J. B. CONINE.

GENERAL DELIVERY POST OFFICE CABINET.

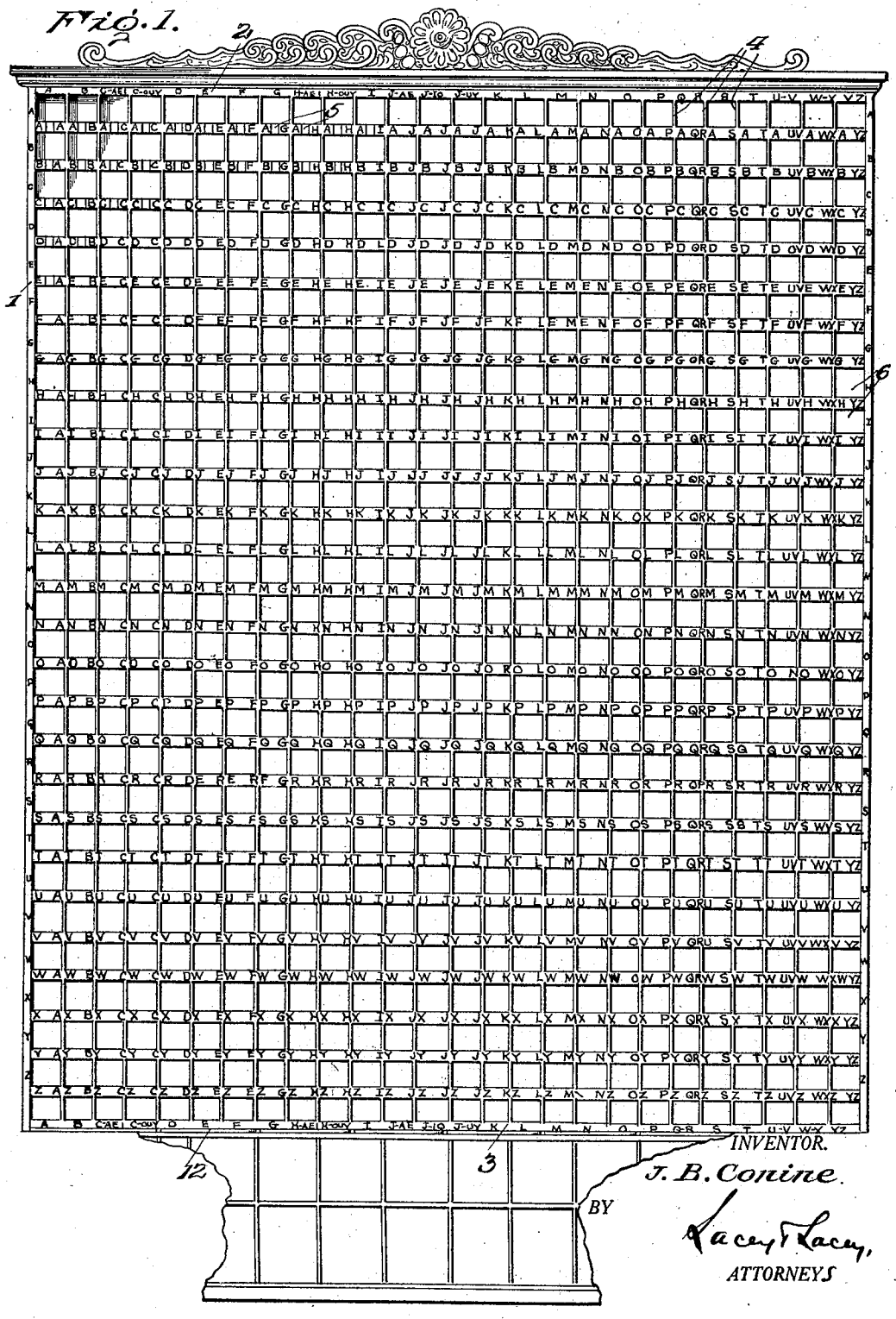
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 3, 1919.

1,351,372.

Patented Aug. 31, 1920.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

FIG. 1.



