Feb. 26, 1952 E. P. MERRION 2,586,974

FRUIT PICKER'S BAG

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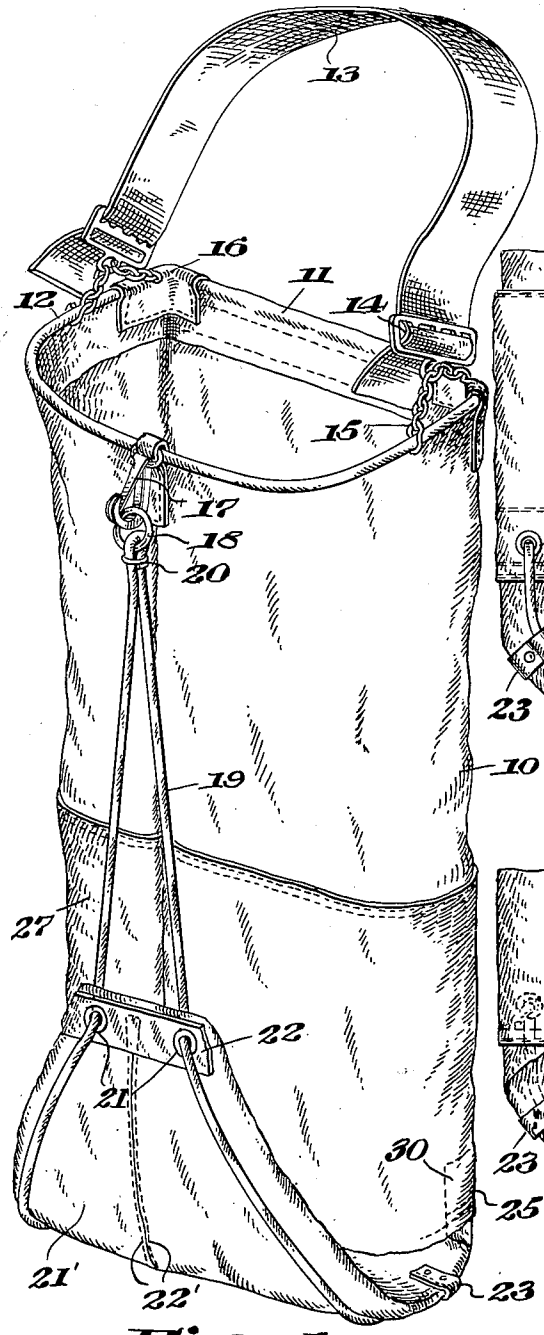
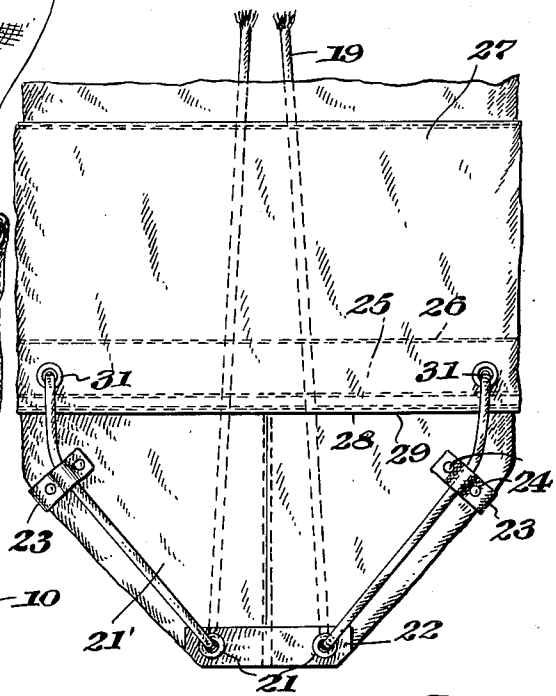


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



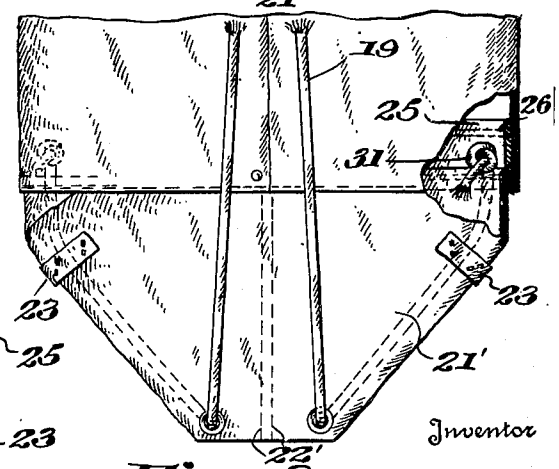


Fig. 3.

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FRUIT PICKER'S BAG

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4 Claims. (Cl. 150—2)

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My invention relates to a fruit picker's bag, and it is an object of the same to lengthen the useful life of such bags by certain improvements in construction.

Another object is to provide means for preventing certain grommets from pulling out of the cloth, which exposes to undue wear and strain the cloth that is normally protected by the grommets.

Another object is to improve the construction of the lower end of the bag by means of an improved rope guide that holds the ropes against the outer side of the closing flap of the bag thereby insuring that the contained fruit shall not drop out of the bag while it is in use by a picker.

Another object is to provide a reinforcement at the bottom of the bag body to stiffen and strengthen this part for assisting in proper manipulation of the closure flap and to prevent the grommets at the bottom of the bag from being loosened and pulled out of their eyelets in the cloth.

