

No. 679,645.

Patented July 30, 1901.

W. W. SWEIGART.

MAIL BOX.

(Application filed Feb. 21, 1901.)

(No Model.)

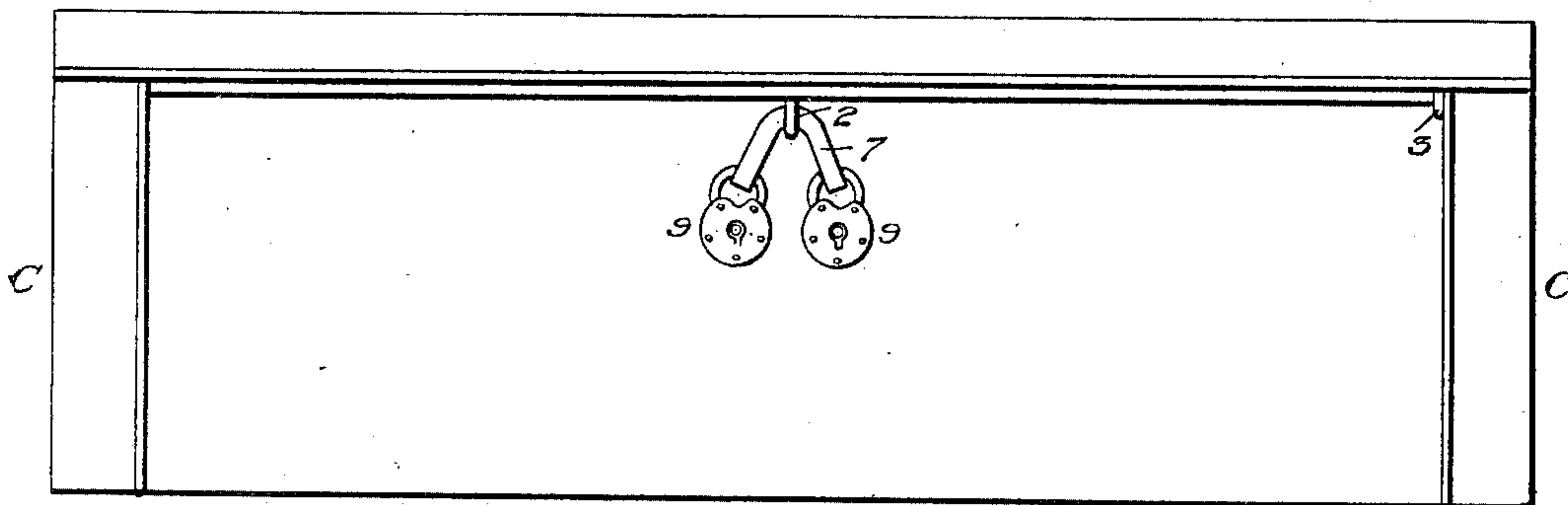


Fig. 1.

