

No. 616,772.

Patented Dec. 27, 1898.

S. CRANE.

ENVELOP SEALING AND STAMPING DEVICE.

(Application filed May 8, 1898.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

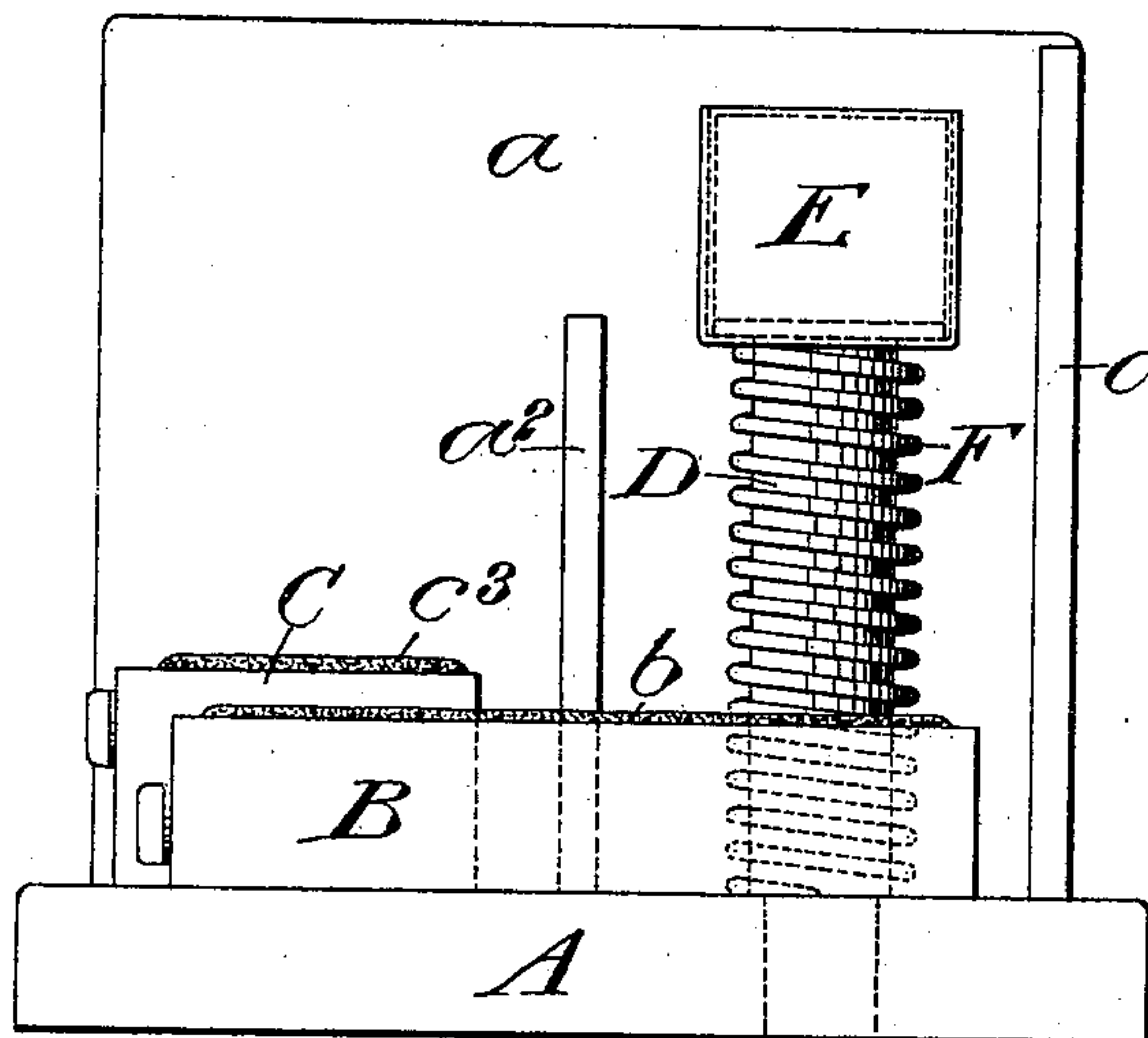


Fig. 2.

