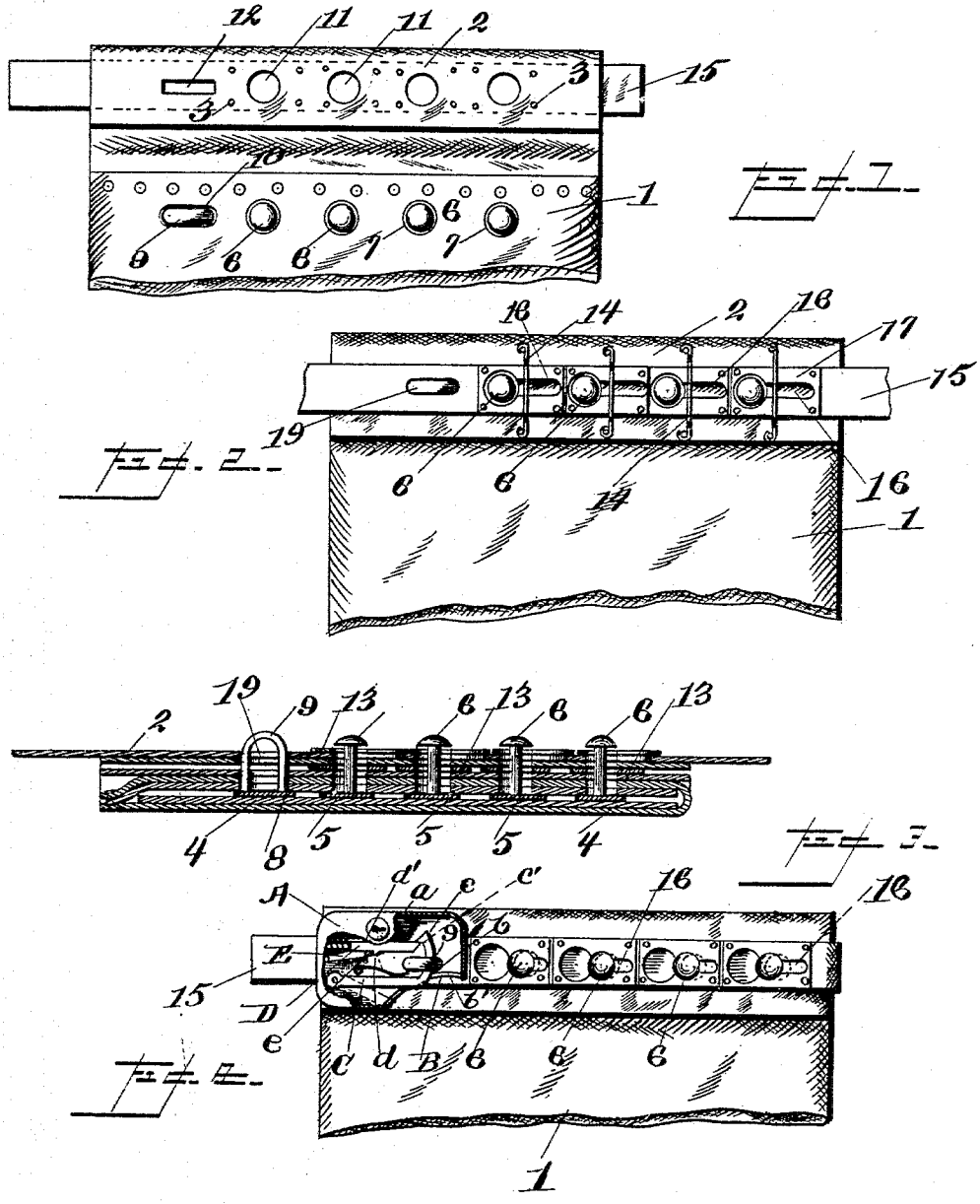
(No Model.)

L. ARNOLD.

FASTENER FOR MAIL BAGS.

No. 514,404. Patented Feb. 6, 1894.



WITNESSES

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FASTENER FOR MAIL-BAGS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 514,404, dated February 6, 1894.

Application filed August 5, 1893. Serial No. 482,465. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LYNDON ARNOLD, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Johnsbury, in the county of Caledonia and State of Vermont, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fasteners for Mail-Bags; 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.

This invention relates to improvements in that class of mail-bags which employ a sliding locking-strap; and it consists in the peculiar construction and arrangement of the several parts as will be hereinafter more fully described and specifically pointed out in the claims.

The principal objects of the invention are to provide a mail-bag with a locking device that can be quickly and readily operated, and positive in its operation, and, at the same time, secure against tampering by unlawful persons.

