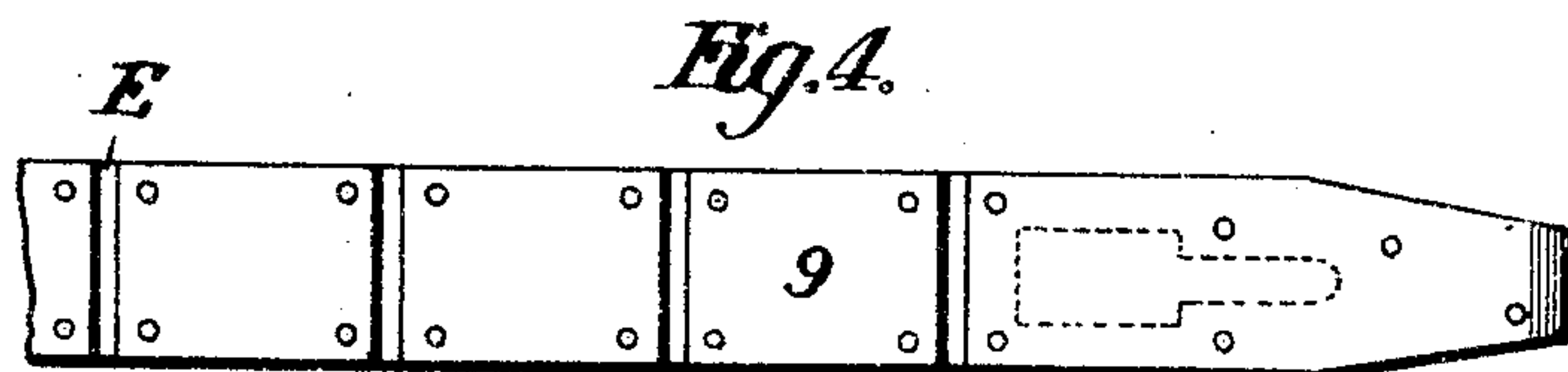
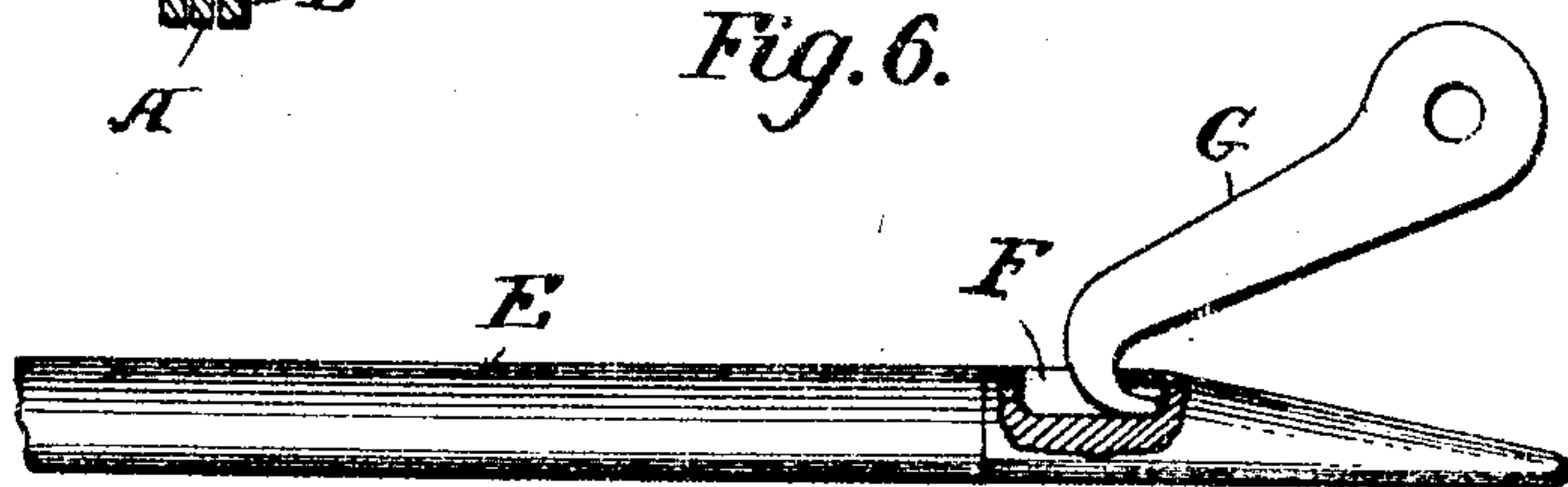
