

(No Model.)

J. F. ALLEN.
MAIL BAG.

No. 473,603.

Patented Apr. 26, 1892.

Fig 1.

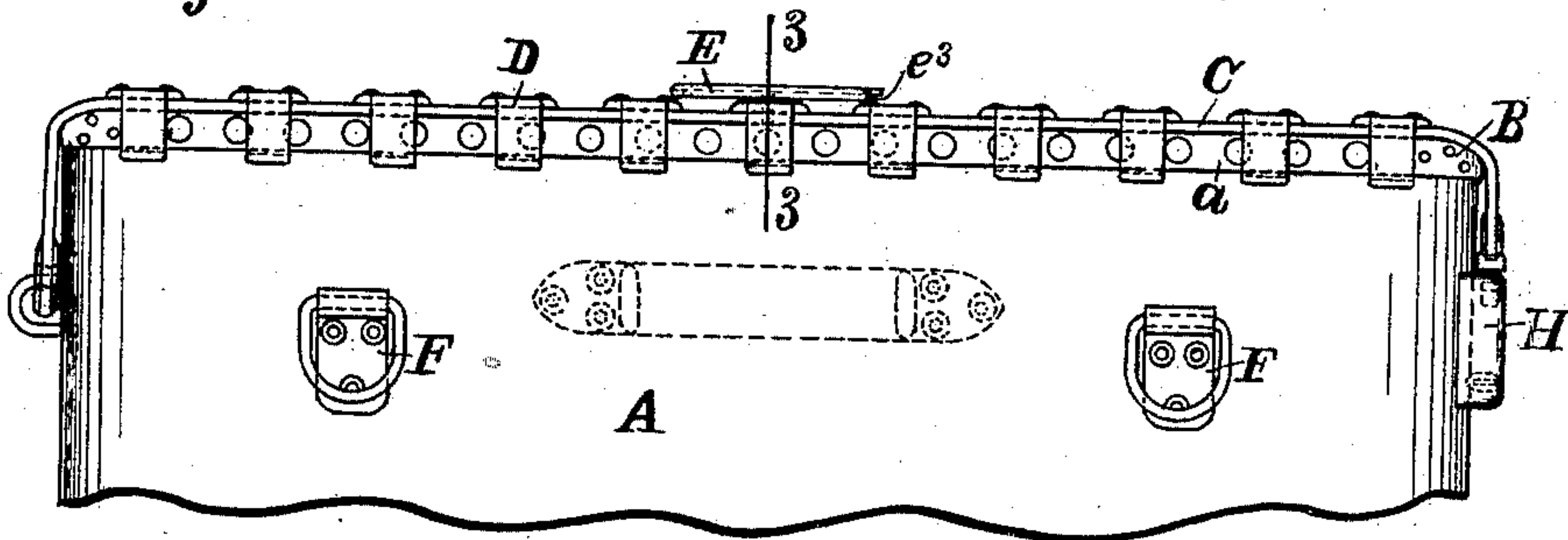


Fig 2.

