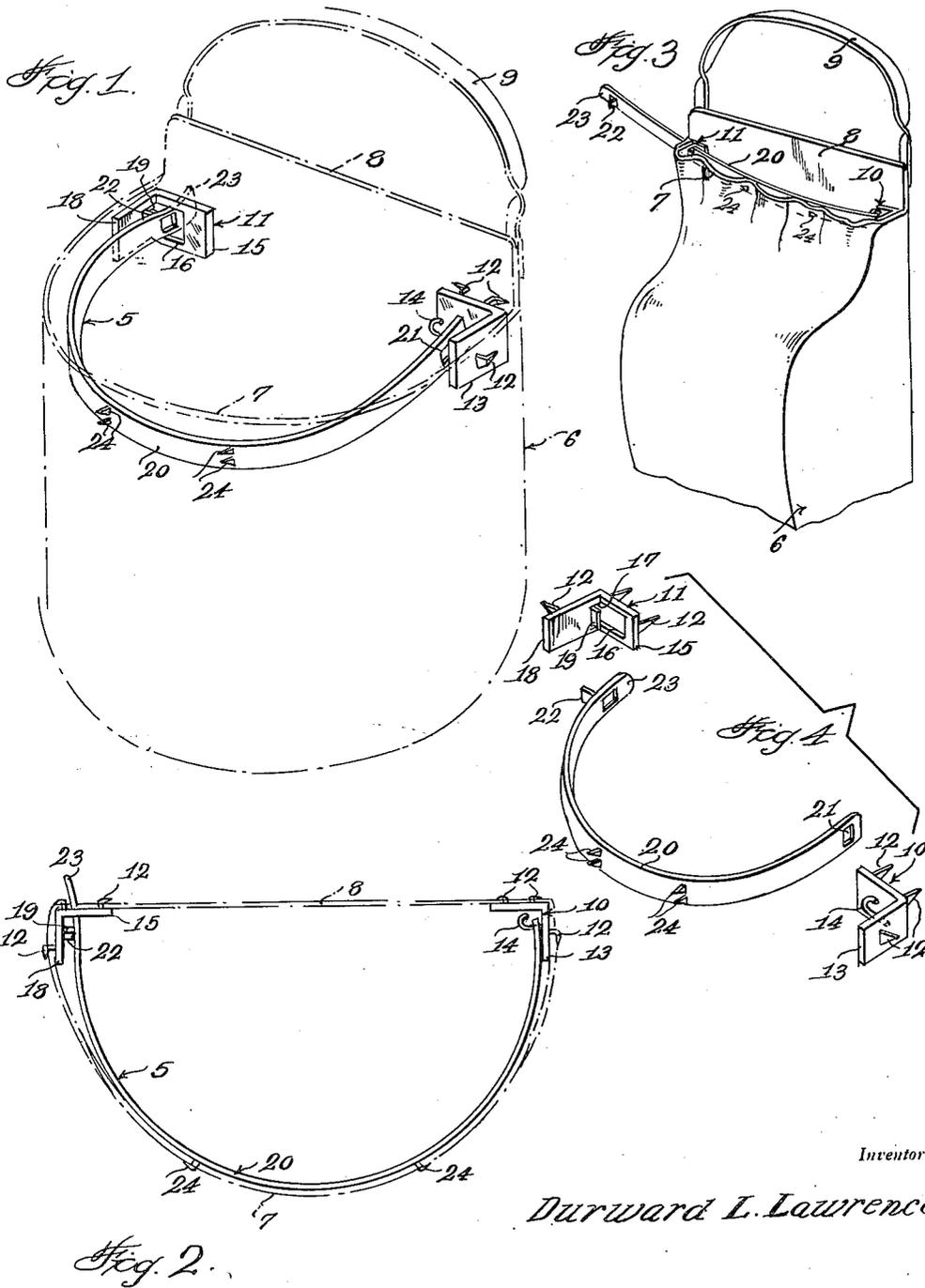


Oct. 31, 1950

D. L. LAWRENCE  
ATTACHMENT FOR RETAINING THE MOUTH OF A FLEXIBLE  
CONTAINER IN AN EXTENDED POSITION  
Filed June 27, 1947

2,527,746



Inventor

Durward L. Lawrence

By *Randolph & Creavers*  
Attorneys

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,527,746

## ATTACHMENT FOR RETAINING THE MOUTH OF A FLEXIBLE CONTAINER IN AN EX- TENDED POSITION

Durward L. Lawrence, Steele, Mo., assignor of  
one-half to Sam Hamra, Steele, Mo.

