

No. 661,767.

J. S. O'BRIEN.
FOLDING LUNCH BOX.
(Application filed Jan. 29, 1900.)

Patented Nov. 13, 1900.

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

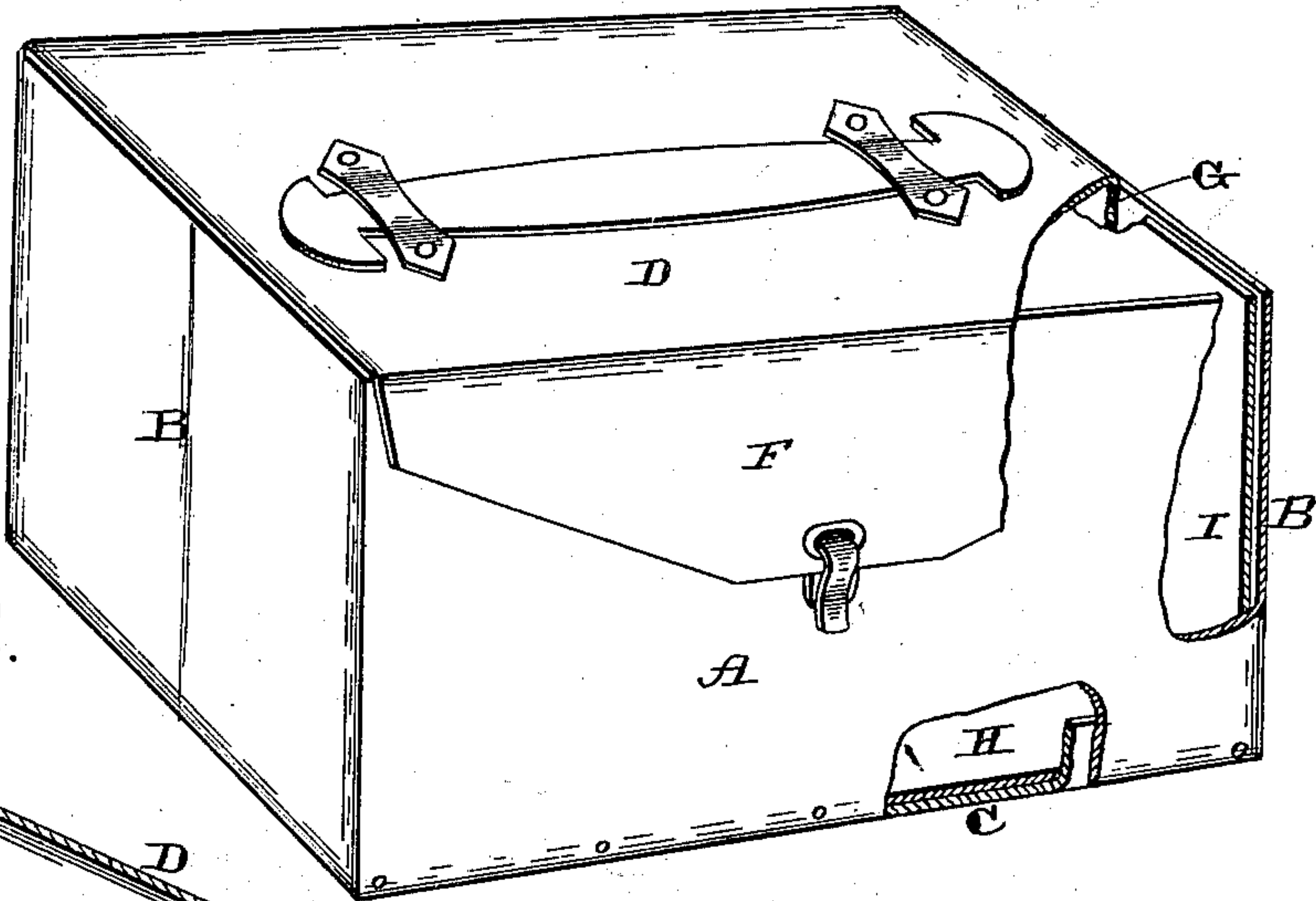


Fig. 2.

