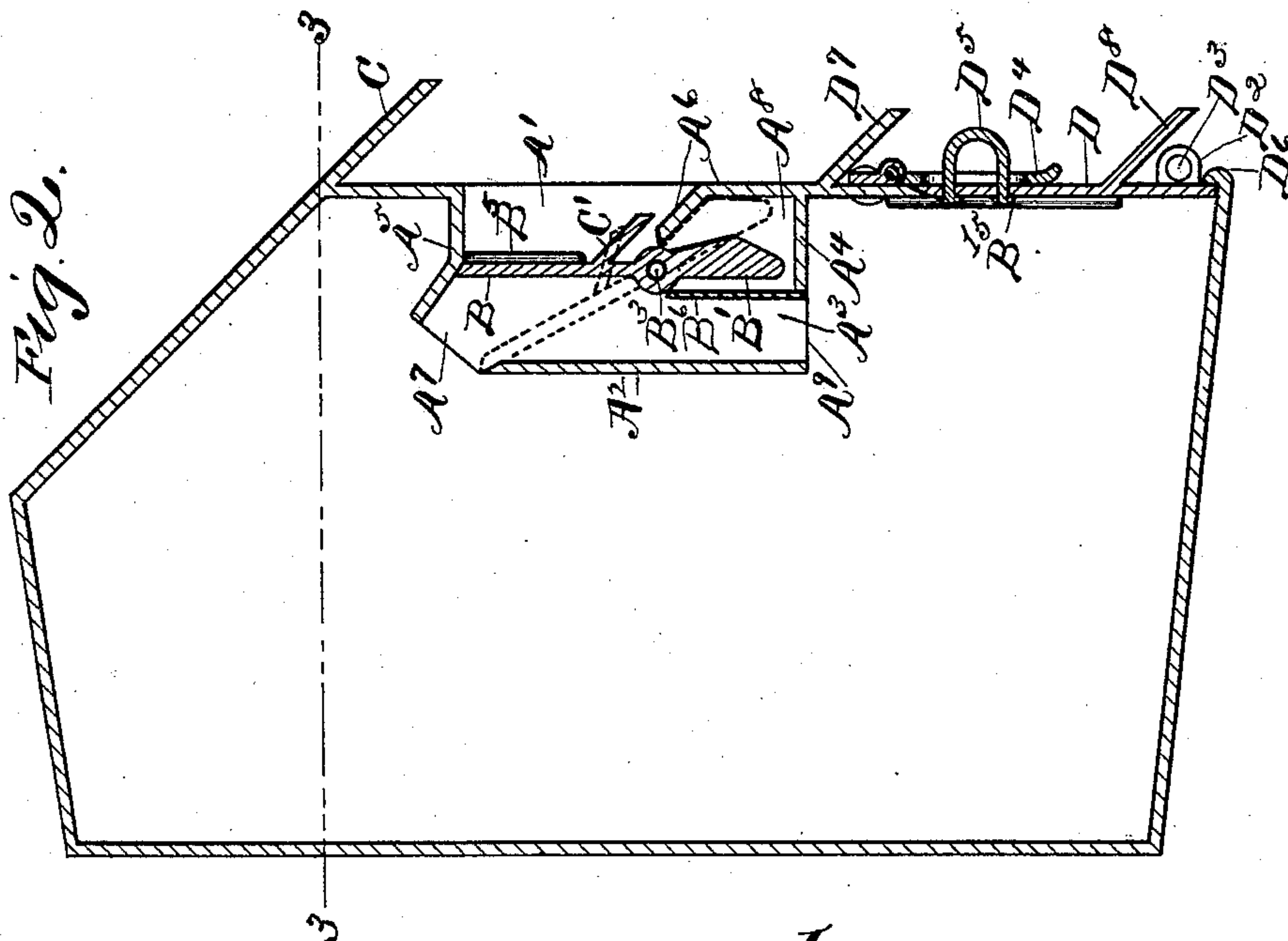


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:

Frank C. Curtis
John T. Booth

Inventor:

Arthur S. Johnston
by Geo. M. Mosher
att'y.