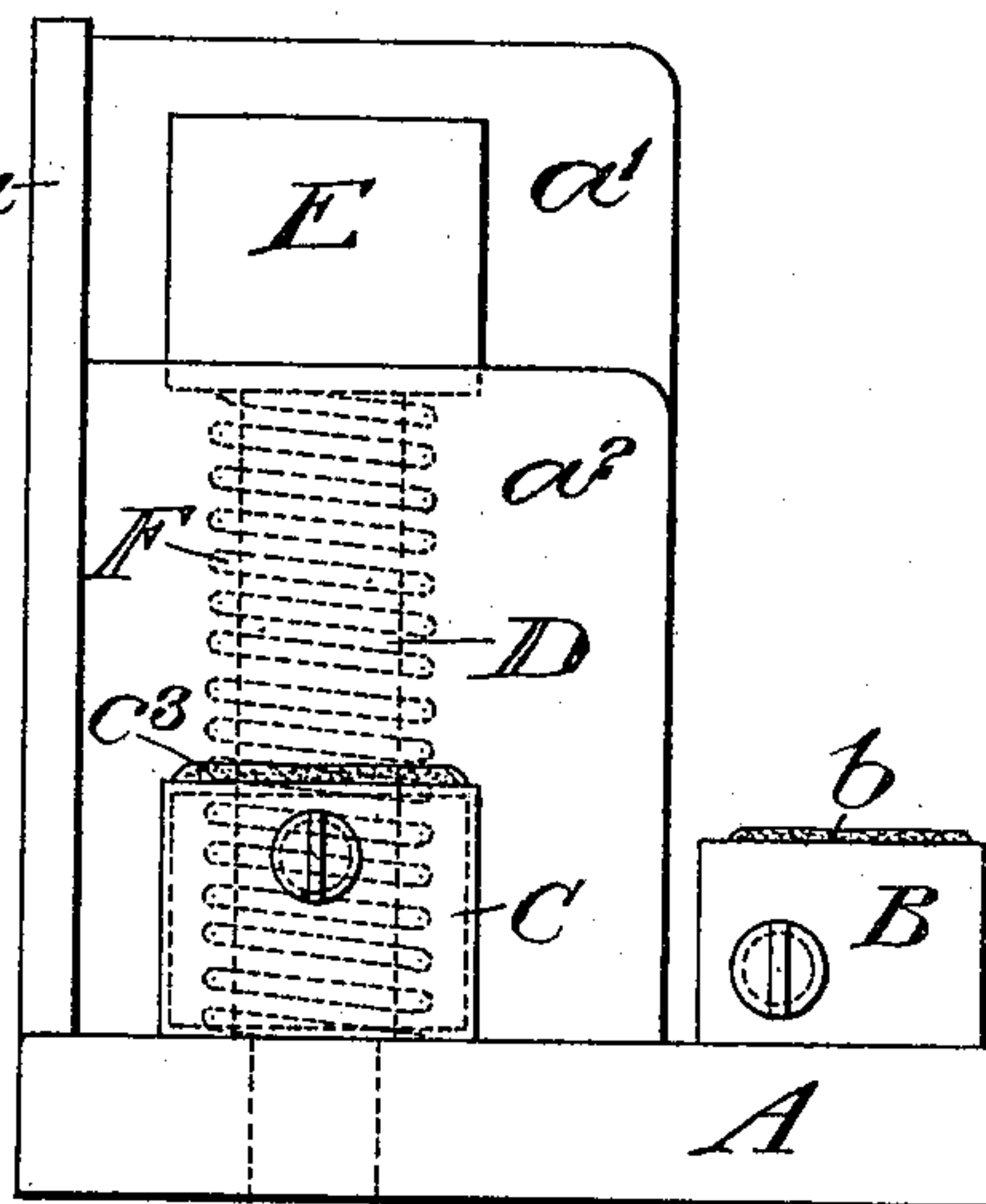


Fig. 3.

