To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, William H. Kniep, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoppers' Bags, of which the following is a specification.

This invention is an improvement in shoppers' or marketing bags, made of paper or similar cheap material. Such articles are of great utility. The desiderata therein are cheapness, lightness, flexibility, toughness, and durability.

In devices of this character, the reinforcement of the upper part is of especial importance, and the satisfaction of the user depends very largely upon the nature and strength of the hand-grasp or handle of the bag.

The object of the present invention is to produce and provide the said desiderata in an especially advantageous manner and construction.

In the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification, in which like numbers of reference denote like parts wherever they occur,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one form, showing the reinforcement upon the outside;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a different form, showing the reinforcement upon the inside of the bag;

Figure 3 is a sectional view on the line 3–3 in Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a sectional view on the line 4–4 in Figure 2;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of another form;

Figure 6 is a sectional view on the line 6–6 in Figure 5;

Figure 7 is a perspective view of another modification, and

Figure 8 is a sectional view on the line 8–8 in Figure 7.

Referring to Figure 1, the body of the bag is circumferentially reinforced at its top and near its mouth by a strip of reinforcing material running completely around the mouth of the bag and upon the outside of the bag body. The said strip of reinforcing material 2 is pasted closely to the bag body 1, elongated slots 3 pierce both bag and reinforcement in registering alinement. The said slots 3 form a handhold or handgrasp and enable the easy carriage of the bag, with any parcels or articles that have been placed therein.

Due to the close adhesion of the reinforcement 2 to the bag body 1, a very satisfactory handle for the bag is provided by the slots 3.

The construction of the device depicted in Figures 2 and 4 is substantially the same as that shown in Figures 1 and 3, with the exception that the reinforcement 2 is upon the inside of the bag in Figure 2 and on the outside in Figure 1.

In Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8, the bag is adapted to assume, when distended, more or less of a cylindrical or elliptical form, while the bag depicted in Figures 5 and 6 will, when expanded, take the rectangular shape denoted in Figure 5.

In Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4, the reinforcement 2 extends around the mouth of the bag, while in Figures 7 and 8, the reinforcement is shortened and, in general, restricted to the proximity of the slots 3.

In the modification shown in Figures 5 and 6, the reinforcement 2 is seen extending all the way around the mouth of the bag and may be either upon the outside as shown in those figures, or may be on the inside as depicted in Figure 2.

The reinforcing material composing the reinforcement 2 is preferably of tougher fibre than the bag body proper and, if desired, may be so arranged that its grasp or easiest taring direction runs circumferentially around the bag, whereby a tougher handle is provided.

In Figures 5 and 6 an additional reinforcement 4 is shown, which like the body of the bag 1 and the reinforcement 2 is perforated by the opening 3. In Figures 7 and 8 the said reinforcement 4 is shown in use minus the reinforcement 2.

In Figures 5, 6, 7, and 8 the said reinforcement 4 is shown in the form of a U-shaped member, the bend 5 of which rests on the upper edge of the bag body 1, and the sides of which U-shaped member extend downwardly a sufficient distance to act as a reinforcement around the slot 3. It is to be observed that there is one of the said members 4 upon each side of the bag, so as to reinforce each of the slots 3.

In Figures 5 and 6 the U-members 4 are shown extending downwardly to a point adjacent to the lower edge of the reinforcement 2. Figures 7 and 8 may be regarded...
as either the same as the reinforcements 4 in Figures 5 and 6, or as the equivalent of a shortened reinforcement 2 in Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Having thus described this invention, I hereby reserve the benefit of all changes in form, arrangement, order, or use of parts, as it is evident that many minor changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit of this invention or the scope of the following claim.

I claim:

A bag comprising a body portion having its material at its top bent back upon itself for forming a reinforcing element extending continuously around the mouth of the bag, said reinforcing element being integral with the body portion, and inverted U-shaped reinforcing members straddling the upper edge of the bag and the continuous reinforcing element, said members, element, and body portion being glued together; and provided with hand openings, said members being oppositely arranged.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

WILLIAM H. KNIEP.