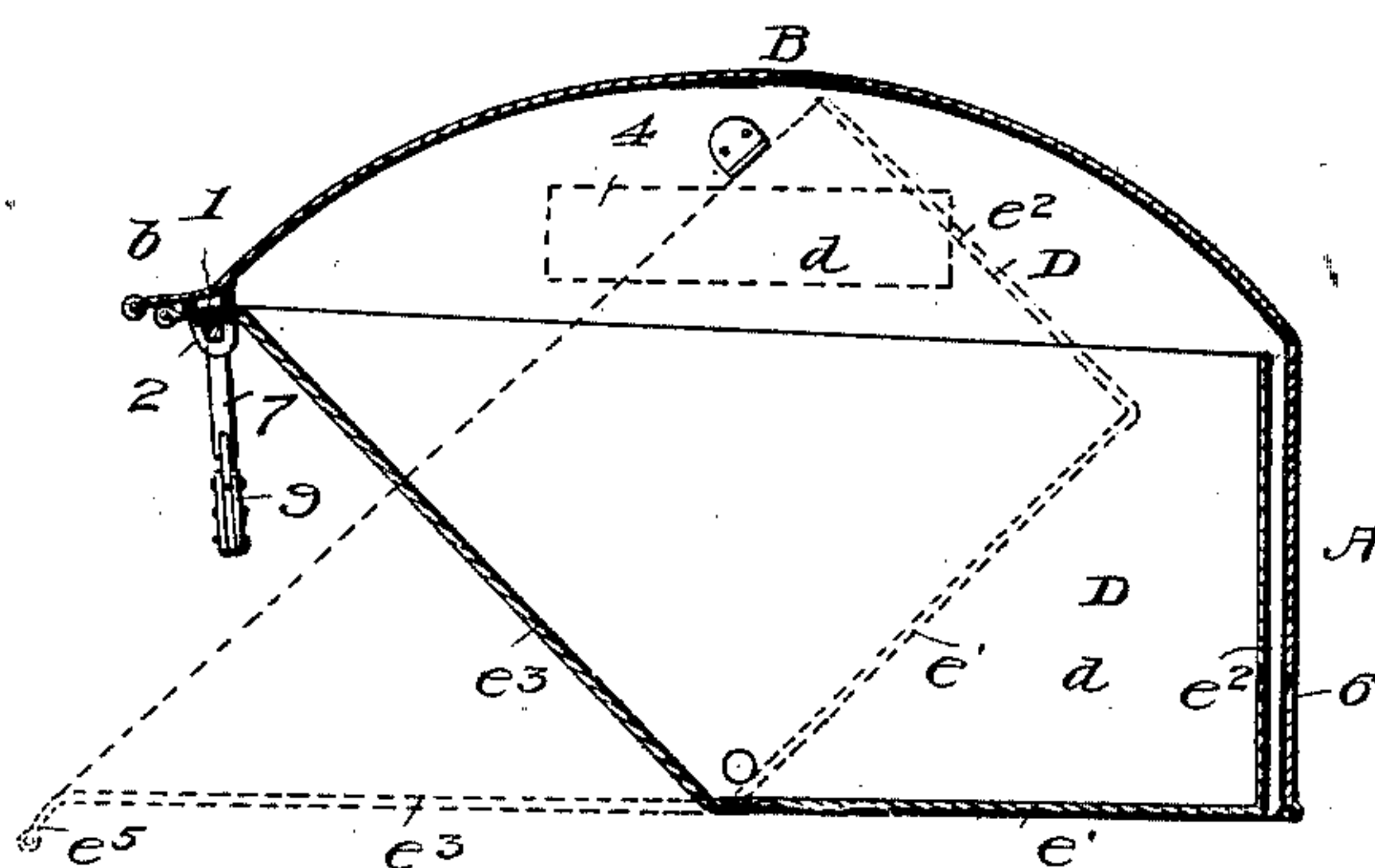


Fig. 2.

