

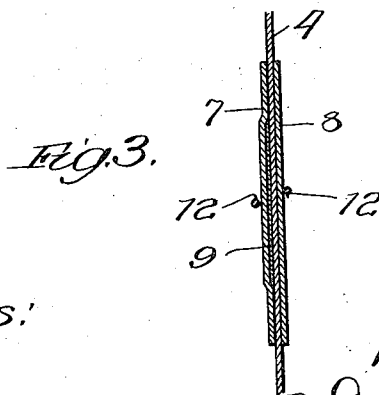
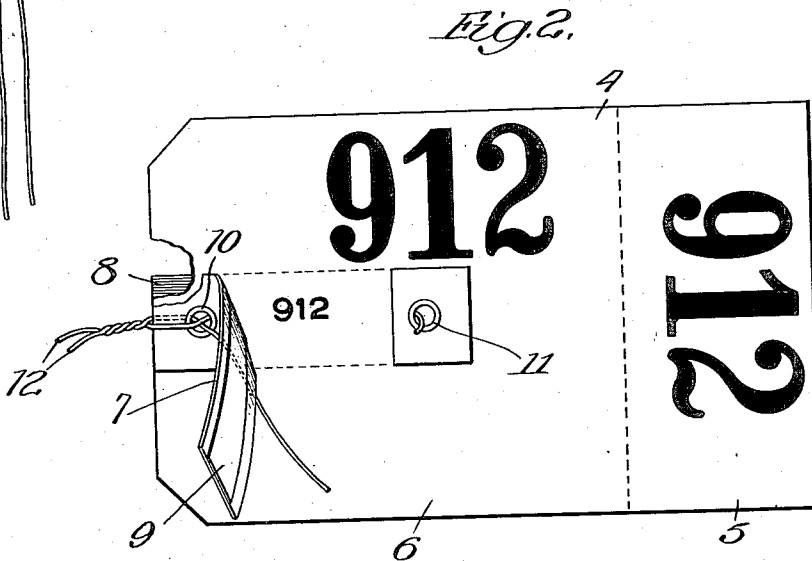
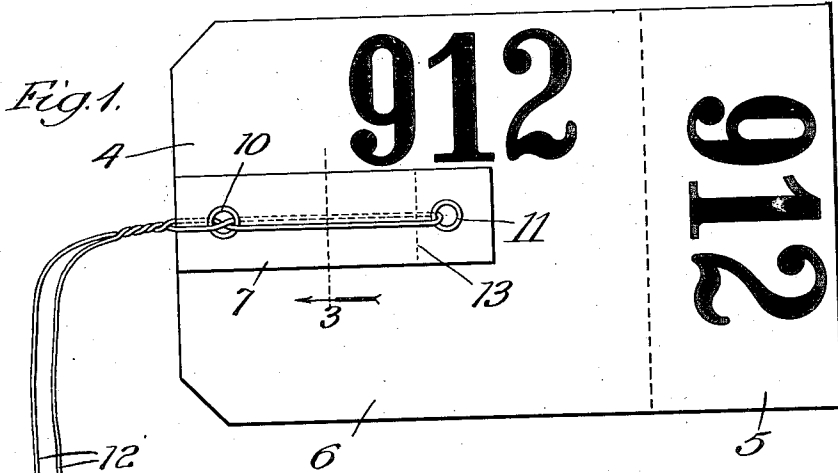
W. A. WARD.

TAG.

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1,052,865.



Witnesses:

*Ed. J. Gaylord,*  
*Chas. H. Buell.*

Inventor:

*William A. Ward,*  
*By Dyrenforth, Lee, Crittton & Miles,*  
*Attys.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. WARD, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO AMERICAN TAG COMPANY,  
OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS.

## TAG.

1,052,865.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 11, 1913.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. WARD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Tags, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in the construction, more especially, of card-board tags for identification, by suitable marks upon them, of articles to which they are attached.

I have devised my present improvement for a particular use, though it is not my intention to be understood from the description hereinafter contained, which is confined to that use, as meaning to limit it thereto. The particular use referred to is that of identifying-tags for cotton bales.

It is the common practice when cotton has been ginned and baled to attach to each bale a tag bearing a number, and any desired additional marks, such as the name of the consignor, whereby the bale may be identified for all purposes by its number. As the bales in many cases are subjected to frequent shifting about and are often exposed for a long time to the weather and other conditions tending to subject the tags to mutilation which destroy their identifying purpose, much annoyance has been caused in the past by the tearing off or mutilation of the tags, or the obliteration of the marks thereon, making it difficult, and in cases even impossible, to identify the bales.

