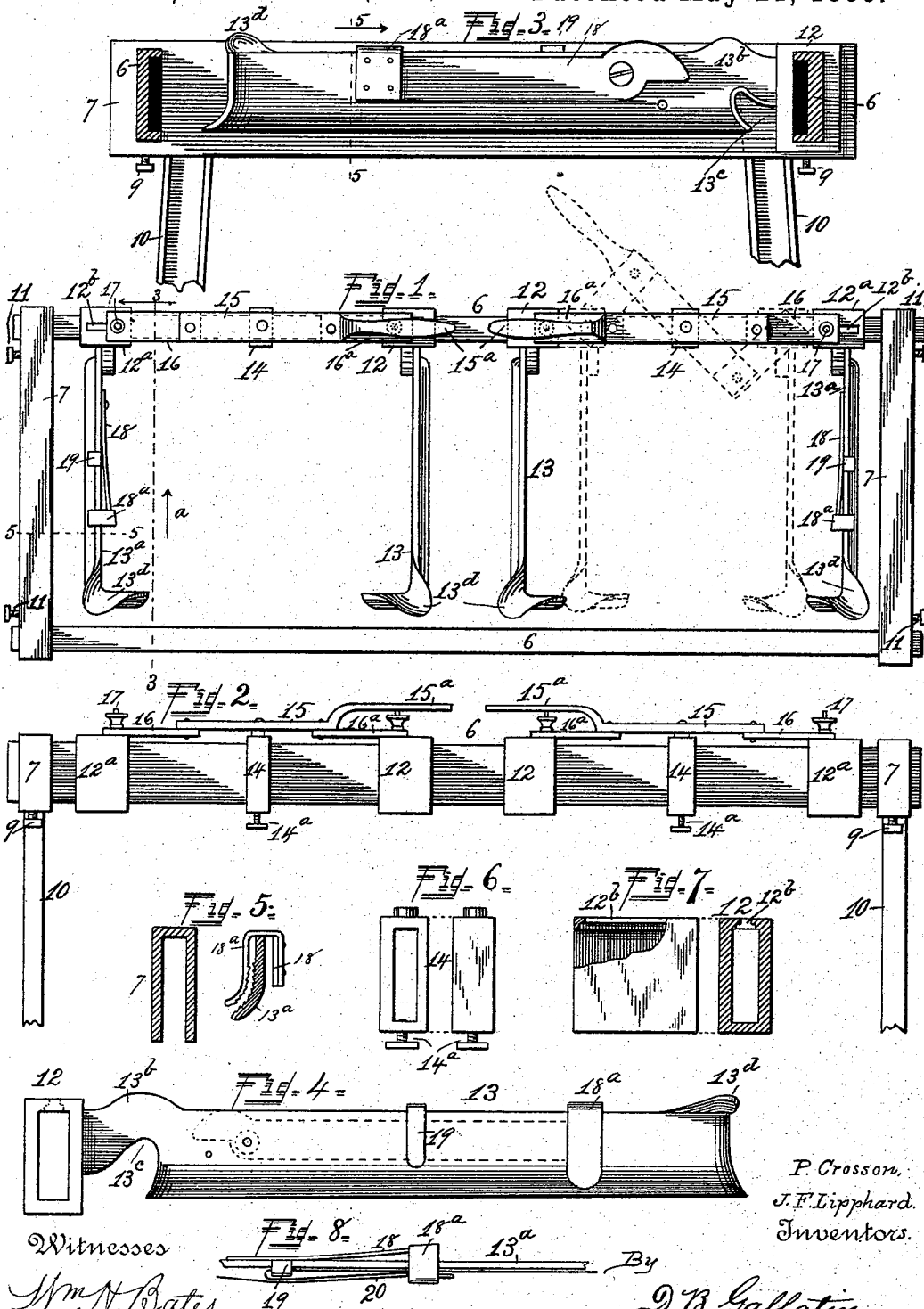


(No Model.)