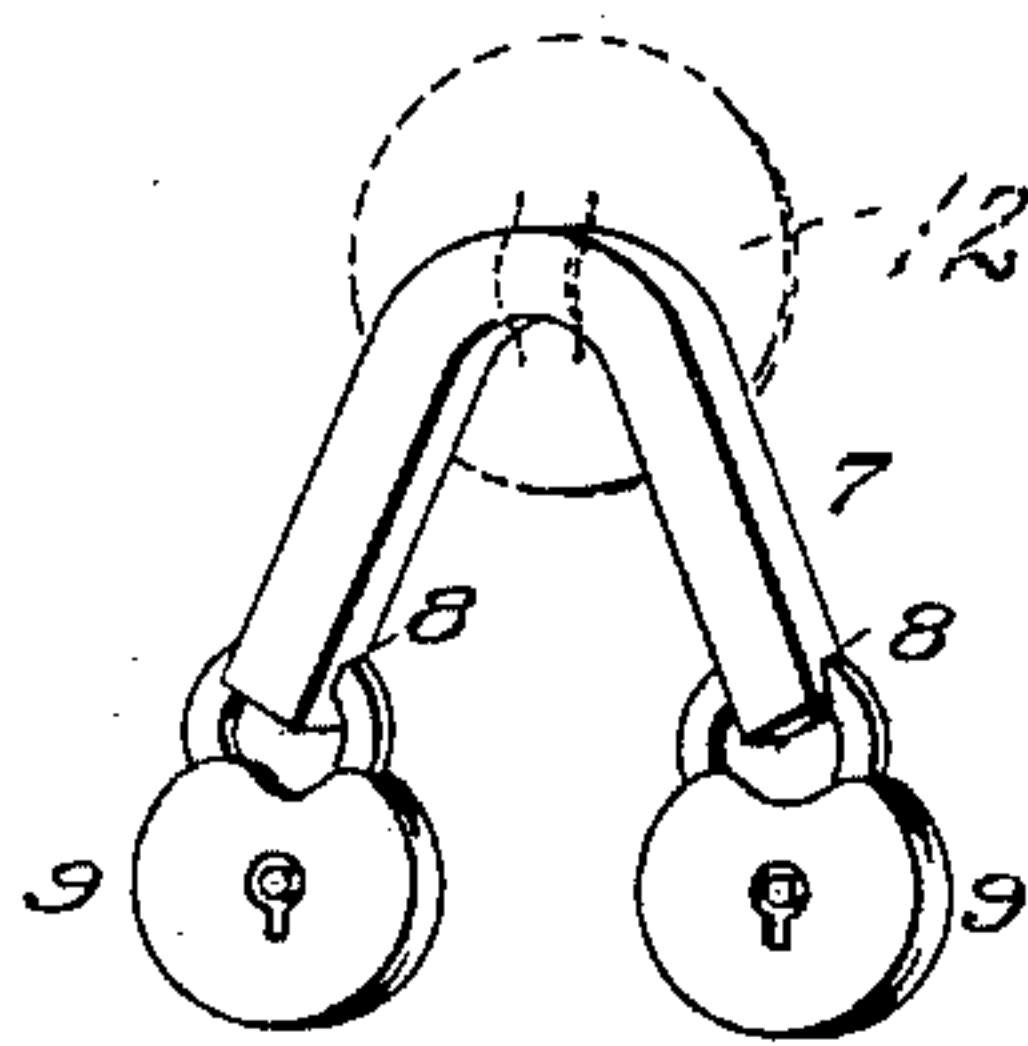


Fig. 3.

Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WEBSTER W. SWEIGART, OF YORKROAD, MARYLAND.

## MAIL-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 679,645, dated July 30, 1901.

Application filed February 21, 1901. Serial No. 48,286. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WEBSTER W. SWEIGART, a citizen of the United States, residing at Yorkroad, in the county of Carroll and State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Boxes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to an improvement in mail-boxes; and it consists in certain novel features of construction and combinations of parts, which will be more fully described hereinafter and particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view in front elevation of my improved mail-box. Fig. 2 is a transverse vertical section through the center of the box, and Fig. 3 is a detail view.

A represents the rear of the box, and B the rounded top, the forward edge of which terminates in an outwardly-projecting ledge *b*, adapted to prevent rain or snow from entrance to the receptacle below.

C C represent the ends of the box, they being secured at the rear and upper edges to the back and top of the box.

D indicates the tray. This consists of ends *d d*, bottom *e'*, rear *e''*, and inclined front *e'''*, all secured together, and the forward edge of the front terminates in a flange *e''''*, which closes under the projecting ledge *b* of the cover. The tray is pivoted in proximity to the angle of the ends to the corresponding points in the ends of the box, so that the preponderance of weight is to the rear of these pivots, and as a result the tray always closes by gravity the moment it is released. The tray when closed virtually constitutes the bottom and front of the box. The flange of the tray is provided with a slot 1 and the ledge of the cover with a staple 2, adapted to enter that slot when the tray is closed. A handle 3 at one end of the flange, preferably, is provided for convenience in opening the box. A slot in one end of the box, as at 4, is provided to receive the mail-matter, and over this a flange is formed by the metal which is cut out to form the slot.

The rear of the box is provided with several holes 6 6 to receive screws or nails or other fastening means by which to secure the box to a post, fence, building, or the like, and the heads or nuts on these securing devices are covered by the tray when closed, so that it is impossible to obtain access to them to remove the box from the place where it is fixed.

As a convenient locking means I propose to adopt the following: This consists of a bar 7, bent into U shape and adapted to enter the staple. This bar is provided with a slot or eyelet 8 at each end, and padlocks 9 9 of greater size than the opening through the staple are used in these slots or eyelets to prevent the withdrawal of the locking-bar from the staple. These locks are adapted for two different keys, and it is designed that the carrier shall have a key which will fit one lock of each box that he has to serve, whereas the other lock is adapted to receive a single key or the keys of the patron of the box where the latter is located, so that the carrier and the patron carry the keys to each individual box and no unauthorized person can get access thereto.

A signal in the form of a tag 12 (shown in dotted lines in Fig. 3) is employed to indicate the presence of mail-matter in the box. This is slipped on bar 7 when mail-matter is in the box, where it is held by the locks, and when there is nothing in the box the signal is left inside of the box.

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

A letter-box comprising a body portion, a tray hinged thereto, one part having a staple and the other a slot to receive the staple, and a fastening device consisting of a bar adapted to pass through the staple, and provided with means for attaching locks to each end thereof on opposite sides of the staple.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WEBSTER W. SWEIGART.

Witnesses:

FRANK E. NEWTON,  
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