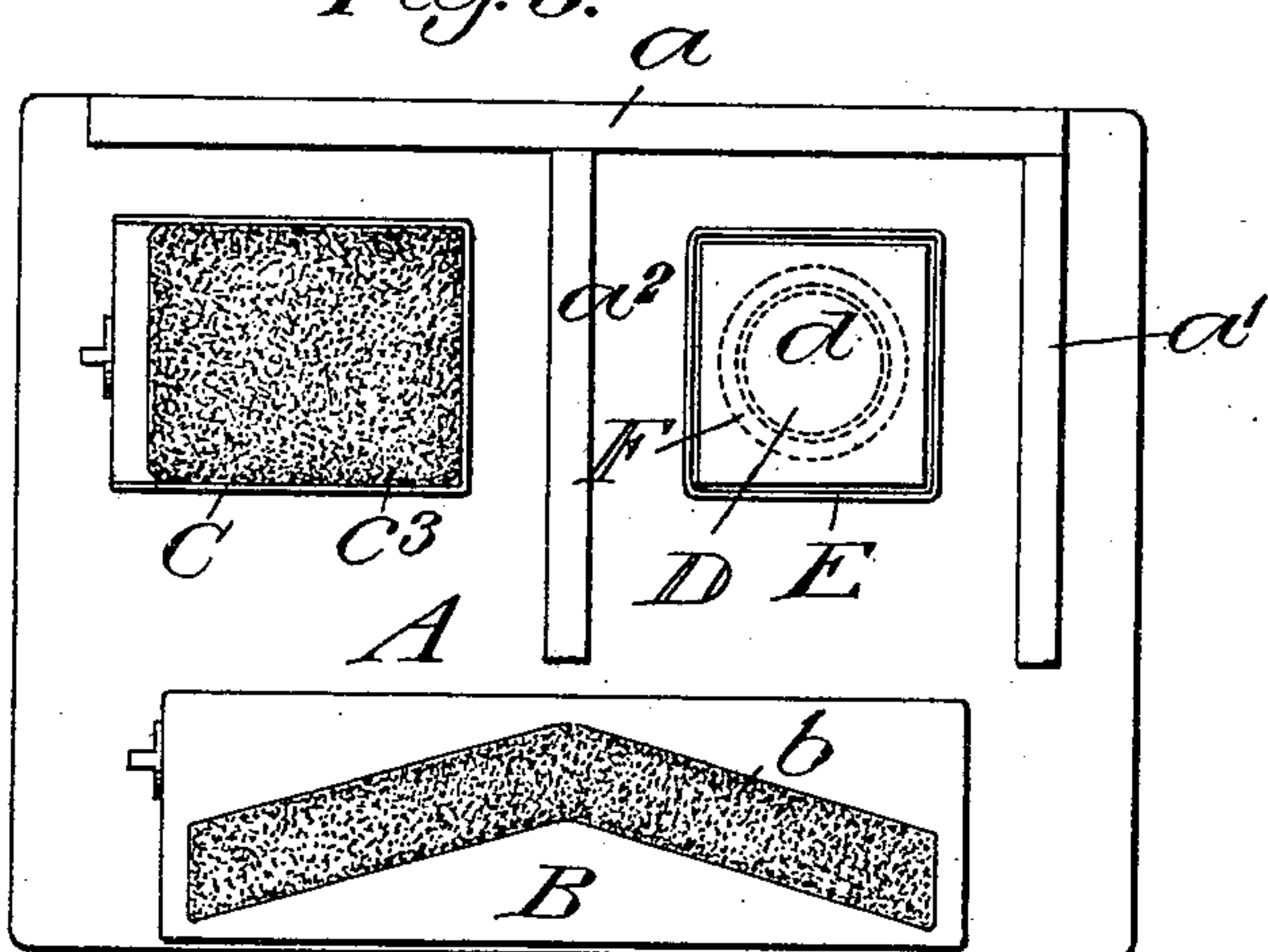


Fig. 4.

