

No. 619,022.

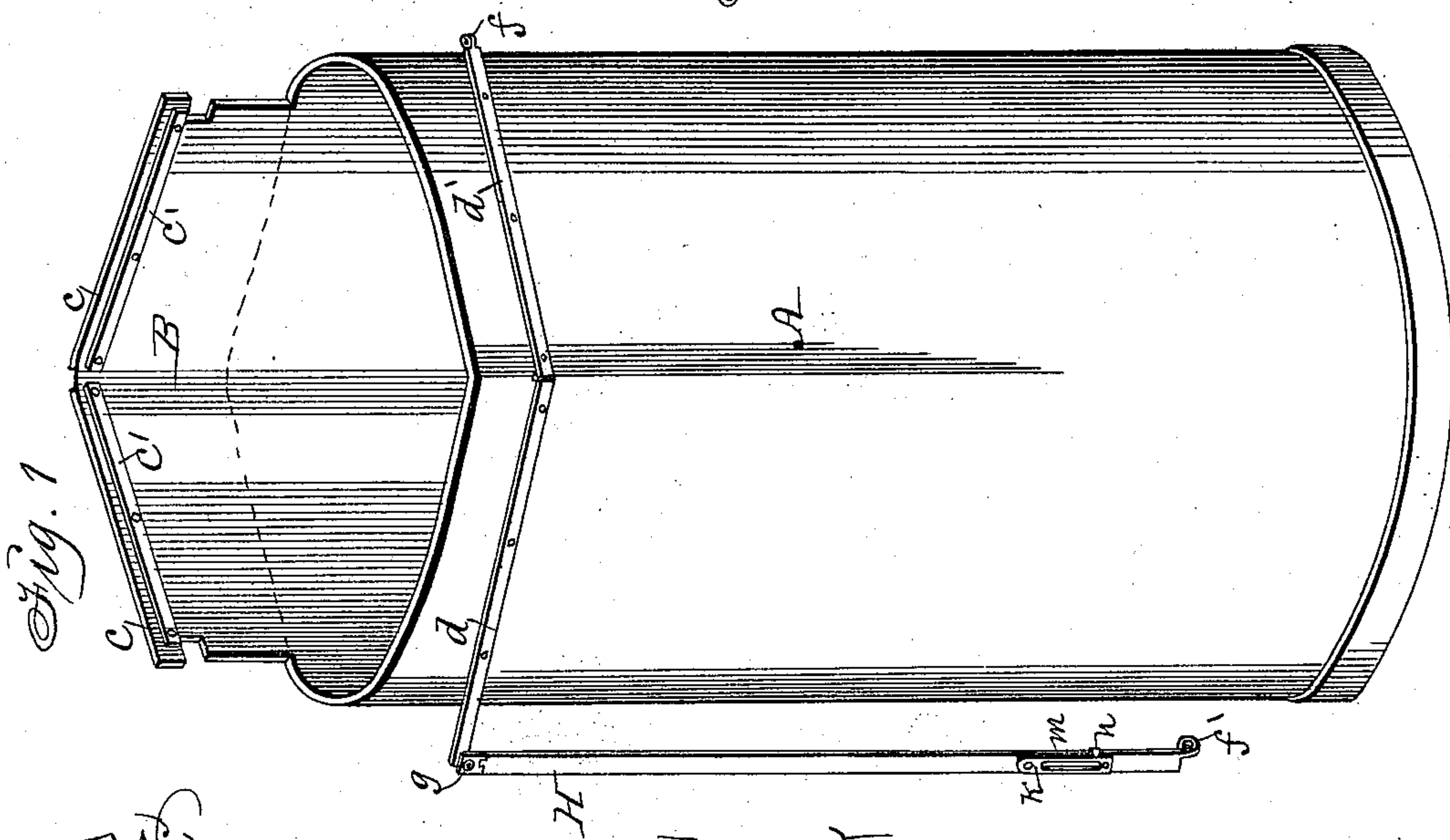
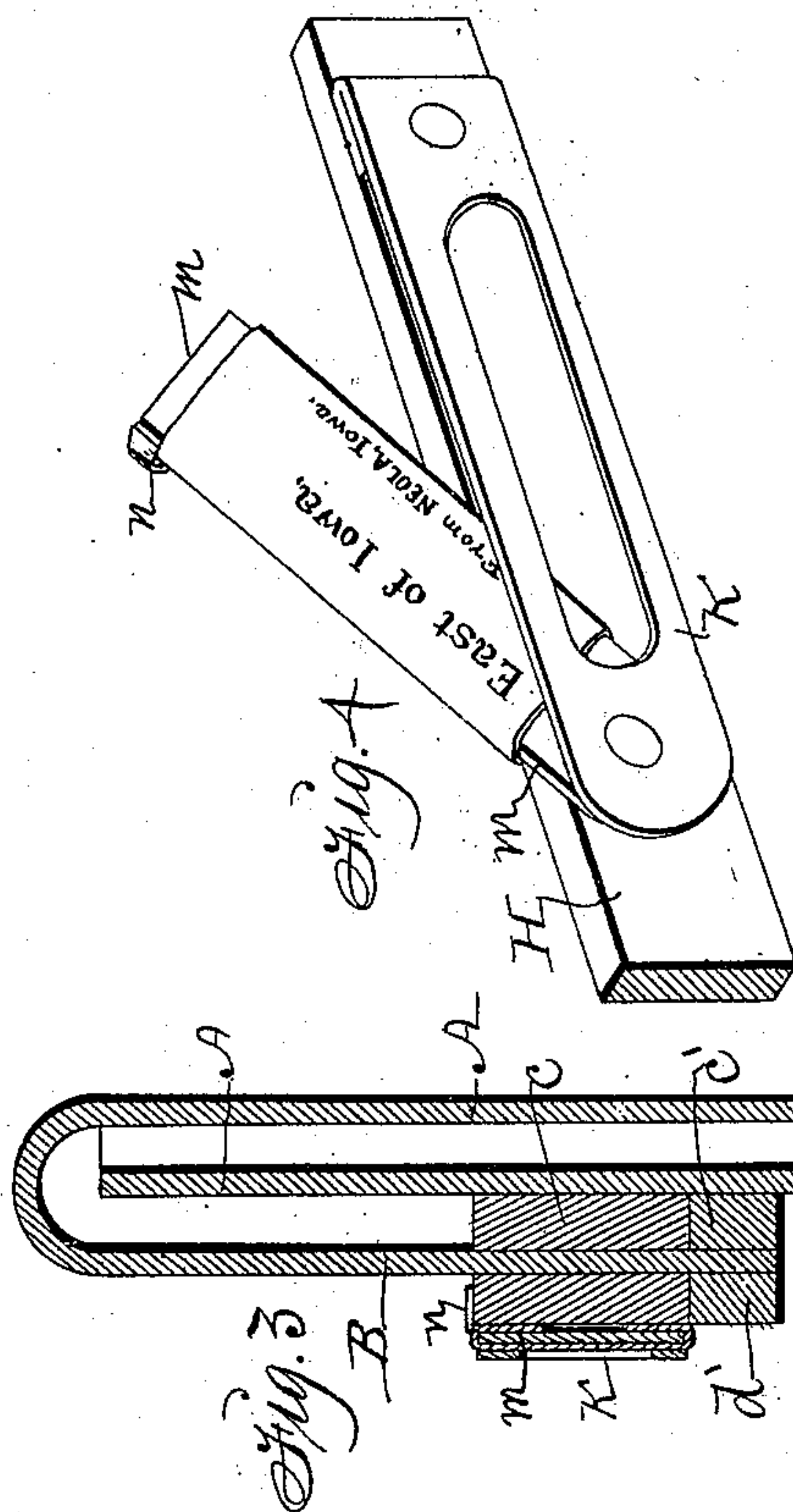