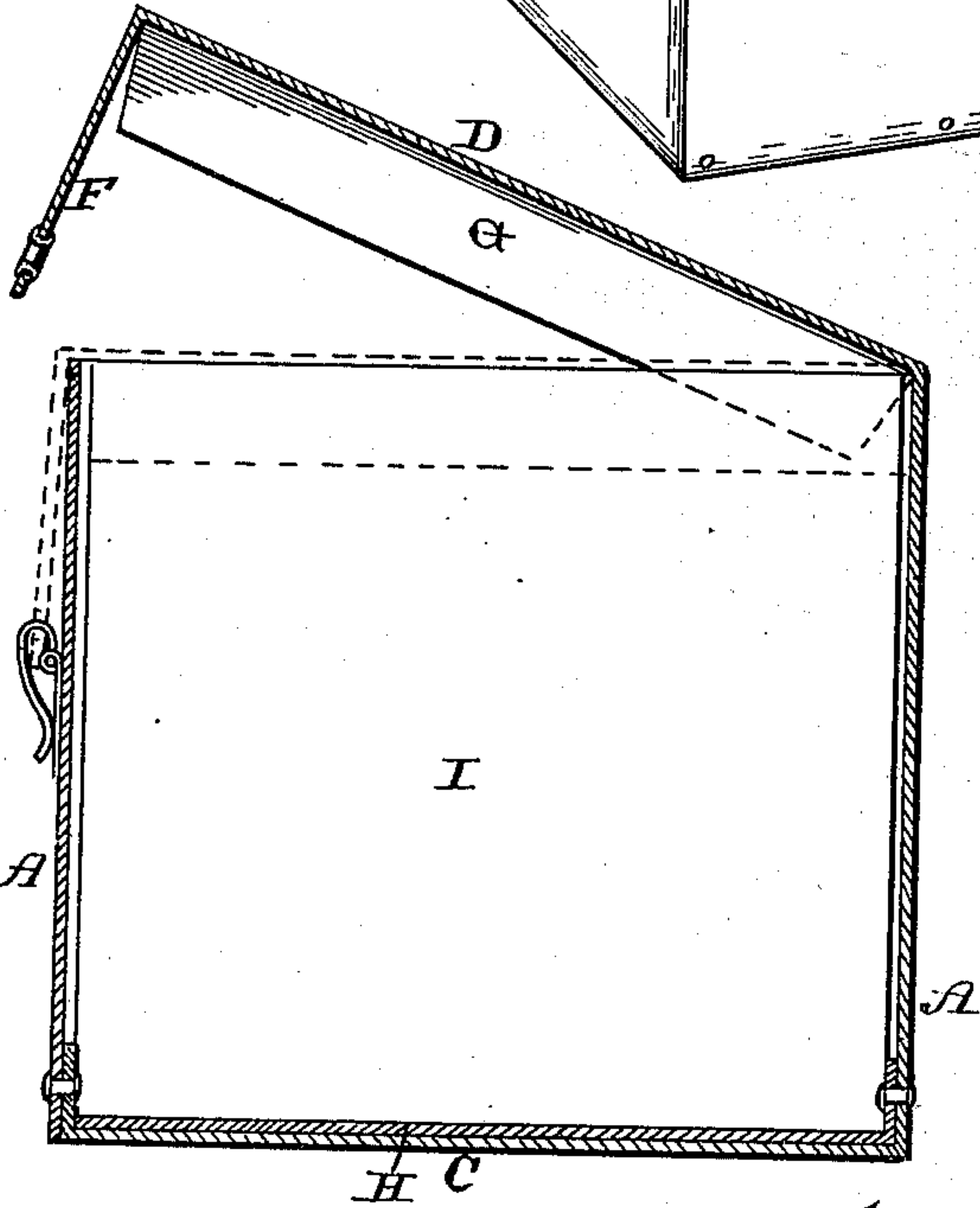


Fig. 3.

