No. 728,353. PATENTED MAY 19, 1903.

# W. B. BARNES.

## MAIL BOX.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 12, 1902.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

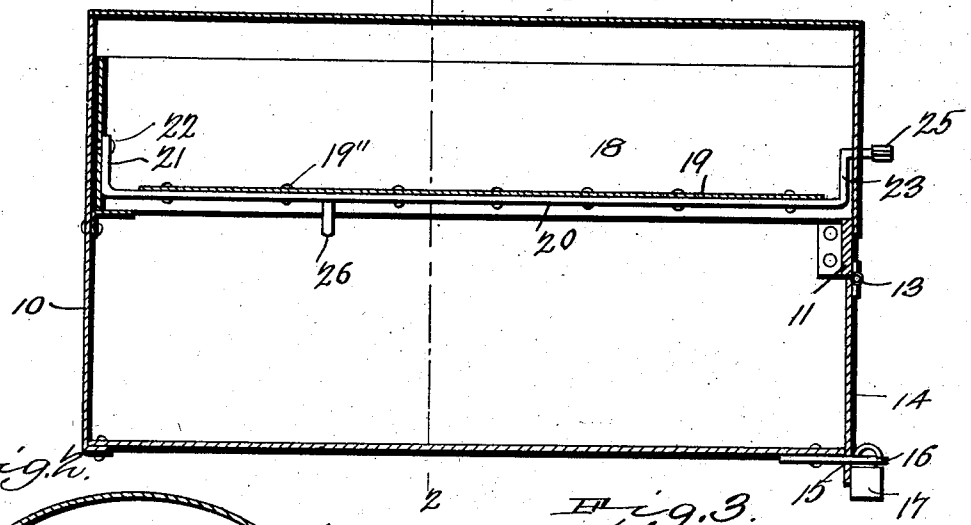



Fig. 2.

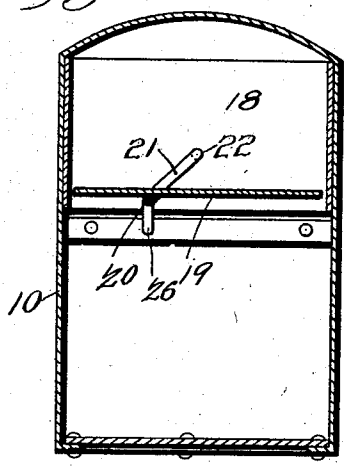



Fig. 3.

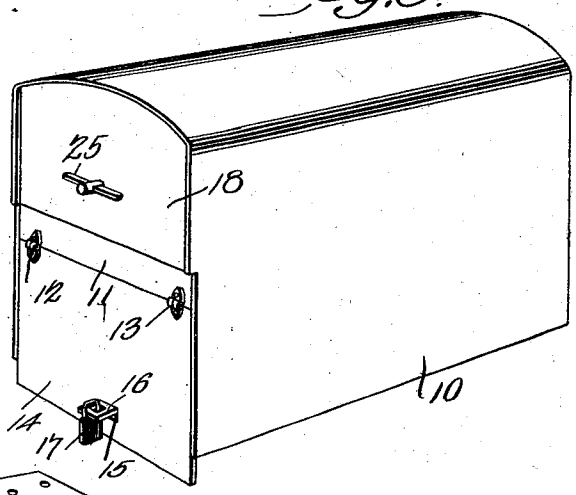



Fig. 5.

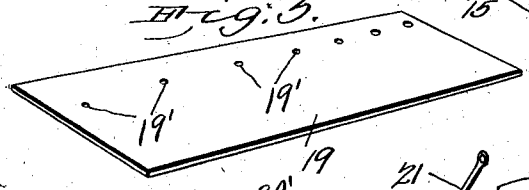



Fig. 4.

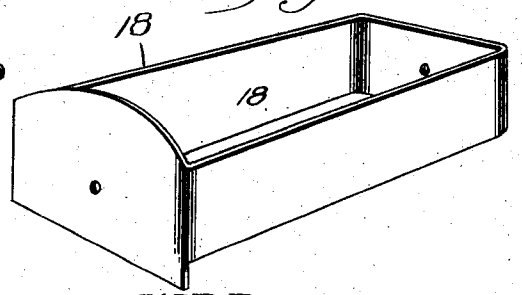
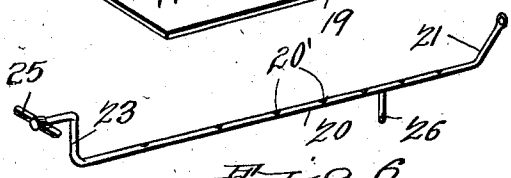



Fig. 6.




