

(No Model.)

W. L. BYARD & H. W. SARGENT.
MAIL BAG FASTENING.

No. 540,577.

Patented June 4, 1895.

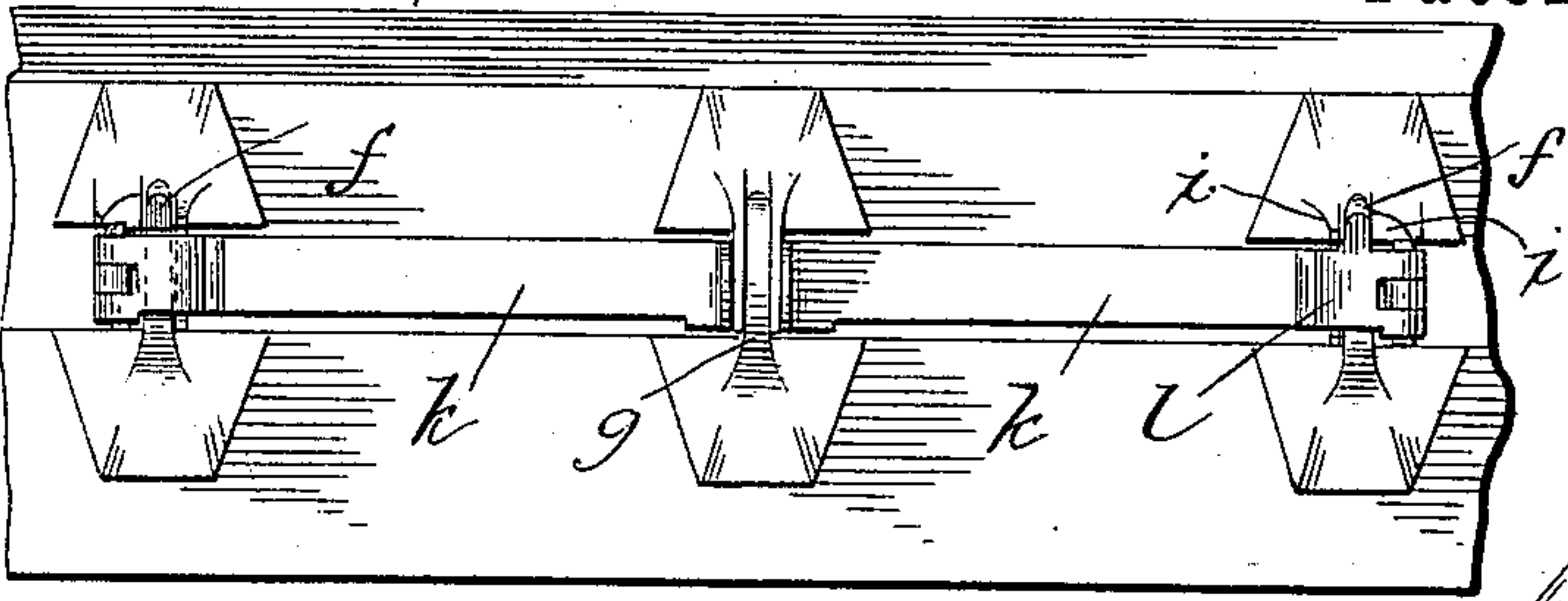


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