Another object of the invention is to increase the strength and durability of the working parts of the various parts that constitute the locking device without materially increasing the weight thereof.

These objects I accomplish by the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1, represents the upper portion of one side of a mail-bag, showing the flap thrown up, with my improved locking device applied thereto; Fig. 2, a view showing the parts in position to be secured by the strap when pulled; Fig. 3, a sectional view on line *x x* of Fig. 2, and Fig. 4, a view showing the parts in locked position.

Referring to the drawings:—the numeral 1 indicates an ordinary mail-bag provided with the usual flap 2, which is formed of two thicknesses of material secured together by a line of rivets 3. To the inner side of the bag, at its open end or mouth, is riveted or otherwise secured a strap, 4, to which is secured a series of metal plates 5, each plate carrying a stud, 6, which is received through a perforation 7—made in the front portion of the bag. To this strap 4, at one end, is secured a metal plate, 8, carrying a staple, 9, which is received through a slot, 10, made in the front portion of the bag in line with the perforations 7.

It will be seen that by securing the strap 4 to the inner side of the back of the bag and providing said strap with the headed rivets and the staple, the mouth of the bag is closed by inserting said headed rivets and staple through the perforations in the front portion of the bag. The same result may be accomplished by securing the studs directly to the bag, thus dispensing with the strap, but I prefer to employ the strap.

The flap 2 is provided with a series of perforations 11 through which are received the headed studs, 6, and with a slot 12, through which is received the staple 9, when said flap is folded over the mouth of the bag. To prevent these perforations from being enlarged by constant contact with the studs and to strengthen the material at this point, I provide perforated plates 13 which are placed between the folds of the flap, a hole of each plate registering with a hole in the flap, and there securely riveted. To the flap are secured loops 14 through which operates a sliding locking-strap, 15, which is provided with a series of slots 16 enlarged at one end. Each slot is protected by an escutcheon 17, securely riveted to the locking strap. The locking strap is further provided with a slot, 19, through which is received the staple 9, and has one end extended to form a grasping portion to manipulate the strap in locking and unlocking operation.

The letter A indicates a lock of special construction which engages with the staple 9, after the locking-strap has been moved forward and the staple passed through the slot 19.

The case *a* of the lock A is cut away or recessed as shown at B, and is provided with a slot, *b*, which receives the staple 9, and the usual key-hole. A spring-actuated latch C is pivoted at one end within the lock-case and has its free end extending out through the slot *b'* made in the edge of the recessed portion of the lock and is provided with a hook-end *c*. This hook-end is recessed at *c'* and operates through the slotted edge to be engaged by a spring-actuated bolt D resting upon a spring-actuated tumbler, E, which is

engaged by the wards of a key to push said tumbler aside until the lug d is disengaged from the stud e on the tumbler, when the bolt can be shot back, by the ward of the key acting on the lug d' to release the spring-actuated latch.

The operation of my invention will be apparent from the foregoing description, taken in connection with the drawings, without further explanation.

In unlocking the bag a proper key is used to shoot back the bolt to release the spring-actuated latch, which latch springs outward leaving the end of the locking-strap free to be disengaged from the staple, then by a slight endwise movement of said strap the enlarged portion of the slots therein is made to coincide with the heads of the studs, when the flap may then be thrown over and the bag opened.

The lock may be secured to the locking strap as shown in Fig. 3, and is provided with means for holding the usual destination slip.

It will be understood that slight changes or modifications of the various parts of my invention may be made without departing from the principle thereof, such for instance as making the locking-studs and the slots in the locking-strap T shape, or the locking studs may be secured to the inner side of the flap of the bag, but I prefer to secure them as indicated in the drawings, in both cases the mouth of the bag is closed as soon as the studs have been passed through the holes in the front portion of the bag.

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

1. A mail bag having integral therewith a double-fold flap provided with a series of perforations protected by perforated plates secured between the folds of said flap, a strap secured to the inner side of the bag at a point below the flap and carrying a series of headed-studs and a staple, a series of perforations in the front portion of the bag, a series of loops secured to the flap, and a locking-strap sliding within said loops and provided with a series of protected key-hole slots to receive the headed-studs and lock the same therein, substantially as specified.

2. A mail bag having integral therewith a double-fold flap provided with a series of perforations protected by perforated plates secured between the folds of said flap, a strap secured to inner side of the rear portion of the bag at a point below the flap and carrying a series of headed-studs and a staple, a series of perforations in the front portion of the back, a series of loops secured to the flap a locking strap provided with a series of protected key-hole slots and sliding within said loops, and a lock engaging with the staple to lock the strap, substantially as specified.

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

LYNDON ARNOLD.

Witnesses:

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