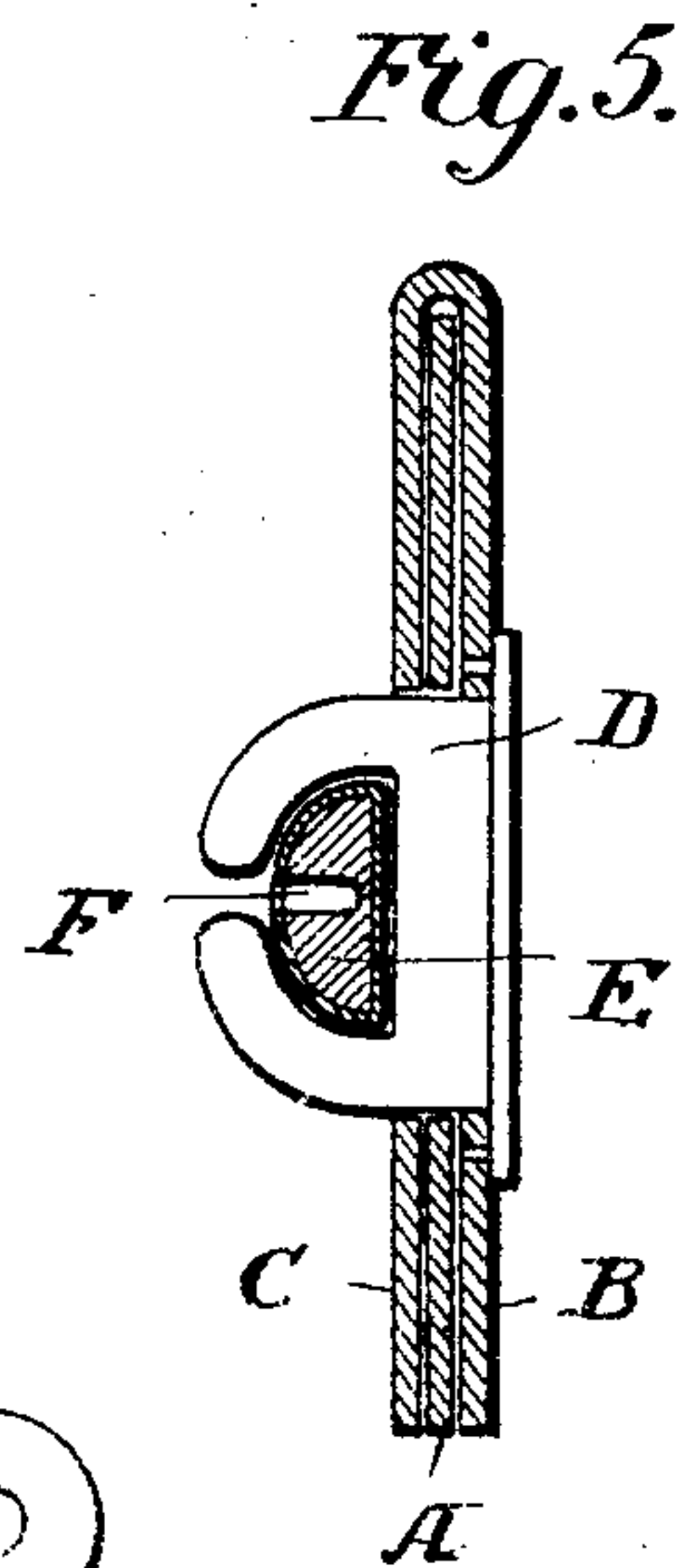