Application June 27, 1947, Serial No. 757,436

2 Claims. (Cl. 150—2)

1

This invention relates to an attachment for flexible containers, such as sacks or bags and has particular reference to an attachment for use with cotton pickers' sacks and which will effectively function for holding the open top or mouth of the bag or sack in an extended, open position or which can be utilized for closing the sack or container mouth.

More particularly, it is an aim of the invention to provide an attachment of extremely simple construction capable of being readily applied to or removed from the open top or mouth of a sack or bag and which is adapted to be supported therein by engagement therewith.

Still a further object of the invention is to provide an attachment which, when utilized with a cotton picker's sack, will be disposed completely out of engagement with the body of the cotton picker, when the sack is being worn in a conventional manner, so as not to produce an obstruction which will afford discomfort to the cotton picker.

Various other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter become more fully apparent from the following description of the drawing, illustrating a preferred embodiment thereof, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the open end of a cotton picker's sack and showing the attachment applied thereto and in a position for holding the mouth of the sack in an open position;

Figure 2 is a top plan view thereof;

Figure 3 is a side elevational view, showing the attachment applied to the upper portion of a cotton picker's sack and in the position that it will assume for closing the mouth of the sack, and

Figure 4 is an exploded perspective view of the attachment.

Referring more specifically to the drawing, for the purpose of illustrating a preferred application and use of the attachment for flexible containers, comprising the invention and designated generally 5, the upper portion of a conventional cotton picker's sack or bag is illustrated and designated generally 6 and includes an open top or mouth 7 having an apron 8 rising from a portion thereof and to the ends of which is secured the ends of a strap 9 which is adapted to fit over the shoulder of a cotton picker in a conventional manner and with the apron 8 bearing against a portion of the body, so that the sack or bag 6 can be dragged through a field by the picker while engaged in picking cotton and

2

placing the cotton in the sack. The cotton sacks or bags 6 are usually of considerable length, so that a substantial portion thereof drags along the ground behind the cotton picker, but said lower portion is not illustrated, since the attachment 5, constituting the invention, affects only the open, upper end of the bag or sack.

The attachment 5, as best illustrated in Figure 4, includes a pair of substantially rigid, L-shaped members designated generally 10 and 11, each of which is provided on its outer side with a plurality of prongs 12, one or more of which projects from each leg of each of said L-shaped members 10 and 11. The L-shaped members 10 and 11 are adapted to be disposed in the open mouth of the bag 6 in spaced relationship relatively to one another and in the corners formed by the juncture of the ends of the apron 8, with the remainder of the bag or sack 6, as clearly illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, and said L-shaped members 10 and 11 are secured within the open mouth of the sack and at the ends of the apron 8 by the prongs 12 extending through the fabric of the sack and said prongs 12 may be bent over as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, for detachably fastening the L-shaped members 10 and 11 in the positions of Figures 1 and 2.

With the L-shaped member 10 thus disposed, the leg 13 thereof which projects away from the apron 8 is provided with a hook 14 which is anchored thereto and which extends inwardly therefrom. The other leg 15 of the L-shaped member 11 is provided with an elongated opening 16 which extends to the bight of the member 11 which joins with a slot 17 in the leg 18 of said member 11 which is formed by the tongue 19 which extends inwardly from the leg 18 and adjacent the leg 15.

The L-shaped members 10 and 11 may be formed of any suitable, substantially rigid material, preferably metal. The attachment 5 also includes an elongated bar forming a bail 20 and which is formed from a resilient material, such as metal. The bail 20 is relatively wide and is provided with a relatively large transverse disposed opening 21 adjacent one end thereof which is of sufficient size to loosely and detachably engage the hook 14 for positioning the opening 21 in engagement with the shank portion of said hook and against the inner side of the leg 13, as seen in Figures 1 and 2. For attaching the bail 20 to the L-shaped members 10 and 11, the bail opening 21 is first engaged with the hook 14, as previously described after which said bail is sprung from its substantially straight, normal

position, to its bowed or arcuate position, as seen in Figures 1, 2 and 4, and is positioned within the open mouth 7 of the sack 6 and so as to extend in a direction away from the apron 8. Adjacent its opposite end, the bail 20 is provided with a struck-out tongue 22. Said last mentioned end of the bail 20 is adapted to be sprung until its terminal portion extends through the opening 16 of the leg 15 of the L-shaped member 11 and through an opening, not shown, in apron 8. When thus disposed, the resiliency of the bail 20 will retain the tongue 22 in engagement with tongue 19 so that said parts will form interengaging limiting stops to limit the extent that the bail end 23 extends through opening 16 and the apron 8.