Referring to the annexed drawings, which are made a part of this application and in which similar reference characters indicate similar parts:

Figure 1 is a perspective of the bag, shown substantially in working position,

Figure 2, a rear elevation of the bag in open position, with the upper parts omitted, and

Figure 3, a similar view, looking at the front of the bag.

In the drawings, reference character 10 indicates the tubular body of a bag; such a bag usually consisting of canvas or like material and having a stiffened upper rear portion 11 with a curved or bowed upper front portion 12, each of said portions 11 and 12 being usually reinforced by suitably shaped metallic members. A supporting strap 13 which is passed over the shoulder of the user is attached to the bowed upper member at its ends as by buckles 14 and chains 15, and the joints between members 11 and 12 are reinforced by leather patches 16, all of this structure being commonly used in the art.

A snap buckle 17 is located at the upper front of the bag and is adapted to engage with a ring 18 that is fixed in a bight in a rope 19 by a wire 20 clinched about the two legs of the rope. The said legs extend downward from the snap and through grommets 21 which extend through the free end of the conventional flap 21' of the bag consisting of a strip of canvas folded into the indicated shape and having seams at 22' passing through the free edges and the body of the strip,

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and also through a strip 22 of cotton webbing or other flexible wear-resistant material extending across said flap here shown as secured to the flap by the seams 22' and also by the grommets 21 that pass through the flap and the strip 22. The grommets are thus much more securely held in place than similarly located grommets according to previous practice, which were held only by the canvas of the conventional closure flap. The strip 22 furthermore helps to hold the end of the flap in flat position, while also adding to the life of the bag by reinforcing the most exposed portion of the closure flap.

Next the rope portions or legs pass through guides 23 each consisting of a narrow strip (about 1½ inch) of cotton webbing or other flexible, strongly wear-resistant material that is folded endwise about the edge of the flap below the mouth of the bag and fixed in place, as by rivets 24 passing through the material of the flap and through both ends of the strip which lie against opposite faces of said flap; said rivets being so placed that they secure the ends of the strip, while being spaced from the rope so as not to interfere with free movement of the rope through the guide formed by the strip extending across a leg of the rope. In the case of pickers' bags as heretofore constructed, it has frequently happened that the cords or ropes used to pull up the flap and close the bag have failed to close it properly, either on account of wear of the ropes or of the flap, with consequent ensuing slackness or excessive flexibility of the flap. Thus the bight of a rope that should pass underneath the flap and hold it up securely would come to lie out beyond the side edge of the flap so that the flap would be unsupported at that side edge and would permit the escape of fruit from the bag. Or, sometimes alternatively and sometimes simultaneously, the material of the flap becomes so softened by dampness or wear that it will slump laterally away from the adjacent rope member and so permit escape of fruit. These difficulties are overcome to a very large extent by the expedient of using a strip 23 positioned approximately as illustrated, i. e., so as to engage the rope at some distance from the bottom of the bag body and so as to hold the rope spaced inwardly from the adjacent side margin of the flap approximately in line between a grommet 21 and a grommet at the back of the bag, as now to be described.

It is desirable that the lower rear part of the bag should be relatively stiff, for convenience in emptying the bag and for convenience and cer-

tainty in manipulating the flap. To secure these advantages I have secured a strip **25** of heavy two-inch cotton webbing or like wear-resistant material to the lower end of the bag. Preferably this strip extends from side to side of the rear part of the bag, over half of the circumference or a little more for the best results. As here shown it is fixed in place by means of a seam **26** passing through the edge of the strip **25**, the bag body **10** and an outer layer **27** that is commonly applied over the lower part of the body **10** for reinforcing the same. Other seams, such as indicated at **28** and **29** in Figure 2, pass through the parts **27**, **10**, **25** and a folded edge of the closure flap which folded edge abuts against the lower edge of the strip **25**, thus making a smooth stiffened lower body portion for the bag body.

The ends of the strip **25** are further secured by means of side seams **30**, one of which is shown in Figure 1. Grommets **31**, **31** are mounted in the stiffened portion of the bag that is provided by the strip **25** and the bag portions **10** and **27**, these grommets being suitably spaced from the sides of the rear portion of the bag to keep the ends of the ropes away from the sides of the bag. The ends of the ropes are passed through the grommets **31**, **31** and knotted to keep them in place.

While the member **19** is shown as consisting of a single integral rope and is referred to in the claims as a rope, it will be understood that this rope may be made up of separate pieces. And it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that many other changes can be made in the devices herein disclosed, all without departing from the spirit of the invention; therefore, I do not limit myself to what is shown in the drawings and described in the specification, but only as indicated in the appended claims.

Having thus fully described my said invention, what I claim is:

1. A fruit picker's bag having a tubular body, means at the upper end of the body for supporting the bag on the user's body, a flap extending from one side of the body at the lower end of the same, a rope having a portion attachable to the upper front of the bag, a pair of spaced grommets at the end of the flap, spaced grommets in the rear wall adjacent the upper end of the flap, said rope having legs extending respectively down through grommets of the first-named pair and then about the lower end of the bag and through the grommets of the second pair from outside to inside of the bag and being knotted at their ends inside the bag.

2. A device as in claim 1, including guide strips extending at the rear of the flap across the respective legs of the rope and secured at their ends to the flap.

3. A device as in claim 2, the guide strips being so located as to hold the respective legs of rope parallel to the adjacent sides of the flap.

4. A device as in claim 1, wherein the grommets of each pair extend through the material of the bag and also through a strip of wear-resistant material to reduce the tendency of the grommets to loosen and pull out of the bag, and wherein the guide strips hold parts of the legs of rope parallel to the adjacent sides of the flap.

EARL P. MERRION.

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