

J. F. WARREN.
MAIL DELIVERY BOX.
APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 16, 1912.

1,055,106.

Patented Mar. 4, 1913.

2 SHEETS-SHEET 1

Fig. 1.

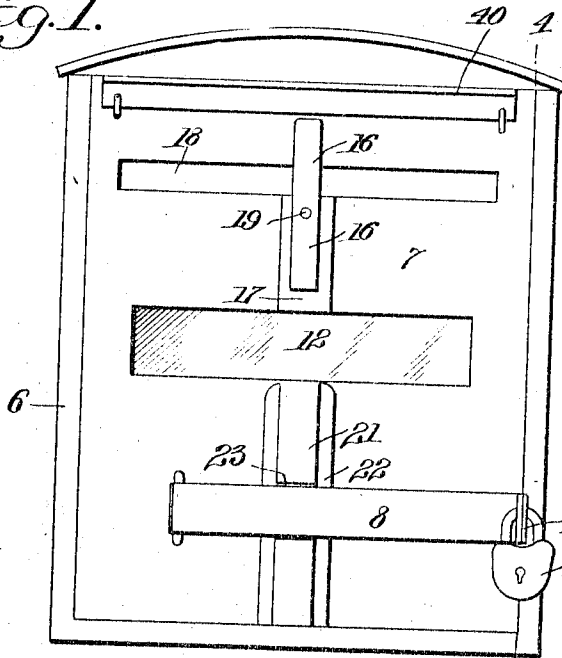


Fig. 3.

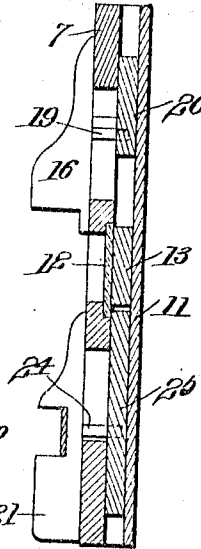
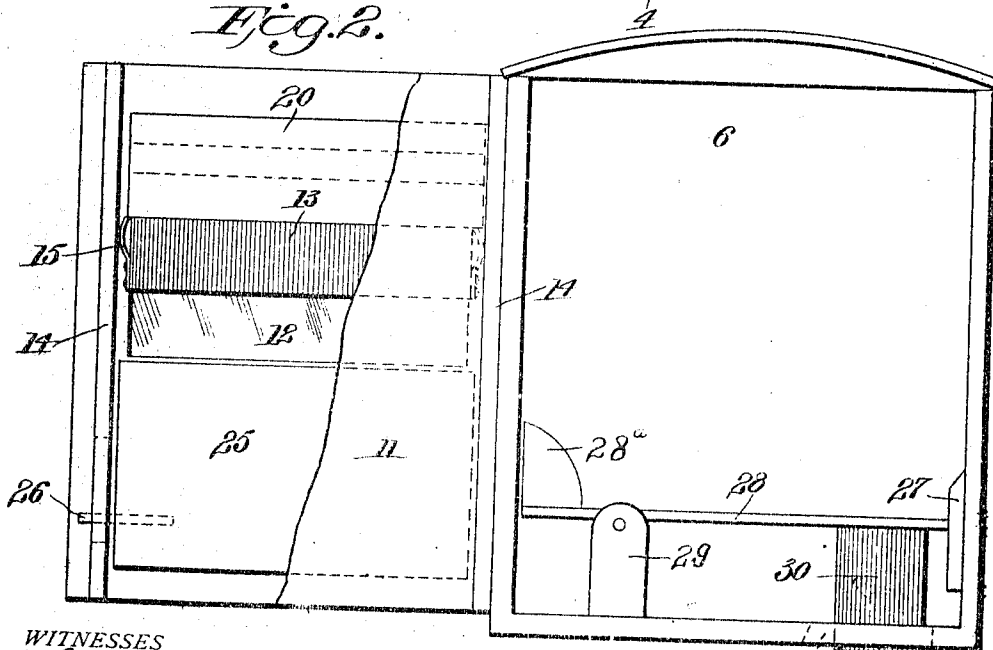


Fig. 2.



