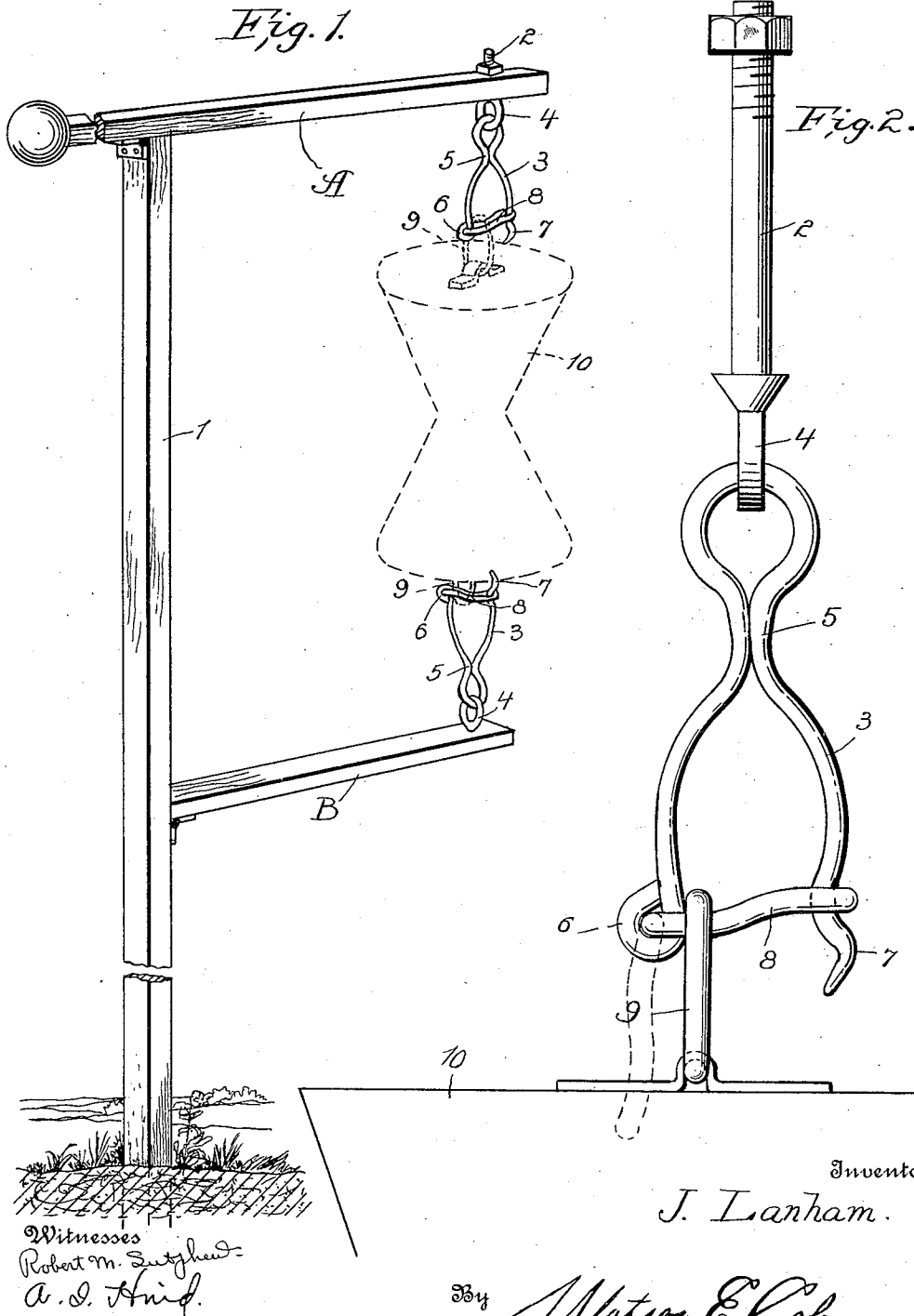


J. LANHAM.
SNAP HOOK FOR MAIL CRANES.
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 14, 1912.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES LANHAM, OF OWINGS MILLS, MARYLAND.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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Application filed December 14, 1912. Serial No. 736,805.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES LANHAM, a citizen of the United States, residing at Owings Mills, in the county of Baltimore and State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Snap-Hooks for Mail-Cranes, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

10 This invention relates to new and useful improvements in mail cranes and more particularly to a snap or clip for securing a mail pouch thereto and my object is to provide a device of this character which will
15 securely retain the pouch in position on the crane through all kinds of weather and which will, at the same time, enable the moving train to readily remove the pouch therefrom.