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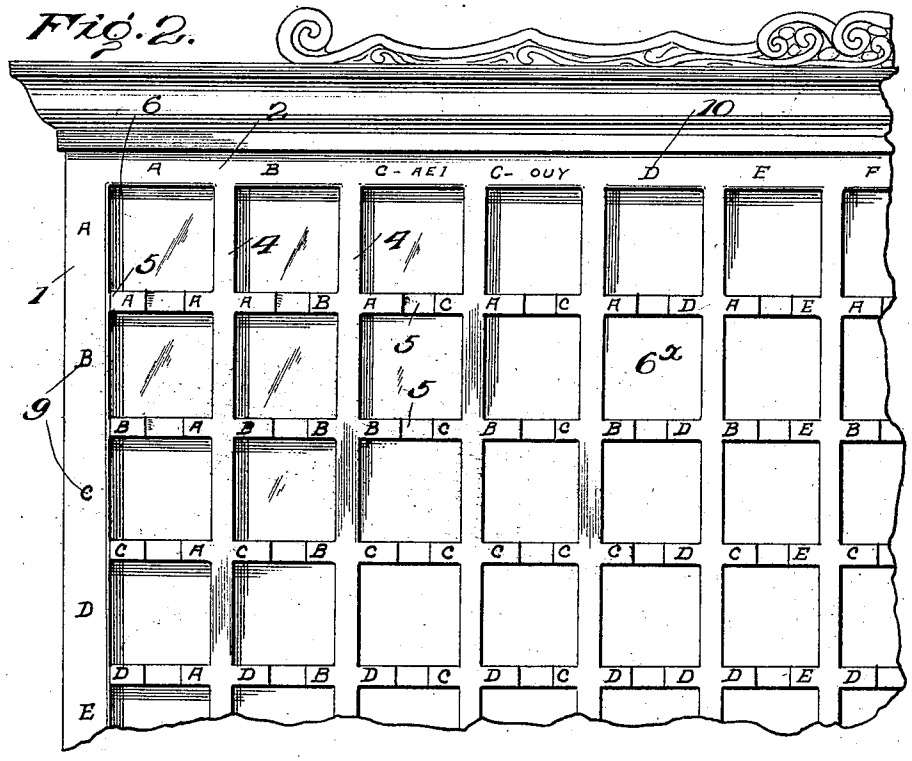
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3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.



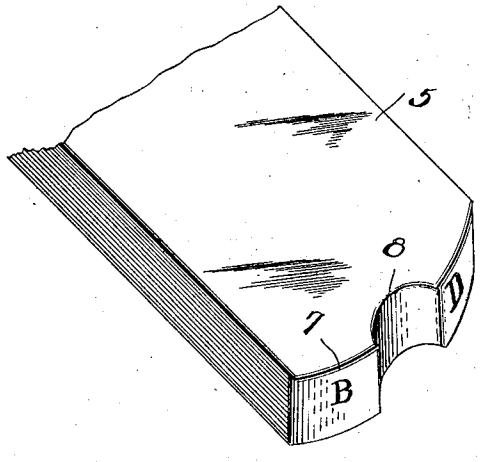


Fig. 4.

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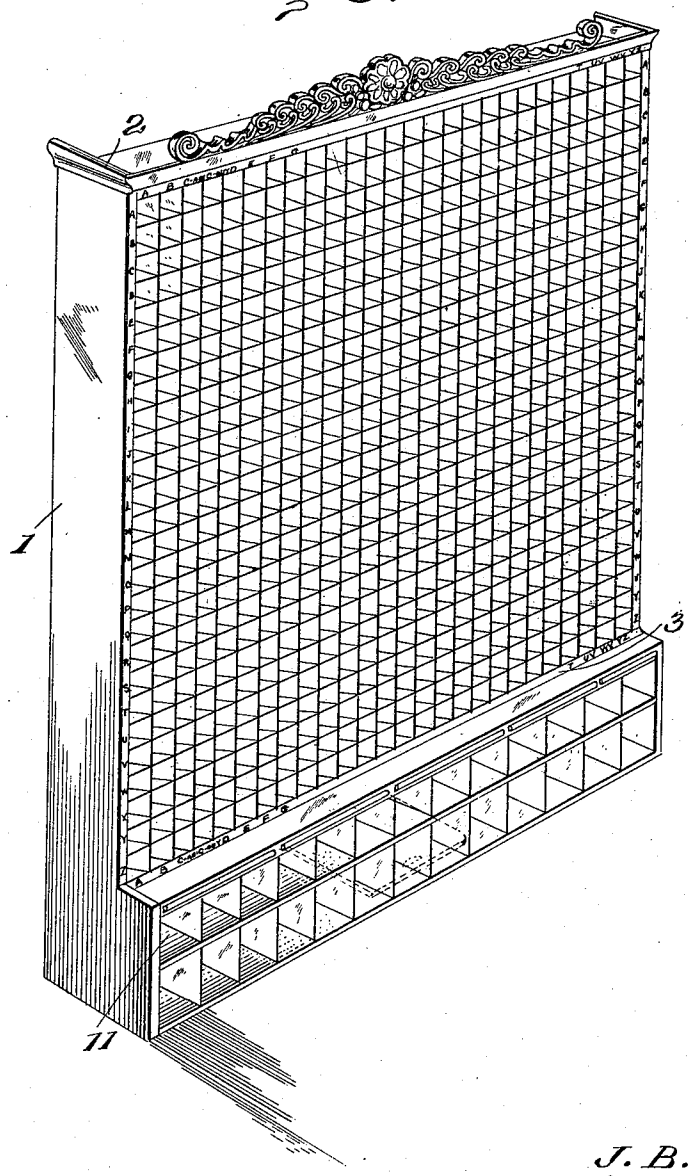
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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GENERAL-DELIVERY POST-OFFICE CABINET.