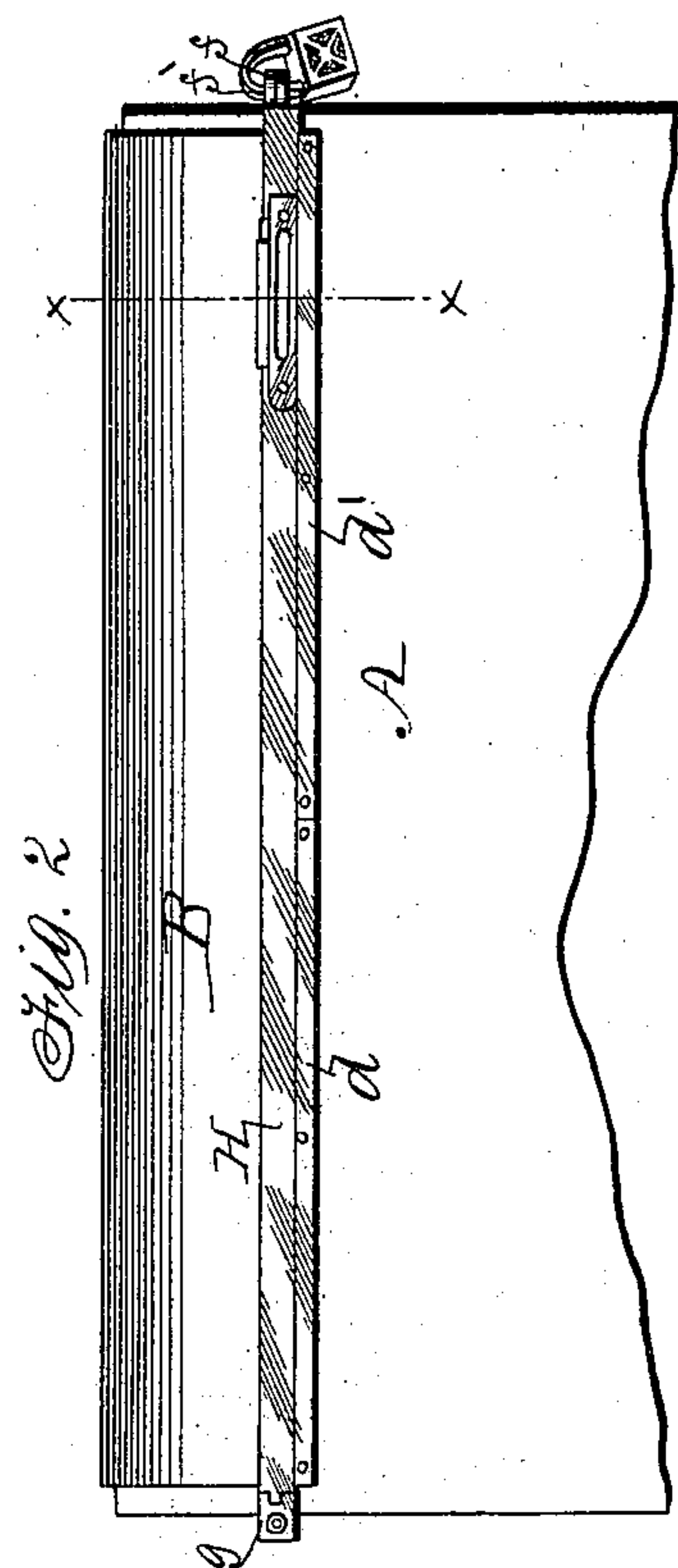
Patented Feb. 7, 1899.