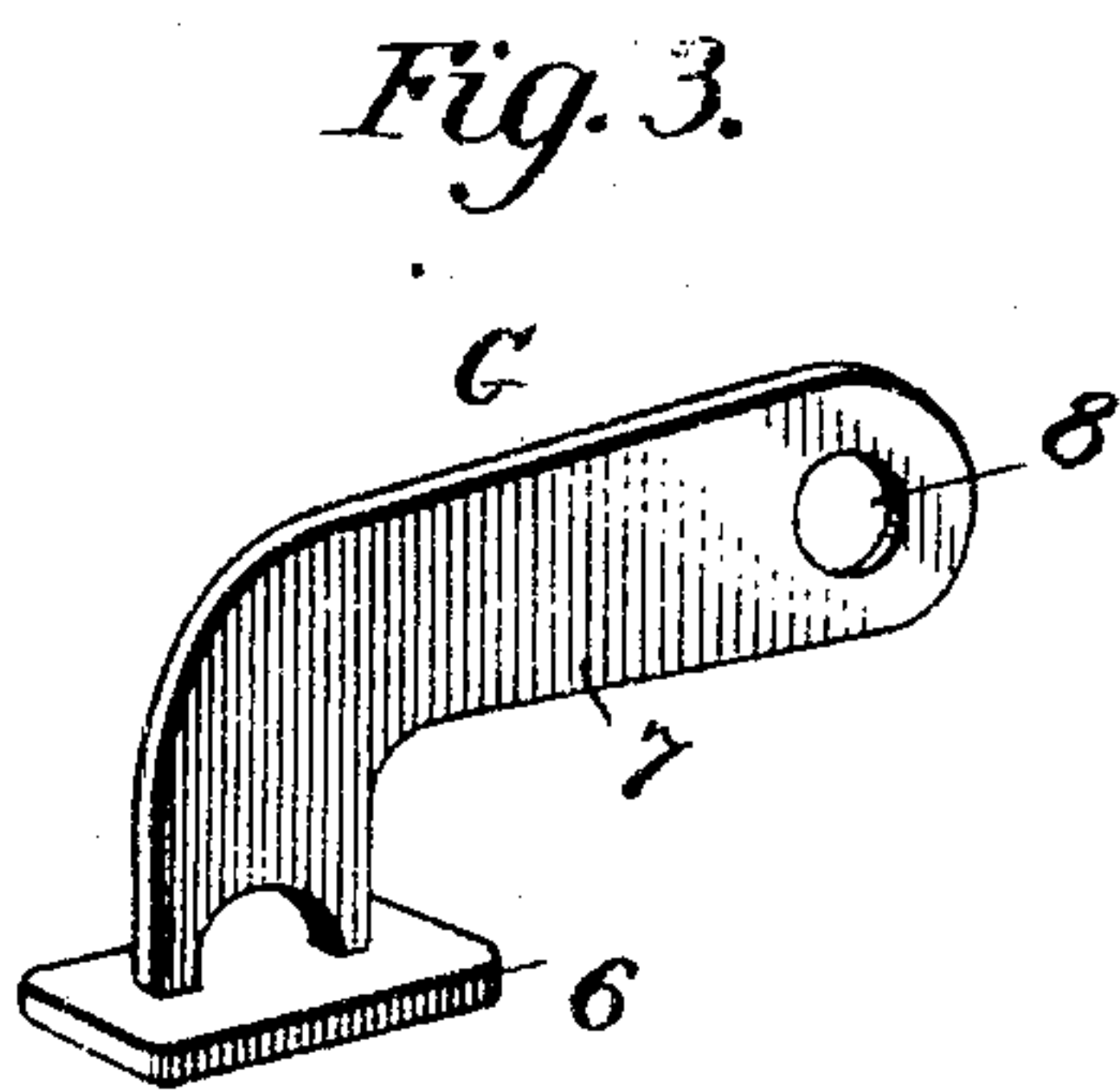
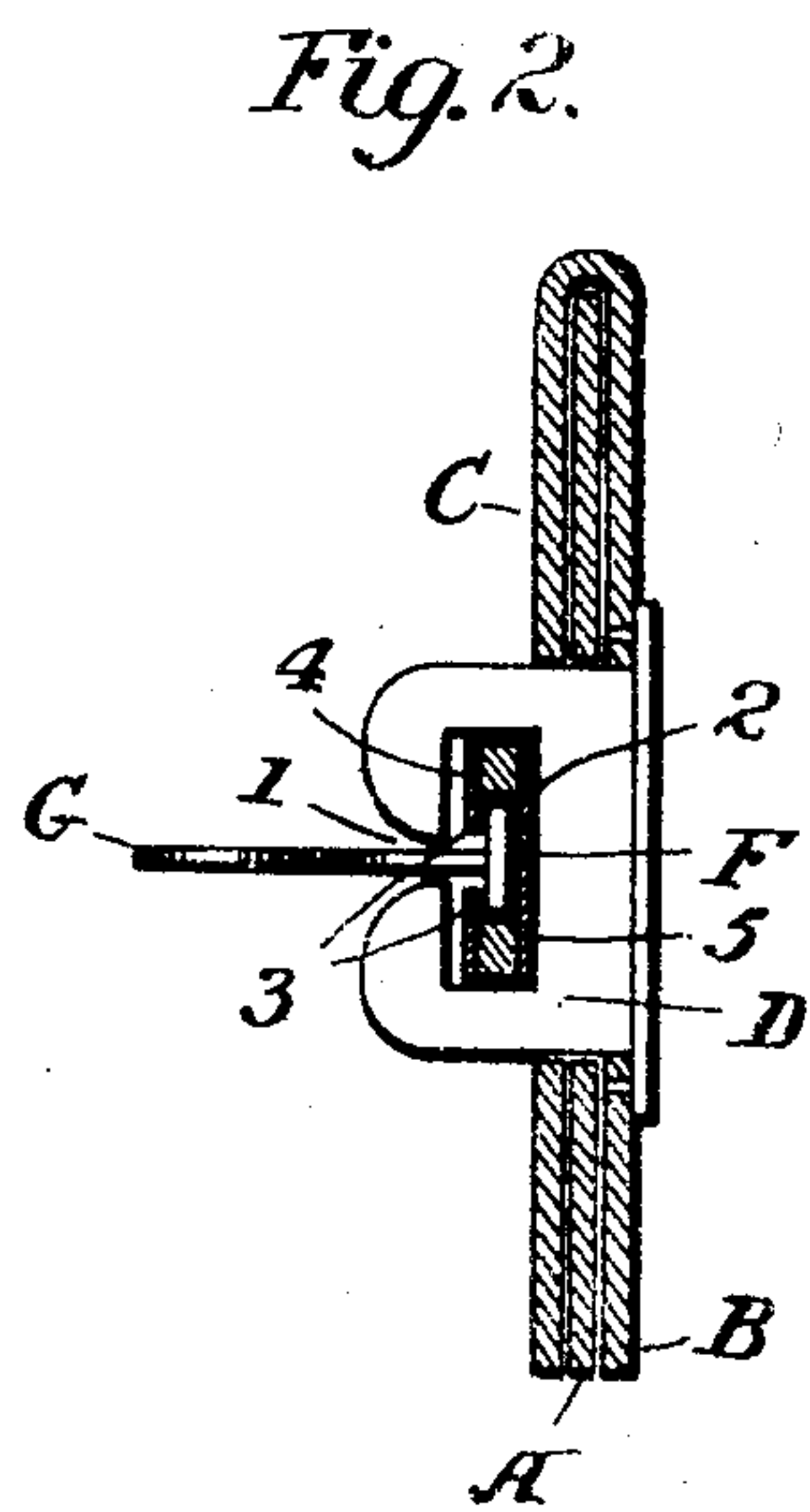