1,351,372. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 31, 1920.

Application filed February 3, 1919. Serial No. 274,663.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES B. CONINE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Fort Worth, in the county of Tarrant and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in General-Delivery Post-Office Cabinets, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to post-office furniture and more particularly to an improvement in cabinets for the distribution and delivery of mail and especially for general delivery purposes. Ordinarily such cabinets embody a number of compartments to receive the mail matter, these compartments being usually equal in number to the number of letters in the alphabet so that all mail matter bearing a surname beginning with a given letter of the alphabet will be placed in a single compartment, in distributing the mail matter, and regardless of given names. Thus the compartments which are to receive pieces of mail matter bearing numerous surnames beginning with the more frequently occurring letters of the alphabet, become over-crowded, interfering with the distribution of the mail and rendering it laborious to search through the pieces of mail matter contained in these compartments to locate the pieces directed to any one individual, and particularly is this true for the reason that it is from these compartments that the contents must be the most frequently removed and perused in delivering the mail. In the use of such cabinets therefore much time must be spent and even wasted in performing the task of distributing and delivering the mail, and also considerable confusion frequently results from the crowded condition of the compartments. The primary object of the present invention is therefore to provide a post-office cabinet for the purpose stated in which the compartments will be so arranged and designated as to greatly facilitate the work of distributing and delivering the mail so that considerable time will be saved and annoyance avoided and the liability of making mistakes will be reduced to a minimum.

I have found that where mail is distributed and delivered by arranging the pieces of mail matter not only according to surname initials but also according to given name initials, all of the desired results above mentioned may be obtained; and therefore in its broadest aspect, the present invention contemplates the arrangement and designation in a post-office cabinet, of the mail receiving compartments so as to provide for distribution and delivery of the mail in accordance with this system.

Another object of the invention is to embody in the cabinet certain details of construction which will materially assist in the attainment of the desired results.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the upper or major portion of a cabinet constructed in accordance with the present invention, the view illustrating the arrangement of the mail receiving compartments and the manner in which they are designated;

Fig. 2 is a detail view in front elevation of a portion of the cabinet illustrating more in detail the system of designating the several compartments;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the cabinet;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the forward portion of the bottom of one of the compartments.

The upper portion of the cabinet embodying the present invention is to be devoted to the reception of first and second class mail matter or, in other words, letter mail and card mail, and the lower portion of the cabinet is to be devoted to the reception of packages, newspapers, and the like. The said upper portion of the cabinet embodies sides 1, a top 2 and a bottom 3, and is of rectangular form and of a height and width commensurate with the compartments into which the interior is to be divided. In dividing the compartments, vertical partition pieces 4 and horizontal partition pieces 5 are arranged and built into the interior of the body of the cabinet so as to form the said compartments, which latter are indicated by the numeral 6 and each of which is rectangular and of sufficiently large capacity to receive what is calculated to be the maximum volume of mail which will at any time accumulate bearing any particular combination of surname and given name initials. In the specific embodiment of the invention illustrated in Fig. 1 of the drawings, there will be approximately seven-hundred and two of the compartments 6. The division pieces 5, of course, constitute the bottoms of the compartments 6 and it is preferable that these pieces, as clearly shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings, have their forward edges bulged outwardly along a curve as indicated

by the numeral 7 and that the said edge of each piece be formed at an intermediate point with a finger notch 8. As a result of this construction the removal of mail matter from any compartment is greatly facilitated, and also the notch serves also as a visible spacing device so that the letters indicating the surname and given name initials combinations and which letters are printed or otherwise depicted upon the said edge, will be brought into more prominent view and will not be liable to be over-shadowed or hidden by the projecting ends of envelops, cards, or other pieces of mail matter. Of course, the intersecting division pieces 4 and 5 forming the compartments 6, locate these compartments in horizontal rows and vertical columns, and upon the forward edge of each side 1 of the body of the cabinet there is printed or otherwise depicted the letters of the alphabet beginning with the letter A at the top and extending in alphabetical order to the letter Z at the bottom. These columns of index letters of the alphabet are indicated by the numeral 9 and each letter to the columns is arranged opposite a row of compartments between them. Thus the letter A will appear opposite the compartment at the extreme upper left hand corner of the cabinet and also opposite the compartment at the extreme upper right hand corner of the cabinet. In other words, the horizontal rows of compartments will be designated in descending order, by an index column comprising the letters of the alphabet arranged in alphabetical order. The letters 9 index the surname initials.