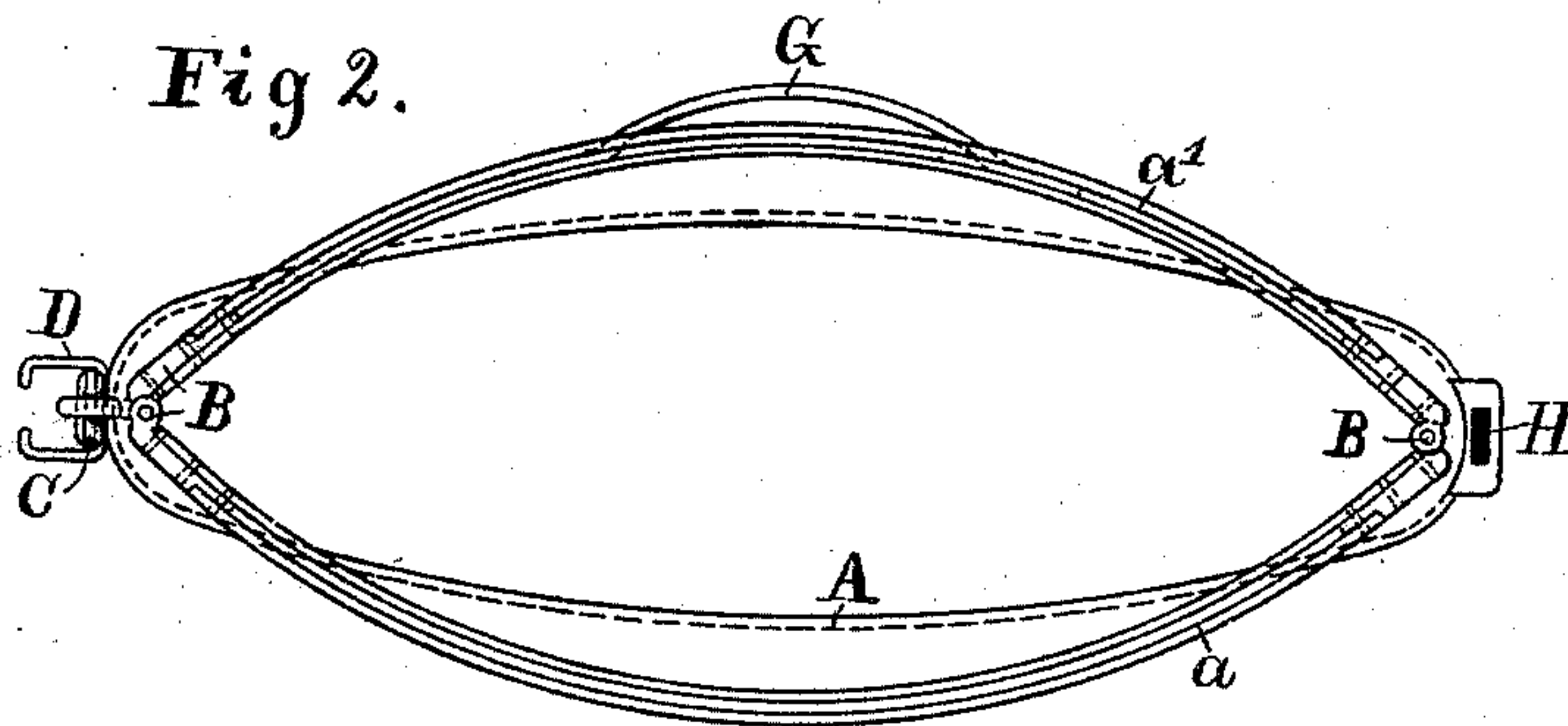


Fig 3.

