To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH B. MARANOWSKI, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hamtramck, in the county of Wayne and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Automatic Mail-Bag Catchers; 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 an automatic mail bag catcher and has for one of its objects the provision of a device of this character whereby the mail bags may be deposited at a given point and another received by a traveling car.

Another object of this invention is the provision of means for supporting a mail sack adjacent a railroad track and having means to receive a mail bag from a passing car when the mail bag supported by said means is removed by the car.

A further object of this invention is the provision of means upon the car adapted to support a mail sack to be deposited at a given point and capable of receiving a mail bag at a given point.

A further object of this invention is the provision of a novel mail bag supporting means slidably mounted upon the car and adapted to be automatically moved exteriorly of the car at a given point so that a mail bag may be collected and deposited.

A still further object of this invention is the provision of an automatic mail bag catcher of the above stated character, which shall be simple, durable and efficient and which may be manufactured and sold at a comparatively low cost.

With these and other objects in view, it will become more apparent as the description proceeds that the invention consists of such novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed.

For a complete understanding of my invention, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a longitudinal sectional view of an automatic mail bag catcher constructed in accordance with my invention,

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary perspective view partly in section of the means for supporting the mail bag to the car,

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary perspective view of the mail bag supporting crane located adjacent the railroad track,

Fig. 4 is a front elevation partly in section illustrating the cooperation of the mail crane with the mail bag supporting means upon the car,

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary plan view of the device, and

Fig. 6 is a transverse sectional view taken on the line 6 to 6 of Fig. 1.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the numeral 1 indicates a portion of a car having a track 2 secured to the roof thereof and which projects outwardly of the car by way of the door way 3. A supporting member 4 is provided with flanges 5 that ride upon the track 2 while the member 4 slides therebetween. The track 2 is provided with friction rollers 6 upon the upper face thereof and friction rollers 7 upon the inner faces thereof for engagement with the side faces of the supporting member 4. A retaining plate 8 is secured to the roof of the car and overlies the track 2 in spaced relation thereto so that the supporting member 4 may slide freely within the car. The spring 9 is secured to the inner end of the supporting member 4 and is connected to the car 1 for the purpose of normally holding the supporting member within the car.

Doors 9 are secured to the end of the supporting member 4 and are adapted to close the doorway 3 when the supporting member 4 moves within the car. An arm 10 is carried by the upper end of the doors 9 and is provided at its free end with a roller 11 which roller 11 is adapted to engage the track 12. The track 12 has secured to each end thereof hangers 13 that are supported by posts 14. The posts 14 are located along the railroad track so as to position the ends of the track 13 adjacent the rails so as to receive the roller 11 upon the arm 10. The track 12 consists of a pair of relatively spaced rails which have their free ends flared as illustrated at 15 to permit the roller 11 to enter between the rails. As the roller 11 passes between the rails, the outwardly curved portion draws the supporting member 4 exteriorly of the car.

Downwardly depending arms 16 are secured to the supporting member 4 and have rearwardly extending hangers 17 formed thereon which are adapted to support a mail bag 18. The mail bag 18 is provided with
an enlarged hanging element 19 which will readily fit over the hangers 17 and be retained thereon by spring clamps 20. Downwardly depending receiving arms 21 are secured to the supporting member 4 in close proximity to the arms 16 and have forwardly and upwardly extending portions as illustrated at 22 on which are formed forwardly extending portions 23 that are adapted to receive a mail bag supported adjacent the railroad track and which will be hereinafter more fully described. The supporting member 4 is also provided with rollers 24 for engagement with the track 2 to permit the same to slide freely thereon.

A mail crane consisting of a post 25 is located adjacent the railroad track and opposite the offset portion in the track 12 and has secured thereon a bag supporting member 26 which is adapted to extend parallel with the railroad track. The member 26 is provided with upwardly offset arm portions 27 and 28, each of which are provided with stops 29. The mail bag 30 is supported by the arm 28 and is adapted to be removed therefrom by the receiving arms 21 as the car 1 passes. As the mail bag 30 is removed from the crane 25 another mail bag supported by the hangers 17 is deposited upon the arm portion 27. A laterally projecting arm 32 is carried by the post 25 for the purpose of limiting the movement of the mail bag received upon the arm portion 27 when being deposited thereon.

In operation, a mail bag is hung upon the crane 25 by the arm portion 28 of the member 26 and as the car 1 approaches the mail crane, the roller 11 engages the track 12, pulling the supporting member 4 exteriorly of the car. A mail bag to be deposited is placed upon the hangers 17 prior to reaching the crane and as the member 4 moves exteriorly of the car the mail bag is swung outwardly of the car in line with the crane and is deposited upon the arm portion 27. The mail bag carried by the arm portion 28 of the crane is received upon the receiving arms 21 being caught in the offset portion 22. As the car passes the crane, the track 12 permits the member 4 to move inwardly within the car under the influence of the spring 8 as the car reaches the other end of the track 12, thus it will be seen that a mail bag may be readily and conveniently collected and one deposited entirely automatically.

While I have shown and described the preferred embodiment of my invention, it will be understood that minor changes in construction, combination and arrangement of parts may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. An automatic mail bag catcher comprising a track secured to a car, a supporting member slidable upon said track, means for normally holding said supporting member within said car, mail bag supporting arms carried by said supporting member, a crane, mail bag supporting means carried by said crane, mail bag receiving means carried by said crane, a track located adjacent said mail crane and having an offset portion, and an arm carried by the supporting member and adapted to engage the track for moving said supporting member exteriorly of the car to position the mail bag supporting arms and receiving arms upon the supporting member in alignment with the mail bag supporting and receiving means upon the crane.

2. An automatic mail bag catcher comprising a track secured to a car, a supporting member slidable on said track, a spring connected to said supporting member and car for normally holding said member within said car, a door secured to the outer end of said supporting member, mail bag supporting arms carried by said supporting member, mail bag receiving arms carried by said supporting member and disposed in an opposite direction from the mail bag supporting arms, a crane, mail bag supporting means carried by said crane, mail bag receiving means carried by said crane, a track located adjacent said crane and having an offset portion intermediate its ends, an arm secured to said door, and a roller carried by said arm adapted to engage the track for moving the supporting member exteriorly of the car and passing over the offset portion of the track to align the mail bag supporting and receiving means upon the supporting member with the mail bag supporting and receiving means upon the crane.

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

JOSEPH B. MARANOWSKI.

Witnesses:

Joseph B. Sosnowski,
FRANK JARANOWSKI.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C."