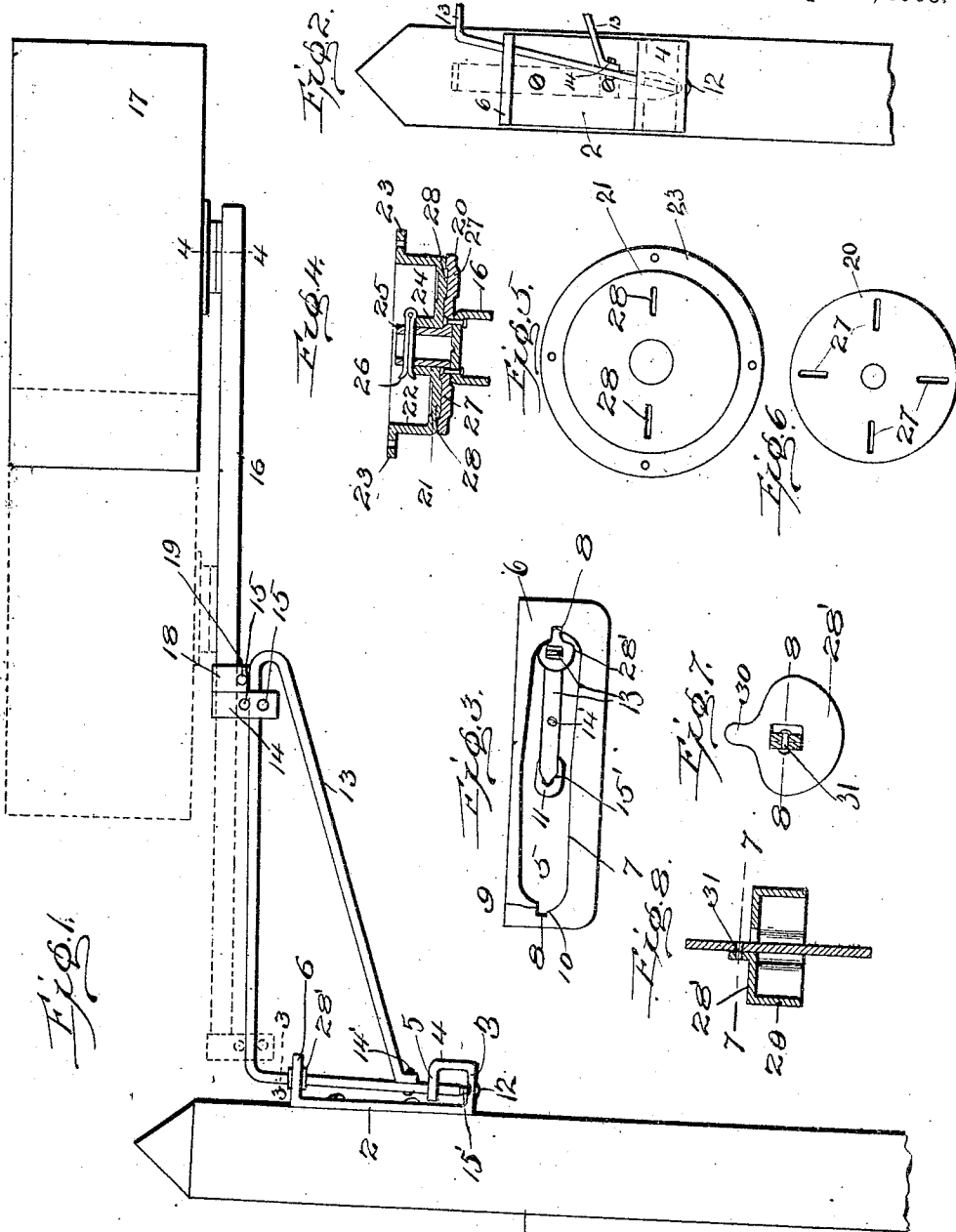


J. S. LANIER.
MAIL RECEIVING AND DELIVERING APPARATUS.
APPLICATION FILED OCT. 31, 1907.

898,486.

Patented Sept. 15, 1908.



Witnesses
J. M. Fowler Jr.
Edgar M. Ketchin

Inventor
James Smith Lanier
By Mason F. Lawrence,
his Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES SMITH LANIER, OF WEST POINT, GEORGIA.

MAIL RECEIVING AND DELIVERING APPARATUS.

No. 898,486.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES SMITH LANIER, a citizen of the United States, residing at West Point, in the county of Troup and State of Georgia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail Receiving and Delivering Apparatus; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to improvements in mail receiving and delivering apparatus and more particularly to the type especially adapted for facilitating the receipt and delivery of mail from and to a container by a postman without requiring his dismounting.

Among the objects in view is the production of a simple and commercially practical device which shall be at the same time susceptible of ready and easy manipulation and capable of automatically assuming an out of the way position when not retained by an operator.

