

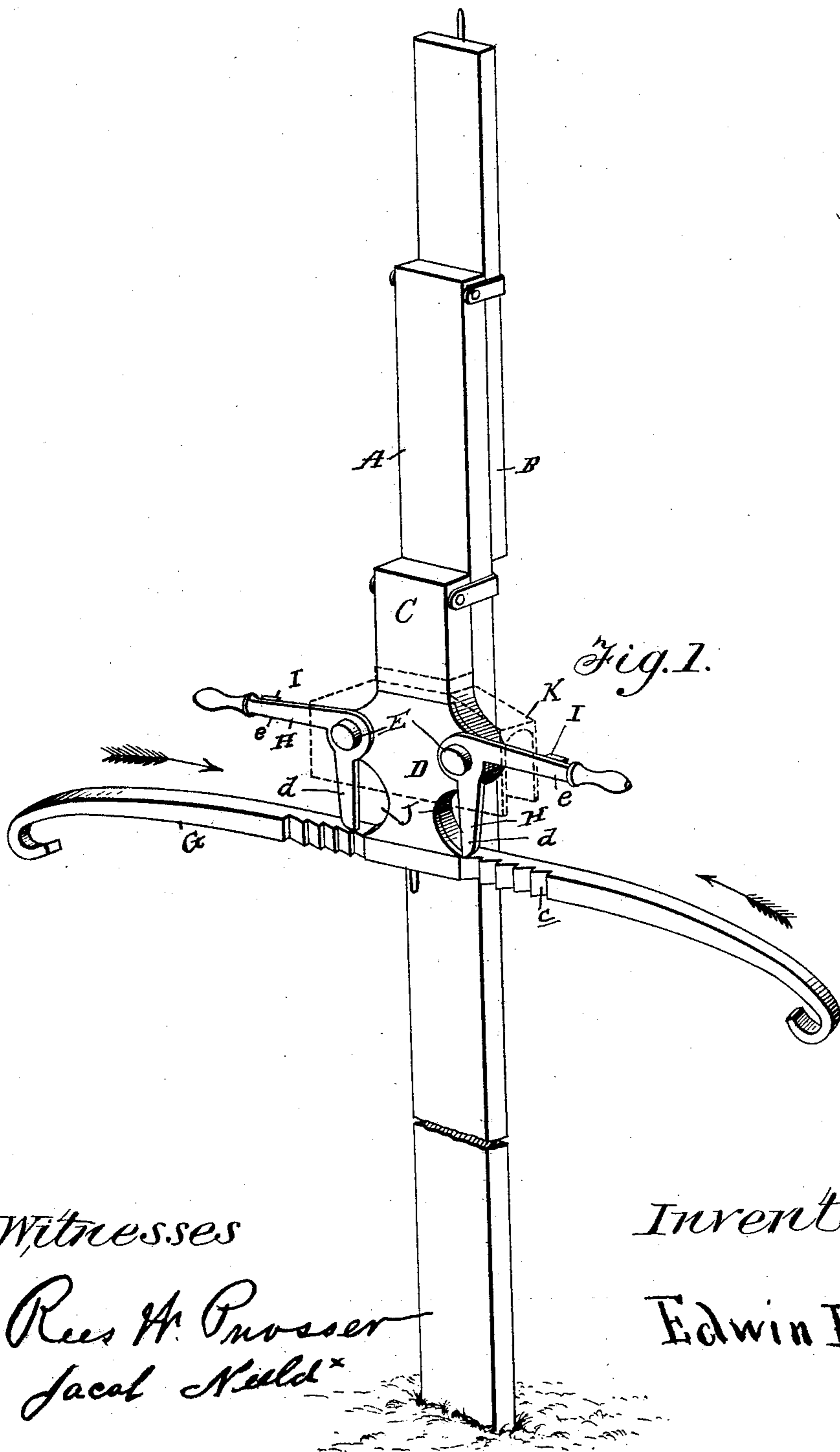
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

E. LEACH.
MAIL BAG CATCHER.

No. 452,711.

Patented May 19, 1891.