G. R. HOWARD.

MAIL BAG.

Application filed Sept. 15, 1898.

(No Model.)



Witnesses:
H. Wendel
W. S. Killpack

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE RILEY HOWARD, OF NEOLA, IOWA.

MAIL-BAG.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 619,022, dated February 7, 1899.

Application filed September 15, 1898. Serial No. 690,996. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE RILEY HOWARD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Neola, in the county of Pottawattamie and State of Iowa, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Mail-Bags, of which the following is a specification.

My object is to facilitate the opening and closing of a mail-bag and to produce a simpler, stronger, more efficient, and durable means of securely closing and locking it as required for protecting and carrying mail-matter.

My invention consists in the form of the top of the bag and the arrangement and combination therewith of mechanism for closing and locking the top and means for detachably connecting labels therewith, as hereinafter set forth, pointed out in my claims, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a mail-bag open and distended at the top and in position as required for placing mail-matter therein advantageously. Fig. 2 is a side view of the top portion of the bag, showing it flat, closed, and locked and a label attached bearing marked directions relative to where it is to go. Fig. 3 is a sectional view on the line $x x$ of Fig. 2, showing the relative positions of the overlying parts when the bag is closed and locked and marked with a label. Fig. 4 is a perspective of the label-holding device connected with the pivoted outside bar of the locking mechanism.

The letter A designates a bag, preferably made of leather, that may vary in size, as desired.