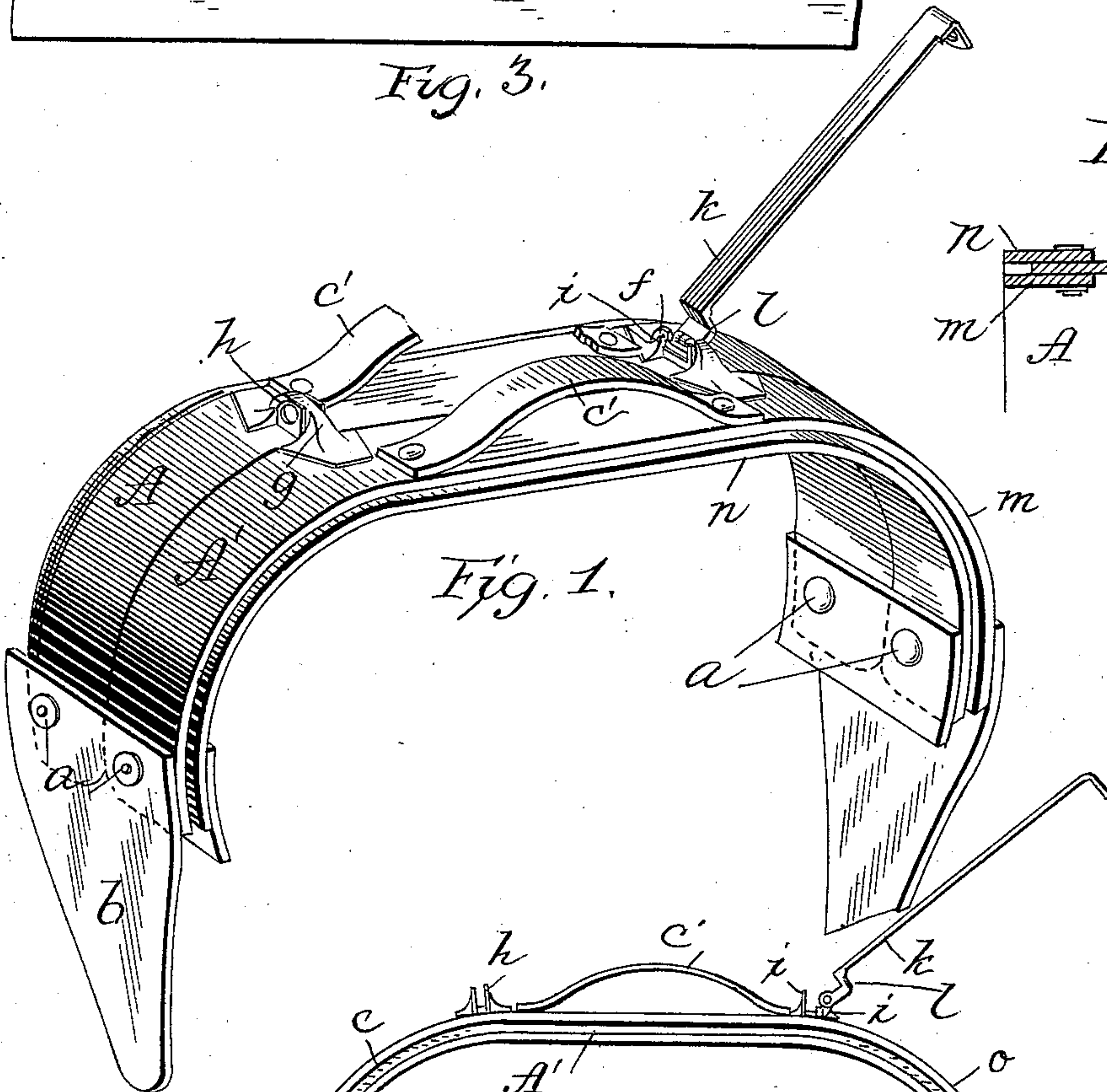
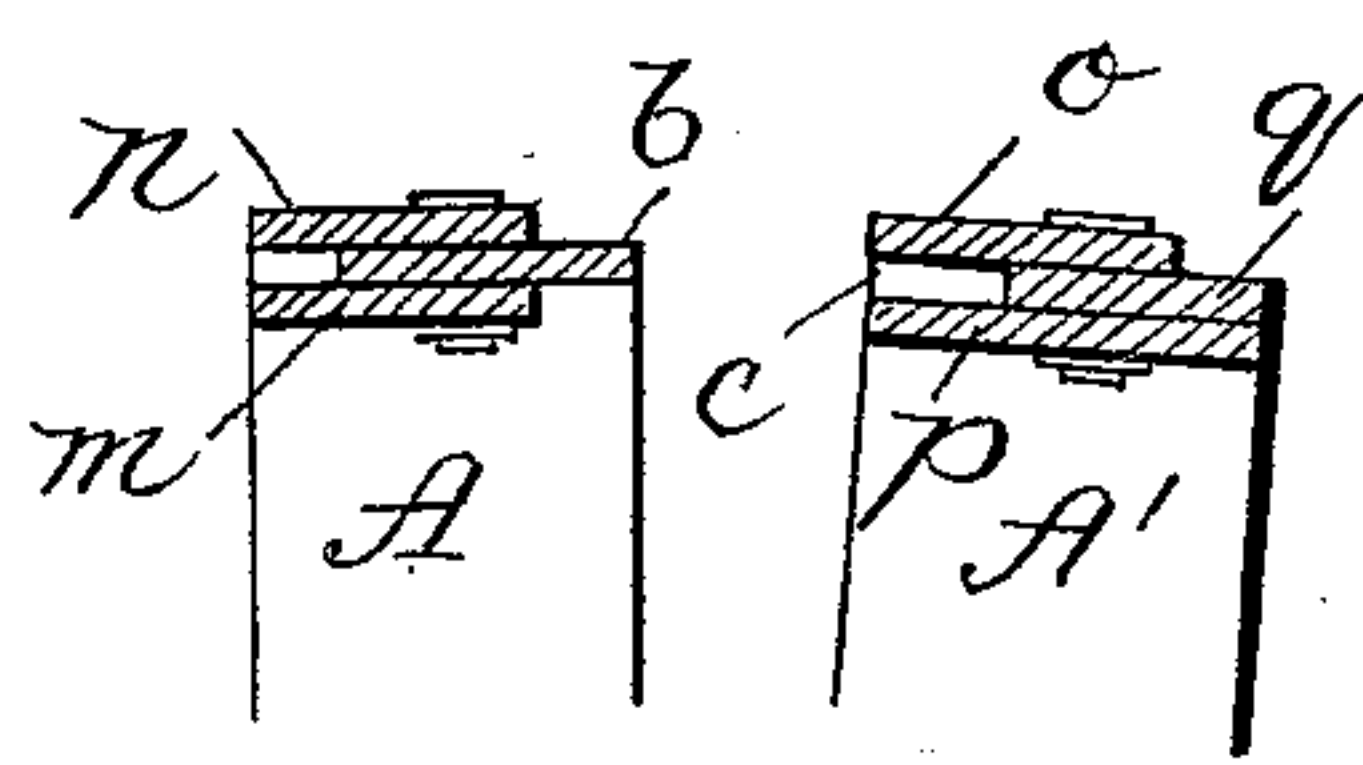