In carrying out my invention, in the way now preferred by me, I provide a tag, preferably of the usual reasonably tough card-board, with the identifying mark, or marks, printed in large characters on an exposed front surface, and a duplicate of the mark printed in smaller characters centrally and near the attaching end of the tag. Secured against the front and rear faces of the tag are companion reinforcing strips of paper or cloth, one of which covers and shields the duplicate mark. The tying means for the tag is formed, preferably, of stout copper wire which is secured to the tag in a manner to extend longitudinally over the reinforcing strip which shields the duplicate mark, thereby forming a protection for said strip. The reinforcing strips and the wire contribute greatly to the strength of the tag at its attaching and duplicate-mark carrying

end portion, and the strip which covers the duplicate mark is preferably sufficiently waterproof to protect said mark against damage by water. Rough handling of the bale, or other causes which tend to tear or injure the tag, or obliterate the exposed printed marks thereon, will not injure the section of the tag which is reinforced as stated; and whenever the originally exposed marks are destroyed from any cause, the shielding strip for the duplicate mark may be removed to expose the said mark for identification of the bale.

Referring to the accompanying drawing: Figure 1 is a face view of a card-board tag of the type usually employed for cotton bales and provided with my improvements; Fig. 2, a similar view with part broken away to show the construction and with the duplicate-mark shielding-strip turned out of the way to expose said mark; and Fig. 3, a broken exaggerated section taken on line 3 in Fig. 1.

The cotton bale tag 4 is of the usual tough flexible card-board, having an identifying number ("912" in the present illustration) printed in large type upon its exposed face and also upon a coupon portion 5 of the tag. A duplicate of the identifying number is printed in small type near the attaching end and centrally of the tag, as illustrated in Fig. 2. The space 6 of the tag which is shown blank in the drawing may contain printed matter, such as the name and address of the owner, consignee or consignor of the bale, and the same matter may be printed in small type closely adjacent to the said duplicate identifying number. Extending from the attaching end centrally and part way along the body of the tag are reinforcing strips 7 and 8, which are preferably of tough card-board, and are preferably oiled to render them in a large measure waterproof. The strip 8 is cemented in place throughout. Interposed between the strip 7 and the printed face of the tag which it covers is a strip 9, preferably of paraffined paper, so that in the cementing of the strip 7 in place it adheres around or at opposite sides only of the space occupied by the said duplicate mark. Extending through the body of the tag and reinforcing strips are eyelets 10 and 11 to receive the preferably copper tying-wire 12, which is fastened thereto, as illustrated so

as to extend between the eyelets 10, 11 longitudinally across the reinforcing strips 7 and 8. The strips 7 and 8 greatly reinforce the tag so that no matter how roughly the latter may be used there is little, if any, danger of injury to the reinforced portion of the body of the tag containing the duplicate mark. The wire applied as stated also greatly aids in reinforcing that portion of the tag. Should the exposed identifying mark be obliterated or lost by the tearing of the tag, the identity of the bale may be discovered by severing or removing the wire 12, cutting the strip 7 at the mark 13 and passing a sharp blade beneath the said strip to separate it from the body of the tag, as illustrated in Fig. 2. This exposes the duplicate identifying mark.

The foregoing description is intended to convey a clear understanding of my improvements in what I now believe to be the best form of their embodiment, and no undue limitation should be understood therefrom. It is my intention to claim all that is novel in my invention and that the claims shall be construed as broadly as the prior state of the art may warrant.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In combination with a tag provided with an identifying mark on an exposed surface and with a duplicate of said mark, a reinforcing strip fastened to the tag to cover and shield said duplicate mark, and tying means strung through the tag to extend over said strip.

2. In combination with a tag provided with an identifying mark on an exposed surface and with a duplicate of said mark, a reinforcing strip cemented to the tag to cover and shield said duplicate mark, a protecting strip interposed between said reinforcing strip and said duplicate mark, the said strip being of a width sufficient to prevent the adhesion of the cement on the reinforcing strip to that portion of the tag bearing said duplicate mark, and tying means strung through the tag to extend over said strips.

WILLIAM A. WARD.

In presence of—

R. A. SCHAEFER,  
NELLIE B. DEARBORN.