The bail 20 is provided on its outer side and intermediate of its ends with a plurality of prongs 24, which are adapted to penetrate the material of the sack 6 adjacent the open mouth 7 and remote from the apron 8 for thereby attaching the intermediate portion of the bail detachably to said portion of the sack 6, for a purpose which will hereinafter become apparent.

The width of opening 16 is only slightly greater than the width of the bail 20 for maintaining said bail in substantially the same plane as the L-shaped members 10 and 11 when the bail is held extended as seen in Figures 1 and 2, to prevent swinging movement of the bail and for holding the mouth 7 of the sack in a fully opened position.

To utilize the attachment 5 for closing the mouth 7 of the sack, the terminal 23 is manually engaged and pressed inwardly for disengaging the tongues 19 and 22 so that the tongue 22 and adjacent portion of the bail 20 can slide outwardly through opening 16 and through the apron 8 to assume the position of Figure 3, and as the outer portion of the mouth of the sack is connected to the intermediate portion of the bail 20 by the prongs 24, said outer portion will also be carried inwardly and to a position substantially against the opposite side or apron of the sack, so that the attachment 5 will function, in its position of Figure 3, as a closure for the sack mouth. In accomplishing this movement, the bail opening 21 pivots and slides on hook 14.

With the bail 20 in its position of Figure 3, the prongs 24 can be disengaged from the sack 6, the bail 20 disconnected from the hook 14 and removed from the opening 16, after which said L-shaped members can be removed from the sack 6, after straightening the prongs 12.

Obviously, the attachment 5 is adapted for use with other types of sacks, bags or flexible containers employed for other purposes and may be utilized in the same manner as previously described for holding sacks or bags with their mouths in either an open or closed position, including sacks or bags which are hung in vertical position, as depositories for various articles or items.

Various modifications and changes in the con-

structions of the invention, as illustrated and described, are contemplated and may obviously be resorted to, without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention, as hereinafter defined by the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. An attachment for flexible containers, comprising a pair of supporting members adapted to be detachably secured in the open end or mouth of a flexible container and in spaced relationship to one another, and a resilient bail detachably connected adjacent to its ends to said supporting members and held thereby under tension, said bail being adapted to be disposed within a portion of the open end or mouth of the container for retaining said portion in an extended, open position, said bail being pivotally connected to one of said supporting members and slidably connected to the other supporting member.

2. An attachment for flexible containers, comprising a pair of supporting members adapted to be detachably secured in the open end or mouth of a flexible container and in spaced relationship to one another, a resilient bail detachably connected adjacent to its ends to said supporting members and held thereby under tension for yieldably retaining the supporting members in spaced relationship, said bail being adapted to be disposed within a portion of the open end or mouth of the container for retaining said portion in an extended, open position, said bail being pivotally connected to one of said supporting members, means for slidably connecting the bail to the other supporting member, and coacting stop means on the bail and last mentioned supporting member cooperating with said slidable means for retaining the bail in bowed condition, with its ends in substantially the same plane as the supporting members for holding the mouth of said flexible container in an open position or to permit that end of the bail to be released from its stop means to slide relatively to the last mentioned supporting member so that its tendency to assume a straightened condition will function to close the open top or mouth of said container.

DURWARD L. LAWRENCE.

#### REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

#### UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
325,287	Utley	Sept. 1, 1885
963,815	Schuller	July 12, 1910
1,475,132	Monaghan	Nov. 20, 1923
1,712,109	Hammer	May 7, 1929
2,158,955	Blacher	May 16, 1939
2,158,999	Allen	May 23, 1939

#### FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
17,798	Great Britain	of 1912
440,092	Germany	Jan. 28, 1927