Fig. 1.

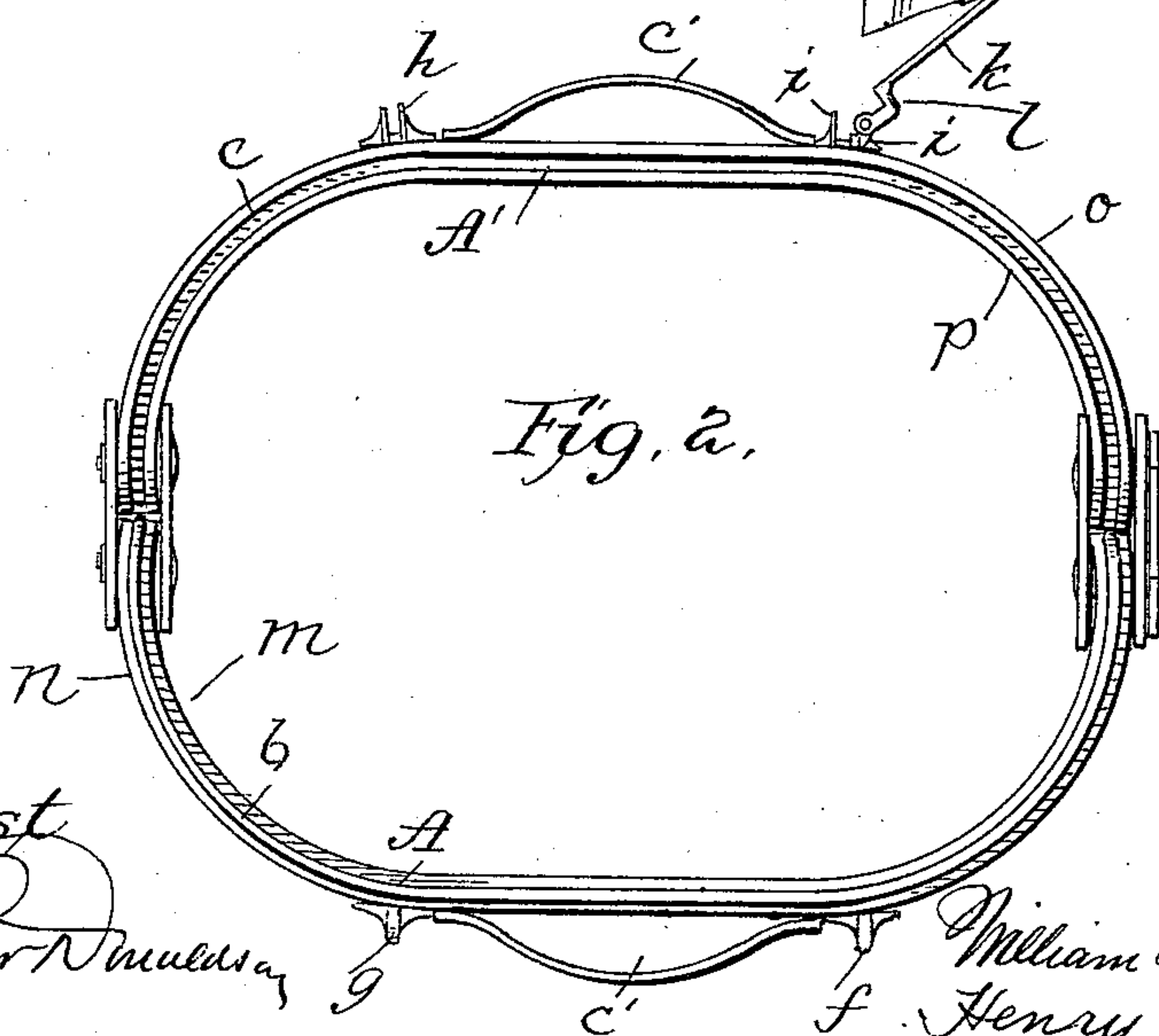


Fig. 2.

Attest
Matter Muldrew
Chas. F. Hall

Inventors
William L. Byard
Henry W. Sargent
by Frank L. Middleton
Att'y.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM LUCIUS BYARD AND HENRY WYER SARGENT, OF SARGENTVILLE,
MAINE.

MAIL-BAG FASTENING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 540,577, dated June 4, 1895.

Application filed December 10, 1894. Serial No. 531,383. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WILLIAM LUCIUS BYARD and HENRY WYER SARGENT, citizens of the United States, residing at Sargentville, in the county of Hancock and State of Maine, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bag Fastenings, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

Our invention relates to mail bags and is designed to provide a simple and effective form of fastening for the open end of the bag which can be readily opened and closed with the minimum expenditure of time and labor.

A further object is to provide for access to the entire circumference of the mouth of the bag when open, and also to provide for a form of joint between the parts of the mouth of the bag which will securely protect the contents, and make such a perfect fit as to make the joint practically water tight.

We have illustrated the invention in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the upper end of a mail-pouch containing the locking devices. Fig. 2 shows the mouth of the pouch open. Fig. 3 is a view of a modification, showing double-locking means. Fig. 4 is a sectional view of the parts of the mouth.

In the drawings we have not illustrated the body of the pouch but only the upper end thereof containing the locking means and other features of our invention, as the pouch proper is of any ordinary or improved construction.