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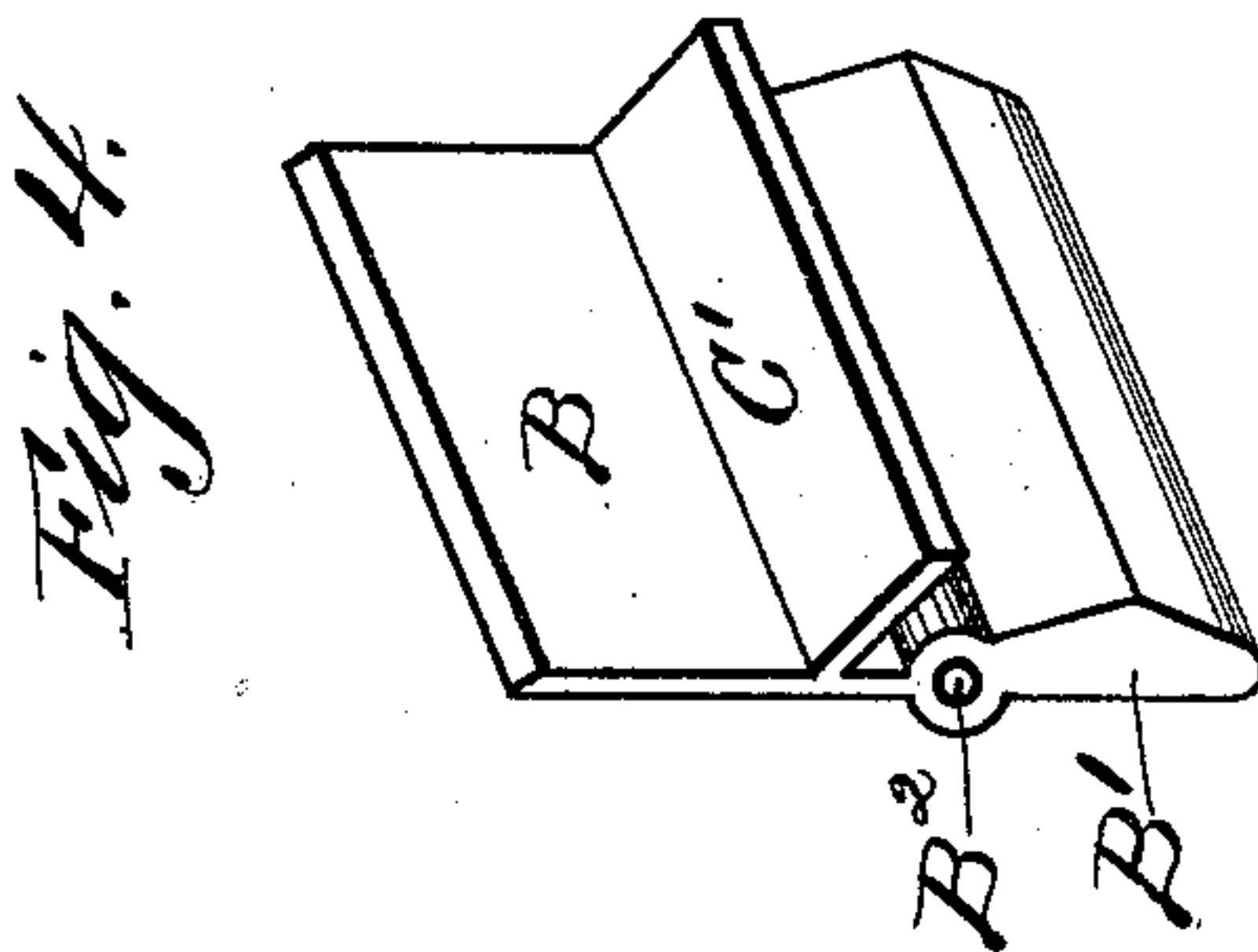
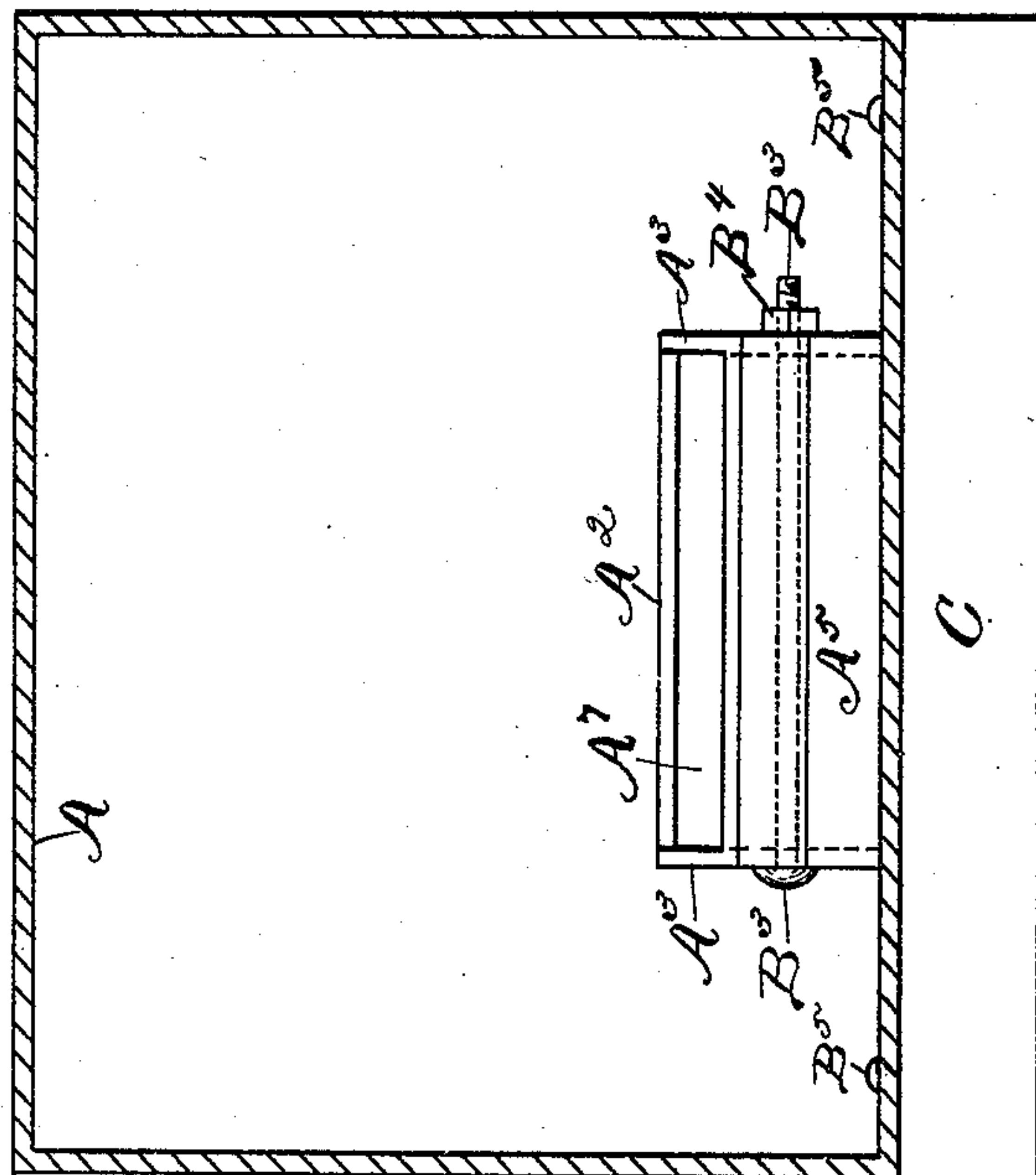


