

(No Model.)

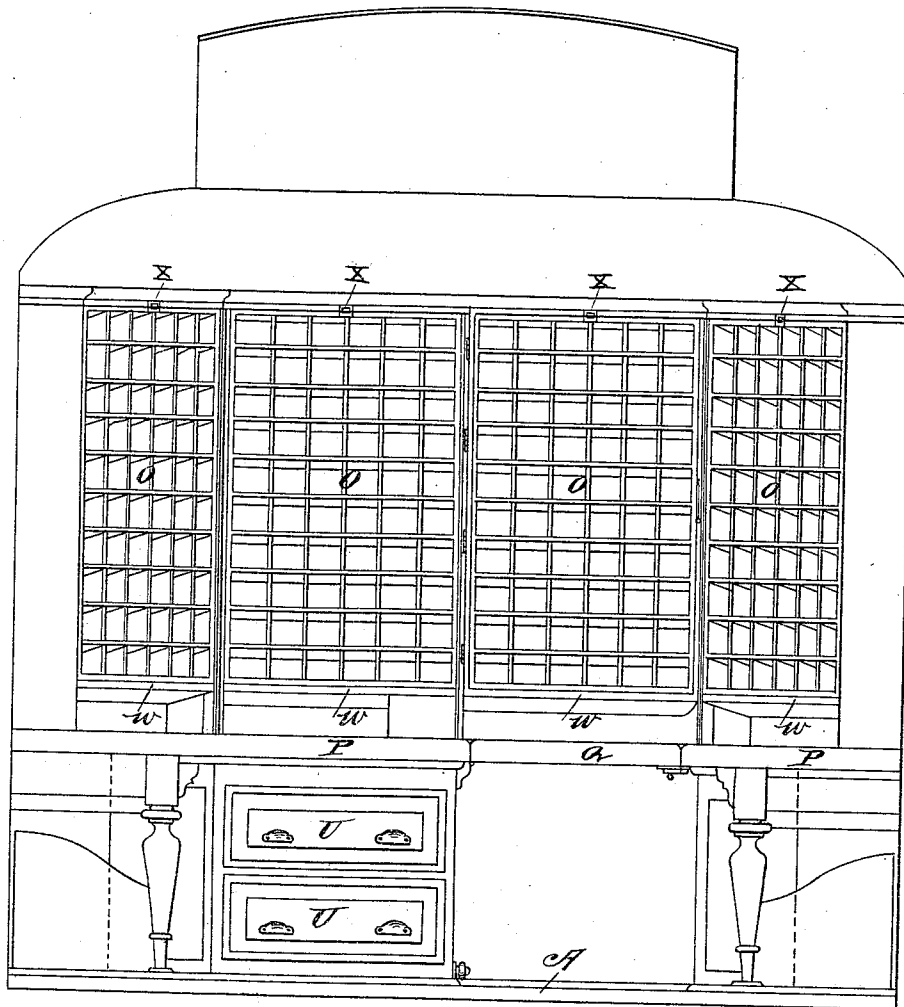
2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

H. H. SESSIONS.
POSTAL CAR LETTER CASE.

No. 544,131.

Patented Aug. 6, 1895.

Fig. 1.



