A. D. COWDEN.

MANIFOLD EXPRESS WAY BILL.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 21, 1912.

1,189,544.

Patented July 4, 1916.

Fig. 1.

Consignee		Destination				
Shipper		No. Pcs.	Articles	Value	Weight	
Advanced	Collect	Prepaid	Prepaid Beyond			

Received above described shipment on date indicated hereon by office stamp to be forwarded as promptly as possible Subject to the shipping rules and conditions posted at the company's various offices.

Agent J. D. & Co Ex.

Detach here

John Doe & Co Express

W. B Symb _____ Date _____

From

To

Via

W. B. Clerk No.

Forward

Shipper.

Consignee		Destination				
Shipper		No. Pcs.	Articles	Value	Weight	
Advanced	Collect	Prepaid	Prepaid Beyond			
Trunk No.		Add	Deduct.			

John Doe & Co. Express

W. B. No. _____ Date _____

From

To

Via

W. B. Clerk No

Forward

Shipper.

Fig. 2.

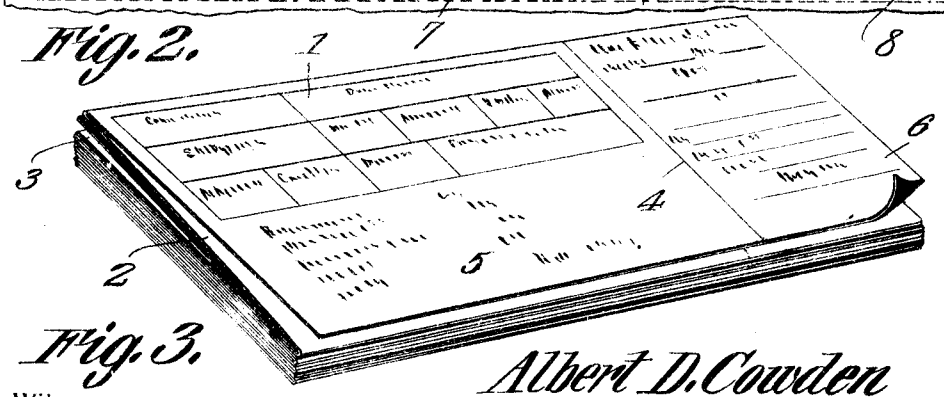

Fig. 3.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT DELMER COWDEN, OF WATERFORD, CALIFORNIA.

MANIFOLD EXPRESS WAY-BILL.

1,189,544. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 4, 1916.

Application filed May 21, 1912. Serial No. 696,862.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT D. COWDEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Waterford, in the county of Stanislaus and State of California, have invented a new and useful Manifold Express Way-Bill, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to improvements in manifold express way bills, the primary object of the invention being the provision of a method whereby a way bill, shipping receipt and package label may be made at one writing with the use of one carbon sheet, one sheet being so arranged that it may be divided to form a shipping receipt and also a package label to be pasted on the package, the other sheet to be left intact showing the combined information indicated in the shipping receipt and a package label and used as a way bill to accompany the shipment to its destination, and if desired, by the use of an extra carbon sheet another complete copy of the transaction may be made and retained as an office record, the package label portion of the duplicate or triplicate sheets to provide a space where the shipper may indicate whether he desires the shipment to be forwarded "paid" or "collect," he filling in the word paid or collect and signing his name.

By the shipper showing his indication as to "paid" or "collect" and signing his name while the papers are all intact, the package label, (which is to be pasted on the package) way bill and office copy will each show the shipper's desire as to whether the shipment is to go "paid" or "collect" thus preventing the collection of charges from the consignee when same have already been paid by shipper.