B is an extension of the bag at one side of its top portion (preferably integral) and adapted to serve as a flap to be doubled down over the top portion of the other and lower side, as shown in Fig. 2.

c and c' are mating straight metal bars riveted to the opposite sides of the top edge of the flap B to bind and stiffen the top edge and to produce a joint at the center of the flap that will allow it to bend outward, as shown.

d and d' are straight metal bars riveted to the outside of that portion of the top of the bag that is designed to be covered by the flap

B when the bag is closed and to extend parallel with the bars c and c' on the edge of the flap, as shown in Fig. 2. They are hinged together at their inner ends, and the bar d' terminates in an eye f , adapted for attaching a padlock thereto. The end of the bar d has a short portion g of a jointed flat bar H pivoted thereto in such a manner that the bar will hang down at the side of the bag when open and, as shown in Fig. 1, be out of the way while placing mail-matter in the bag. It is also adapted to be extended across the flap B and in parallel position with the fixed bars c and c' and d and d' , as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, to securely fasten the flap B as required to close the bag.

The free end of the bar H terminates in an eye f' , adapted to overlie and coincide with the eye f on the end of the bar d' as required to securely connect the bars by passing the hook or shackle of a padlock through the coinciding eyes and then fastening it in the lock in the manner padlocks are operated.

A label-holder is combined with the bar H, and consists of a metal plate k , riveted at its end portions to the outside flat face of the bar H and provided with an elongated open space between its fixed end portions.

m is a flat plate pivotally secured to one end of the plate k and to the bar H by means of one of the rivets, so it will have a hinged connection with the bar H and adapted for doubling a flexible label around it, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, and securely holding the label in place, as shown in Fig. 2, so the directions or address on the label will be visible through the open space in the fixed plate k .

n is an integral finger-hold and clasp on the free end of the hinged label-holder m , adapted to overlie the top edge of the bar H and to aid in retaining it in parallel position with the bar, as required to keep the label securely fastened.

It is obvious a label can be readily removed by drawing the hinged plate outward, so a new label may be put in the place of the one removed. It is also obvious that by doubling a flexible label around the hinged plate m it is thereby readily and securely placed in proper position relative to the fixed plate m , having an elongated slot, through which the

directions on the label will be visible, by simply pressing the plate *m* into its normal and parallel position with the bar *H* and plate *K*.

I am aware that label-holders have been
5 detachably connected with mail-bags; but my manner of utilizing a locking-bar that is permanently connected with a mail-bag as an essential portion of a label-holder is new and greatly advantageous in the art to which my
10 invention pertains.

Having thus described the construction and function of each operative part, the practical operation and utility of my invention will be readily understood, and what I claim,
15 and desire to secure by Letters Patent therefor, is—

1. In a mail-bag a label-holder consisting of a metal locking-bar permanently connected with the bag, a metal plate having an elongated opening in its central portion and its
20 end portions fixed to the outside face of said bar, and a flat metal plate hinged at one of its ends between the locking-bar and the said metal plate fixed to the bar, to operate in the
25 manner set forth.

2. In a mail-bag, an extension or flap at the top, metal bars fixed to the top edge of the flap on its outside to extend to the center of the flap, metal bars fixed to the inside of the
30 flap and the metal bars on the outside, a jointed metal bar fixed to the outside of the bag near its top edge and provided with an eye at one end and a jointed bar pivotally connected with the other end of said fixed

bar and provided with an eye at its free end
35 to operate in the manner set forth for the purposes stated.

3. A mail pouch or bag comprising an open-topped bag having a flap extending upward at one side and adapted to be doubled down
40 to overlie the top portion of the other side of the bag, metal bars fixed to the outside and inside of the top edge of the flap in overlying positions to extend from the corners of the flap to its center, a jointed metal bar
45 having an eye at one end fixed to the outside of the top portion of the bag, a straight bar having a joint near one end pivoted to the end of the said jointed fixed bar and provided with an eye at its other end and a label-hold-
50 ing device fixed to the said jointed and pivoted bar, and a United States mail-lock adapted to be connected with the eyes of the fixed jointed bar and the pivoted bar having a joint near its pivoted end, all arranged and com-
55 bined to operate in the manner set forth for the purposes stated.

4. The mail-bag lock-bar *H* permanently connected with a mail-bag, the plate *k* having an elongated opening and the plate *m* having
60 an integral projection *n* arranged and combined as shown and described for the purposes stated.

GEORGE RILEY HOWARD.

Witnesses:

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