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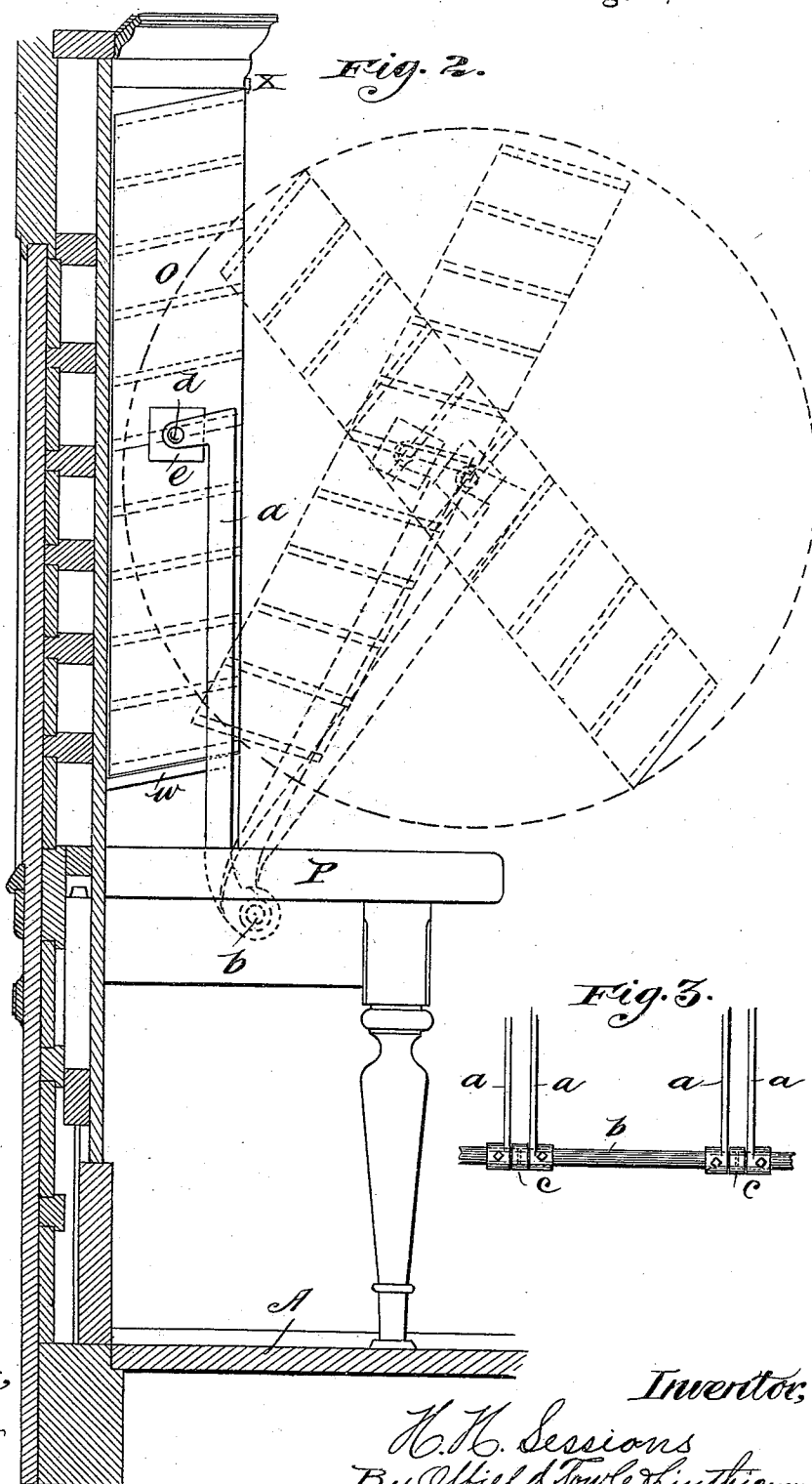
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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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POSTAL CAR LETTER CASE.

No. 544,131.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY HOWARD SESSIONS, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO THE PULLMAN'S PALACE CAR COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

POSTAL-CAR LETTER-CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 544,131, dated August 6, 1895.

Application filed January 2, 1895. Serial No. 533,545. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY HOWARD SESSIONS, of Chicago, Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Postal-Car Letter-Cases, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to certain improvements in letter-cases for postal-cars, and has for its object to provide a letter-case supported and pivoted in such manner that it may be reversed as to position in order to display different sets of names or designating-marks, whereby the same case may be utilized upon different runs.

To this end the invention consists in a letter-case which is pivotally supported upon swinging arms in such manner that the case may be first drawn forward and then reversed as to its position by turning it bodily on a horizontal pivot, by which means the position of the ends of the case are reversed, as well as the sides.

