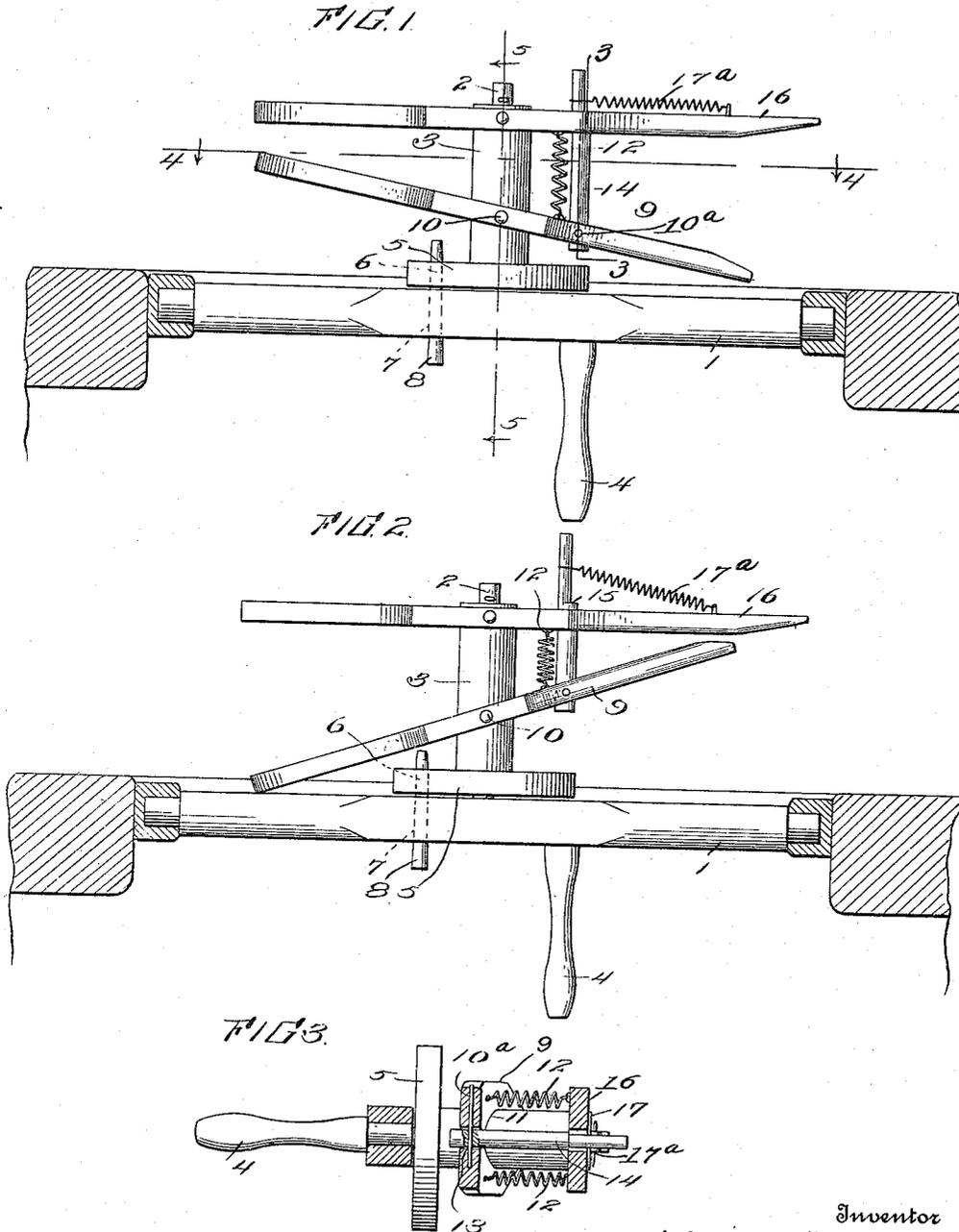


A. W. DICKERSON,  
 MAIL BAG CATCHER.  
 APPLICATION FILED JUNE 30, 1914.

1,155,221.

Patented Sept. 28, 1915.  
 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses

*Robt. Trognier.*  
*J. M. Coppenhaver*

Inventor  
 Albert W. Dickerson

*J. M. Webster*

Attorney

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FIG. 4.