The invention comprises certain novel constructions, combinations, and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawing: Figure 1 is a view in side elevation with the parts illustrated in full lines extended and in dotted lines just after being retracted and before returning to a lateral position. Fig. 2 is an edge view thereof showing the parts in full lines in the normal at rest position and in dotted lines in either of the positions indicated in Fig. 1, parts being broken away for the saving of space. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section taken on the plane indicated on line 3—3 of Fig. 1 and looking downwardly. Fig. 4 is a transverse vertical central section taken through the support for the mail box detached from the box, the section being taken approximately on the line indicated by line 4—4 of Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is an inverted plan view of the upper or swiveled portion of the parts seen in Fig. 4. Fig. 6 is a similar view of the lower or fixed portion of said parts. Fig. 7 is an enlarged detail transverse section through the vertical bar of the bracket indicating the guiding cam in the top plan, the section being taken on the plane indicated by line 7—7 of Fig. 8. Fig. 8 is a vertical sec-

tion taken on the plane indicated by line 8—8 on Fig. 7.

Referring to the drawing by numerals, 1 indicates a post or other suitable support to which is fixed a bracket plate 2. The lower end of the bracket plate 2 is bent first to a horizontal position into the horizontal portion 3 and then bent to a vertical position into the vertical portion 4 parallel to the main body of the plate and the third time bent into the horizontal portion 5 parallel to portion 3. The upper end of the plate 3 is provided with a horizontal flange or bracket portion 6, the said flange being formed with a longitudinal slot 7 having off-set portions 8 at its ends. It is to be observed that the off-set portions 8 are each formed of a relatively large shoulder 9 on the side of the slot 7 nearest the post 1 and a relatively small shoulder 10 on the opposite side of the slot. The horizontal portion 5 of the folded portion of the plate 2 is formed with an opening 11 and the horizontal portion 3 is preferably provided with a depressed point or recess 12.

A bracket 13 is carried by the plate 2 and consists preferably of a strap folded into a triangle having one end bolted as at 14' to the vertical portion of the triangle above the lower end of said vertical portion, and between the horizontal portion 5 and flange 6 of plate 2, the said vertical portion of the bracket 13 being extended through slot 7 and aperture 11 and having its lower end preferably beveled off as at 15' and extending into the recess 12. Of course in assembling or dismantling the parts it is necessary to remove the bolt 14' and spring the inclined arm of the bracket 13 past the flange 6.

The upper edge of the strap of the bracket 13 is disposed in a horizontal plane when the vertical portion of the bracket is at either end of the slot 7, as indicated in Fig. 2, so that said upper edge inclines upwardly in an outward direction when the vertical portion of said bracket is disposed centrally with respect to the length of the slot 7. Thus the bracket 13 is given the tendency to swing laterally to the out of the way position indicated in Fig. 2 whenever the bracket is released and free to move.

A sleeve 14 surrounds the upper strap of the bracket 13 and is provided with rollers 15, 15 engaging the respective upper and lower

faces of said strap. The upper portion of the sleeve 14 is fixed to a supporting bar 16 which carries the mail receptacle 17 at its outer end. Fixed to the outer end of the bracket 13 is a sleeve 18 through which the bar 16 is passed. A roller 19 is preferably provided within the sleeve 18 upon which bar 16 rests. Thus it will be seen that the bar 16 is adapted to have a telescoping movement relative to the bracket 13 for adapting the receptacle 17 to be moved in and out as indicated respectively by the dotted and full lines in Fig. 1.

The connection for the receptacle 17 with the bar 16 consists of a plate 20 riveted or otherwise suitably fixed to the bar 16 and a superposed revolubly mounted plate 21 resting upon the plate 20. The plate 21 is formed with an annular up-standing flange 22 formed at its outer edge with an outwardly extending flange 23 which latter flange is fixed to the bottom of the receptacle 17. The plate 21 is provided with a centrally disposed bearing sleeve 24 which may be suitably secured to or formed integral with the plate 21 and a similar sleeve 25 projects upwardly from the plate 20 through the sleeve 24. A cotter pin or other suitable securing means 26 is passed through the upper end of the sleeve 25 for preventing displacement of the parts. It can be thus seen that the box 17 can be freely rotated at the same time being held against lateral play. In order to lock or retain the box 17 at any one or a number of positions I preferably provide depressions 27, 27 in the plate 20 into which extend projections 28, 28 from the plate 21. Obviously as many of the depressions and as many of the projections may be employed as are preferred, and obviously the positioning of the receptacle 17 may be utilized for signaling purposes.

In operation the operator simply grasps receptacle 17 or any suitably provided handle; swings the same outwardly and then draws the same further outward so as to have easy access to the receptacle without having to dismount. After making the collection or delivery the operator moves the receptacle 17 inwardly and then releases the same whereupon, owing to the weight of the parts and their inclined position, they swing laterally to a position parallel to the roadway, and are thus entirely out of the path of travel. In order to prevent too much vibration or lateral swinging of the parts after they have arrived at the out of the way position I provide a detent on the vertical portion of the bracket 13 adapted to engage the shoulders 9 and 10 at either terminus of the slot 7, and this detent preferably consists of a plate 28' which may be of thick material if desired but I preferably use comparatively thin material and therefor provide a flange 29 about the edge of the plate as a substitute for thickness of material. The plate 28' is formed partly

