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C. F. FARRAR.

RURAL MAIL BOX.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 4, 1905.

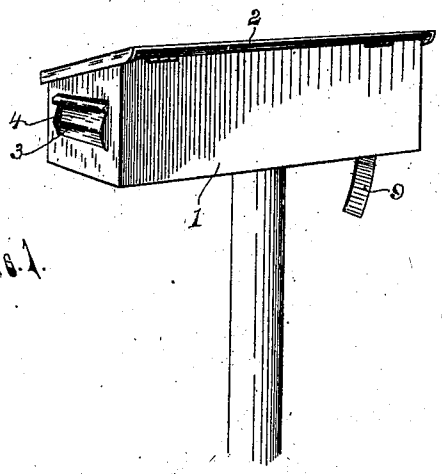


Fig. 1.

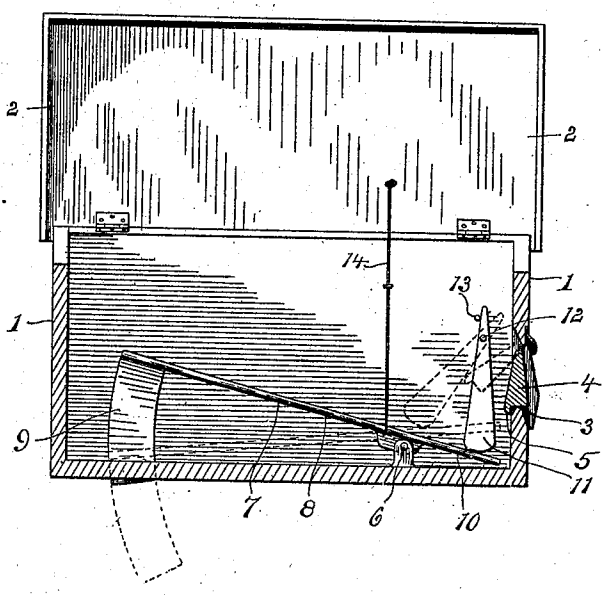


Fig. 2.

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RURAL MAIL-BOX.

No. 815,585. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented March 20, 1906.

Application filed November 4, 1905. Serial No. 285,807.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES F. FARRAR, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Howell, in the county of Livingston and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Rural Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to improvements in mail-boxes for rural mail-routes; and its object is to provide a suitable box for the purpose having an indicator which will be automatically operated by the placing of mail in the box or its removal therefrom to indicate such fact and to provide a very simple construction which is cheap to manufacture and not liable to get out of order, all as hereinafter more fully described, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a device embodying the invention, and Fig. 2 an enlarged longitudinal vertical section of the same with the cover raised.

As shown in the drawings, 1 represents a rectangular receptacle or box which may be made of any suitable material and in any desired size or form, and 2 is a cover or top hinged at one side to said box and preferably inclined and provided with a flange or skirt extending downwardly over the edge of the box to effectually shed and exclude the rain. In one end of the box is an opening 3, through which the mail is placed in the box, and this opening is closed by a door 4, hinged within the opening at its upper edge to swing inward and weighted or enlarged to form a weight at its lower edge, so that it will close by gravity, a flange 5 being provided on its lower edge to engage the inner surface of the box and prevent the door from swinging outward through the opening.

Pivoted at 6 intermediate its ends upon any suitable support within the box near the rear wall thereof and adjacent to the end provided with the door is a rod 7, and on the long end 8 of this rod is an indicator 9, formed of sheet metal and projecting through a slot in the bottom of the box. Above the short end 10 of the rod and adjacent to the door a weighted pendant or latch 11 is pivoted at 12 to the rear wall of the box to normally hang by gravity vertically downward in engagement with said short end of the rod and is of such a length that when so engaged said short end will be held downward and the long end raised, thus holding the indicator lifted within the box. The pendant 11 is so positioned relative to the door 4 that when the door is swung inward to permit the insertion of mail said door will engage the pendant or latch below its pivot and swing the same inward toward the pivot 6 of the rod, thus releasing the rod and permitting the same to drop by the weight of its long end and attached indicator, which will be projected some distance through the slot in the bottom of the box to indicate that there is mail in the box. A stop-pin 13 is provided on the rear wall of the box to engage the upwardly-extending end of the latch above its pivot and prevent the latch from swinging downward toward the door beyond its vertical position.