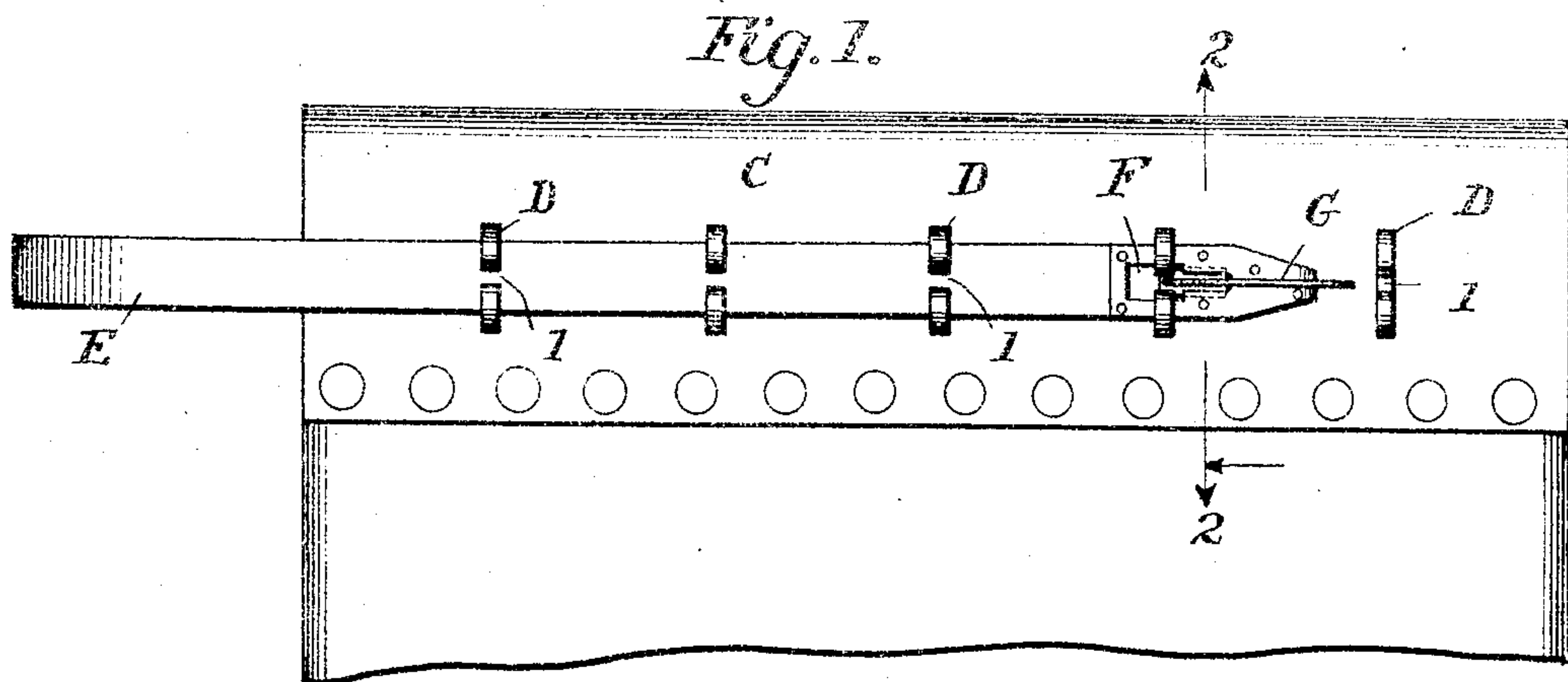