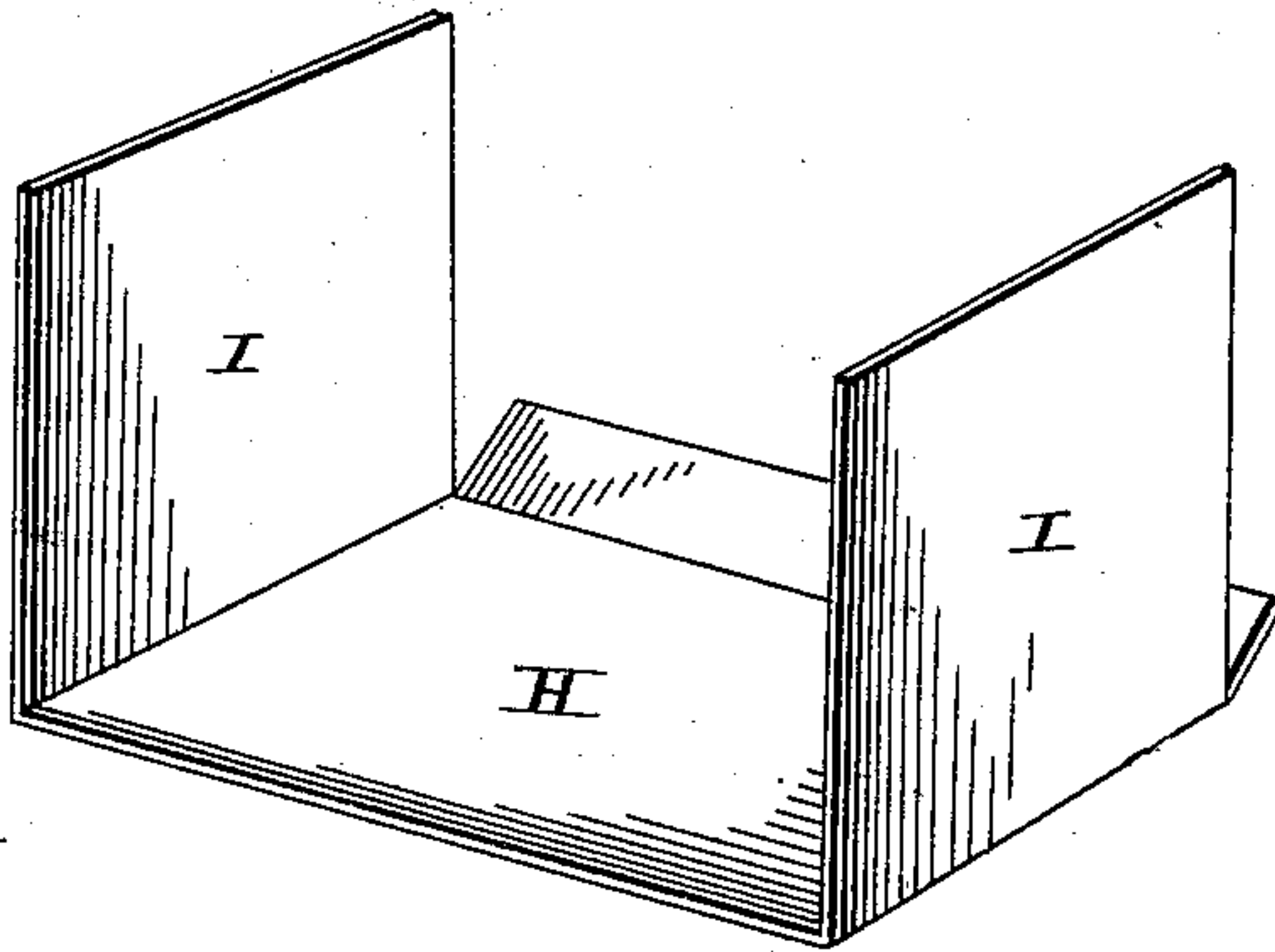
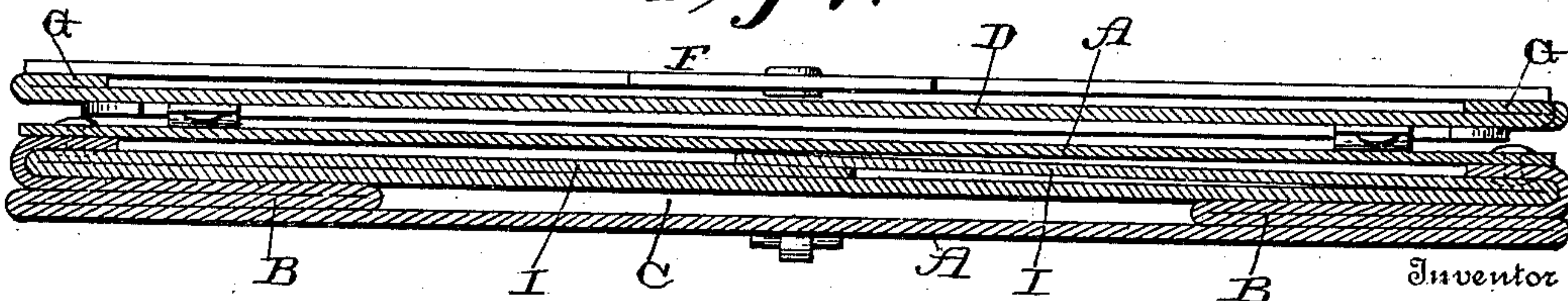


Fig. 4.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH S. O'BRIEN, OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.

FOLDING LUNCH-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 661,767, dated November 13, 1900.

Application filed January 29, 1900. Serial No. 3,104. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH S. O'BRIEN, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Springfield, in the county of Hampden and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Lunch-Boxes, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to an improvement in lunch-boxes; and its object is to provide a box of improved construction which can be folded into a very small space and which after being folded can be carried like an ordinary book.

My invention consists in a box having folding ends and bottom, combined with a hinged bottom having end wings or expanders formed integral therewith or connected thereto and which when the folding bottom is forced down and the end wings are raised into position serve to expand and hold the box in shape ready for use, as will be more fully described hereinafter.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective of the box expanded and ready for use, the front portion of the box being cut away to show the hinged bottom and the end wings in position and the end wings of the cover catching in between the ends of the box and the end wings connected to the hinged cover. Fig. 2 is a vertical cross-section, the cover being raised. Fig. 3 is a detached perspective view of the bottom and the end wings connected thereto. Fig. 4 is a vertical cross-section taken through the box after it is closed.