Attached to the long end 8 of the rod 7 near its pivot 6 is a cord or flexible wire 14, and the opposite end of said end is attached to the cover 2 a short distance outward from its hinge-line, so that when the cover is lifted and swung backward on its hinges it will pull on the cord, thus rocking the rod on its pivot and raising the indicator. When the rod is thus rocked by the cover, its short end is lowered, thus permitting the latch to swing downward by gravity from the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2, into which it was swung by the insertion of mail, to engage said short end of the rod and hold the indicator raised or retracted.

With this construction the indicator is automatically displayed when the mail is placed in the box and is automatically retracted to indicate that the box is empty when the mail is removed, and, if desired, a lock may be used on the box to prevent the removal of mail, and it will be necessary to unlock it only when there is mail to remove.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim is—

1. The combination with a mail-box, of a movable cover for said box, a door in said box for the insertion of mail, an indicator adapted to be released by the movement of the door to permit the indicator to move to its display position, and means connecting

the cover and indicator to move the indicator from its display position when the cover is moved.

2. The combination with a mail-box, of a hinged cover for said box, a door in said box for the insertion of mail, a gravity-indicator adapted to be released by the opening of said door, and means connecting the cover and said indicator to raise the indicator when the cover is raised.

3. The combination with a mail-box, of a door in said box, a pivoted indicator, means for locking the indicator in one position adapted to be engaged and operated by the door to release the indicator when said door is opened.

4. The combination of a mail-box, having a slot, an indicator within said box adapted to be projected through the slot, a door in said box adapted when opened to release the indicator to permit the same to be projected, a cover hinged to the box, and means within the box connecting the cover and indicator to retract the indicator when the cover is raised.

5. The combination with a mail-box, of a gravity-indicator pivoted intermediate its ends, a door in said box, and a gravity-latch adapted to engage the indicator at one side of its pivot to hold the same in its raised position, and adapted to be engaged and moved by said door to release the indicator.

6. The combination with a mail-box, of a cover hinged to said box, a rod pivoted intermediate its ends, an indicator carried by said rod at its opposite end, a gravity-latch to engage the indicator at one side of its pivot and hold the same raised, a door to close an opening in the box adapted to engage and operate the latch, and means attached at one end to the indicator at the opposite side of its pivot and at its opposite end to the cover to raise the indicator when the cover is lifted.

7. The combination of a mail-box having a slot, a cover hinged to the box, a rod pivoted intermediate its ends within the box, an indicator on one end of said rod adapted to project through the slot in the box, means attached at one end to the rod between the indicator and the pivot of the rod and at its opposite end to the cover, a door to close an opening in the box, a gravity-latch pivoted to the wall of the box adjacent to said door to engage the end of the rod at the opposite side of its pivot and adapted to be engaged by said door when the same is opened.

8. The combination of a mail-box having a slot in its bottom and an opening in one end, a cover hinged to said box, a rod pivoted intermediate its ends within the box and forming a long end at one side of its pivot and a short end at the opposite side, an indicator on the long end of said rod to project through said slot, a cord secured at one end to the rod between its pivot and the indicator, a door operating by gravity to close said opening in the end of the box, and a gravity-latch pivoted to the wall of the box adjacent to said door to be engaged and turned thereby and to engage the short end of the rod and hold the indicator raised.

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

CHARLES F. FARRAR.

Witnesses:

EBEN L. HARRINGTON,

OTTO F. BARTHEL.