Instead of providing the pouch with a flap covering the open end as is usual, we close the pouch by hinged sections A, A' forming the mouth and hinged together at the point of juncture by rivets *a, a* as shown or in any other desirable or effective manner.

In order to make a protected joint between the parts of the mouth, we rivet or otherwise suitably secure a tongue *b* between two pieces *m* and *n*, on one part, adapted to fit a groove *c*, between the pieces *o* and *p*, which are preferably riveted to an intermediate piece *q* on the other part and the joint is tight enough to prevent leakage, especially when the parts are of leather, as the material will swell suffi-

ciently to make a very close joint. Such a joint absolutely prevents the abstraction of the contents of the pouch.

At each side of the bag there is a loop *c'* by which the bag may be held upon hooks or other supports.

This form of mouth enables the operator to open the bag to its fullest extent in which position the sections A are horizontal and their ends abut forming a strong support for the end of the open pouch, and as the sections are stiff the pouch is held open without the use of special means. The loops *c'* form handles by which the mouth of the bag may be easily opened.

To securely lock the mouth of the pouch and at the same time to provide for its ready handling in unlocking is an important part of our invention and this consists of locking parts carried by the two sections.

On the section A' we secure a hook *f* at one side of the center and an eye *g* at the opposite side, these parts projecting over the tongue of the section A' and engaging guides secured to the other section A. The eye *g*, enters between two guides *h* perforated to correspond with the eye *g*, and the hook *f* also enters between guides *i*. To one of the guides *i* is pivoted a locking lever *k* having an angularly bent end *l* which engages, when the lever is down, the recess in the hook *f*. The lever is of a length sufficient to extend to the guides *h* having a turned up end perforated in a manner corresponding to the guides. A hasp or padlock is fitted to these perforations securing the parts together thus locking the two sections of the bag securely together. The locking lever is of spring metal and the bend at its pivoted end bearing against the surface of the bag section causes a slight spring to be exerted in bringing the end of the lever into line with the perforations to be locked, and when the bag is unlocked this spring is sufficient to cause the lever to be released automatically and to swing clear of the hook at its pivoted end.

As shown in Fig. 3, we may duplicate the construction by the use of two locking levers adapted to engage two hooked parts on the opposite section, a single central eye piece entering guides as described and locked to-

gether by the lock hasp with the free ends of the levers.

What we claim is—

1. The combination with a mail pouch consisting of hinged sections, one of which is formed with a tongue riveted between two pieces adapted to fit into a groove upon the other part formed by two pieces being riveted upon an intermediate piece, locking parts upon the opposite sections adapted to register and a locking lever engaging one pair of said registering parts and adapted to be locked to another, substantially as described.

2. The combination with a mail pouch consisting of hinged sections, locking parts upon the opposite sections adapted to register, and a locking lever engaging one pair of said registering parts and adapted to be locked to another, substantially as described.

3. The combination with a mail pouch consisting of hinged sections and locking parts adapted to register, and a locking lever pivoted at one end to one of said locking parts and adapted to engage the same and having a perforated lip upon the opposite end adapted to register with and be locked with the other locking parts, substantially as described.

4. The combination with a mail pouch con-

sisting of hinged sections, of a hook upon one section upon one side of the center, and an eye upon the opposite side, and a hook and an eye upon the opposite section, projecting over and registering with like parts and a locking lever pivoted at one end adapted to engage the registering parts, substantially as described.

5. The combination with a mail pouch consisting of hinged sections, having secured thereto locking parts, those upon one section being bifurcated and projecting parts upon the opposite sections fitting between said bifurcations and a locking lever, substantially as described.

6. The combination with a mail pouch consisting of hinged sections, locking parts upon the opposite sections adapted to register and a spring locking lever engaging one pair of said registering parts and adapted to be locked to another, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM LUCIUS BYARD.

HENRY WYER SARGENT.

Witnesses:

ARTHUR H. SARGENT,

GEORGE W. GRINDAL.