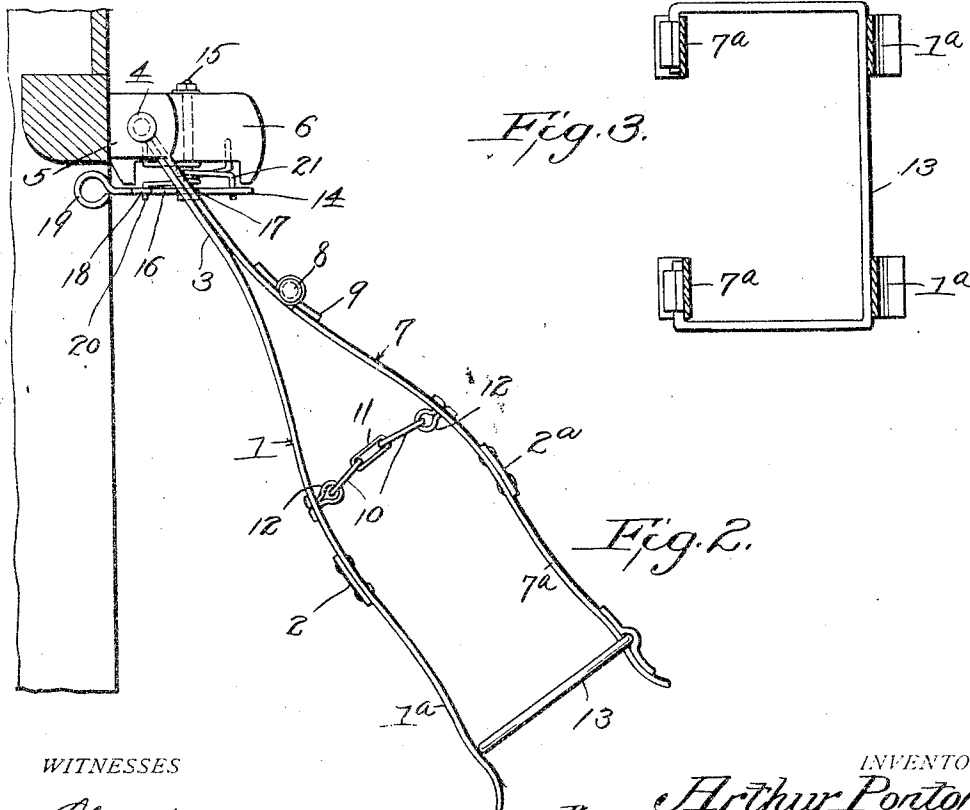
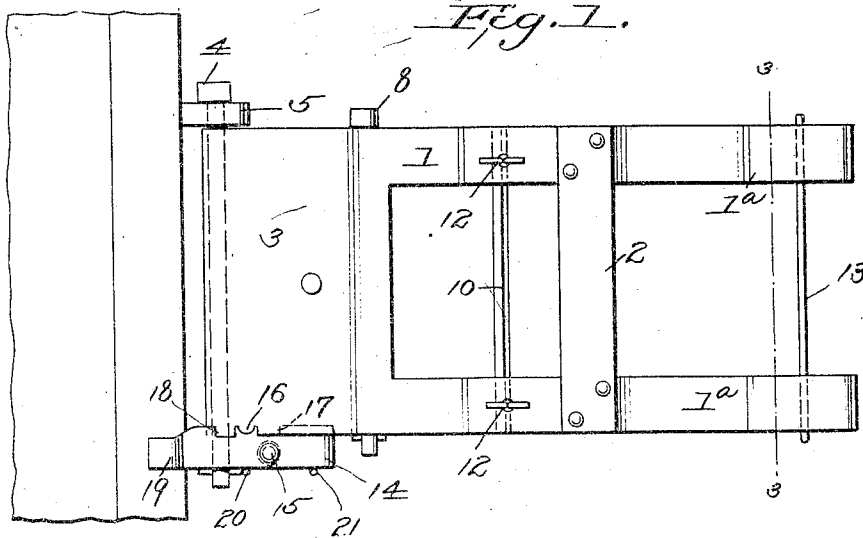


A. PONTON.
MAIL BAG CATCHER.
APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 27, 1912.

1,056,449.

Patented Mar. 18, 1913.

2 SHEETS-SHEET 1.



WITNESSES

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1,056,449.

2 SHEETS--SHEET 2.

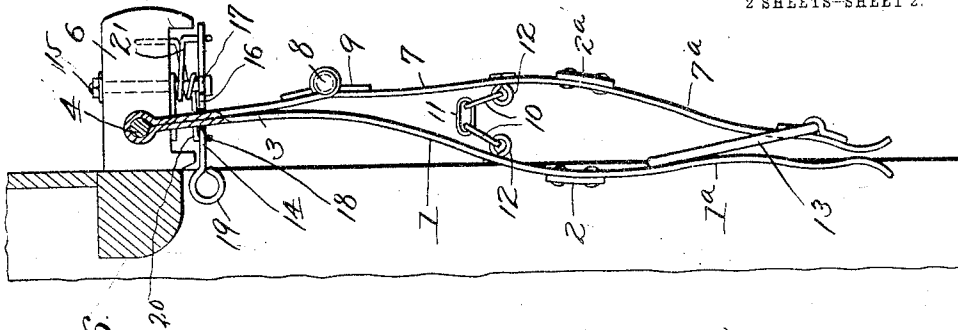


Fig. 6.

