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RECEPTACLE SUPPORT.

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1,292,421. Patented Jan. 28, 1919.

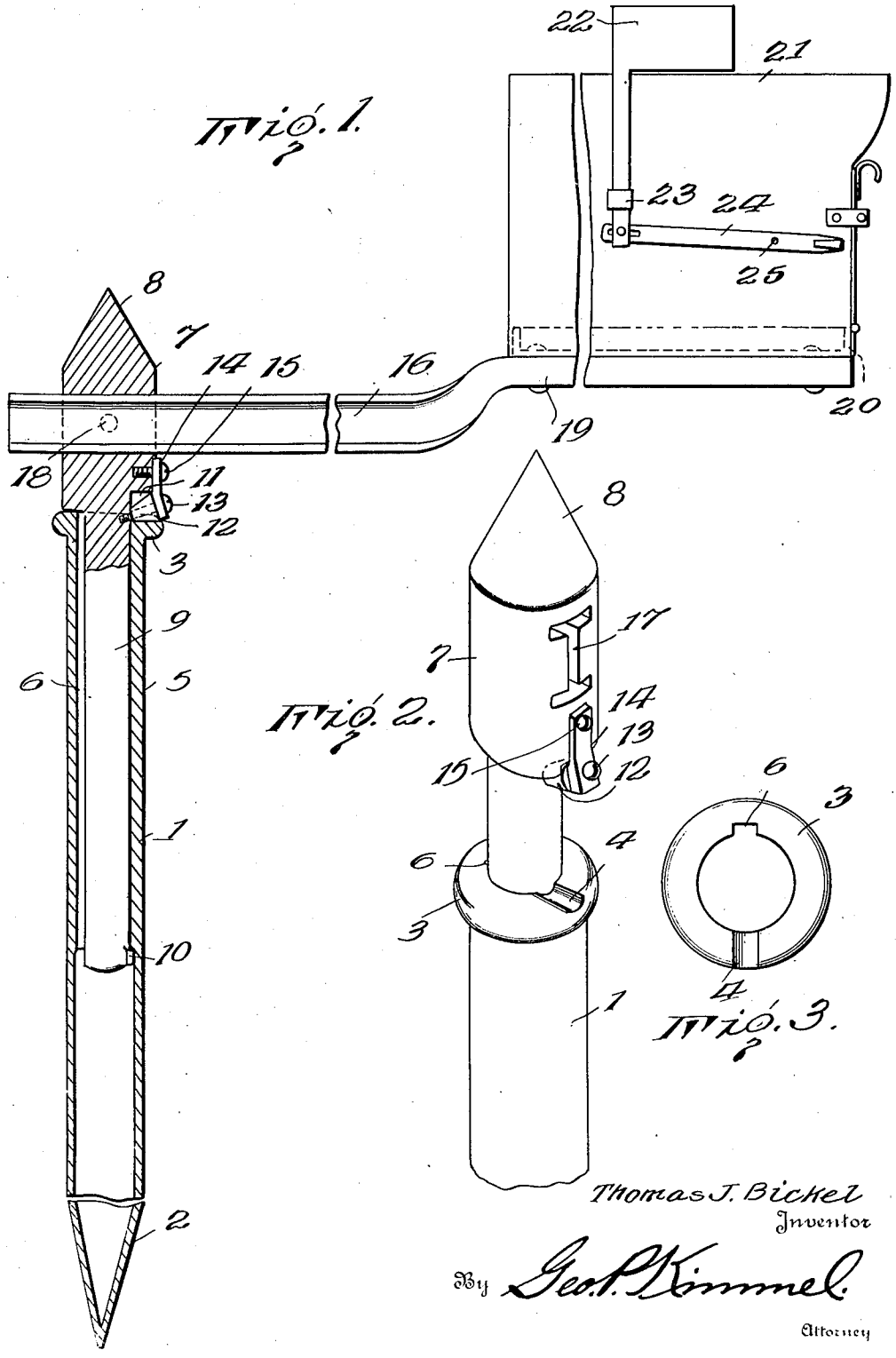


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

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RECEPTACLE-SUPPORT.

1,292,421. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 28, 1919.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS J. BICKEL, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Jasonville, in the county of Sullivan and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Receptacle-Supports, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to deposit and collection mail receptacles and has more especial reference to an improved means for supporting the same.

The invention has for its dominant object to provide a novel supporting means for mail boxes, especially adapted for use in rural districts where the mail boxes are necessarily arranged to one side of the road, to prevent the damaging or wrecking thereof by carelessly driven vehicles which oftentimes collide with the same.

It is also an object of the invention to provide the improved box supporting means with other means for normally maintaining the box in position to permit the ready deposit and collection of mail or like matter therein and therefrom.

Another important feature of the invention resides in the provision of means, whereby, the mail box may be shifted laterally of the supporting means, thus, varying the positioning of the same with respect to the roadway.

All of the foregoing together with additional advantageous details and arrangements of parts of the preferred embodiment of my invention will be clear from the specific description hereinafter contained, when read in connection with the accompanying drawings forming a part thereof wherein said embodiment of the invention is illustrated for the purpose of facilitating a full understanding of the improvements.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a vertical section through the improved supporting means showing the mail box engaged therewith;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary detail in perspective of the same; and

Fig. 3 is a detail in top plan of the bearing face of the hollow supporting post.

