

No. 840,541.

PATENTED JAN. 8, 1907.

C. M. WIGGINS.
RURAL DELIVERY POSTAL BOX.
APPLICATION FILED JULY 6, 1906.

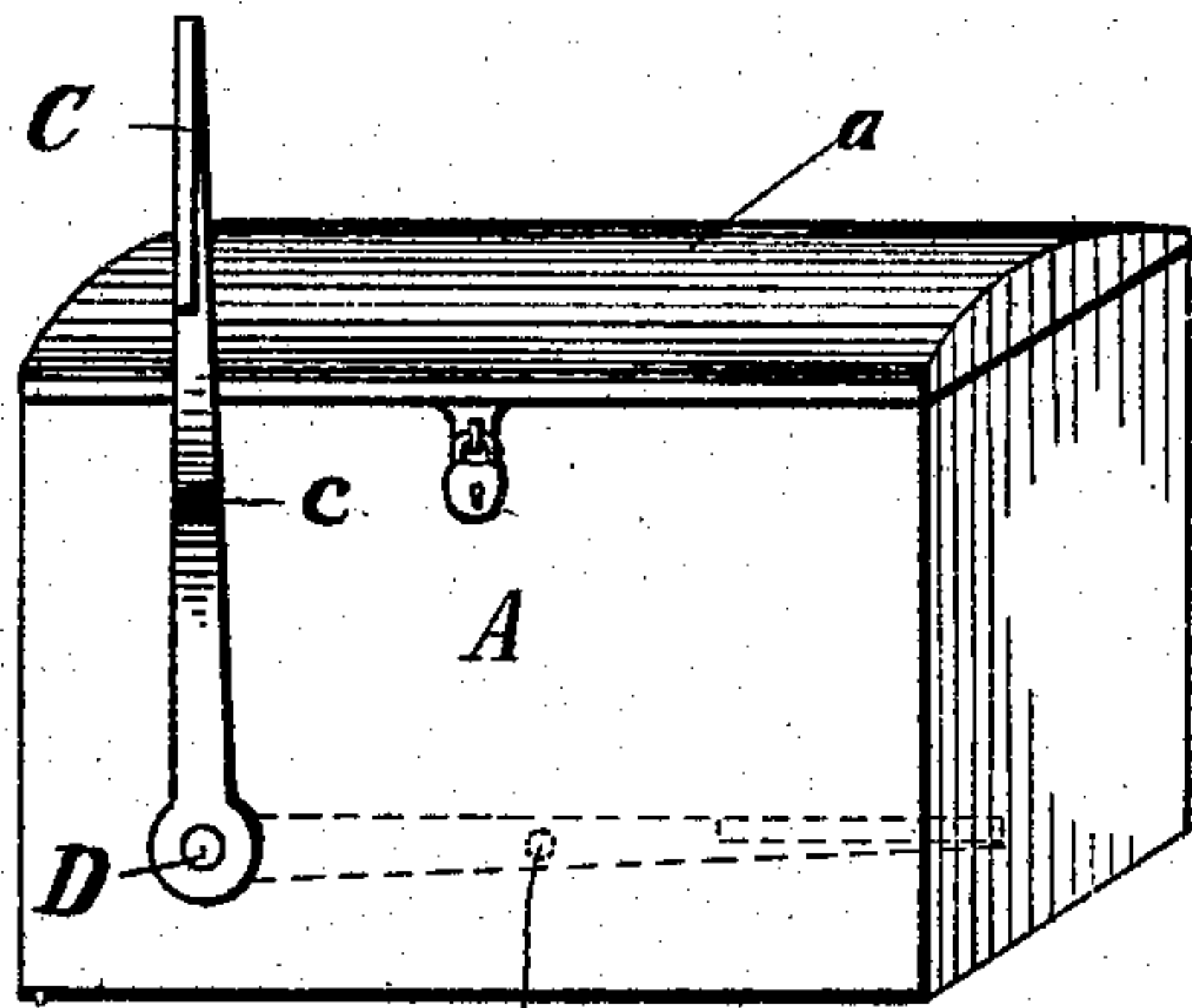


Fig. 1

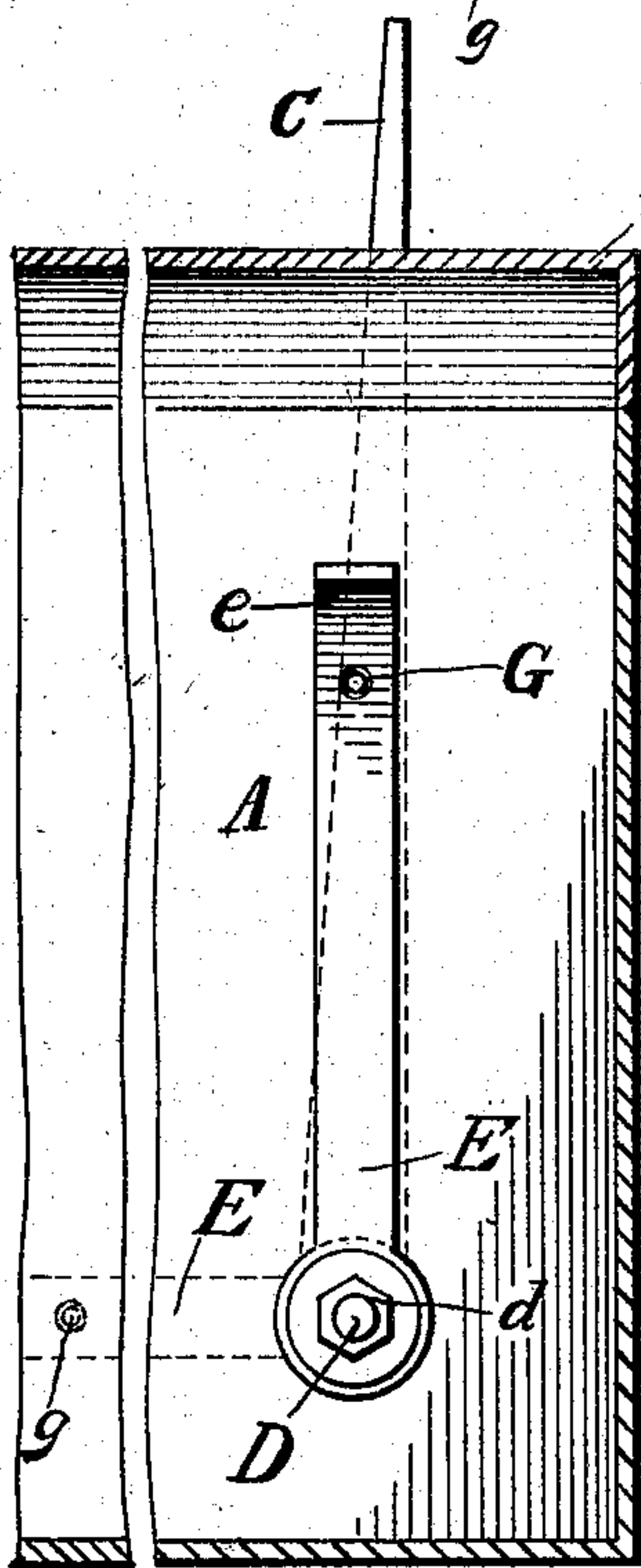


Fig. 2

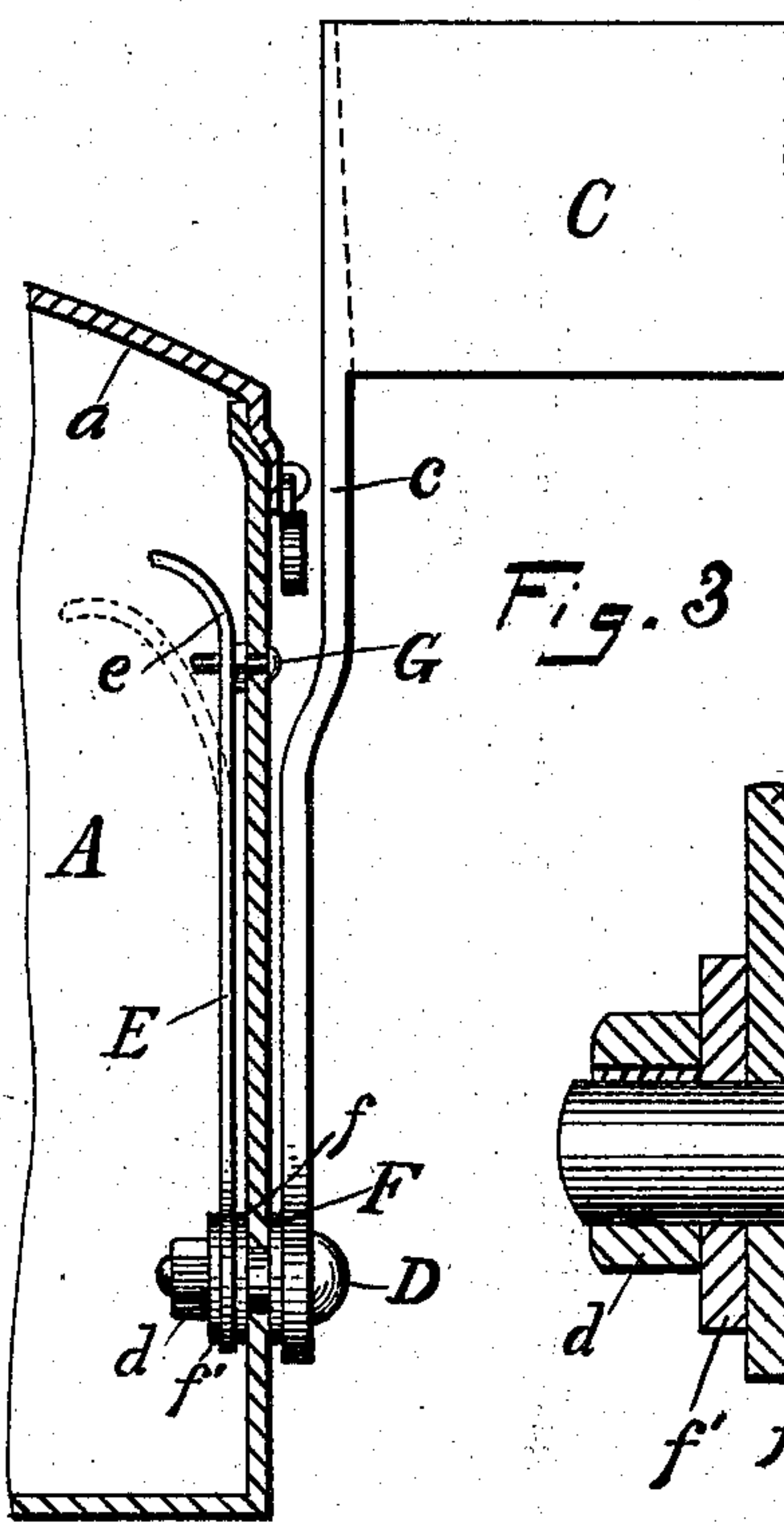


Fig. 3

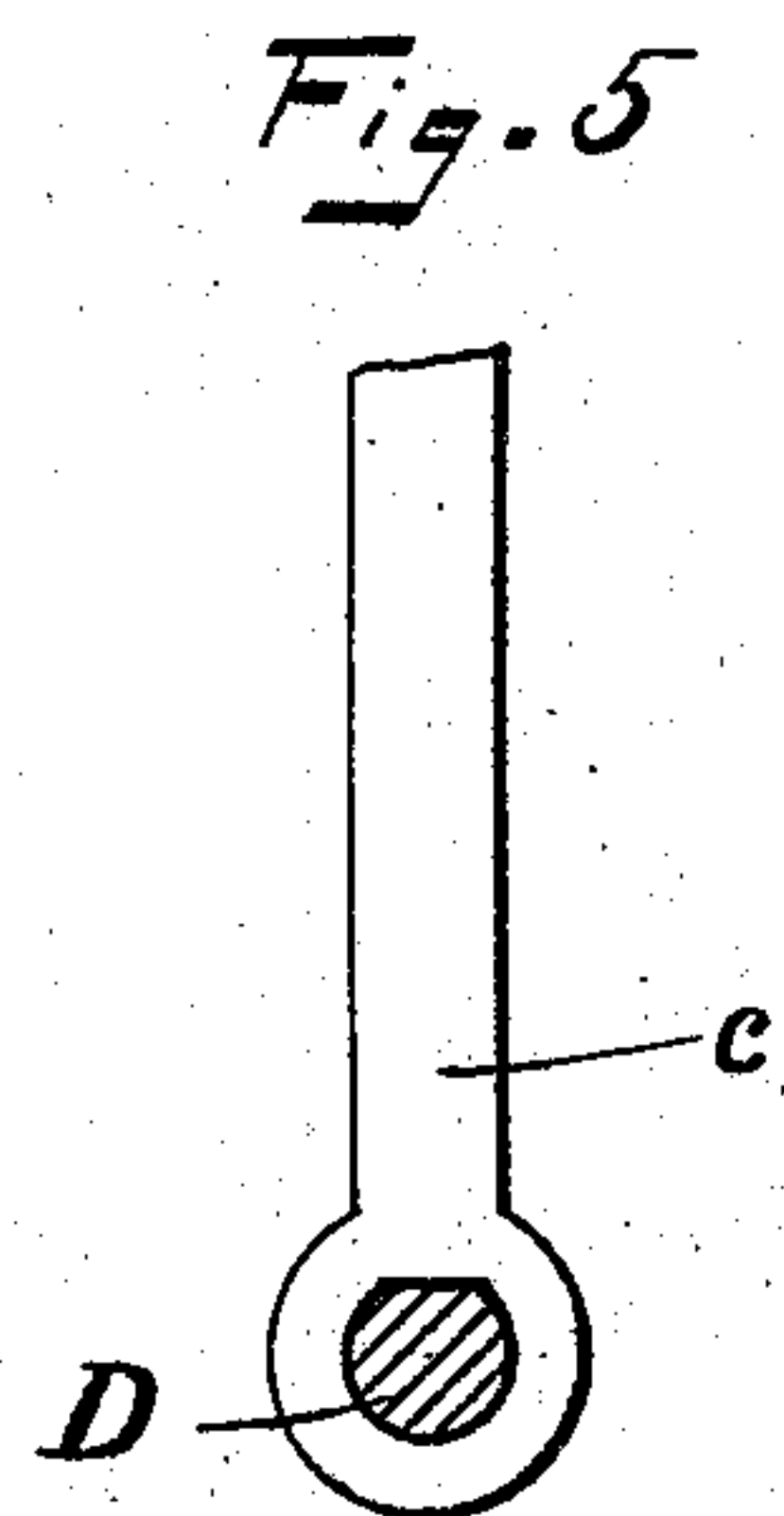


Fig. 5

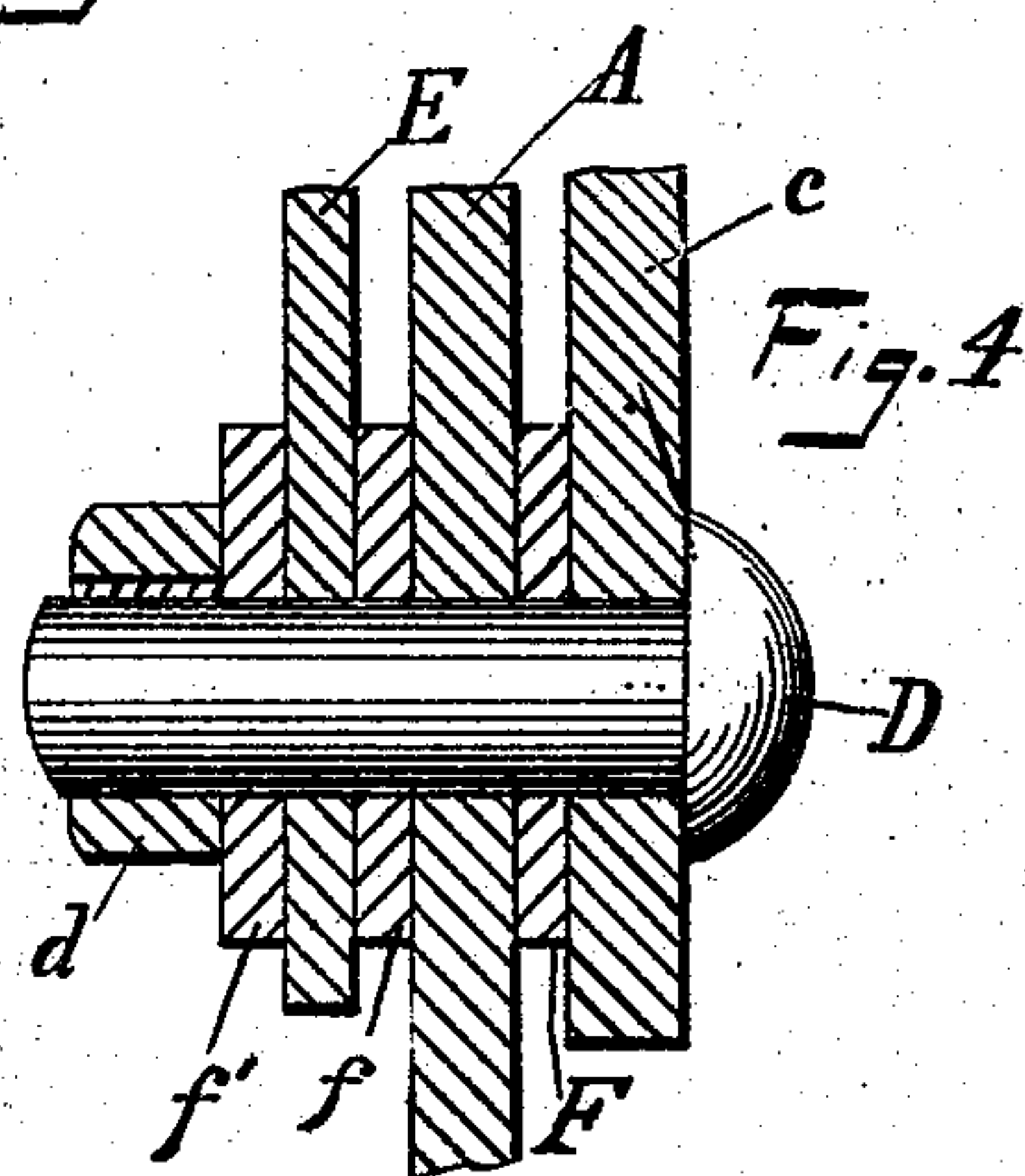


Fig. 4

Witnesses
C. B. Noyes.
James H. Mansfield.

Inventor
By: Charles M. Wiggins.
Alexander & Fowell.
Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES M. WIGGINS, OF ANDALUSIA, ALABAMA.

RURAL-DELIVERY POSTAL BOX.

No. 840,541.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 8, 1907.

Application filed July 5, 1906. Serial No. 324,805.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES M. WIGGINS, of Andalusia, in the county of Covington and State of Alabama, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Rural-Delivery Postal Boxes; and I hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

This invention is an improvement in rural-delivery postal boxes and like receptacles wherein mail or other matter is placed by one party for removal by another; and its object is to provide an improved signaling device whereby the depositor can visually notify the collector that matter is in the box or that it is empty.

The invention consists in the novel signaling device by which the semaphore can be set to either "empty" or "collect" position and when set in one position will remain locked in such position until the box is opened and the signal changed by hand, the signal-controlling devices being located in the box and adapted to be positively locked when adjusted so that the signal cannot be casually displaced either from the inside or outside of the box, although its controlling-lever can be readily manipulated when the box is opened.

The signal is attachable to different makes and styles of boxes, the box shown in the drawings being merely illustrative and not restrictive thereof.