A represents the front and back of the box, B the folding ends, and C the folding bottom, which is cut away at the ends, so as to allow the inner edges of the folding ends B to fold inwardly when the box is being closed.

Connected to the rear side of the box is the cover D, which is provided with the perforated flap F along its outer edge and with the two folding flaps or wings G along its ends, the wings or flaps F G being preferably made integral with the cover.

The box as thus far described is old, and no invention except the end flaps upon the cover is claimed therein.

Fastened in any suitable manner to the bottom of the box, along its rear edge, is the folding bottom H, and either formed integral

therewith or connected to the ends of this bottom are the end wings I, which are adapted to fold down upon the top of the bottom H when the box is closed and which when the box is ready for use serve to expand and hold the box in an open position by catching between the front and rear sides thereof and preventing them from being collapsed. The bottom is just sufficiently wide and long to cover the entire inside bottom of the box and rests upon the folding bottom C, while the end wings I when raised into a vertical position brace and stiffen the folding end pieces B, so that the box cannot be closed.

The folding bottom H forms a double thickness when opened downward with the folding bottom C, and the end wings I when raised into position form a double thickness with the folding end pieces B, thus not only bracing the folding portion of the box, but forming a box of double thickness at all portions except its front and rear sides. This double thickness of material enables a box of more than usual strength and rigidity to be formed from millboard or other similar material. When the cover D is closed, the end wings or flaps G close down between the folding end pieces, as shown, and thus the wings or flaps G are made to close openings which would otherwise be formed at the top edges of the ends of the box and to assist in bracing the box and making it more rigid while in use. The outer flap F closes down over the front of the box in the usual manner, and any suitable fastening device J is passed through the perforation in the flap, so as to hold it securely closed.

When the box is not needed for use, the two end wings I are first folded down upon the folding bottom H, and then this bottom, carrying the end pieces I, is raised against the rear side of the box, and the box can then be collapsed or folded together, as shown, occupying no more space than a small-sized book.

Owing to the small space into which the box can be folded and the rigidity of the box when opened, it is specially adapted for the use of both grown people and school children.

After the box has been folded together it is sufficiently small and thin to be slipped into a coat-pocket or be made into a very small parcel which can be readily carried by

a lady or can be placed among and carried with the school-books of children.

While intended especially for use as a lunch-box, it is adapted for all other purposes where a box of medium size is needed and when no longer wanted can be folded up into a very small space and put away for further use.

The millboard which is most advantageously used as the material from which the folding receptacle is composed is waterproofed in any of the already-known ways, and thereby a very durable and serviceable article is produced.

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

1. In a folding box, the rigid front and rear sides, the folding end pieces, and the folding bottom piece, combined with a folding bottom piece which is loosely attached at one edge to one of the sides of the box along its lower edge, and the end flaps or wings which are adapted to be raised vertically between the front and rear sides of the box, and thus prevent it from collapsing, substantially as described.

2. In a folding lunch-box, a cover hinge-connected to one upper longitudinal edge of the box and provided with a flap along its front edge, and at its ends with the two wings or flaps G, G, and said box comprising the end walls, B, B, and the expander-sections adapted to be swung upwardly to occupy positions close to said end walls, the upper edges of the end walls and expanders being free whereby said flaps G-G of the cover may be entered therebetween, substantially as described.

3. A box provided with folding ends, and a

folding bottom, a second bottom loosely attached to the inner side of the box, and end wings or expanders connected thereto, and which wings or expanders are adapted to be raised vertically between the front and rear sides of the box, combined with a cover having end wings or flaps, and which end wings or flaps are adapted to catch between the top edges of the folding ends of the box, and the end wings or expanders inside of the box, substantially as specified.

4. A box provided with collapsible ends having as a part thereof a collapsible or folding bottom, a second bottom within the box and provided with end wings or expanders and which are adapted to be raised vertically and extended between the front and rear sides of the box, combined with a cover having end flaps or wings adapted to be entered between the ends of the box and the expanders next therewithin, substantially as described.

5. A folding lunch-box provided with collapsible end walls, and having two bottoms one of which is collapsible on folding lines between its edges, while the other bottom is hinge-connected along one edge to the lower edge of one box side, and one of said bottoms having wings or expanders which are adapted to be folded down closely relatively thereto, and to be raised vertically, and which extend between the front and rear sides of the box, and a cover hinge-connected along one upper edge of the box.

Signed by me at Springfield, Masssachusetts, this 12th day of January, 1900.

JOSEPH S. O'BRIEN.

Witnesses:

MYRON A. GILMAN,
WM. S. BELLOWS.