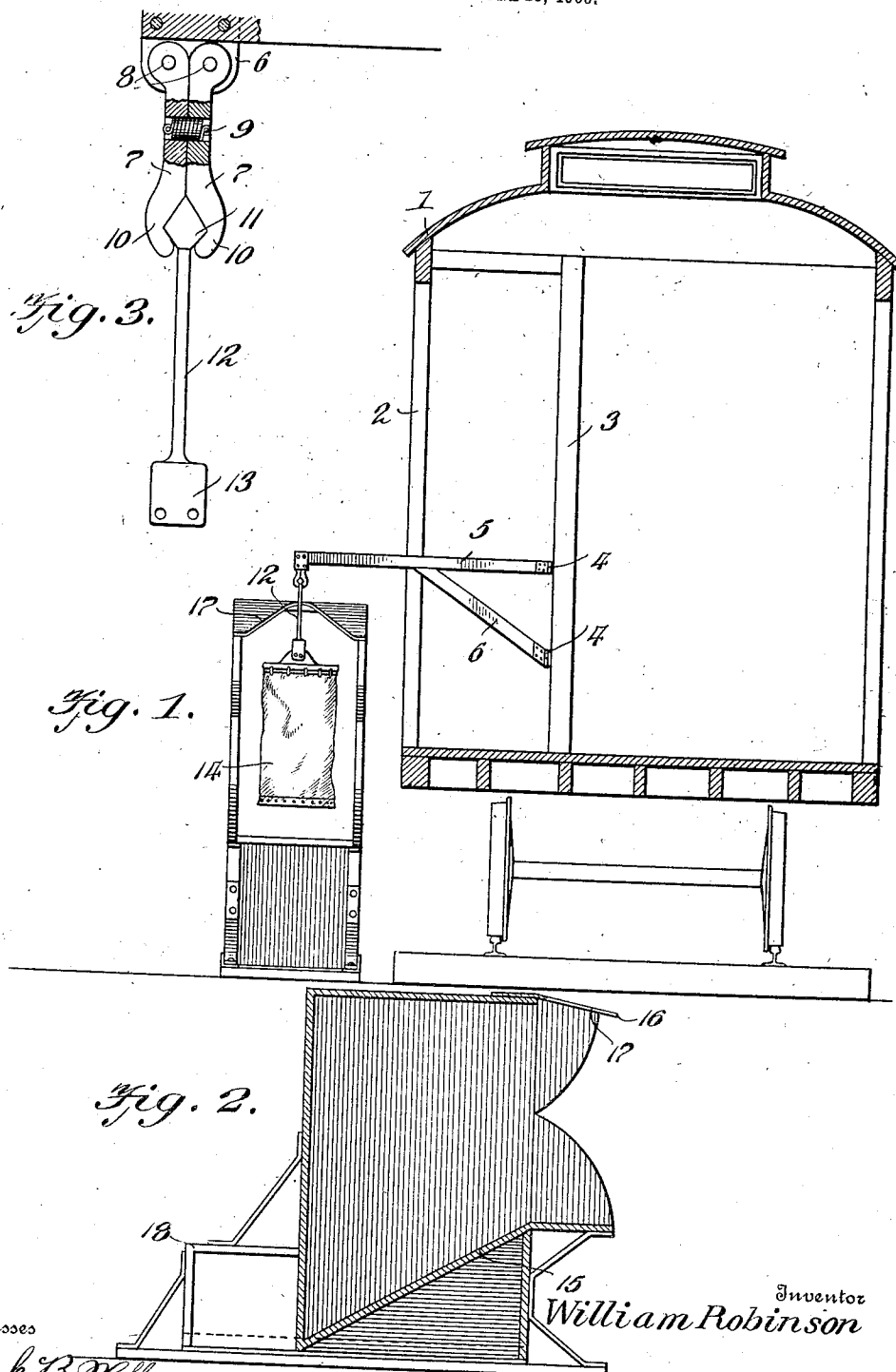


No. 898,265.

PATENTED SEPT. 8, 1908.

W. ROBINSON.
MAIL BAG CATCHER.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 23, 1908.



Witnesses
Frank B. Hoffman
[Signature]

Inventor
William Robinson
By *Victor J. Evans*
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM ROBINSON, OF OTTUMWA, IOWA.

MAIL-BAG CATCHER.

No. 898,265.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 8, 1908.

Application filed June 23, 1908. Serial No. 439,981.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM ROBINSON, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Ottumwa, in the county of Wapello and State of Iowa, have invented new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bag Catchers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to mail bag catchers, and one of the principal objects of the same is to provide a simple device for delivering mail bags which will not be liable to get out of order and which will be reliable and efficient in use.

Another object of the invention is to provide a suspension device for holding a mail bag in a suspended position, said suspending device comprising two jaws connected by a spring so that the jaws may be opened to discharge the mail when the device is struck by the receiver at the station.

These and other objects may be attained by means of the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which,—

Figure 1 is a sectional view of a mail car, showing a delivery crane hinged to a post inside the door of a car and adapted to be swung out of the door to suspend a mail bag in position to be struck by a receiver at the side of the track. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the receiver. Fig. 3 is a detail elevation and partial section of a suspending device for suspending the mail bag.

Referring to the drawing, the numeral 1 designates a mail car provided with a door opening 2 and a vertical post or upright 3 within the car. Hinged at 4 to the post 3 is a crane 5 having a diagonal brace bar 6. Connected to the outer end of the bar 6 is a bracket, and pivoted to said bracket is the suspending device consisting of the two members 7 pivoted at 8 to the bracket. Said two members 7 are connected together by a spring 9 secured to the two members. The jaws 10 of the members 7 are provided with angular faces designed to engage an angular

head 11 formed on the end of a rod 12, the lower end of which is enlarged, as at 13, and permanently connected to the mail bag 14.

The mail bag receiver consists of a housing having an inclined floor 15 and an inclined projecting roof 16 having a V-shaped recess 17 formed therein for engaging the element 12 and disconnecting the mail bag from the members 7. A receptacle 18 is provided for out-going mail bags.

The operation of my invention may be briefly described as follows:—When the bag 14 is to be delivered at a station, the same is connected by means of the angular head 11 engaging the jaws 10 of the suspending device. When thus suspended the bag is swung out of the car door in position to be struck by the wall of the top of the receiver, the result being that the suspension rod 12 is carried out of the jaws 10, and the mail bag is deposited within the housing upon the inclined floor 15.

My invention is of a simple character, can be made and installed at slight cost and cannot readily get out of order.

I claim:—

1. A mail bag support comprising a lever pivoted to an upright in the car, jaws pivoted to said lever, said jaws being connected by a spring, a headed bar connected to a mail bag and engaged by said jaws, and a receiver provided with a recess in its roof to strike said bar and deposit the bag.

2. In a mail bag catcher, a pair of jaws pivoted to a bracket, a spring for connecting said jaws, in combination with a headed rod connected to a mail bag, the head being supported by said jaws.

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

WILLIAM ROBINSON.

Witnesses:

A. C. JUDD,
WALTER ROBINSON.