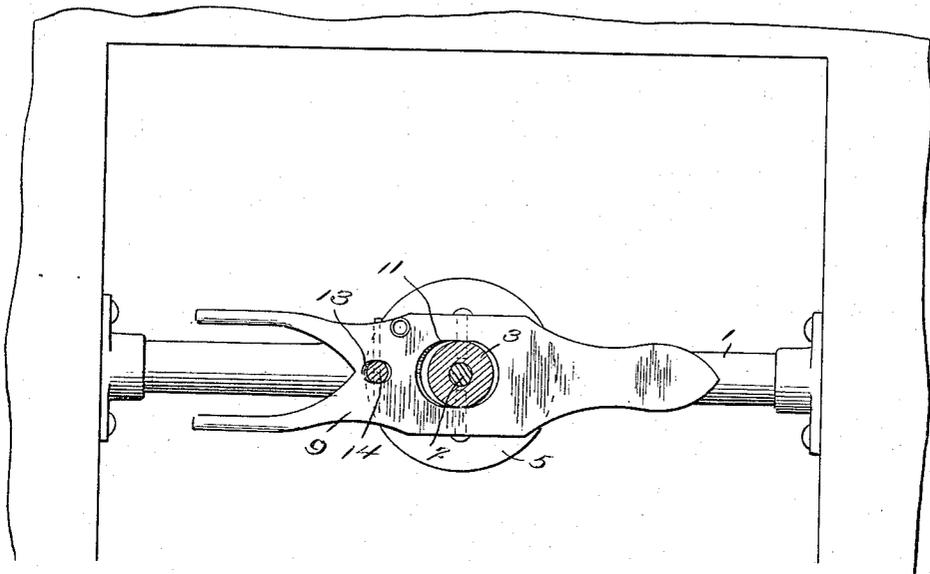


FIG. 5.

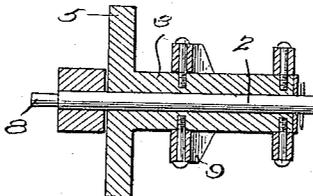
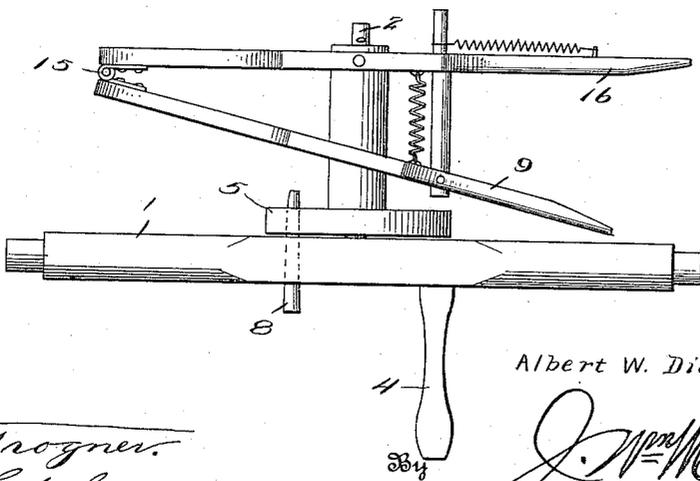


FIG. 6.



Witnesses

*R. S. Trognier.*  
*G. M. Copenhagen.*

Inventor  
 Albert W. Dickerson.

*J. W. Mouton*  
 Attorney

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT W. DICKERSON, OF GALION, OHIO.

## MAIL-BAG CATCHER.

1,155,221.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 28, 1915.

Application filed June 30, 1914. Serial No. 848,121.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ALBERT W. DICKERSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Galion, in the county of Morrow and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bag Catchers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in railway mail bag or pouch catchers, as in receiving or taking the mail bag or pouch at a station, it being equally adapted for taking or catching the pouch upon a post as upon a car.

The invention has for its object to greatly simplify the construction and arrangement of the parts and to facilitate their operation and application for use.

A further object is to promote celerity of action and to insure certainty of the catching action of the device.

A still further object is to carry out the aforesaid ends with expedition and despatch.