The vertical columns of compartments are similarly designated by index letters of the alphabet arranged from left to right in alphabetical order and as indicated by the numeral 10, these letters appearing in rows along the forward edge of the top 2 and bottom 3 of the compartment and being indicative of given name initials. However, due to the frequency of occurrence of given names having some initials, particularly C, H, and J, and the infrequent occurrence of given names having other initials such as Q, R, U, V, W, X, Y, and Z, certain columns are repeated and letters in other columns doubled up. As shown herewith, there are provided two C columns, two H columns, and three J columns for the first mentioned initials; and but a single column each for the Q—R, U—V, W—X, and Y—Z initials. Not only are the index letters 9 and 10 respectively indicative of surname and given name initials, but they will also be indicative respectively of the first and last names of a company, firm, corporation, or the like. Thus in the instance of, for example, the Union Transfer Company, the letter U of the series 9 would be indicative of the first name of this company (Union) and the letter T of the series 10 would be indicative of the last name of this company (Transfer). As before stated there are two vertical C columns, two H columns, and three J columns, and the left hand one of each of the C and H columns is sub-indexed in addition to the major letter C, by the vowels A, E and I, the right hand C and H columns being sub-indexed, in addition to the respective major or key letters, by the vowels O, U and Y. Similarly the left hand J column is sub-indexed additionally by the vowels A and E, the middle J column by the vowels I and O, and the right hand J column by the vowels U and Y. Thus all common given names such as James and John are thrown into different columns and congestion is avoided. I might add that with large cabinets and especially in use in city post offices, other columns than C, H and J could be repeated or duplicated with advantage.

Also, in the preferred construction of my improved cabinet, each compartment 6 is designated upon the forward edge of its bottom 5 with letters corresponding to the index letters designating the row and column at the intersection of which the particular compartment is located, the letter corresponding to the letter designating the row of compartments appearing at one side of the notch 8 and the letter corresponding to the letter designating the vertical column of compartments being located at the other side of the notch 8. Thus in the specific example illustrated in Fig. 4 of the drawings, which figure illustrates the forward portion of the bottom of the compartment indicated specifically in Fig. 2 of the drawings by the reference character $6^{\times}$, the edge of this bottom bears at the left hand side of the notch 8, the letter B, and at the right hand side of the notch the letter D, this particular compartment $6^{\times}$ being located at the intersection of the D column of compartments and the B row of compartments as shown in the said Fig. 2. Thus letters addressed, for example, to David Brown, Daniel Boone, and all other persons, firms, corporations, companies or the like having these first and last name initials will be placed in the compartment $6^{\times}$, and so with all of the other first and last name initial combinations as regards the respective compartments. Of course, as concerns the compartments in the C, H and J columns, these compartments will be designed to receive pieces of mail matter bearing given names beginning with the corresponding major or key letter followed by any of the vowels which follow this key letter where it occurs at the head of the column and thus the given names are indexed and sub-indexed, and congestion of these compartments is greatly relieved. It will also be understood from the foregoing that any compartment desired

may be as conveniently found if it is positioned near the lower and right hand side of the cabinet as where it is positioned in the upper and left hand side of the cabinet due to the fact that the series of letters 9 appears upon the forward edge of both sides 1 of the cabinet and the series of letters 10 appears upon the forward edge of both the top 2 and bottom 3 of the cabinet.

In the lower portion or base of the cabinet there are provided two or more rows of compartments indicated by the numeral 11 and which are designed particularly to receive small packages, newspapers, and other more bulky pieces of mail matter. Also if desired a number of slides 12 may be positioned beneath the bottom 3 of the upper portion of the cabinet and the top of the base portion in which the compartments 11 are located, these slides being adapted to be drawn out so as to provide supports upon which the mail matter may be placed and conveniently reached while distributing and delivering the same.

It will be understood, of course, that in the vertical column 9 there may be combinations of initial letters as in the horizontal top row 10. It will also be understood that the proportions of the cabinet may be varied from those shown in Fig. 1 and in fact it will no doubt be preferable to form each compartment of less depth than width so that the completed cabinet will be of less height than width so that persons of medium stature may experience no difficulty in distributing mail matter to the various compartments. It will further be understood that if desired the series of initial letters 9 and 10 may be transposed so that the vertical rows will be designated by letters representing the initials of surnames and the horizontal rows by letters representing given names.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

In a mail cabinet, indexing means dividing the cabinet into coöperating compartments alining in vertical and horizontal rows the index division means for each compartment bulged to project beyond the surface of the cabinet and having a finger notch providing separate promontories, said index means including main index designations for each vertical row and main index designations for each horizontal row, the main indicia of the vertical and horizontal rows being duplicated on the promontories of each compartment, the respective indicia of each compartment progressing in alphabetical order with respect to succeeding compartments of the same row to form a cabinet having alining vertical and horizontal rows of compartments indexed in alphabetical order.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JAMES B. CONINE. [L. S.]