20 A further object of the invention resides in providing a device comprising a pair of yielding spring arms, one of which has a link member pivoted thereto and the other of which is adapted to receive the end of
25 said link member, whereby the ring member on the mail pouch may be removably retained between said arms.

30 A still further object of the invention resides in providing a device which is extremely simple and durable in construction, inexpensive to manufacture and one which will be very efficient and useful in operation.

35 With these and other objects in view, the invention consists in the novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter referred to and more particularly pointed out in the specification and claim.

40 In the accompanying drawing forming a part of this application, Figure 1 is a perspective view showing my device applied to use. Fig. 2 is an enlarged plan view of the snap in effective position and showing
45 in dotted lines the position of the link when disengaged from one arm thereof.

50 In describing my invention, I shall refer to the drawing in which similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views and in which—

55 1 indicates a post of the usual or any preferred type used for mail crane purposes, to the top of which is hingedly secured the arm A and also similarly-secured thereto some distance below the arm A is an additional and lower arm B. Extending through

the arms A and B are the eye bolts 2, the eyes of which are disposed inwardly toward one another and engaged with these eyes are my improved snaps 3, which form the essential part of this invention. This snap is
60 formed of a strand of spring metal, bent intermediate of its ends to form an eye 4, which is engaged with the eye of the bolt 2 and the arms or sections of the bent strand of metal are brought together just below the eye, as shown at 5, the same being welded or otherwise secured at this point. The
65 arms continuing from this point 5 are spread outwardly and thence bent inwardly toward their lower ends, to form arcuate spring yielding arms or jaws, the free end of the one arm being bent to form an additional eye 6. The opposite arm, after being bent inwardly, adjacent its free end, is again
70 bent outwardly and depended below the plane of the lower end of the first mentioned arm to provide a dependent lug or finger piece 7, the provision of this inwardly bent portion and this piece 7 forming a substantial catch member for the free end of a
75 link 8, which is engaged with the eye 6 of the opposite arm.

The inwardly bent portion of the one arm, adjacent its lower end is, as stated, adapted to receive the free end of the link 8, after the latter has been passed through the usual ring 9, of a mail pouch 10, but this is only
85 accomplished after the last mentioned arm has been sprung inwardly to allow the free end of said link to ride over the bulged portion of the dependent end 7 thereof. When the link 8 is so engaged, with the ring 9, and snapped into engagement with the arm, as described, the mail pouch will be securely
90 suspended from the crane without danger of being casually disengaged by the wind and storm. When the pouch is engaged by the engaging mechanism of a fast moving train, however, the same may be readily disengaged by the disengagement or the snapping of the link 8 from the one spring arm of the device.

From the foregoing description of the construction of my improved device, the operation thereof will be readily understood
105 and it will be seen that I have provided an improved mail bag securing means which will positively retain the mail bag or pouch in position to be engaged by moving trains
110 at all times and which will also prevent the pouch from being casually disengaged by

heavy winds and storms. It will further be seen that the securing means is one of a spring-snap type which is simple and durable in construction, inexpensive to manufacture and one which will be very efficient and useful in operation.

While I have particularly described the elements best adapted to perform the functions set forth, it is obvious that various changes in form, proportion and in the minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the principles of the invention.

Having thus described this invention, what I claim is:—

A device of the class described consisting of a single strand of resilient metal bent intermediate of its ends to form an eye, the sections of the strand at the lower terminal of the eye being disposed in contact with one another and secured together for a short

portion of their length, the sections of the strand continuing from the contacting portions thereof being outspread and arcuately bent in opposite directions to form spring arms, the one terminal of said strand being bent to form a second eye, the other terminal thereof being bent inwardly and thence outwardly to form a catch disposed in a plane above the plane of said second eye, and a closed link engaged with the second eye and adapted for engagement with said catch, the extreme free end of the arm having the catch thereon being disposed below the plane of said second eye to form a finger piece thereon.

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

JAMES LANHAM.

Witnesses:

EDWARD LANHAM,
WALTER N. ROWE.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."