Referring now more particularly to the several figures of the said drawings and in connection with which like reference numerals refer to the same parts, there is provided a hollow supporting post 1, the lower extremity of which is tapered as at 2 to permit the same to be readily driven into a suitable supporting base, while the upper extremity thereof is provided with a laterally extending flange 3, the upper face of which is inclined for a purpose which will be subsequently apparent. Within the inclined upper or bearing face of the flange 3 there is formed a seat 4, it being noted that the said seat is arranged at a point adjacent the lowermost portion of the lateral flange 3 and receives and normally retains therein the improved mail box supporting means. As will be noted, the upper portion of the hollow post 1 is thickened as indicated by the numeral 5 while in one side thereof a longitudinally extending slot or way 6 is formed.

A second post 7 is provided and has the upper extremity thereof tapered as at 8 while upon the lower portion of the same there is arranged a depending leg 9, the leg being of a diameter less than the diameter of the post 7 and carrying thereon in proximity of its lower end a laterally extending lug 10. The lug 10 is of a size and shape similar to the longitudinally disposed slot 6 in order that the same may be readily passed downwardly therethrough to permit the insertion of the depending leg 9 in the thickened portion 5 of the post 1. The shoulder as formed upon the lower portion of the post 7, due to the jointure of the reduced depending leg 9 therewith is inclined to correspond to the bearing face of the laterally extending flange 3 and has arranged in one portion thereof a recess 11 for loosely receiving a substantially frusto-conical bearing roller 12, the bearing roller being rotatably mounted upon the post 7 by means of a screw 13 which is passed through the concentric bearing formed therein and has the head thereof engaged with an apertured arm 14, the arm in turn being secured to the post by means of a screw 15 which is passed through the same into engagement with a suitably screw threaded pocket therein. It of course will be understood that the screw threaded extremity of the screw 13 will serve to rotatably support the frusto-conical bearing roller 12 which is turned into engagement with a screw threaded pocket formed in the upper portion of the reduced depending leg 9. By so arranging the roller 12, it is obvious that the same will have engagement with the bearing face of the lateral flange 3 and by reason of the

inside arrangement of the same and also of the shoulder as formed upon the lower extremity of the post 7, it will be normally seated within the recess 4, thus, maintaining the rotatable post in a predetermined position.

To support the mail box or other receptacle in position upon the post 7, an I-beam 16 is passed through a slot extending diametrically through the post 7, which slot is of a shape complemental to the shape of the I-beam 16 and is designated by the numeral 17. A screw threaded opening connects with the opening 17, at substantial right-angles thereto and receives therein a set screw 18 adapted to normally bear against the portion of the I-beam 16 to maintain the same in adjusted position. The outer or free extremity of the I-beam 16 is curved upwardly and flattened as at 19 and has secured to the upper face thereof a substantially rectangularly shaped frame 20, certain of the sides and ends of the frame being provided with walls or stops while the forward portion thereof is open to permit a mail box 21 to be slidably engaged with the same. To secure the mail box 21 in position upon the frame 20, rivets or other suitable fastening means are passed through the walls or stops thereof, thus, preventing undue lateral or longitudinal movement of the same. A signal 22 is slidably secured to one side of the mail box 21 by passing a strap 23 about a portion of the stand of the same and has the lower ends thereof engaged with the slotted end of a lever 24 secured to the adjacent side wall of the box as at 25. By rocking the free extremity of the lever, it will be understood that the signal 22 may be raised or lowered.

From the foregoing, it will be understood that should the mail box or other receptacle as carried upon the flattened portion of the I-beam or bracket 16 be struck by passing vehicles or the like, the same will be permitted to swing freely, thereby materially reducing the impact and as a consequence, preventing extensive damage or wrecking of the box. Furthermore, by reason of the inside arrangement of the bearing face of the flange 3 and the shoulder as formed upon the lower extremity of the post 7, the frusto-conical roller will be caused to return into engagement with the recess or seat 4 formed in the said flange 3 and the box, thus, retained in proper position with relation to the roadway. To remove the post 7 from the hollow post 1, the frame is rotated until the laterally extending lug 10 as carried thereby is alined with the longitudinally disposed slot 6, whereupon the said post may be readily raised from engagement therewith.

While I have herein illustrated and described with a considerable degree of particularity, constructional details of the device embodying my invention, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the particular form and arrangement of the several parts, which may be modified within a wide range without departing from the essence of the invention, the construction shown and the description based thereon being intended to be taken in an illustrative rather than a limiting sense.

I claim:

1. In a device of the character described the combination of a hollow supporting post, the upper portion of the post being thickened, the thickened portion of the post being provided with a longitudinally extending slot, a second post slidably mounted in first mentioned post, a leg member depending from the second post, a lug formed on the free end of the leg adapted for slidable engagement in said slot and adapted also to at times retain the second post in locked position relative to the first mentioned post, the upper extremity of the first mentioned post being inclined, and a rotatable element carried by the second post and adapted to ride on the inclined portion for a purpose specified.

2. In a device of the character described, a hollow post having the upper portion thereof constricted and formed with a longitudinally disposed way and an inclined bearing surface on its upper end, a second post carrying a pin on its lower end slidably and rotatably engaged in said hollow post, said second post having an apertured head formed on its upper end provided with an inclined bearing surface on its underside, a frusto-conical roller carried by the head interposed between said inclined bearing surfaces, and an arm adjustably engaged in the apertured head.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature hereto.

THOMAS J. BICKEL.