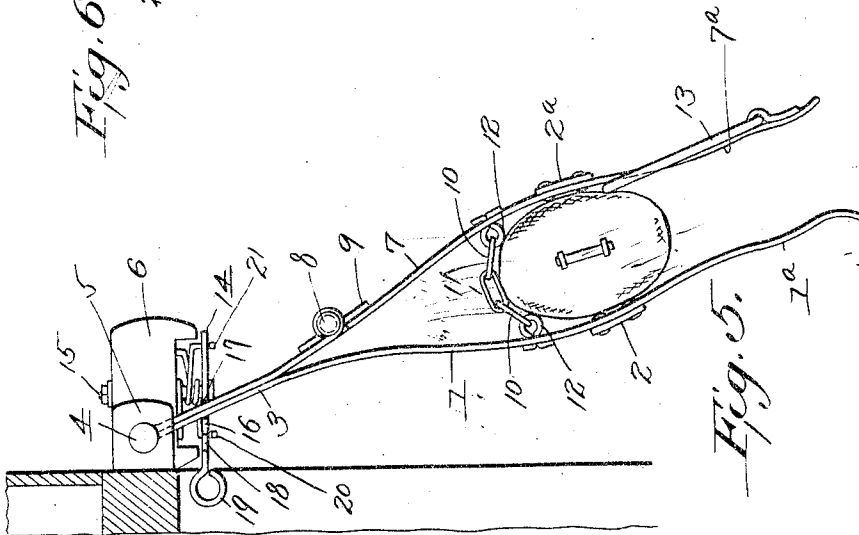


Fig. 5.

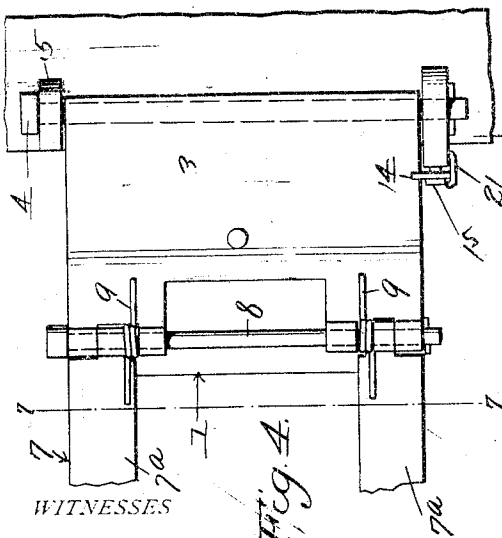


Fig. 4.

WITNESSES

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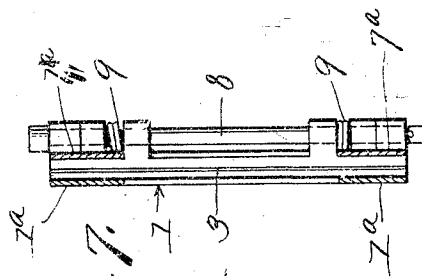


Fig. 7.

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ARTHUR PONTON, OF MURDOCK, ILLINOIS.

MAIL-BAG CATCHER.

1,056,449.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Mar. 18, 1913.

Application filed September 27, 1912. Serial No. 722,702.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARTHUR PONTON, citizen of the United States, residing at Murdock, in the county of Douglas and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bag Catchers, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in mail bag catchers, and has for its object to provide a device of this character which embodies novel features of construction whereby the mail bag can be positively gripped without danger of tearing or injuring the same.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of this character which is comparatively simple and inexpensive in its construction, which can be easily and quickly moved into and out of operative position, and which will act in an effective manner to receive and grip the mail bag.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists in certain novel combinations and arrangements of the parts as will more fully appear as the description proceeds, the novel features thereof being pointed out in the appended claims.

For a full understanding of the invention, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawing, in which:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a mail bag catcher constructed in accordance with the invention, the jaws being arranged in an open position. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the mail bag catcher. Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the inner end of the catcher, showing the hinged connection between the movable jaw and the base. Fig. 5 is a plan view showing the position of the parts after a mail bag has been engaged. Fig. 6 is a similar view showing the mail bag catcher as swung inwardly toward the side of the car in an inoperative position, and Fig. 7 is a sectional view on the line 7—7 of Fig. 4.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawing by the same reference characters.