P. CROSSON & J. F. LIPPARD.
APPARATUS FOR HOLDING BAGS OR POUCHES.

No. 539,419.

Patented May 21, 1895.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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APPARATUS FOR HOLDING BAGS OR POUCHES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 539,419, dated May 21, 1895.

Application filed November 26, 1894. Serial No. 530,062. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, PERRY CROSSON and JOHN F. LIPPARD, citizens of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Apparatus for Holding Bags and Pouches; and we do 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Our invention relates to bag holders for holding bags or sacks in position to be filled and the mouths thereof open or distended for the reception of materials to be placed therein. It is specially designed and intended for use in post offices and in the railway mail service for holding mail bags or pouches while they are being filled, but it is adapted also to other purposes.

The invention comprehends an open frame provided with supporting legs, and with movable jaws adapted to be placed in the mouth of the bag or pouch and to be then moved apart to distend and hold the same for the convenient deposition therein of letters, packages, or other matter.

It also comprehends means for moving and operating the holding jaws and for fixing them in operative position.

It also comprehends certain details of construction and combinations of parts, as hereinafter fully described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate our invention in a preferred form and form a part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a plan view of the apparatus; Fig. 2, a side elevation looking in the direction indicated by the arrow *a* in Fig. 1; Fig. 3, a transverse section, on an enlarged scale, on the line 3-3 in Fig. 1; Fig. 4, a side view of one of the bag-holding jaws; Fig. 5, a vertical section on the line 7-5 in Figs. 1 and 3; Fig. 6, detached side and end views of a lever-sup-

porting collar; Fig. 7, side and sectional views of one of the arm-supporting collars, and Fig. 8 a diagrammatic plan view illustrating the manner of securing a wide-mouthed bag on the holding-jaws.

Referring to the drawings, 6, 6 designate the side bars, and 7, 7 the end bars of a rectangular frame. The side bars extend into or through openings formed in the end bars (see Fig. 3) and are secured therein by set screws 9. The frame thus constructed may be made of any suitable material but we prefer to make it of channel-iron, as shown in section in Figs. 3 and 5.

The frame is provided with legs 10 which are also preferably made of channel iron, and are set into the open channels of the end bars and secured therein by set screws 11.

As represented in Fig. 1 the frame is provided with two pairs of holding jaws, but it is to be understood that it may be made of any preferred length and provided with any number of pairs of jaws without in any way modifying or changing the essential features of the invention.

The two pairs of jaws illustrated being alike, and the means for operating them being the same, a description of one pair will suffice for both.

On one of the side bars of the frame are loosely mounted two collars 12 and 12^a provided respectively with horizontally extending arms 13 and 13^a which constitute the holding jaws for distending and holding the bag or pouch. They are preferably made of flat metal plates having their outer ends bent at right angles toward each other, as shown in Fig. 1, and flaring outwardly at their lower edges, as shown in Figs. 1, 3, 4 and 5. They are connected with the collars by bent necks 13^b forming throats 13^c for the reception of the edge of the bag when the latter is placed thereon, as indicated in broken lines in Fig. 4.

Between the two movable collars 12, 12^a is a collar 14 fixed in position by a set screw 14^a. This collar forms the fulcrum of a lever 15 which is pivoted thereon. This lever is connected with the two collars 12, 12^a, by links or

toggle connections 16, 16^a, and it is provided with a handle 15^a whereby it is operated to move the collars 12, 12^a, and their connected jaws 13, 13^a toward and from each other, as indicated by broken lines in Fig. 1.

At the outer ends of the jaws, at the angles formed by the inwardly bent ends thereof are ears 13^d which project outwardly from the upper edges. These are for convenience in placing the bag on the jaws, forming stops to prevent it from being drawn too far up.

The links 16, 16^a, are adjustably connected with the collars 12, 12^a, the latter being provided with longitudinal slots 12^b for the reception of the bolts 17 whereby the links and collars are coupled together. This adjustability provides for bags of different sizes by permitting the jaws to be adjusted toward and from each other.

