S. ROTH.
THIEF PROOF SATCHEL.
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 7, 1913.

Patented Dec. 1, 1914.
To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, Samuel Roth, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Thief-Proof Satchels, of which the following is a specification, such as will enable those skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to hand baggage, such as satchels, suitcases, and the like, and with particular reference to the use of such articles for carrying coin, currency, or other valuables.

Many bold robberies of bank messengers have recently occurred where the messenger was assaulted and the money bag torn from his grasp after which the highwaymen succeeded in making a successful escape, and it was in order to defeat any such attempt in the future that my invention was conceived.

I am aware that carrying cases have been heretofore patented which give an audible alarm when such cases were lifted from the floor or ground or, conversely, when they were placed on the ground, thus attracting the attention of persons in the immediate neighborhood, but such devices would be entirely inadequate to defeat the attempts at robbery mentioned.

My device consists primarily in a carrying case containing a suitable alarm adapted to be sounded the moment the case was taken from the hand of the person carrying it or should drop the same upon being assaulted, which alarm is inaccessible to any person whereby the operation thereof might be prevented, and which are adapted to be set by authorized persons, as in banks, and then secured against tampering, previous to the delivery thereof to a messenger.

My invention is fully set forth in the following specification, of which the accompanying drawings form a part, in which the separate parts are designated by the same reference characters in each of the views, and in which:

3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2; and Fig. 4 is an enlarged, fragmentary view of one form of alarm which I may employ.

In the drawings forming a part of this application I have shown a suit case a of the usual or any other desired construction with the exception of the handle a' which is made hollow and provided with a side door a'' adapted to be locked by means of a key a" and said handle is also provided with a spring actuated, trap door b on the under side thereof, the normal spring action of which is to close the same and maintain it closed, and I may also provide a spring lock 3" whereby it may not be opened except by means of a key in the possession of an authorized person, and said trap door has a hook b' on the inner side thereof which is in close position to a plate or partition b' within the handle, this door being the main feature of my invention as will be later explained.

Within the case a, preferably in a suitable compartment c is an electric bell circuit c" the switch d of which is adapted to be closed by means of a spring d' and which spring is made detachable, and I provide a cord e in connection with said switch and having a loop on the other end thereof adapted to engage the hook b'. I also provide a compartment d, identical with c or otherwise, in which I arrange a pistol or revolver, preferably the latter, indicated at d', the trigger of which is adapted to be actuated by means of a leaf d" carried by a drum d' actuated by means of a spring d" as noted, in the direction of the arrow, said leaf being adapted to actuate said pistol trigger successively, if desired, within the limits thereof, and said leaf is normally held in captivity by means of a dog d' normally actuated to release the same from said leaf by means of a spring d", and said dog is provided with a cord e in constant connection therewith which is adapted, by means of a loop thereof, for connection with the hook d' to hold the dog against the action of the spring d" when my device is "set" in operative position.

In practice, I keep the parts c' and c" hung over the hook d', this being preferably done by an authorized person holding the operative key to the device, the trap door b being at this time in a lowered or released position against the action of the spring b'.
connected therewith, which spring may be of any desired formation and, when the door \(b\) is thus "set" by such authorized person, the messenger grasps the handle of the case in such manner as to prevent, by means of his fingers, the action of said door \(b\) to close, whereby said cords prevent the closing of the bell circuit and the operation of the revolver actuating mechanism as long as the hand of the messenger remains in the holding position, which is the normal carrying position, but the instant the messenger releases his grasp of the handle of the case he likewise releases the trap door \(b\) and thus allows said door to close through the action of the spring connected therewith as well as through the action of the springs \(c^4\) and \(d^4\), whereby said door in its closing carries the loops of the cords \(c^2\) and \(d^2\) against the plate \(b^4\) which serves to instantly release said cords from the hook \(b^2\) with the result that the springs \(c^4\) and \(d^4\) are immediately operative to permit the operation of their respective alarms, and this result obtains as soon as the messenger releases his hold on the handle of the case because of his release of the trap door \(b\), and, as the action of the cord releasing means is very rapid said alarms become operative and all persons in the neighborhood are notified of an attempt at robbery.

I do not seek to confine myself to any specific alarms nor, indeed, to any specific actuating mechanism, my invention consisting, as previously stated, in a carrying case adapted to sound an alarm as soon as the proper person carrying the same releases his hold thereon, and which alarm actuating means are maintained in inoperative state by such proper person, whether the person carrying the same voluntarily releases the same or does so under violence.

I have adopted the door \(b\) as the most effective means now occurring to me for putting my invention into practice, but many methods may suggest themselves other than this which will be just as operative and protective, my main object being to avoid the possibility of an unauthorized person seizing the case in any manner without notice to others that such seizure has occurred.

My alarm is, so far as I have at present developed the same, an audible one whereby persons in the neighborhood may be apprised of a criminal attempt, but there is no necessity for confining myself to an audible alarm as many other forms of alarm may eventually be utilized to make my invention effective under varying circumstances.

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

1. The combination with a satchel provided with a handle, of an alarm mechanism, a door on said handle maintained in open position by the hand of a carrier, means in operative connection with said door and alarm mechanism for making the latter inoperative, and means for closing said door to permit the actuation of said alarm mechanism upon the release of said handle by said carrier.

2. The combination with a satchel provided with a handle of an alarm mechanism, a door on said handle normally maintained in open position by the hand of a carrier, a spring for closing said door, and a cord engaged by said cord when in open position and with said alarm mechanism for making the latter inoperative, said cord permitting the actuation of said alarm mechanism when said door is released by the carrier.

3. The combination with a satchel provided with a handle, of an alarm mechanism, an element for making said alarm mechanism inoperative, a spring secured at one end of said element for withdrawing said element to permit the operation of said alarm mechanism, a cord connected with said element and holding said element against withdrawal, and a door on said handle maintained in open position by the hand of a carrier, said cord being connected with said door whereby, on the release of said door by the carrier, said spring withdraws said element to permit actuation of said alarm mechanism.

4. The combination with a satchel provided with a handle, of an alarm mechanism, a door on said handle maintained in open position by the hand of a carrier, means in operative connection with said door and alarm mechanism for making the latter inoperative, means for closing said door to permit the actuation of said alarm mechanism upon the release of said door by said carrier, and a lock for said door.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name in presence of the subscribing witnesses this 5th day of August 1913.

SAMUEL ROTH.

Witnesses:

ROBT. B. ABBOTT,

J. C. LARSEN.