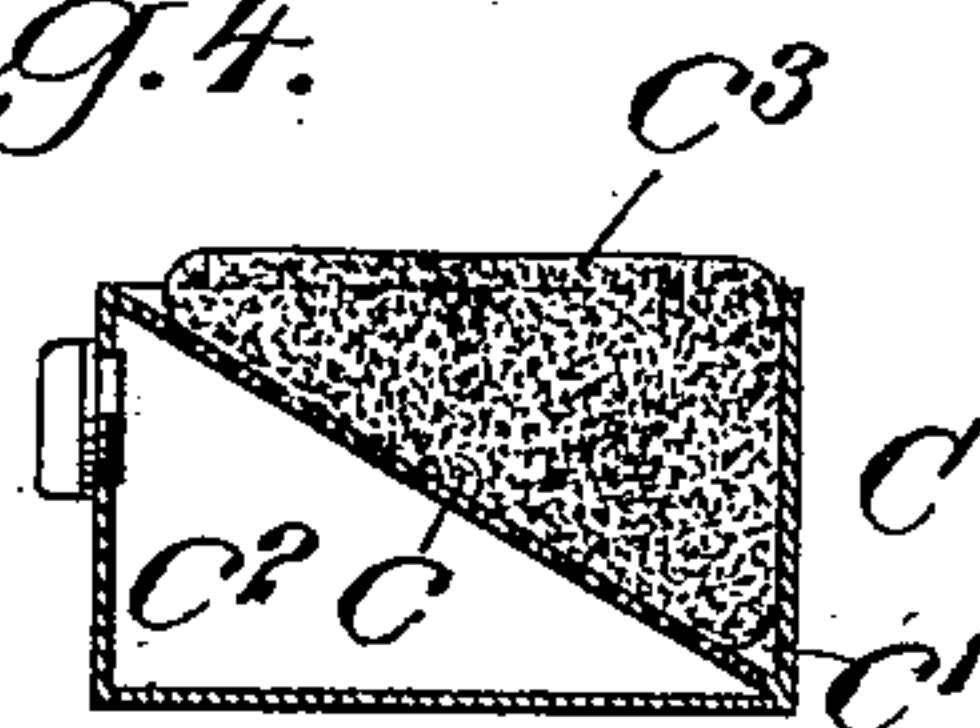


Fig. 5.