The invention, therefore, consists of the combination and arrangement of parts substantially as hereinafter fully disclosed and defined by the appended claims.

While in the accompanying drawings is illustrated the preferred embodiment of my invention, it will be understood that I do not restrict myself in these particulars, as any changes or modifications may be made therein which may fall within the scope of the claims without departing from the spirit of my invention, and in which drawings:

Figure 1 is a plan view of my mail pouch catcher as set for catching or receiving a mail pouch. Fig. 2 is a similar view thereof as when not set or out of use. Fig. 3 is a central vertical transverse section thereof, it being in set position, the section being taken on the line 3-3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal section taken on the line 4-4 of Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a transverse section taken on the line 5-5 of Fig. 1. Fig. 6 is a plan view of a modification of my invention, the mail pouch catching members being shown as hingedly connected together.

In carrying out my invention I suitably fix to the usual suspending pivoted member or bar 1, about centrally thereof and at right angles, a shaft 2, and upon this shaft is mounted or sleeved so as to turn thereon a tubular shaft 3, it being appreciated that the bar or member 1 is suitably positioned or hung in the manner well understood

transversely of the entrance or doorway of a mail car, at the upper end thereof. The bar or member 1 has projecting therefrom within convenient grasp of the operator a hand bar 4 for the suitable manipulation of the catcher. The sleeve or shaft 3 has fixed thereto, at one end, a disk 5, which, however, may be an arm, having an aperture therein, and in the bar or member 1 is an aperture 7, into registration or coincidence with which is arranged to be brought the aforesaid aperture by suitably turning the mail pouch catcher, as in reversing the same to accommodate the direction in which the car is to be run, as will be appreciated. A pin 8 is, of course, inserted into these apertures when thus brought into registration or coincidence to maintain the catcher in fixed relation with respect to the carrying or pivoting bar 1.

A bifurcated bar or fork 9 receives, and is suitably fulcrumed, as at 10, upon the sleeve or shaft 3 so as to suitably pivot thereon, an opening 11 being provided in said fork for its application to said shaft and which opening is somewhat elongated to allow of obliquity or limited arcuate movement of the fork, the purpose of which will be presently apparent. The fork or member 9 is automatically or resiliently held or drawn toward one side of the catcher and so as to intercept the longitudinal medial line thereof by the action of preferably duplicate springs 12 suitably connected thereto and to fixed opposite points, as upon the finger, as clearly seen in Fig. 3.

Suitably fulcrumed at or near one end in an elongated opening 13 in the fork or member 9 is a trip or retaining member 14 for the fork, said trip being preferably in the form of a cylindrical pin with its pivot passing vertically and transversely there-through near one end, while near the opposite end of said trip is a shoulder 15 as the resultant of reducing the trip in the direction of the latter end, the function of which shoulder will be presently seen.

A finger 16 of preferably the general outline as disclosed, being of the approximate contour of the fork, it, however, having but a single or central tine-like formation, is suitably fixed to the sleeve or shaft 3 at that end of the latter opposite which the fork is applied. The finger 16 has an aperture 17 arranged to receive and provide for the movement therein of the trip or retain-

ing member 14 for the fork, the shoulder of the retaining member or trip being arranged to engage the inner edge of the aperture of the finger, as will appear especially from Fig. 1. The trip or retaining member 14 is also controlled by a resilient member or spring 17<sup>a</sup> suitably connected thereto and to a fixed point, as on the finger, so as to effect the automatic engagement of the shoulder of the trip with the edge of the aperture in the finger as the fork is moved away from the finger, as in positioning the fork preliminary to the catching of the mail pouch, the latter being received or caught between the finger and fork. At this juncture the mail pouch contacts with the trip 14 and disengages the shoulder of the latter from the finger, accordingly providing for the instant automatic movement of the fork toward the finger, causing the forcible gripping of the mail pouch between the finger and fork.

In the modification as suggested by Fig. 6, it will be observed that, in lieu of the above described or preferred form of applying the fork, the latter may have a sliding movement upon the sleeve or shaft bearing the same and be hinged or pivoted at its inner end to the finger, as at 15, which will provide for the fork having a like action as aforesaid.