No. 779,747.

PATENTED JAN. 10, 1906

C. B. STEVENS.  
MAIL BAG FASTENING.  
APPLICATION FILED JULY 22, 1904.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES B. STEVENS, OF CUMBERLAND, OHIO.

## MAIL-BAG FASTENING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 779,747, dated January 10, 1905.

Application filed July 22, 1904. Serial No. 217,723.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES B. STEVENS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cumberland, in the county of Guernsey, State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bag Fastenings, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to mail-bag fastenings, and especially to that class of fastenings in which the fastening is effected by threading a strap through staples.

The object of the invention is to provide means whereby the strap may be easily and accurately threaded through the staples and is securely held in place after it has been so threaded.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a face view of a mail sack or bag provided with a fastening means embodying this invention, the strap being shown as partially threaded through the staples. Fig. 2 is a section on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1 looking in the direction of the arrow. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the threading-key. Fig. 4 is a view of the back side of the strap, showing metal plates secured thereto whereby crimping of the strap laterally is prevented. Fig. 5 is a section similar to Fig. 2, showing a modified form; and Fig. 6 is a side view, partially in section, of the strap shown in Fig. 5 with a modified form of threading-key secured thereto.

In the accompanying drawings the mail-bag comprises front and back portions A and B. To one of the sides B is secured a flap C, which is adapted to fold over the other side of the bag A, as shown in Fig. 2. To one side B of the bag are secured staples D by riveting in any suitable manner. In the other side A of the bag and in the flap C are slots through which the staples D may pass. A strap E, which may be secured to the bag in any suitable manner so that its presence will always be assured, may be threaded through the staples D, which project through the slots in the bag and flap, and thereby secure the closing of the mouth of the bag. The strap may be locked in the staples by means of a padlock or other suitable device in a well-known manner.

The device thus far described is well known. The threading of the strap, however, through the staples has been attended with considerable difficulty, as the threading has been effected by pushing upon the strap, which was liable to catch against the staples and buckle, thereby causing delay and annoyance. According to the present invention it is proposed that the strap shall be drawn through the staples instead of pushed, and in order that this may be accomplished readily a keyhole F is formed in the strap and a key G, adapted to engage with the keyhole, provides a means for accomplishing the desired result. As the key projects outwardly from the strap, it is obvious that it will catch against the ordinary form of staple—that is, one which is completely inclosed—and the progress of the strap would be thereby arrested. According to the present invention, therefore, what may be termed “open staples” are employed—that is, staples which have openings 1, through which the shank of the key may pass.