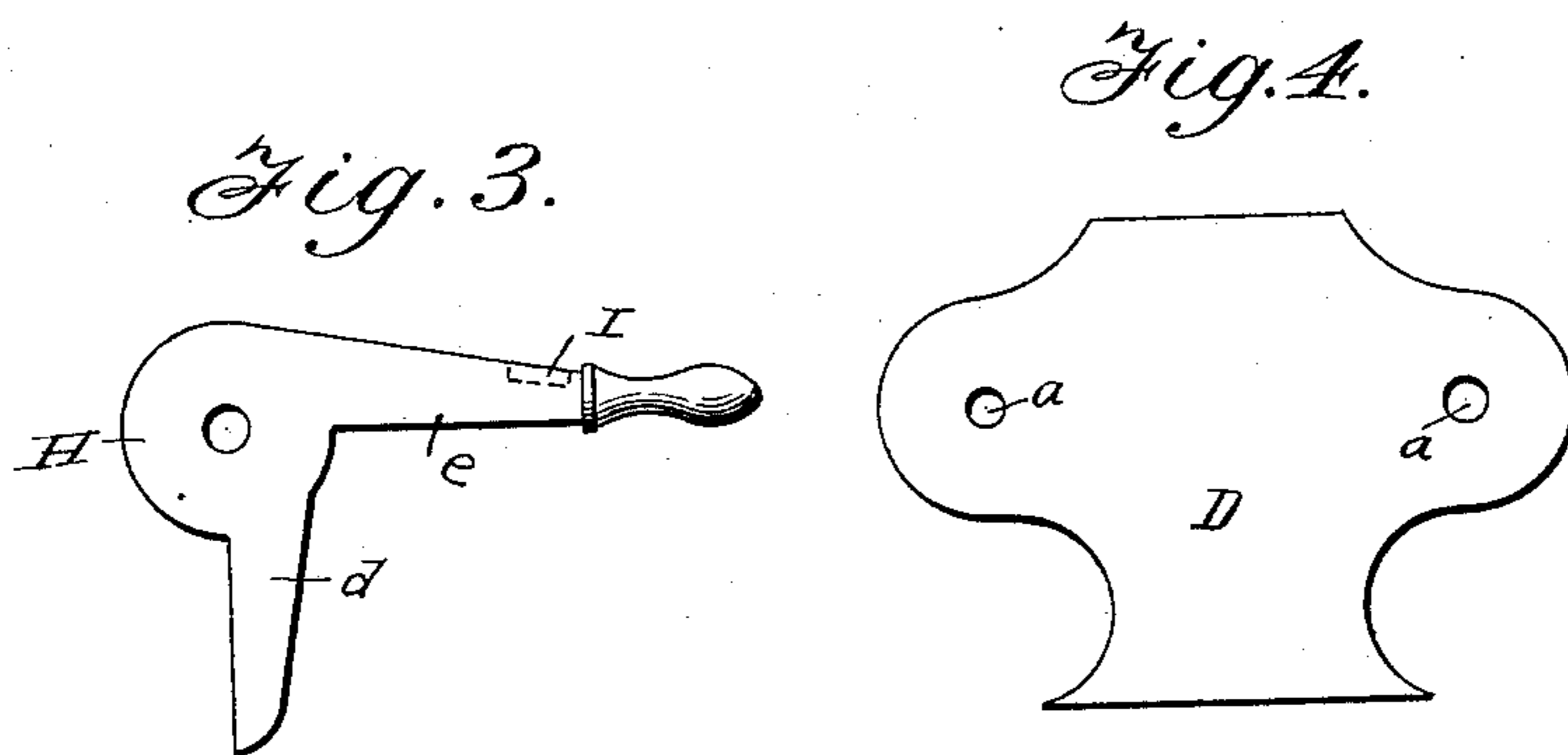
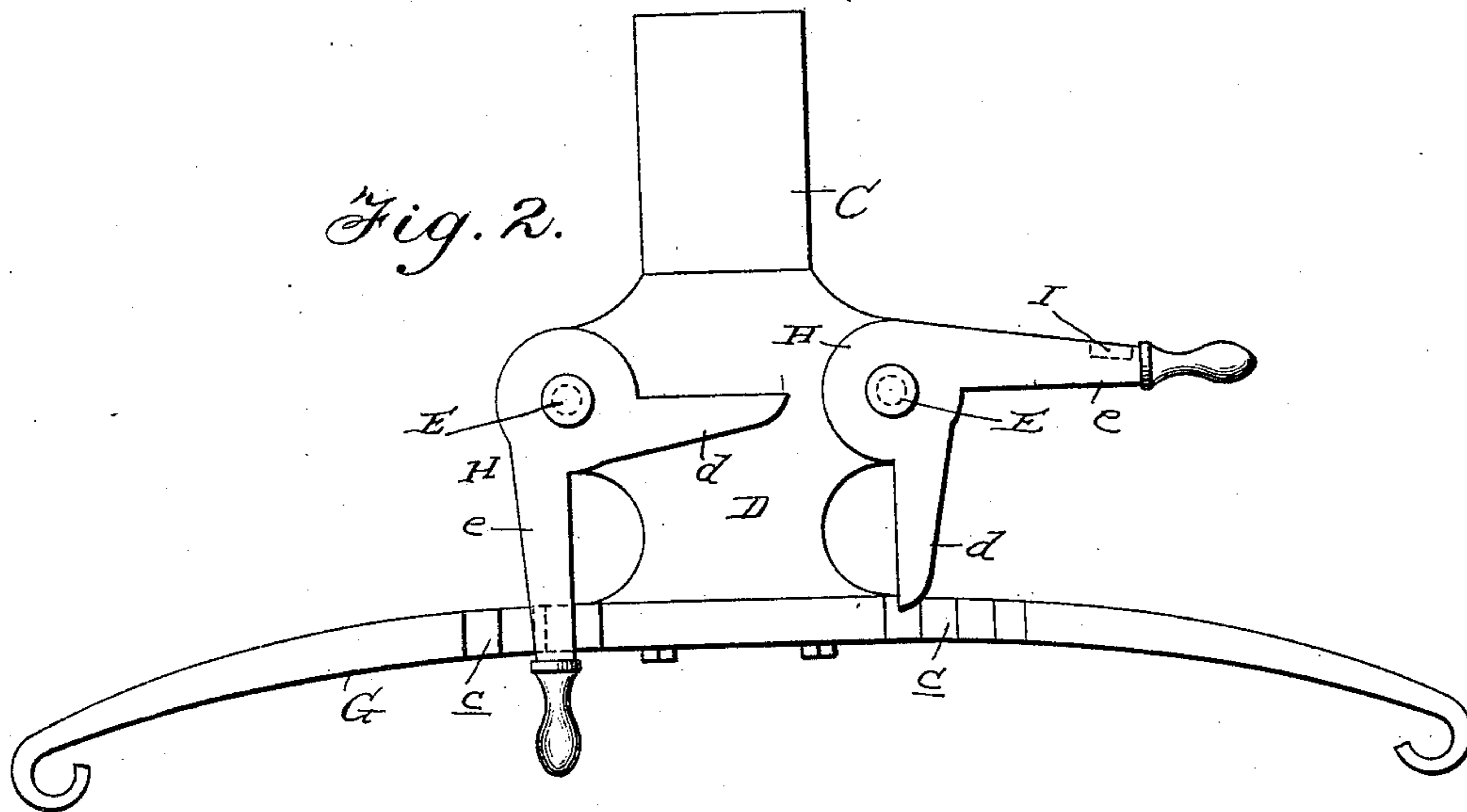
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MAIL BAG CATCHER.