The case consists of two closed sides with closed ends, and has its interior divided by series of vertical and horizontal partitions, so as to provide a series of letter-boxes or pigeon-holes. The marks designating the stations along the route are affixed on the edges of the horizontal partitions, either above or below the letter-box to which they apply and at both ends thereof, the fronts and backs of the pigeon-holes being open. By this means the case when in place has the rear ends of the compartments closed by the side wall of the car, thus making the letter-box or pigeon-hole closed, except as to the front. When it is desired to use the letter-case on a different run, the names of the stations of which are indicated upon the reverse side of the case, the case is drawn forward on the pivoted arms, reversed as to position, and moved back into place, thus bringing the new series of names into view, and at the same time disclosing any letters which may have worked between the partitions of the case and the wall at the back.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a sectional elevation of a portion of a postal-car having letter-cases with distributing-ta-

bles, the arrangement of which is fully shown, described, and broadly claimed in my application, Serial No. 491,470, filed November 20, 1893. Fig. 2 is an elevation sectional through the side wall of the car and a part of the floor, showing one of my letter-cases and its supports. Fig. 3 is a detail of one of the rock-shafts on which the supporting-arms of the letter-cases are mounted.

In the drawings, A represents the car-floor.

O represents the letter-cases, some of which, as shown, are arranged against the side walls of the car, and two of which are arranged diagonally across the corners of the car and two in the end thereof, one being hinged in front of a passage-way. A distributing-table P is arranged beneath the letter-case and a hinged section Q is provided. U represents drawers below the table P.

Referring now to the details of construction, the letter-cases O are rectangular open-sided frames whose interiors are divided by suitable permanent partitions into pigeon-holes or compartments of equal or any desired size. These compartments being open at both ends adapts the letter-case to be used from either side by reversing it as to position and placing it squarely against the wall of the car, as shown in Fig. 2. The bottom partitions of the pigeon-holes, as well as the top and bottom walls of the letter-case, are preferably inclined, and the lower end of the latter may be brought to rest when in position for use over the shelf W, while the upper outer margins are secured by the catch X to the wall of the car. Said cases have been made of substantially the construction just described previous to my invention, but so far as I am aware they have never been so mounted that they could be readily reversed. Heretofore they have simply been lifted out, turned around, and shoved back into place. The object of thus reversing them is to make the same case available for different portions of a route, or for the going and return portions of the route, which are usually, if not always, differently arranged, each pigeon-hole being marked at each of the ends with the name of a station.

- I mount these letter-cases upon the swinging arms *a*, one on each side, and which are rigidly secured at their lower ends to the rock-shaft *h*, said rock-shaft being mounted in a suitable bearing *c* below the tops of the distributing-tables. The lower ends of the arms are turned out, so that the axis upon which they turn is in front of the plane of the boxes. They are thus more readily moved into place.
- 10 The object of connecting the arms in pairs to the rock-shaft is to steady them in reversing. The upper ends of the arms *a* are preferably bent at an angle to their bodies, and have pintles *d*, which enter sockets in plates *e*, secured to the side walls of the case. These bars or arms are thin and occupy but little space between adjoining boxes, and the partitions may be cut away to receive them.
- By referring to Fig. 2 the manner of reversing the letter-cases will be understood. The catch *X* will be unfastened and the letter-case pulled forward until the case may be swung, as shown by the dotted circle, and brought to a position where the lower end of the case will project over the edge of the shelf *W*. The case may then be pushed up into place and secured by the catch. The reversal of these letter-cases is important, not only for the reasons above stated, but also as a precautionary measure to prevent the loss of letters which frequently work into crevices behind the case, where any exist. The re-

versal of the case, of course, brings any such lodged letters to light.

I claim—

1. A postal car letter case, consisting of a rectangular frame having its body divided into a series of open ended compartments, and swinging arms upon which the case is pivotally mounted whereby it may be reversed as to position, substantially as described.

2. The combination with a reversible letter case substantially as described, of supports therefor comprising a pair of supporting arms pivotally connected to the sides of the case and having their lower ends rigidly connected to a rock shaft whereby the letter case may be drawn forward and reversed as to position, substantially as described.

3. The combination with a reversible letter case substantially as described, of supports therefor comprising a pair of supporting arms pivotally connected to the sides of the case and having their ends bent at an angle to their bodies, the upper ends being provided with pintles adapted to enter sockets in the side walls of the case and the lower ends being rigidly secured to a rock shaft, substantially as and for the purpose described.

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Witnesses:

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