In operation, by grasping the hand bar of the pivoting bar 1 and suitably disposing the catcher with the forward end thereof facing in the direction of the mail pouch, supposedly suspended from the usual post (not shown) positioned contiguous to the railway track, such mail pouch will be received or caught between the fork and finger of the catcher as the mail car passes the mail-pouch-suspending post, and as the mail pouch is thus taken from the latter said mail pouch will, by reason of the precipitate action of the latter, forcibly contact the trip 14, which action will accordingly disengage the shoulder of said trip from the edge of the aperture 17, allowing the trip to have movement in said aperture with the thrusting of the fork toward the finger under the action of its spring, as before explained, the resultant being the gripping of the mail pouch between said fork and finger. By further actuating the catcher, by the same means, the catcher may be disposed, with the effectively held mail pouch, so that the latter may be brought within the convenient reach of the operator for removal into the car, as will be readily appreciated.

It is apparent that my catcher may be equally suspended in position from a mail-pouch-suspending post, instead of upon the car, for taking a mail pouch therefrom into a car.

It is thought that the characteristic features of my invention of simplicity of construction of the parts, of its ready actuation,

and of effectiveness of catching the mail pouch and retaining the mail pouch after caught have all been made clearly apparent from the foregoing description and the accompanying illustration.

I claim:

1. A device of the type described, including a suspending pivoted member having a fixed shaft at right angles thereto, a second shaft sleeved upon the aforesaid shaft and having fixed thereto a finger, a resiliently actuated fork positioned to have movement upon the sleeved shaft, and a resiliently actuated trip pivoted to said fork and having a shoulder at its free end, said free end of the trip being movable through said finger and having its said shoulder engaging the finger.

2. A device of the type described, including a suspending pivoted member having a fixed shaft at right angles thereto, a second shaft turning upon the aforesaid shaft and having fixed thereto at one end a finger, a resiliently actuated fork positioned to have movement upon said second shaft opposite said finger, and a resiliently actuated trip pivoted in said fork and having a shoulder at its free end, said trip being received by an aperture in said finger, and its said shoulder engaging the finger, at the edge of said aperture.

3. A device of the type described, including a suspending pivoted member having a fixed shaft at right angles thereto, a second shaft sleeved upon the aforesaid shaft and having fixed thereto a finger, a resiliently actuated fork positioned to have movement upon said second shaft, opposite said finger, means effecting hinged or pivoted connection between said fork and said finger, and a resiliently actuated trip fulcrumed in said fork and received in an aperture in said finger, said trip having a shoulder at its free end arranged for engagement with said finger, at the edge of the aperture in the finger.

4. A device of the type described, including a suspending pivoted bar having a fixed shaft at right angles thereto, a tubular shaft carried by and arranged to turn upon the aforesaid shaft and having fixed to one end a finger, a resiliently controlled fork fulcrumed upon said tubular shaft and itself having fulcrumed therein a resiliently controlled trip having a shoulder near its free end, said finger having an aperture receiving said free end of the trip, the shoulder of said trip arranged to engage said finger at the edge of said aperture.

5. A device of the type described, including a suspending pivoted member having a fixed shaft at right angles thereto, a fixed finger, means providing for carrying said finger upon said shaft, means for fixing the position of said finger-carrying means, with

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respect to said pivoted member, a resiliently actuated fork positioned to have movement toward said finger at one end, and a resiliently actuated trip pivoted to said fork and having a shoulder near its free end, said free end of the trip being movable through said finger and having its shoulder engaging said finger.

6. A device of the type described, including a suspending pivoted member having a fixed shaft at right-angles thereto, a fixed finger, means providing for carrying said finger upon said shaft, means for fixing the position of the said finger-carrying means with respect to said suspending pivoted member, a resiliently controlled fork posi-

tioned upon said finger-carrying means to have slidable movement thereon toward said finger at one end, means effecting pivoted or hinged connection between said finger and fork at their inner ends, and a resiliently controlled trip pivoted at one end in said fork and having a shoulder near its opposite or free end, said free end of said trip being movable through said finger and having its shoulder engaging said finger.

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

ALBERT W. DICKERSON.

Witnesses:

FRANK BAKER,  
J. C. MARSHMAN.

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