The invention will be clearly understood from the following description and the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front view of a rural free-delivery mail-box with signal set at collect position in full lines and at empty position in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is an inside view of the box, showing the adjusting-lever. Fig. 3 is a vertical section through Fig. 2. Figs. 4 and 5 are details.

The box A is of any suitable construction, provided with a cover a, which can be locked when closed by any suitable means, as customary in rural free-delivery boxes. On the outside of the box is a semaphore or signal C of any desired kind attached to a lever c, which swings in a plane parallel with the side of the box to which it is attached. This lever c is connected at its lower end to a pivot 55 supported in and extending through a suit-

able opening in the side of the box. As shown, this pivot is formed by a bolt D, which passes through an aperture in the side wall of the box and is retained by a nut d on its inner end.

Attached to the pivot D within the box is a setting-lever E, which is preferably parallel with lever c. Both levers c E are attached to the bolt in such manner that they cannot turn thereon. For instance, the bolt could be squared, as indicated in Figs. 4 and 5, and the levers c E have squared apertures fitting the squared portion of bolt D. Suitable washers F and f may be interposed between the levers and the side of the box and a washer f' between the nut d and lever E, if desired. The particular construction of the pivot connection between the levers c E is not material, provided that the levers are held in fixed relation and can be swung together on or with the pivot.

The lever E is preferably resilient and has its upper end shaped so that it can be readily grasped by the hand, as by being bent inwardly, as at e, and it is provided near its free end with an aperture by which it can be engaged with and locked to either of two projections or studs G g, which are attached to the wall of the box and project inwardly therefrom in any suitable manner. When the lever E is engaged with the upper stud G, the semaphore will be locked in collect position, signifying that there is matter in the box to be removed. When the box is emptied, the collector should disengage lever E from stud G and turn it down and lock it to stud g, as indicated in dotted lines, which will bring the semaphore C to lower or empty position.

It will be observed that the lever E can only be operated from inside the box and when the cover is opened and that it has sufficient resiliency to enable it to be sprung off or out of engagement with either stud G or g, but will naturally engage such studs when brought over the same. When locked to either stud the semaphore cannot be moved from outside the box, and consequently casual displacement of the semaphore is effectually prevented.

The signal can only be manually operated. It is positioned and is not liable to false displacements. It is simple and easily constructed and attachable to any ordinary form of box.

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

1. In combination, a box, a semaphore-lever outside the box, a pivot to which said lever is attached extending through the wall of the box, a setting-lever in the box attached to the inner end of the pivot, and devices in the box adapted to be engaged by said setting-lever to lock it and the semaphore in either "collect" or "empty" position.

2. In combination with a box having a cover, a pivot extending through the wall of the box, a semaphore fast to the pivot outside the box, an operating-lever fast to the pivot inside the box, and devices adjacent said pivot adapted to be engaged by the setting-lever to lock it in either extreme position.

3. In combination with a box, a semaphore a bolt transfixing the wall of the box, a semaphore-carrying lever fixed to the outer end of the bolt, a spring setting-lever fixed to the inner end of the bolt, and devices on the inner wall of the box adjacent the lever adapted to be engaged by the setting-lever to lock it in either of its extreme positions, said semaphore being adjustable only when the box is opened, substantially as described.

4. In a rural free-delivery mail-box signal, the combination of a box having a cover, a semaphore-lever outside the box, a pivot-bolt to which said lever is attached extending through the wall of the box, a setting-lever attached to the inner end of the bolt, and devices inside the box adapted to be engaged by said inner lever to lock it and the semaphore in either "collect" or "empty" position.

5. In combination with a box having a cover, a bolt transfixing the wall of the box, a semaphore-carrying lever fixed to the outer end of the bolt, a spring setting-lever fixed to the inner end of the bolt, studs attached to the wall of the box adjacent the lever, and adapted to engage an aperture in the setting-lever to lock it in either of its extreme positions, said semaphore being adjustable only when the box is opened, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES M. WIGGINS.

In presence of—
A. WHALEY,
W. H. JONES.