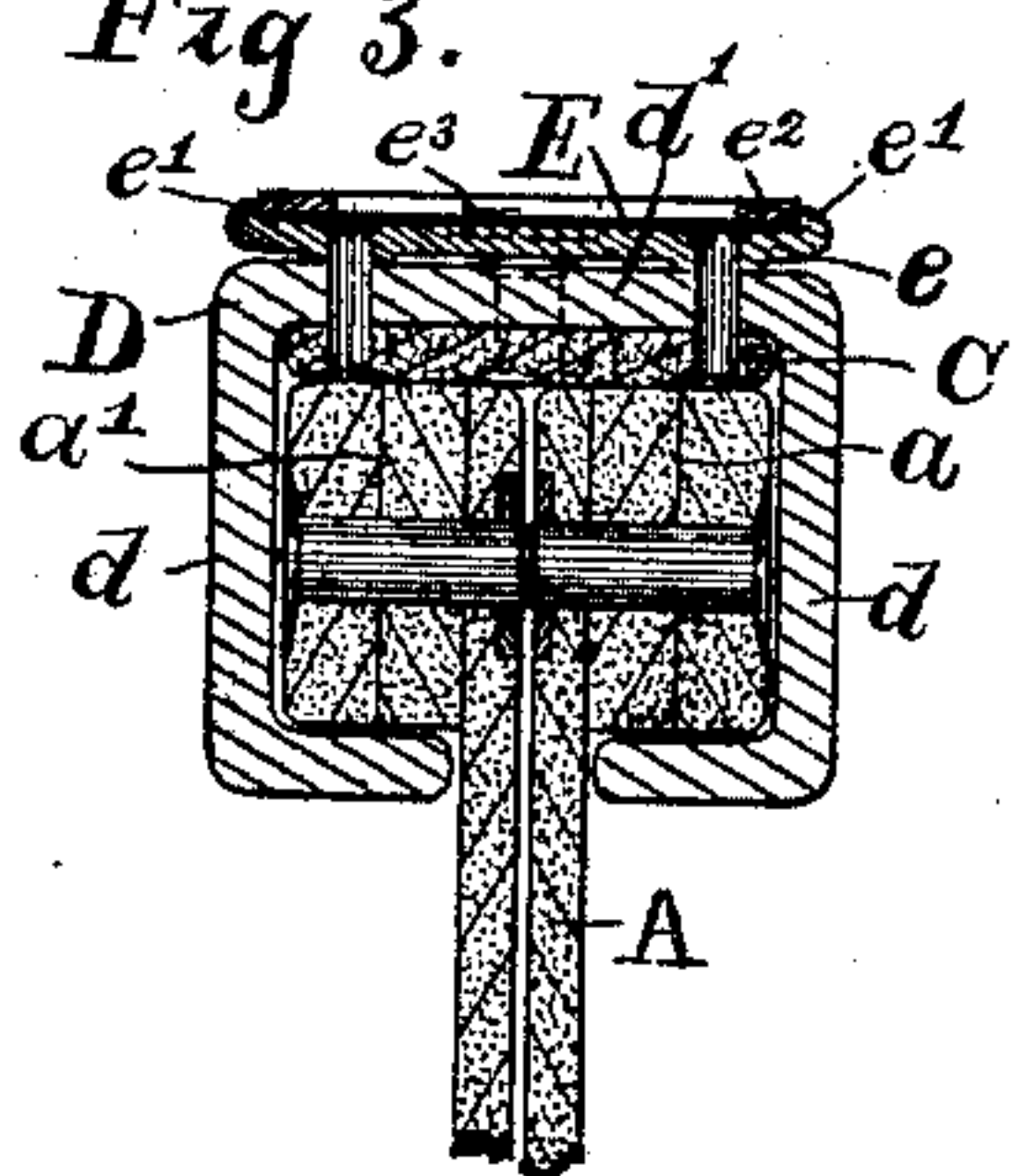


Fig 4.

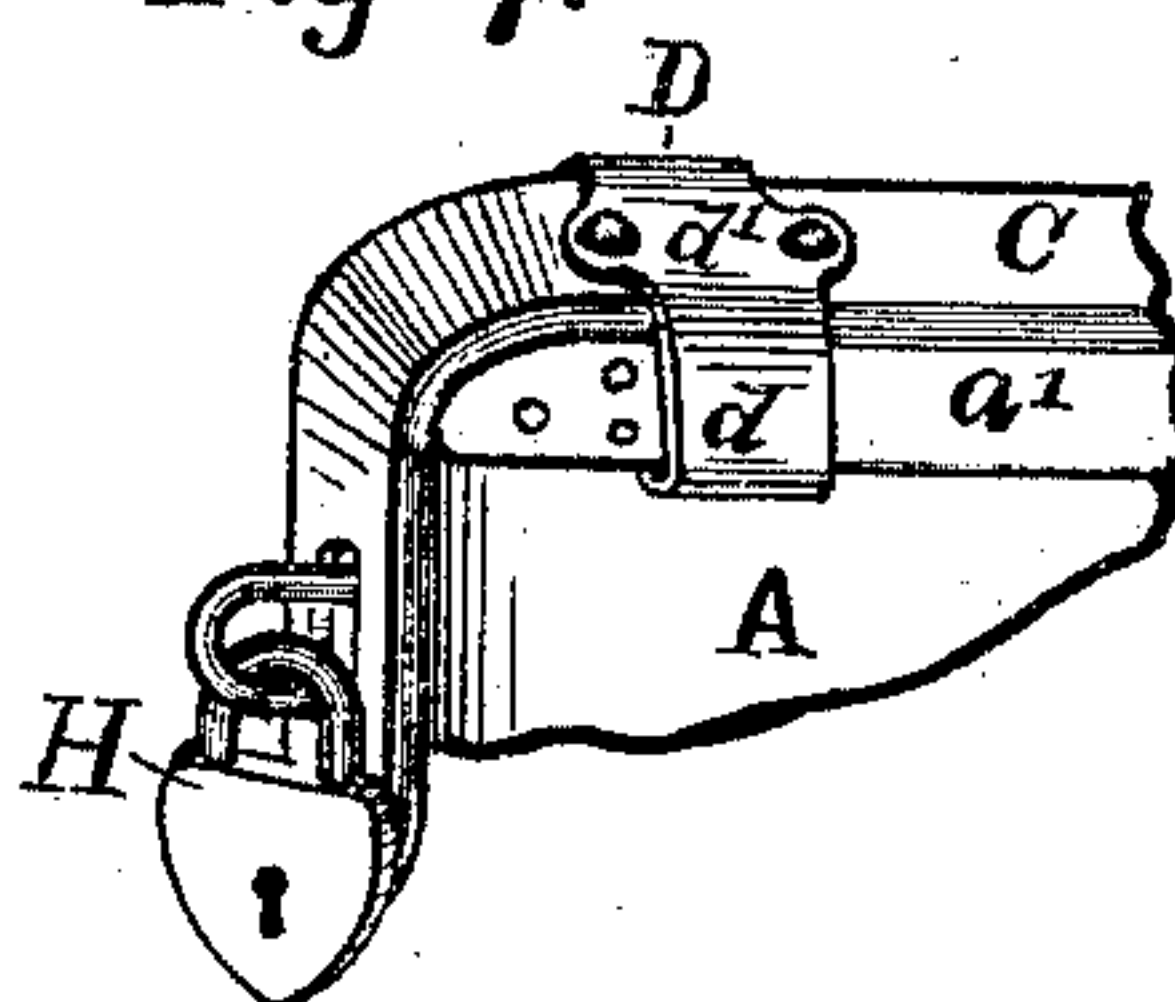
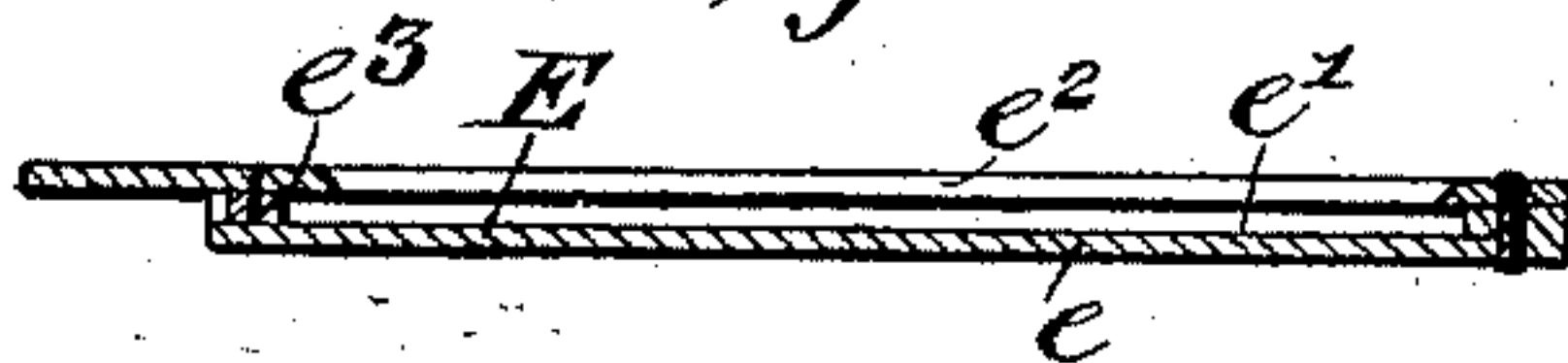