Specifically describing the present embodiment of the invention, the numeral 1 designates the fixed jaw of the mail bag catcher, the outer or free end of the fixed

jaw being formed with the spaced and substantially parallel arms 1^a which are connected at an intermediate point in their length by means of the cross bar 2. This jaw 1 may be formed of sheet material and is integral with a shank 3, the said shank being pivotally mounted upon a vertical pivot bolt 4 which connects the two brackets 5 and 6 upon the side of the car. The shank 3 is preferably formed by returning the piece of sheet metal, and the movable jaw 7 is hinged to the extremity of this returned end of the sheet metal. Suitable springs 9 are applied to the hinged joint 8 at the inner end of the movable jaw 7, the said springs normally tending to swing the movable jaw toward the fixed jaw. The free end of the movable jaw is constructed similar to the free end of the fixed jaw 1, being formed with the spaced and substantially parallel arms 7^a connected by the upright cross bar 2^a.

In order to limit the outward swinging movement of the movable jaw 7, a link connection is provided between the two jaws at a point toward the inner end thereof, the said link connection comprising the two vertical plates 10 which have their adjacent edges connected by the links 11, while the outer edges thereof are connected by the links 12 to the respective jaws. These plates 10 are adapted to swing inwardly to permit of the jaws coming together, although they limit the outward swinging movement of the movable jaw 7 and prevent the same from being swung too far away from the fixed jaw 1.

A swing trigger 13 is pivoted upon the outer end of the movable jaw 7, the said trigger being adapted to be swung inwardly so as to be positioned between the two jaws 1 and 7 as indicated by Fig. 2, so as to hold the jaws in an open position. The jaws are in this position when the device is set to receive a mail bag, the mail bag striking against the trigger 13 and serving to swing the same inwardly and move it into inoperative position, thereby permitting the springs 9 to swing the movable jaw 7 toward the fixed jaw 1 and securely grip the mail bag. The mail bag will thus be held firmly between the jaws until it can be swung toward the car and removed from position by the operator.

The invention further contemplates the provision of means for locking the catch

either in an operative or an inoperative position. A latch 14 is pivotally mounted upon the lower bracket 6 by means of a pivot pin 16 which passes through an intermediate portion of the said latch. The latch is provided immediately above the pivot portion thereof with a V shaped notch 16, and on opposite sides of the V shaped notch with the notches 17 and 18 respectively, the inner end of the latch being formed with a suitable handle 19. A pair of springs 20 and 21 have intermediate portions thereof coiled about the pivot pin 15, one end of each of the springs engaging the bracket 6, while the opposite end of each of the springs engages the latch 14. The spring 20 engages the latch upon the handle side thereof so as to return the latch to normal position after the handle end thereof has been depressed. In a similar manner the spring 21 engages the outer end of the latch 14 so as to return the latch to normal position when the said outer end of the latch has been depressed. When the shank 3 of the mail bag catcher is in an intermediate position, it is received within the V shaped notch 16. It can then position, or inwardly into engagement with the notch 17 which will hold it in operative position, or inwardly into engagement with the notch 18 which will hold it in inoperative position. After the shank 3 has engaged either of the notches 17 or 18 the mail bag catcher will be held securely in position until after the latch 14 shall have been manually manipulated to release the shank 3 from engagement with either one of the notches and bring it back into the V shaped notch 16.

In the operation of the device the trigger 13 will be swung into engagement with the fixed jaw 1 so as to hold the movable jaw 7 in an open position, as indicated by Fig. 2. The entire catcher will then be swung outwardly and brought into engagement with the notch 17 of the latch 14. When the mail bag is engaged contact with the said mail bag will swing the trigger 13 inwardly so as to release the movable jaw 7 and permit the springs 9 to swing the movable jaw in-

wardly and grip the mail bag. The operator will then manipulate the latch plate 14 and swing the catcher into inoperative position, with the shank 3 in engagement with the notch 18 of the latch plate. The mail bag can then be manually moved from the catcher and taken into the car.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. A mail bag catcher including a bracket, a shank hinged upon the bracket, a fixed jaw carried by the shank, a hinged jaw carried by the shank in coöperative relation to the fixed jaw, yielding means normally tending to swing the hinged jaw toward the fixed jaw, a pivoted trigger carried by the free end of one of the jaws and adapted to engage the opposite jaw to hold the jaws in an open position, engagement with the mail bag serving to move the trigger into an inoperative position to release the hinged jaw, and a spring latch pivoted upon the bracket and adapted to engage the shank to hold the catcher in predetermined positions.

2. A mail bag catcher including a bracket, a shank pivoted upon the bracket, coöperating fixed and movable jaws carried by the shank, yielding means normally tending to close the jaws, means for holding the jaws in an open position, the said means being released by engagement with a mail bag, a latch pivoted between its ends upon the bracket, said latch being provided opposite the pivot point with a V shaped notch and upon opposite sides of the V shaped notch with independent notches, and springs holding the latch in an intermediate position, the said shank being adapted to be forcibly moved from the V shaped notch into either of the independent notches and being held in either of the independent notches until the latch is manipulated to release the same.

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

ARTHUR PONTON.

Witnesses:

H. C. ENGLAND.

W. W. PORTERFIELD.