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Witnesses:

Russ H. Prosser.
Jacob Reed^x

Inventor:

Edwin Leach

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN LEACH, OF SELLERSBURG, INDIANA.

MAIL-BAG CATCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 452,711, dated May 19, 1891.

Application filed January 19, 1891. Serial No. 378,382. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWIN LEACH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Sellersburg, in the county of Clark and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bag Catchers; 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.

My invention relates to improvements in devices for catching mail-bags from moving trains, and the novelty will be fully understood from the following description and claims, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improvements applied to an ordinary mail-bag crane or hanger and occupying an inoperative position. Fig. 2 is a top plan view of my improved catching device. Fig. 3 is a plan of one of the angular catching-levers. Fig. 4 is a similar view of the base-plate, and Fig. 5 is a side view of the pivot-bolt connecting the angular levers to the base-plate.

In the said drawings similar letters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views, referring to which—

A indicates the upright of an ordinary mail-bag crane, and B indicates the pivotally-mounted hanger-beam attached thereto, which is adapted to assume a horizontal position for the attachment of the upper end of a mail-bag to be taken aboard a moving train.

C indicates another hanger arm or branch, which is pivotally connected at a suitable elevation to the upright A, and is adapted to assume a horizontal position for the attachment of the lower end of a mail-bag and to take the mail-bag-catching devices into an operative position. This hanger C is preferably enlarged at its lower or outer end for the attachment of a base-plate D, which is preferably about the proportional width illustrated, and is provided adjacent to its side edges with transverse apertures *a* for the reception of pivot or fulcrum bolts E, which are preferably shouldered, as shown, and are adapted to take through the plate D and hanger C to connect the same, and are also adapted to pivotally connect the angular catching-levers

to said plate D. The said plate D and hanger C have their edges recessed in a preferably curvilinear manner, as illustrated at J, to form a seat for the reception of the bag which is taken from a moving train. Connected in a suitable manner to the lower or outer end of the hanger C and plate D is a bar G, which is slightly curved downwardly or outwardly, and has its ends curved sharply upon themselves, as better shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings. Upon the front or upperside of the bar G adjacent to the side edges of the hanger C and plate D, I form series of rack-teeth *c*, which are respectively pitched toward the plate and hanger and are designed for a purpose presently to be pointed out.

H indicates the angular catching-levers, which are pivotally connected to the plate D by the bolts E, before described. These levers H comprise comparatively short trigger branch *d* and a catch branch *e*, which is preferably provided with a hand-grip at its end. The catch branch *e* of the respective levers is provided on its inner or lower side with a lug I, which is adapted to engage the rack-teeth *c* of the bar G to hold the caught bag.

K indicates a suitable hood, which is attached to the hanger C so as to cover and protect a portion of the angular levers from the weather, &c.

In operation the hangers B and C are swung into horizontal positions for the attachment of a mail-bag, and the levers H are set or adjusted so that their trigger branches *d* will occupy a position at right angles to the bar G. The attendant upon the approaching train adjusts his catcher to obtain the bag supported by the hangers B and C, and if he has any mail for the point at which the catcher is situated he hangs the bag so that when the train reaches the catcher the bag will be guided by the curved bar G against the trigger branch *d* of one of the levers H, which will cause the branch *e* of said lever to swing down, when the lug I thereof will engage the rack-teeth upon the bar G and lock the bag in one of the curvilinear recesses of the plate D and hanger C.

Although I have specifically described the form, construction, and manner of connecting the several elements of my invention, yet

it is obvious that in practice such changes or modifications may be made as fully fall within the scope of my invention.

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

1. In a mail-bag catcher, the combination, with a horizontally-disposed guide-bar provided with rack-teeth upon one of its sides, of a pivotally-mounted angular lever comprising a trigger branch and a branch adapted to engage the rack-teeth of the guide-bar, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. In a mail-bag catcher, the combination, with an upright and a hanger pivotally connected thereto, of a horizontally-disposed guide-bar connected to said hanger and having rack-teeth on one of its sides, and a pivotally-mounted angular lever connected to the hanger and comprising a trigger branch and a branch adapted to engage the rack-teeth of the guide-bar, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a mail-bag catcher, the combination, with a hanger and a horizontally-disposed guide-bar connected thereto and having rack-teeth on one of its sides, of a pivotally-mounted angular lever connected to the hanger and comprising a trigger branch and a branch having a lug adapted to engage the

rack-teeth of the guide-bar, substantially as specified.

4. In a mail-bag catcher, the combination, with an upright, a hanger pivotally connected to said upright, a plate attached to said hanger, and a horizontally-disposed guide-bar attached to the hanger and plate and having two series of rack-teeth on one of its sides, of angular levers comprising, respectively, a trigger branch and a branch adapted to engage one of the series of rack-teeth, and a hood attached to the hanger and adapted to cover a portion of the angular levers, substantially as described.

5. In a mail-bag catcher, the combination, with a hanger having its edges recessed, as described, and a horizontally-disposed curved bar connected thereto and having rack-teeth on one of its sides, of an angular lever pivotally connected to said hanger and comprising a trigger branch and a branch adapted to engage the rack-teeth of the horizontal curved bar, substantially as and for the purpose described.

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

EDWIN LEACH.

Witnesses:

JACOB NEELD,
REES W. PROSSER.