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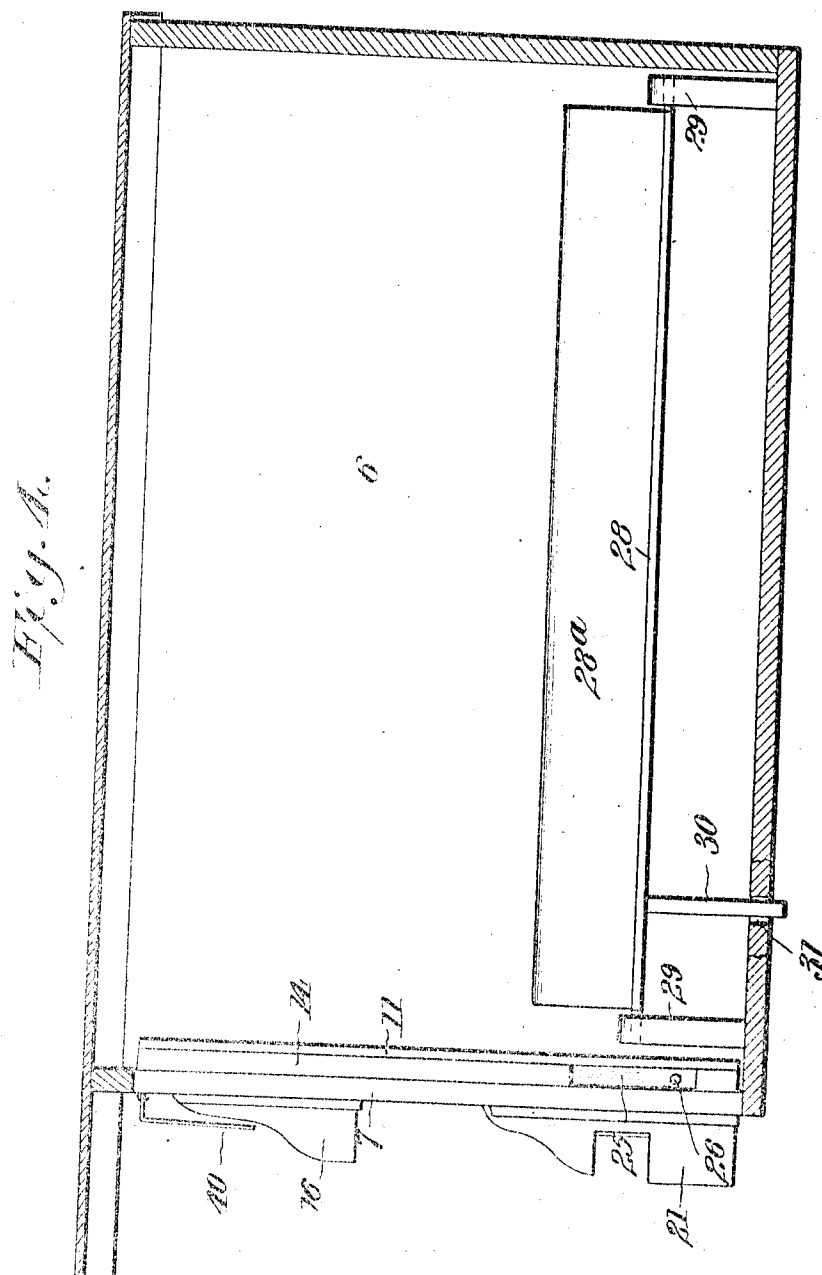
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



WITNESSES

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MAIL-DELIVERY BOX.

1,055,106.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN F. WARREN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Charleston, in the county of Charleston and State of South Carolina, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Delivery Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to deposit and collection receptacles, and particularly to mail boxes employing a "sight" signal for indicating whether the box contains mail. It is especially adapted for rural mail delivery service.

The object of the invention is to provide improved means for operating a signal whereby the condition of the box is indicated. The device employs a color block slidably mounted in the front door of the box, the parts being so arranged that before mail is deposited the signal block must be moved to exposed position.

A further feature of the invention is the employment of a balanced tray which is operated by papers or packages deposited in the box, to expose a signal.

In the accompanying drawings—Figure 1 is a front view of the box in closed position. Fig. 2 is a similar view with the door open, part of the inner cover or lining of the door being broken away to expose operative parts. Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view of the door. Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Referring specifically to the drawings, 5 indicates a box or casing which may be made of metal, wood, or other suitable material, of proper size and shape to contain mail or other matter. This is provided with a hinged door 7 at the front, which may be locked by means of a hasp 8, padlock 9 and staple 10. An inner cover or lining of the door is indicated at 11, and this is spaced slightly from the door proper, to form a compartment in which the signal block slides. The door has a window 12.