By the use of different colored sheets, the "paid" and "collect" feature may further be substantiated by using the label of one color to indicate "paid" and another color to indicate "collect" in addition to showing the word over shipper's signature.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that changes in the precise embodiment of the invention herein disclosed can be made within the scope of what is claimed without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the drawings—Figure 1 is a plan view of the sheet which is to be divided to form a shipping receipt (to be handed the shipper) and a package label (to be detached and pasted on the package). Fig. 2 is a plan view of the portion to be used as way bill from which label must not be detached. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a tablet in the form in which the present way bill may be presented for use.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 1 designates the top sheet or flap, 2 the intermediate one, and 3 the bottom sheet or flap, the three being disposed one above the other with carbon interposed between the respective sheets 1 and 2, 2 and 3, or the backs of sheet 1 and sheet 2 may be carbonized.

Each sheet 1 and 3 is divided (they being alike), as at 4, to provide the shipping receipt 5 and the package label 6, the indication upon each of these being identical and disposed in lines so that the manual marking within the respective squares or spaces will be manifolded from sheet 1 to sheet 3 and also in the spaces upon sheet 2.

The respective labels 6 are to be detached upon the line 4 and one or the other thereof are to be pasted upon the package to indicate at a glance the symbol or number, the date of reception, where from and where to, the railroad or express company by which it is shipped, the number of the way bill clerk and whether the package is forwarded "prepaid" or "collect," the shipper signing the label to indicate the sanction as to whether the package is shipped "prepaid" or "collect."

In order to prevent confusion and to provide another check, the package label carried by sheet 1 may be made of a different color than the label carried by sheet 3, thus permitting one to be a "prepaid" while the other is a "collect" label.

It will thus be noted that on the package label there is a place provided for the shipper to denote whether the package shall be sent "paid" or "collect" and that such indication, being placed upon the package, will also denote to the receiver whether or not the package has already been paid for, and thus prevent the error of double charge which is often the case, and which all companies are desirous of preventing. By having the shipper sign the label at the end of a way bill, all the papers being intact, an indication will be made upon three copies of

the way bill and thus serve as a check to the clerk handling the way bill relative to the charges being "paid" or "collect."

With this system of way billing and labeling, it will be seen that at one operation two copies of the way bill, two package labels, indicating whether the package is "prepaid" or sent "collect," and a shipping receipt are made at a single operation, thus reducing the work of the shipping clerk from the writing of several different papers, as is the present practice, and also providing a means for dispensing with the numbering of the way bills with consecutive numbers, which produce more or less of a burden upon the clerk.

When symbols are used instead of numbers, the shipping agent when making up way bills and reports, will place the way bills under various symbols, which will be derived from the consignee's name, using the first two or three letters instead of numbers, so that the first two or three letters which are placed opposite the word "W. B. Symb." on the slip 6, together with the other information will provide three checks on each of the sheets, that is the date, the symbol and the amount of charges either "prepaid" or "collect." By this means the day's work may be arranged alphabetically instead of numerically as is the present case and thus relieve the billing clerks of numbering the way bills consecutively.

From the foregoing description, it will be seen that the present invention provides for a plurality of shipping blanks arranged in sets, each set including a shipper's receipt, way bill and a record blank, and for the signature of the carrier's receiving agent, the like imprints and spaces of the respective blanks being similarly located to be in registration when the blanks are superposed, there being interposed between the blanks carbon, so that when the shipper's receipt is written upon, the writing of the agent will be transferred upon all of the blanks.

What is claimed is:

A shipping way bill blank, and a blank to rest thereon and including a receipt and label detachably connected, the way bill blank being adapted to receive imprints of the matter written upon the receipt and label, the receipt and way bill blank having superposed spaces and accompanying legends for the entry of the names of the consignee and shipper, the place of destination, data identifying the shipment, financial data relative to the shipment, and for the signature of the carrier's receiving agent, the label and way bill blank having superposed spaces and accompanying legends for the entry of the way bill symbol and the date of shipment, the label and way bill blank having superposed spaces designated "From," "To," "Via," "Forward," and "Shipper."

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

ALBERT DELMER COWDEN.

Witnesses:
F. E. HORSLEY,
R. P. FREEMAN.