Witnesses

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THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

No. 728,353. Patented May 19, 1903.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM B. BARNES, OF FAYETTE, ILLINOIS.

## MAIL-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 728,353, dated May 19, 1903.

Application filed June 12, 1902. Serial No. 111,346. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM B. BARNES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Fayette, in the county of Greene and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Mail-Box, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to mail-receptacles for use at private houses or other localities where it is desired to have mail delivered and where it may be preserved from the weather and also from being tampered with surreptitiously.

The device will be especially valuable for use in connection with the rural free-delivery system, as the device provides for the adequate protection of the mail and is accessible only to the party possessing the key thereto. It may be made of any size and will preferably be made of steel of sufficient strength to withstand any strains to which it may be subjected and to afford ample protection to the contents.

The invention consists in a casing having a slidable drawer in its upper part and an outlet-door connected to its lower part, the drawer having a movable bottom operative from outside the casing by which the mail-matter after being deposited in the drawer and the drawer closed may be deposited into the casing below the drawer, the movable bottom of the drawer also serving as a stop when in its inverted position to prevent the withdrawal of the drawer, and thereby preventing the surreptitious removal of the mail-matter.

The invention further consists in a stop attached to the drawer or its attachments, whereby its entire withdrawal is prevented, so that the drawer serves to prevent access to the contents of the casing.

Other novel features of the invention will appear in the following description and be specified in the claims.

In the drawings illustrative of the invention, Figure 1 is a longitudinal sectional elevation. Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional elevation on the line II II of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a perspective view, on a smaller scale, of the device complete. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the slidable drawer. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the movable drawer-bottom; and Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the operating-shaft of the drawer-bottom detached, Figs. 4, 5, and 6 being on the same scale as Fig. 3.

The outer casing (here indicated at 10 and preferably made oblong in shape) is constructed of sheet metal, preferably steel, properly braced and supported to secure the requisite stiffness for rendering the box sufficiently strong to resist surreptitious tampering, this being one of the essential requirements for mail-boxes, especially when located in exposed places.

The casing will be open at one end, except for a transverse bar 11, the latter affording a support for the hinges 12 13 of a door 14, which is disposed to form a closure to the lower part of the casing, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, the door being provided with an aperture 15, engaging a hasp 16, to afford means for the attachment of a lock, (represented at 17.)

Engaging the casing 10 above the bar 11 is a drawer 18, the front of the drawer completely filling the front of the casing 10 above the bar 11, as shown. This drawer 18 is supported slidably within the casing, so that it may be withdrawn partially therefrom, as hereinafter explained. The drawer 18 is provided with a movable bottom 19, having bolt-holes 19′ therein, said bottom supported upon a longitudinal shaft 20, having bolt-holes 20′ therein, which register with the holes 19′ in the bottom 19 and through which the bolts 19″ pass and hold the bottom 19 to the shaft 20. The shaft is turned upward at its inner end, as at 21, and pivotally connected to the rear end of the drawer by a pivot 22, while the opposite end of the shaft 20 is likewise turned upward, as at 23, and extended outward through the front of the drawer and provided with an operating-handle 25 on its outer end, as shown. The longitudinal shaft 20 is connected to the under side of the bottom 19 at one side of its center, preferably about one-third of the transverse width of the bottom, as indicated in Fig. 2, and the ends 21 23 extending upward and inward at an angle of about forty-five degrees, and the pivot 21 and the handle end 25 engaging the drawer ends at their centers, as shown. By this means the bottom 19 is suspended centrally in the drawer, but with its support 20

at one side of the center, so that when the handle 25 is operated the first movement of the drawer-bottom will be off to one side at the same time that it is rotated. By this means the drawer-bottom is moved out from under the mail-matter and the latter dumped into the receptacle and the depending edge of the bottom 19 projected into a vertical position at one side of the casing below the line of the cross-bar 11, so that the tilting of the bottom 19 will not only deposit the mail-matter which has been previously placed thereon into the receptacle, but will also serve as a stop to prevent the opening of the drawer by engaging the cross-bar 11. Thus it will be impossible to open the drawer 18 when the bottom is inverted and gain access to the mail-matter in the receptacle by that means. It will also be observed that when the drawer is opened or partially opened the bottom 19 will be prevented from movement by the bar 11, so that it is impossible to invert the drawer-bottom when the drawer is open.