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:
Frank C. Curtis
John T. Dooch

Inventor:
Arthur S. Johnston,
by Geo. A. Mosher
Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ARTHUR S. JOHNSTON, OF WATERFORD, NEW YORK.

LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 429,922, dated June 10, 1890.

Application filed September 21, 1889. Serial No. 324,650. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARTHUR S. JOHNSTON, a resident of Waterford, in the county of Saratoga and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Boxes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, that 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.

My invention relates to improvements in letter-boxes; and it consists of the novel construction and combination of parts hereinafter described and subsequently claimed.

Similar letters refer to similar parts in the several figures therein.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a front elevation of my improved box. Fig. 2 is a central vertical cross-section. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section taken on the broken line 3 3 in Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a view in perspective of the oscillatory weighted lid.

A is the letter-box, preferably made of metal, having in its front wall a porch or vestibule opening A'. The vestibule is inclosed on all sides, except the front, by a case projecting interiorly of the box. The case is composed of the vertical rear wall A² and end walls A³, the floor A⁴, and the ceiling A⁵. The lower portion of the vestibule is closed in front by the fixed wall A⁶, which extends vertically from the floor a short distance upward, and then inward to the oscillatory lid or door B. The lid is provided on its lower part with thickened or weighted portions B' and immediately of the upper and the weighted parts with a pintle-socket B², adapted to receive the pintle B³. The pintle is passed through such socket and suitable bearings in the vertical end walls of the vestibule case or frame and secured by nut B⁴. The roof or ceiling of the vestibule is provided with an opening or letter-port A⁷, adapted to receive letters and small parcels. The weighted lid is so located upon its pintle that when oscillated its upper part will oscillate from the position in the letter-port shown by the dotted lines in Fig. 2 to that shown by the solid lines in the same figure. When the lid is in

the position shown by such solid lines the rear portion of the vestibule and the letter-port are entirely closed, and when in the position shown by such dotted lines the upper part of the vestibule and the letter-port are open and adapted to receive letters which may be easily pushed through the same into the box. The lower part of the lid, being weighted and made heavier than the upper part, is so shaped that its normal position when left free to the influence of gravity is closed, as shown by solid lines in Fig. 2.

To deposit a letter or other small parcel in the box, it is only necessary to insert one end of the parcel in the upper part of the vestibule against the lid, and as the latter, yielding to the slight pressure, recedes to the position shown by the dotted lines in Fig. 2, push the parcel through the port A⁷ into the box, whereupon the lid at once falls to its closed position. It is obvious that only one hand is required to make such deposit, which is a matter of importance when the other hand is occupied, for example, in carrying an umbrella.

To facilitate the introduction of compressible packages—such as folded newspapers—I provide the upper side of the letter-port with a short interiorly-projecting wall, which in connection with the open lid forms a conduit leading from the vestibule to the interior of the box, which conduit has a comparatively large exterior opening or mouth and a contracted interior or discharge opening, whereby a folded and wrapped newspaper normally thicker than the width of the port can be easily forced through the contracted conduit into the box with one hand without danger of tearing the wrapper.

The lower inclosed portion A⁸ of the vestibule forms a chamber for the free oscillation of the weighted portion of the lid, the latter being protected from the contents of the box by the floor A⁴ and shield B⁶. In the same way the rear vestibule-wall A² protects the upper portion of the lid from the contents of the box, and at the same time affords a strong stop for the lid to prevent its being forced open beyond its oscillatory limit. It will be observed that the lid when forced open effectually closes the chamber formed in the rear portion of the vestibule; but lest by some

chance a letter should enter such chamber instead of the box proper I provide the opening A⁹ in the vestibule-floor, through which the letter will fall into the box proper.

5 B⁵ are beads formed upon the vestibule-walls to act as jambs or stops for the lid and afford protection from the weather. The upper wall of the box is inclined to form a water-shed, and the front portion is extended
10 to form the projecting shield C to aid in protecting the vestibule from rain and sleet. The lid is also provided with a storm-shield C', to protect the joint formed between its pintle-socket and the vestibule-wall A⁶. The lower
15 part of the box may be provided with any known form of door for removing the contents of the box.

I have shown a door D, hinged at its lower edge by the lugs D' and D² and pintles or
20 rivet D³. The upper edge is secured to the box by a hasp D⁴ and staple D⁵, adapted to receive a padlock. The lower edge of the door is further secured when closed by the bead D⁶ on the bottom of the box proper, so that the
25 door could not be opened when locked even if the hinges were broken.

The door-joints are protected by the rain-shields D⁷ and D⁸, and B¹⁵ are beads or stops

formed on the inside of the wall of the box at the end of the door-opening.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, with a letter-box case, of a vestibule-case having a letter-port leading interiorly of the box and a weight-controlled oscillatory port-lid pivoted to oscillate
35 in such vestibule-case, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with a letter-box case having an inwardly-converging conduit forming a letter-port leading into such box, of an oscillatory port-lid, which lid forms when open one of the converging walls of such conduit, substantially as described.

3. The combination, with a letter-box case, of a vestibule-case having a passage-way through A⁷ and A⁹ and a passage-way through A⁷ and A', and a lid oscillatory from one passage-way to the other, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of September, 1889.

ARTHUR S. JOHNSTON.

Witnesses:

GEO. A. MOSHER,
CHAS. L. ALDEN.