The signal block is indicated at 13, and may consist of a block of wood colored red or other noticeable color. It is held between the door 7 and back or lining 11 so that it may be slid up and down between guides 14, and at its ends the block is provided with friction springs 15 which bear against the guides 14 with sufficient force to prevent the block dropping by its own weight, and this block may be moved down-

wardly to expose the same through the window 12, as indicated in Fig. 3, or it may be shoved up to conceal the same behind the upper part of the door.

For pushing the signal block down, I provide a finger piece 16 which slides in guides 17 on the front of the door, and the upper end of the finger piece, when it is shoved up, extends across the letter slot 18, in the door, so as to prevent letters being put through the slot. When the finger piece is pushed down the slot is opened and letters may be inserted. The finger piece 16 is connected by a screw 19, which works through a vertical slot in the door, to an upper block 20 which is located above the signal block 13 and which slides loosely between the guides 14. When the finger piece 16 is pushed up, this block also closes the slot 18, as shown in Fig. 3.

On the lower part of the outside of the door is mounted a catch piece 21 which slides up and down in guides 22 on the front of the door and which has a notch 23 to receive the hasp 8. This piece is connected by a pin 24 to a white block 25 located on the inside of the door, between the guides 14, and under the red block 13, and when the piece 21 and block 25 are slid up the red block 13 is lifted to concealed position, behind the upper part of the door. This block 25 also carries a pin 26 projecting at one end thereof and adapted to engage behind a keeper 27 fastened to the side of the box, to form a latch for holding the door closed.

There is also provided, in the bottom of the box, a balanced tray 28 pivoted at its ends on brackets 29, and this tray has a signal piece or block 30 secured to the underside thereof and arranged to drop through a slot 31 in the bottom of the box when a package or heavy article is placed on the tray.

When the box is in closed condition, the finger piece 16 is shoved up, thereby closing the letter box. The piece 21 is then shoved up. This lifts the block 13 so that it is concealed behind the upper part of the door. The piece 21 is then dropped, and the catch 26 engages behind the keeper 27. The hasp 8 may then be closed and locked, being thus engaged in the notch 23 which prevents the piece 21 being lifted until the hasp has been unlocked. When the carrier delivers letters, he pushes down the piece 16 which car-

ries with it the block 20 and opens the letter slot, and at the same time pushes down the signal block 13 to position behind the window 12, thus exposing red through said window and indicating that there is something in the box. To remove the matter deposited, the hasp is unlocked and the piece 21 is pushed up which disengages the catch 26 and permits the door to be swung open. This action also resets or lifts the signal block 13 to original position.

When the carrier has a package, or piece of mail too large to put through the slot, the hasp 8 must be unlocked and the door opened, and when the article is then placed on the tray it is swung down and the signal piece 30 is exposed through the slot 31 to indicate the presence of the matter in the box. The weight 28^a swings the tray up when the matter is removed therefrom.

40 is a hinged lid over the letter slot.

I claim:

1. The combination with a box having a door and a window and slot in said door, of a signal block slidable on the door to exposed or concealed position with respect to the window, a closure for the slot, movable to open or closed position and engageable with the block to move the same to exposed position when the slot is opened, a device engageable with the block to move the same to concealed position and means to lock said device against movement.

2. The combination of a box having a door provided with a slot and a window, of a signal block mounted to slide up and down on the inside of the door, to exposed or concealed position with respect to the window, a closure for the slot slidable on the door and arranged to shift the block to exposed position when the slot is opened, and a lifting device mounted on the door and

engageable with the block to lift the same to concealed position.

3. The combination with a box having a door provided with a letter slot and a window below said slot, of a signal block slidable up and down on the inside of the door to exposed or concealed position with respect to said window, said block being provided with friction devices to hold the same in desired position, a sliding closure for the slot mounted on the door above said block and slidable up and down to close or open the slot, and engageable with said signal block to shift the same downwardly when the slot is opened, and a lifting device mounted on the door and operatively connected to the block to lift the same to concealed position when the slot is closed.

4. The combination with a box having a door provided with a letter slot and a window below said slot, of a signal block slidable up and down on the inside of the door to exposed or concealed position with respect to said window, said block being provided with friction devices to hold the same in desired position, a sliding closure for the slot mounted on the door above said block and slidable up and down to close or open the slot, and engageable with said signal block to shift the same downwardly when the slot is opened, and a lifting device mounted on the door and operatively connected to the block to lift the same to concealed position when the slot is closed, and means to lock the door and said lifting device against movement.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN F. WARREN.

Witnesses:

J. T. HAYS,

S. E. PEPPER.