Referring to Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4, which illustrate the preferred embodiment of my invention, the keyhole F comprises a recess 2 and inwardly-projecting lugs 3, which overhang the edges of the recess and extend for a portion only of the length of the recess. The keyhole may be formed in a metal block, which is then secured to the end of the strap, or it may be formed by making the recess within the material of the strap and facing it with metal plates 4 and 5, to the former of which the lugs 3 are secured. The preferred form of key (see Fig. 3) comprises a plate 6 of such width that there is a slight clearance between its edges and the edges of the recess when it is placed therein and is of such length that it may be slid longitudinally beneath and out from under the lugs 3. Fixed to the plate 6 is an outwardly-projecting L-shaped flat handle 7, having a hole 8 in its end, by means of which the key may be placed on a key-ring or secured in any other suitable manner when it is not in use.

The operation of the device is as follows: The sides and flap of the mail-bag having been placed in position and the staples inserted in the slots, as shown in Fig. 2, the



end of the strap is introduced within the left-hand staple (see Fig. 1) of the aligned row of staples, the key G having been previously inserted in the keyhole F by placing the plate 5 6 within the recess 2 at that point which has no lugs and drawing it forward beneath the lugs 3. The handle 7 may then be grasped and drawn to the right, when the strap will be drawn with it. In its passage from left 10 to right the shank of the key will register with and pass through the openings 1 of the staples, so that a clear path is provided. Preferably the end of the strap is made tapering, as shown, so that the liability of its 15 catching upon the staples is reduced to a minimum. The strap having been threaded through the staples, the key may be removed by sliding it backward from under the lugs 3, and the strap may be secured in position. 20 The openings 1 should be made as narrow as possible consistent with the free passage of the key-shank, so that the danger of the strap escaping therethrough may be as small as possible. To prevent the strap from being 25 moved through these openings by crimping it laterally, as might be done where the strap is flat and thin, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the strap may be reinforced by means of metal plates 9, which are longitudinally separated, 30 so that longitudinal flexure is permitted while lateral flexure is prevented.

In Figs. 5 and 6 is shown a modified form comprising a strap having one side curved, while the other side is flat. This shape of the 35 strap prevents lateral flexure without the aid of reinforcing-plates. It is preferably flat on one side, so that it may engage with the staples in such manner as to prevent twisting. The end of the strap is also made tapering in this form, while the keyhole F is merely 40 a metal-faced recess, and the key G comprises a shank having a hook at one end for engaging in said recess.

While I have illustrated my invention in its 45 preferred form and also in a modification thereof, it is to be understood that it may be embodied in a variety of structures and should not, therefore, be limited to the construction or constructions shown.

50 Having described my invention, what I claim is—

1. The combination with a mail-bag of a row of open staples secured to said bag adjacent to the mouth thereof, a strap, having a key- 55 hole formed therein, adapted to be threaded through said staples, and a threading-key

adapted to engage the said strap within said keyhole, substantially as described.

2. The combination with a mail-bag, of a row of open staples secured to said bag and adjacent to the mouth thereof, a strap adapted to be threaded through said staples, said strap having a keyhole, and a threading-key having an outwardly-extending shank registering with the openings in said staples, substantially as described. 65

3. The combination with a mail-bag, of a row of open staples secured to said bag and adjacent to the mouth thereof, a strap adapted to be threaded through said staples, said strap 70 having a keyhole comprising a recess having inwardly-projecting lugs beneath which said key slides, said lugs extending but a portion of the length of said recess, and a threading-key engaging within said keyhole, substantially as described. 75

4. The combination with a mail-bag, of a row of open staples secured to said bag and adjacent the mouth thereof, a strap adapted to be threaded through said staples, said strap hav- 80 ing a keyhole comprising a recess having inwardly-projecting lugs, and a key having a plate sliding within said recess beneath said lugs and an outwardly-extending shank fixed to said plate and registering with the open- 85 ings in said staples, substantially as described.

5. The combination with a mail-bag, of a row of open staples secured to said bag and adjacent to the mouth thereof, a strap adapted to 90 be threaded through said staples, said strap having a keyhole comprising a recess having inwardly-projecting lugs, and a key having a plate sliding within said recess beneath said lugs and a flat L-shaped shank fixed to said 95 plate and registering with the openings in said staples, substantially as described.

6. The combination with a mail-bag, of a row of open staples secured to said bag and adjacent to the mouth thereof, a strap adapted to 100 be threaded through said staples, said strap having a keyhole adapted to pass beneath the openings in said staples as said strap is threaded through them, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name 105 to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES B. STEVENS.

Witnesses:

J. A. WATSON,

H. M. GILLMAN, Jr.