Fig 5.



WITNESSES.

Frank Miller.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES F. ALLEN, OF ELYRIA, OHIO.

MAIL-BAG.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 473,603, dated April 26, 1892.

Application filed June 1, 1891. Renewed March 30, 1892. Serial No. 426,996. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES F. ALLEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Elyria, in the county of Lorain and State of Ohio, have
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bags, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to the class of mail-bags in which external flanges or welts secured along its upper edge are grasped by a
10 clasp or series of clasps when the mouth of the bag is closed for the purpose of holding it closed.

The primary object of my invention is to
15 provide a bag of the above-described class the top edges of which may be quickly and correctly laid together in a position where they may be grasped by a series of clasps secured to a flexible strap and in which there will be
20 comparatively little wear and tear incident to the fastening, unfastening, and filling of the bag.

My invention consists in the construction and combination of parts hereinafter described, all of which will be definitely pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side view of top part of mail-bag. Fig. 2 is a top view of the bag when open. Fig. 3 is a vertical section on line 3 3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a view of
30 one upper corner of the bag when closed and fastened by means of a padlock. Fig. 5 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view of the label-holder.

35 I will now proceed to describe in detail the mail-bag shown in the drawings, which is the best embodiment of my invention now known to me.

Referring to the parts by letters, A represents a leather mail-bag of the regulation size and shape. Along the upper end of said bag are two exterior flanges $a a'$, each of which extends substantially one-half of the distance around the top of the bag. By thus employ-
45 ing two hinged flanges the bag may be readily folded at the points where said flanges meet and the two flanged edges thereby brought into contact the entire distance across the bag. These flanges are formed by rivet-
50 ing to the bag strips of belt-leather about one-half inch wide. As many thicknesses of leather may be employed as may be necessary

to form a flange of the requisite thickness. I have found by experiment that if the flanges project from the bag about three-eighths of
55 an inch they will be strong enough to perform their functions as parts of the fastening device and at the same time flexible enough to permit the bag to be opened sufficiently. The outer edges of the flanges are preferably
60 slightly beveled, as shown, which form facilitates the work of drawing the clasps across the top of the bag for the purpose of fastening the same in a closed position.