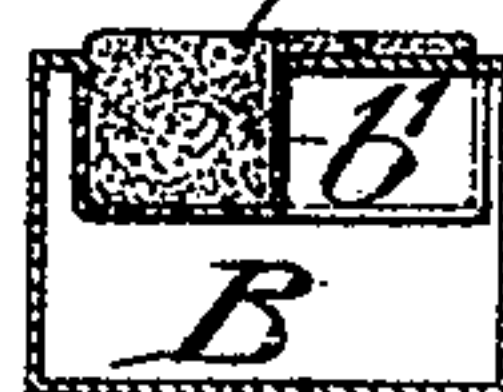
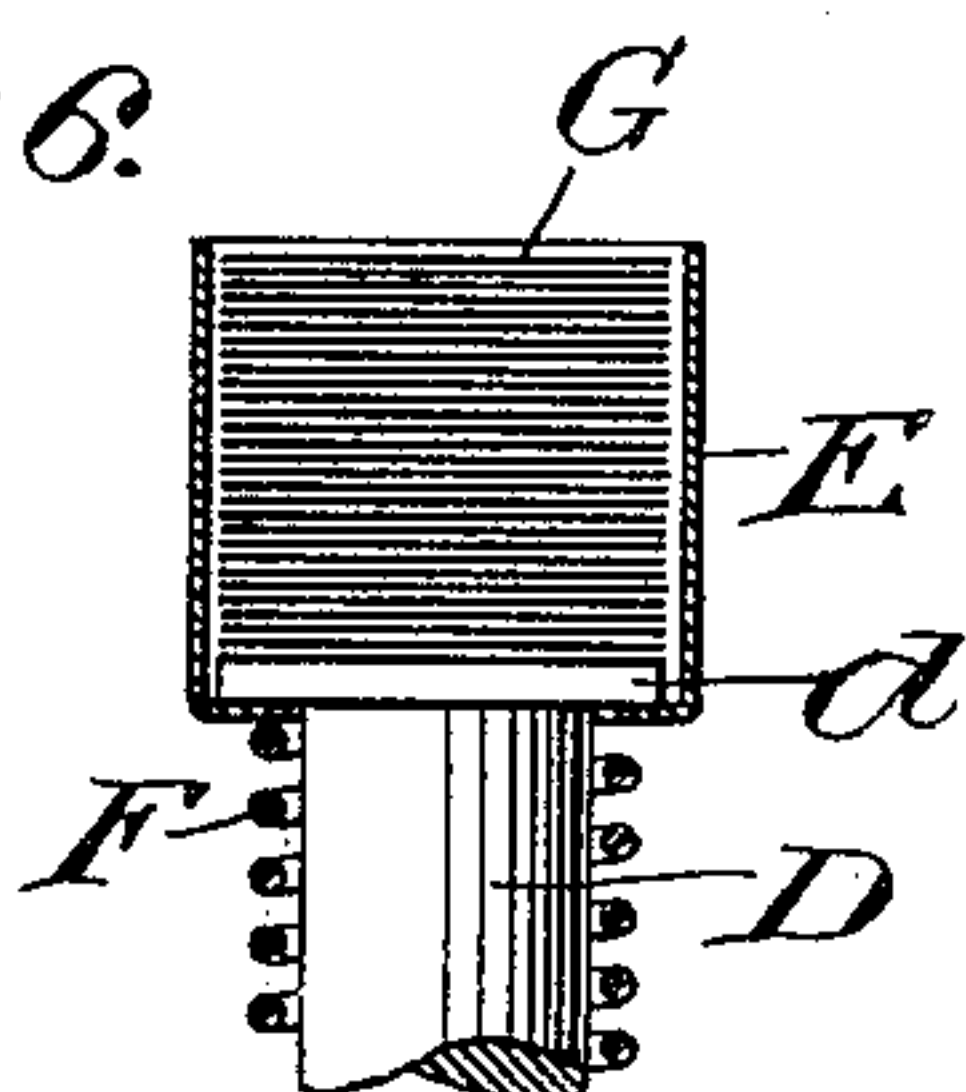


Fig. 6.



Witnesses:-  
M. C. Fletcher.  
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Inventor:-  
S. Crane  
by attorneys.  
Munroe



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SEYMOUR CRANE, OF DALTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF  
TO EDWARD H. BUSH, OF SAME PLACE.

## ENVELOP SEALING AND STAMPING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 616,772, dated December 27, 1898.

Application filed May 6, 1898. Serial No. 679,878. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, SEYMOUR CRANE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Dalton, in the county of Berkshire and State of Massachusetts, have invented new and useful Improvements in Envelop Sealing and Stamping Devices, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to certain improvements in envelop sealing and stamping devices, the object being to provide an improved device of this character by means of which the flap of the envelop may be moistened, so that the envelop may be sealed and one corner of the back of the envelop can be moistened and a stamp applied thereto.

A further object is to provide a device of the above character which will be very simple and cheap and in which the envelops may be rapidly sealed and stamped.

A practical embodiment of my invention is represented in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a front view of the device. Fig. 2 is a side view of the same. Fig. 3 is a top plan view. Fig. 4 is a sectional view through the moistener for the back of the envelop where the stamp is to be applied. Fig. 5 is a sectional view through the flap-moistener; and Fig. 6 is a vertical central section through the stamp-reservoir, showing the method of mounting it upon its supporting post or pillar.

The base of the devices, denoted by A may be of any desired size and shape, it being represented herein as of rectangular form and of sufficient size to accommodate the several parts of the device. Back and side walls  $a$  and  $a'$  arise from the base A, and a partition  $a^2$  projects forwardly from the back wall  $a$  at a point about half-way between the end wall  $a'$  and the opposite end of the back wall  $a$ . This partition is of less height than the back and end walls  $a$  and  $a'$ , for the purposes to be hereinafter set forth.