The jaws having been properly adjusted to the size of the bag or pouch to be placed thereon, the lever 15 is turned and the jaws are drawn toward each other. (See broken lines in Fig. 1.) The bag is now placed thereon and the lever returned to the position shown in full lines whereby the jaws are forced apart and the mouth of the bag distended and caused to embrace the outwardly flaring lower edges, being held thereby and supported in position to be conveniently filled. When full, or when it is desired to remove it, the lever 15 is again turned to the angular position drawing the jaws together and releasing the bag.

For extra large bags, too wide to be held by the apparatus thus far described, we provide an auxiliary fastening device constructed and operating as follows:

To one of the holding jaws, at the inner side thereof, is pivoted a spring arm 18 which carries at its outer or swinging end a gripping plate 18^a which extends over the top of the jaw and down along the outer side thereof, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5. The jaw is also provided with a holding tooth 19 which also extends down along the outer side with a free space between the two for the insertion of the edge of the bag. (See Figs. 4 and 8.)

The bag having been placed on the jaws, as explained above, a fold 20 is formed back of the tooth 19, which fold is turned forward and the gripping plate 18^a, previously raised, is pressed down over the same and clamps it against the holding jaw. For greater security both the jaws 13^a and 18^a are serrated, as shown in Fig. 5. The screw bolt 17 whereby the link 16^a is connected with the collar 12 projects up a sufficient distance to engage and hold the lever handle 15^a by frictional contact, forming a simple and efficient means for holding the lever in operative position.

An important feature of our invention is the movability of the jaws from one position on the frame to another. It will be remem-

bered that the collars 12, 12^a are movable on the frame, and that the collar 14 is fixed in place by the set-screw 14^a. By simply loosening said screw the collar may be moved to another position on the bar 6; and it will thus be seen that by providing a long frame the holding apparatus may be moved thereon from one point to another for the reception of matter or materials from different sources.

While we have described a rectangular frame as a part of our apparatus we desire to have it understood that only the rail upon which the jaws and the operating lever are mounted is essential to the successful operation of the invention, and we therefore desire to have it understood that the term "frame" as used in our claims hereto appended refers to the supporting rail, either with or without the other parts shown and described.

Having now fully described our invention, we claim as new—

1. In a bag holder the combination of a horizontally extending supporting frame, two horizontally extending holding jaws movably mounted thereon, a lever fulcrumed on the frame between the jaws and link or toggle connections between said lever and jaws, whereby the latter are moved toward and from each other.

2. In a bag holder the combination of a supporting frame, two bag-holding jaws movably mounted thereon, a lever for operating said jaws, and adjustable connections between the lever and jaws, whereby the apparatus may be adjusted to bags of different sizes.

3. In a bag holder the combination of a horizontally extending supporting frame, horizontally extending bag-holding jaws thereon toward and from each other, one of said jaws being provided with a tooth 19 and with a pivoted gripping plate adapted to hold a fold of the bag against the jaw.

4. In a bag holder the combination of a support, two bag-holding jaws thereon movable toward and from each other, devices on one of said jaws for holding a fold of the bag horizontally extended and a lever for operating said jaws.

5. In a bag holder the combination of a horizontally extending supporting frame, bag holding jaws thereon, a lever fulcrumed on the frame for spreading said jaws apart to distend and hold the bag, said jaws and movable lever being movable together on the frame.

6. In a bag holder the combination of a horizontally extending supporting frame, bag-holding jaws movably mounted thereon, and an operating lever coupled with said jaws and having a movable fulcrum on the frame, the jaws and lever being adapted to be moved horizontally to different positions on the frame.

7. In a bag holder the combination of a

horizontally extending supporting frame, bag
holding jaws movably mounted thereon, an
operating lever fulcrumed on the frame, link
or toggle connections between the lever and
5 the respective jaws, and a coupling bolt pro-
jecting into the path of the lever and adapted
to engage and hold the same by frictional
contact.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures
in presence of two witnesses.

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Witnesses:

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