Attached to the shaft 20 is a depending stop 26, adapted to engage the bar 11 when the drawer is open to prevent its entire withdrawal, so that access to the mail-matter in the casing cannot be obtained by removing the drawer. The stop 26 might be attached to one of the sides of the drawer and accomplish the same result, but will preferably be attached to the shaft 20, as shown.

The stop 26 will be located at some distance from the rear end of the shaft 20 and the drawer 18, so that the drawer can be opened only to a partial extent, just sufficient to permit the insertion of the mail, leaving a large portion of the drawer within the casing at all times to serve as a protection to the mail-matter and render it impossible to gain access thereto around the edges of the drawer. This is an important feature of the invention and greatly increases its efficiency by correspondingly increasing the means of protection to the mail-matter. By this simple means a very efficient, simple, easily-constructed, and a very safe device is produced which while being very easily operated by the mail-carrier affords ample protection to the mail-matter not only from the weather, but from being tampered with unlawfully.

It will be noted that the mail-carrier is not required to carry a key to unlock the drawer to insert the mail, but is simply required to withdraw the drawer, insert the mail, return the drawer to its place, and give the handle 25 a quarter-turn to the right to dump the mail-matter and then release it, when it will return to its normal position by gravity.

The hasp 16 provides for the employment of any form of lock, so that each owner of a box could secure it by his own individual lock, the advantage of which arrangement is obvious.

As before stated, the casing and its mail-receiving drawer will be of any required size and material and may be modified and altered in minor particulars without departing from the principle of the invention or sacrificing any of its advantages.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. A mail-box comprising a casing having a drawer slidably disposed therein and provided with a movable bottom adapted when inverted to deposit the contents of the drawer in the casing, and means whereby said bottom when inverted is adapted to prevent the opening of the drawer, substantially as described.

2. A mail-box comprising a casing having one end open, a drawer in said casing and movable through the upper part of said open end, an independent movable closure to the lower part of said open end, the drawer being provided with a movable bottom adapted when inverted to deposit the contents of the drawer in the casing, and means whereby when said bottom is inverted it will prevent the opening of the drawer, substantially as described.

3. A mail-box comprising a casing having a drawer slidably disposed therein and provided with a movable bottom adapted, when inverted, to deposit the contents of the drawer in the casing and project therein and prevent the opening of the drawer until returned to its normal position, substantially as described.

4. A mail-box comprising a casing having a drawer slidably disposed therein, a rock-shaft longitudinally supported in said drawer, the drawer being provided with a movable bottom supported upon said shaft whereby when said shaft is rotated said bottom will be inverted to deposit the mail in the casing below the drawer, and serve as a stop to prevent the opening of the drawer while the bottom is inverted, substantially as described.

5. A mail-box comprising a casing having a drawer slidably disposed therein, a rock-shaft longitudinally supported in said drawer, the drawer being provided with a movable bottom supported upon said shaft, and a stop upon said shaft adapted to prevent the removal of the drawer, substantially as described.

6. A mail-box comprising a casing having a drawer slidably disposed therein, a rock-shaft in said drawer having upturned ends pivotally engaging the drawer, the drawer being provided with a movable bottom supported by said shaft, means for rotating said shaft, whereby said bottom will be moved to one side of the drawer and inverted and project into the casing below the drawer, substantially as described.

7. In a mail-box, a casing open at one end, a transverse bar intermediately disposed across said open end, a movable closure to said open end below said bar, a drawer slidably disposed within the casing above the bar, and provided with a movable bottom adapted, when inverted, to deposit the contents of the drawer in the casing, and to engage said bar and

thereby prevent the opening of the drawer when said bottom is in its inverted position, substantially as described.

8. A mail-box comprising a casing having a drawer slidably disposed therein and provided with a movable bottom adapted, when inverted, to deposit the contents of the drawer in the casing, and engage the casing and prevent the drawer from being opened while the bottom is inverted, and a stop intermediately of the drawer adapted to prevent its removal from the casing, substantially as described.

9. A mail-box comprising a casing having a drawer slidably disposed therein, a rock-shaft longitudinally disposed in said drawer at one side of the center and having upwardly and inwardly extended ends pivotally connected at the center of the drawer ends, the drawer being provided with a movable bottom engaging said rock-shaft, and means operating through one end of said drawer, whereby said shaft and its extended ends may be rotated to cause said bottom to be turned to one side and inverted, and supported centrally of the drawer by gravity, substantially as described.

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

WILLIAM B. BARNES.

Witnesses:
A. CONNOLE,
JOHN L. BAKER.