An envelop-flap moistener is situated upon the base A at its front, which flap-moistener in the present instance consists of a water-reservoir B, having mounted in its top a sponge, felt, or other moistening material  $b$ , which is kept moist by the water within the

reservoir B trickling through suitable holes  $b'$  in the walls of the reservoir surrounding the sponge or felt. The moistening material  $b$  in the present instance is shown of considerable length and is preferably of such shape as to substantially conform to the gummed portion on the free edge of the flap.

The moistener for the corner of the back of the envelop to which the stamp is to be applied is located upon the base A in the angle formed by the back wall  $a$  and the forwardly-extended partition  $a^2$ . In the present instance this moistener comprises a box C, divided by a diagonal perforated partition  $c$  into a sponge or felt receiving cup  $c'$  and a water-reservoir  $c^2$ . A piece of felt, sponge, or other suitable moistening material  $c^3$  is located in the cup portion  $c'$ , with its top projecting above the top of the box in position to moisten the envelop, the said sponge or felt being kept moist by the water which passes through the perforated partition  $c$  from the reservoir  $c^2$ .

The means for applying the stamp to the moistened portion of the envelop comprises a pillar or post D, uprising from the base A in the compartment formed by the back wall, end wall, and partition, the top of the said post being provided with a spring-actuated stamp-reservoir E. The top  $d$  of the post D serves as a false bottom for the stamp-reservoir E and also serves to limit the upward movement of the said reservoir. A spring F serves to hold the reservoir at the limit of its upward movement, which spring in the present instance is shown as coiled around the pillar D and interposed between the bottom of the reservoir E and the base A. The reservoir E extends above the top of the partition  $a^2$ , but not up to the top of the back and end walls. A pile or stack of separated stamps G are placed within the reservoir E, with their gummed portions up.

When it is desired to seal and stamp an envelop, the gummed portion of the flap of the envelop is first moistened by the sponge or moistening material and the envelop sealed. The corner of the envelop upon which it is intended to apply the stamp is inserted into the angle formed by the partition  $a^2$  and the back wall, with its back upon the moistening



material  $c^3$ . The envelop is then raised and inserted into the angle formed by the back wall  $a$  and the end wall  $a'$  on top of the stamp-reservoir E. The envelop is then pressed  
5 downwardly, thus depressing the reservoir until the top stamp is caused to adhere to the moistened portion of the envelop. The envelop may then be removed, thus leaving the device ready for the next succeeding operation.  
10

It will be seen from the above description that the envelops may be sealed and stamped very rapidly, it making no difference with the operation of the device whether there are a  
15 great many stamps in the reservoir E or a very few, the depressing of the envelop when placed upon the reservoir E causing the reservoir to be also depressed until a stamp comes in engagement with the envelop. It may also  
20 be seen that by constructing the partition  $a^2$  of less height than the end wall  $a'$  the envelops may be quickly inserted into their positions over the envelop-moistener and also over the stamp-reservoir.

25 It is evident that slight changes might be resorted to in the form and arrangement of the several parts without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention. Hence I do

not wish to limit myself strictly to the structure herein set forth; but

What I claim is—

An envelop sealing and stamping device comprising a suitable base, a flap-moistener carried by the base, a back wall, an end wall, a partition parallel with the end wall and of  
35 less height than the back and end walls, a moistener located upon the base in the angle formed by the partition and back wall for moistening the portion of the envelop to which the stamp is to be applied and a spring-actuated stamp-reservoir uprising from the base  
40 in the compartment formed by the partition, back and end walls, the said stamp-reservoir normally projecting above the top of the partition for engaging the moistened portion of  
45 the envelop when the envelop is inserted between said back and end walls and over the partition, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name, in presence of two witnesses, this 2d day of May, 1898.

SEYMOUR CRANE.

Witnesses:

JAMES FALLON,  
JOHN H. PECK.