circular and then restricted at two points producing a lateral projection 30, as best seen in Fig. 7, lying within the radius of the circle which would be described if the plate 28' were a complete disk. The material of the plate 28' is stamped up from the center leaving an aperture through which the vertical portion of the bracket 13 extends and the stamped up portion is preferably riveted or otherwise suitably secured as in 31 to the said vertical portion of the bracket 13. The plate 28' is positioned at that point in the length of said vertical portion which causes it to occupy a position within the slot 7, so that when the bracket 13 falls to the inclined position indicated in Figs. 2 and 3 projection 30, which extends outwardly in the direction of the extension of the bracket 13, will lie between the shoulders 9 and 10 and serve as a detent for preventing vibration of the parts. Obviously the particular relationship of the projection 30 to the radius of the plate 28' readily enables the projection to be withdrawn from between the shoulders 9 and 10 when the bracket is swung outwardly.

What I claim is:

1. In an apparatus of the class described, the combination, of a fixed bracket plate having a slotted bracket flange and an imperforate flange, a bracket pivotally engaging the slot of the bracket flange and resting by weight upon the said imperforate flange, means for preventing vibration carried by said last mentioned bracket within said slot, and a receptacle sustained by the last mentioned bracket.

2. In an apparatus of the class described, the combination, of a slotted bracket, a bracket comprising a continuously integral strip bent into bracket form and having a vertical portion extending through the slot of the slotted bracket, a guide plate fixed to said vertical portion within said slot and formed with a detent, shoulders being formed at the ends of said slot adapted to be engaged by said detent, the upper edge of the second mentioned bracket being constructed to be disposed in outwardly and upwardly inclined planes when the said vertical portion is positioned centrally of said slot and to be in horizontal planes when the said vertical portion is at either terminus of the slot, and a receptacle sustained by said second mentioned bracket.

3. In an apparatus of the class described, the combination of a fixed bracket plate formed with a slot, a support, a bracket having a member extending through said slot and resting upon said support, the slot being formed with shoulders at its end, a guide plate within the slot fixed to the bracket member which extends through the slot, said guide plate being formed with a laterally projecting detent adapted to engage said shoulder for preventing vibration of the bracket,

the bracket being constructed to have its upper edge lie in a horizontal plane when the slot engaging member of the bracket is at one terminus of the slot, and a receptacle supported by said bracket.

4. In an apparatus of the class described, the combination, of a slotted bracket plate, a support, a bracket having a member extending through the slot of said bracket plate and resting upon said support, the main portion of said bracket extending at such angularity with respect to the slot engaging member as to be disposed in upwardly and outwardly inclined planes when the slot engaging member is intermediate the length of the slot, and a receptacle carried by said bracket.

5. In an apparatus of the class described, the combination, of a slotted bracket plate, a support, a bracket comprising a strap of angular material bent into bracket form and having one member extending through the slot of said bracket plate, the second mentioned bracket being disposed to extend in upwardly and outwardly inclined planes when the slot engaging member is intermediate the length of the slot, a guiding plate fixed to and surrounding said slot engaging member within the slot, and a receptacle sustained by said bracket.

6. In an apparatus of the class described, the combination, of a slotted bracket plate, a support, a bracket having a member extending through said slot and resting upon said support, a relatively thin flanged plate fixed to the slot engaging member and extending within the slot and adapted to guide the said member in its movement within the slot, and a receptacle sustained by said second mentioned bracket.

7. In an apparatus of the class described, the combination of a slotted bracket plate, a support, a bracket having a member extending through said slot resting upon said support, a relatively thin plate having an intermediate portion stamped out and fixed to said slot engaging member, said slot engaging member extending through the opening produced by the stamped out portion, and

the said plate being disposed within the slot for guiding said slot engaging member in its movement within the slot, and a receptacle sustained by said bracket.

8. In an apparatus of the class described, the combination, with a support, of a bracket pivotally carried thereby and disposed at such angularity thereto as to extend in outwardly upwardly inclined planes when projecting outwardly from said support, and a receptacle slidingly carried by said bracket.

9. In an apparatus of the class described, the combination, with a support, of a bracket pivotally sustained thereby and having its upper member spaced from the remaining portions of the bracket, a sleeve carried at the outer end of the bracket, a sleeve movably engaging the upper member of the bracket, a bar fixed to said movable sleeve and movably extending through the first mentioned sleeve, and a receptacle carried by said bar.

10. In an apparatus of the class described, the combination, with a bar, of a plate fixed thereto and having an upstanding cylindrical portion, a second mentioned plate rotatably mounted on the first plate and formed with an upstanding sleeve surrounding the cylindrical portion of the first mentioned plate, and a receptacle sustained by the second mentioned plate.

11. In an apparatus of the class described, the combination with a supporting bar, a plate fixed thereto having an upstanding cylindrical portion, a plate rotatably mounted upon the first mentioned plate and having an upstanding sleeve surrounding said cylindrical portion, retaining means extending through said sleeve for preventing displacement of the sleeve, a plate connected therewith, and a receptacle carried by the second mentioned plate.

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

JAMES SMITH LANIER.

Witnesses:

JOHN L. FLETCHER,
EDGAR M. KITCHIN.