

G. O. CLARK.

MAIL-BAG.

No. 171,469.

Patented Dec. 28, 1875.

FIG 1

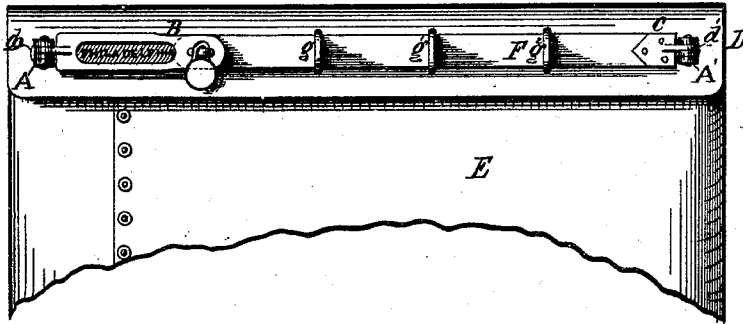


FIG 2

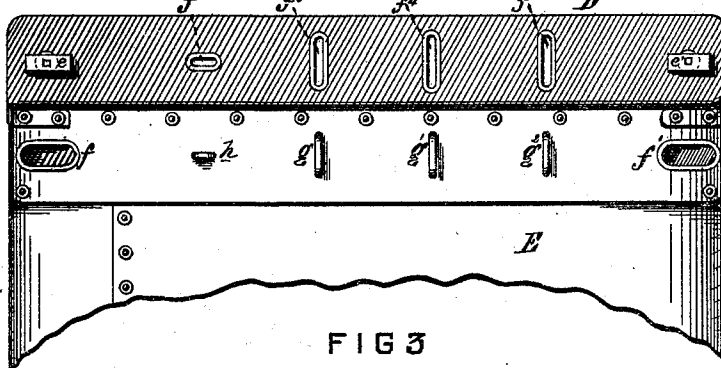


FIG 3

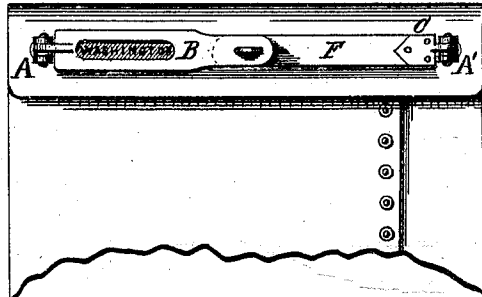


FIG 4

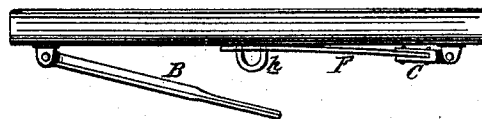


FIG 5

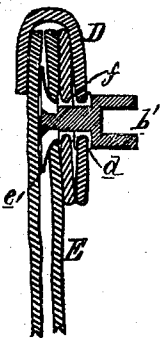


FIG 6

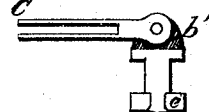


FIG 7

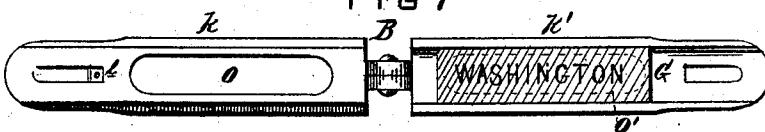
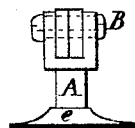


FIG 8



Witnesses.

Alexander H. Morgan,
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Inventor.

George O. Clark,
By Isaac R. Cofford,
His Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE O. CLARK, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN MAIL-BAGS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 171,469, dated December 28, 1875; application filed May 14, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE O. CLARK, of the city and county of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Mail-Bag Fastening and Label-Case, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

My invention consists of a leather strap, label-case, and hasp combined, which are attached to the flap covering the mouth of the bag by means of two swivel studs and buttons, all arranged in such a manner as to co-operate in securing the bag, and to produce a simple and, at the same time, an effectual fastening, which may be readily opened or closed.

Figure 1 is a front view of the upper portion of one of the mail-bags as used by the Post-Office Department, showing my invention applied. Fig. 2 is a view of the same, showing the mouth of the bag open. Fig. 3 is a view of my invention, showing it as applied to the smaller size bags in use by the Post-Office Department. Fig. 4 is a view looking down on the top of the bag, showing the manner of adjusting the strap and label-case to the lock-staple. Fig. 5 is a transverse section through a portion of the bag and one of the swivel studs and buttons for attaching the strap and label-case to the covering-flap, and also to assist in securing said flap over the mouth of the bag. Fig. 6 is a section through one of the swivel-studs and one of the metallic strap-ends. Fig. 7 is a plan view of the label-case, detached and laid open to receive the label. Fig. 8 is an end view of one of the swivel studs and buttons.

A and A', Figs. 1 and 3, are the swivel-studs, which are made in the form as shown in Figs. 5 and 6, with open jaws *b* and *b'*, in one of which (*b*) is pivoted the label-case B, and in the other (*b'*) is pivoted the metallic strap-end C. The said studs pass through metallic grommets *d* and *d'* secured in the flap D of the bag E, and bear on their inner ends, buttons *e* and *e'*. In the front of the bag and directly opposite to the buttons *e* and *e'* are made two openings, *f* and *f'*, as shown in Fig. 2, which are also provided with grom-

nets, and are made sufficiently large to permit the buttons to pass freely through in closing the bag. Along the front of the bag, and on a line with the said openings, are placed three or more strap-staples, *g*, *g'*, and *g''*, and a lock-staple, *h*, which pass through appropriate openings *f*², *f*³, *f*⁴, and *f*⁵ made in the flap D.

In closing the bag the flap D is pressed down over the mouth, which causes the buttons *e* and *e'* to pass through the openings *f* and *f'*, and the staples *g*, *g'*, &c., through their proper openings. The leather strap F, which is attached to the swivel-stud A', is then turned sufficiently to cause the button *e'* to extend transversely across the opening *f'*. The opposite end of the strap is then passed under the staples *g*, *g'*, and *g''*, and over the lock-staple *h*, after which the label-case B is moved round and closed down over the leather strap and lock-staple, which movement also causes the button on the swivel-stud A to extend across the opening *f*. In this position of the fastening it will be impossible, after the pad-lock is applied, to extract any of the contents through the mouth of the bag.

It will readily be seen that by locking the ends of the flap to the bag by means of the swivel-studs and buttons, and the employment of the metallic label-case, which extends some distance across the bag, a reduced number of strap-staples are required, thereby lightening the weight of the bag, and at the same time permitting it to be more readily opened or closed.

The bag represented in Figs. 3 and 4 is one of the smaller size bags in use by the Post-Office Department, the fastening in this case is of the same construction as above described, except that the label-case and the leather strap meet in the center of the bag, and pass over the lock-staple at this point. By arranging the fastening in this manner upon small bags the use of strap-staples may be dispensed with, thereby rendering the bag less complicated to open and close.

The label-case B, which also acts in the capacity of a hasp, is bisected longitudinally, and is capable of being turned or reversed from side to side on the swivel-stud A.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. The combination, in a mail-bag fastening, of the swivel-studs A and A', buttons *e* and *e'*, bisected label-case and hasp B, leather strap F, and metallic strap-end C, substantially as herein shown and described.

2. The swivel-studs A and A', provided

with buttons *e* and *e'*, in combination with openings *f* and *f'* in the body of the bag, substantially as herein shown and described.

GEORGE O. CLARK.

Witnesses:

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