In order to strengthen the bag to make it
65 more durable and to facilitate the closing and fastening thereof, I fasten to the proximate ends of the flanges $a a'$ the straps or leaves of the hinges B B. These hinges are riveted to said flanges and are curved slightly
70 downward from their upper edges toward their pintles, wherefore the clasps slide over said flanges more easily. The hinges also protect the ends of the flanges from wear, they relieve the leather of the bag from strain when the
75 bag is hanging open, and in closing the bag they accurately bring the flanged edges thereof together, as shown.

C represents a flexible strap, preferably made of leather and substantially as wide as
80 the distance between the outer edges of said flanges when the bag is closed. To this strap I fasten a number of depending curved fingers $d d$, arranged on both sides of the strap and of such shape that they extend around
85 and under the flanges $a a'$, and thus prevent said flanges from being drawn apart. In the form shown two of these fingers are made integral with a connecting-band d' , thereby forming a clamp D, which lies on top of the
90 strap, to which it is secured by rivets. This leaves the underside of the strap, which slides in contact with the top of the bag, substantially smooth.

In order to prevent the strap from being
95 lost or mislaid and for the further purpose of holding it in the proper relation to the flanges, one end thereof is attached to the bag, as shown, by means of an eye in its end and a staple secured to the bag, or in any other suitable manner. The other end of the strap may
100 be locked to the bag when the bag has been fastened by means of a hasp on its end, a staple on the bag, and a padlock, as shown in

Fig. 4, or a spring-lock H may be secured to the bag, as shown in Fig. 1, and a bolt *e*, adapted to be caught in said lock, may be secured to the end of the strap. This I regard
5 as the best construction, for the reasons that the lock can never be lost or mislaid, and it is always in place to be quickly locked.

The rings F F, secured to one side of the bag, and the handle G, secured to the other
10 side, may engage with the hooks of the common postoffice-frame, and the bag thereby held open during the time it is being filled.

To fasten the above-described bag, the two flanged edges are brought together, the first
15 clamp is drawn to a position where it embraces both of said flanged edges, whereupon the strap may be pulled quickly across the top of the bag, and all of the other clamps following the first clamp embrace the two flanged
20 edges and prevent them from being drawn apart. The free edge of the strap may then be locked to the bag in the above-described manner. In addition to serving as the support for the clamps and the medium through
25 which said clamps may be drawn into place and there held, the strap serves as a cover for the mouth of the bag, which so effectually closes the same that no dirt or rain can enter it when the two edges are fastened together,
30 as above shown. To unfasten the bag, it is only necessary to unfasten the locked end of the strap, which may then be pulled off to one side, thereby freeing the clamps from the flanges.

35 Secured to one of the clamps D is the label-holder E, which consists in the form shown of a bottom plate *e*, vertical flanges *e'*, springing from said plate at one end and both sides, and a top plate *e''*, made of spring metal,
40 which is secured at one end to the flanges and has a lug or flange *e'''* depending from its

free end. To insert a label, the free end is lifted and the label pushed into the holder. When the free end of the spring-plate is released, it springs back and the lug prevents
45 the withdrawal of the label until it is again lifted. By attaching the label-holder to only one of the clamps D it does not affect the necessary flexibility of the strap, to which said clamps are attached, while at the same time
50 the label-holder is held in a position most convenient for reference.

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

1. In a mail-bag, the combination of the bag A, flanges *a a'*, applied at the mouth or upper edge of the bag and forming a flexible strengthening-binding from end to end of the bag, hinges B, having their leaves attached
60 to the contiguous ends of the flanges, a flexible, sliding, closing, and locking strap placed on the top edge of the bag, so as to close the joint, and a series of angular pendent clamps connected to the strap and bearing against
65 and under the flanges, substantially as described.

2. In combination, the bag having the flanges, as described, the strap having the sliding clamps engaging said flanges, and the
70 label-holder formed of a plate *e*, having vertical flanges *e'* at one end and both sides, movable spring top plate *e''*, secured at one end to an end flange and provided with a flange *e'''*, depending from its free end, and said holder
75 being attached to one of the clamps of the closing and locking strap, substantially as described.

JAMES F. ALLEN.

Witnesses:

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