

No. 817,186.

PATENTED APR. 10, 1906.

G. A. OWEN.
MAILING BOX.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 20, 1905.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.



Witnesses:

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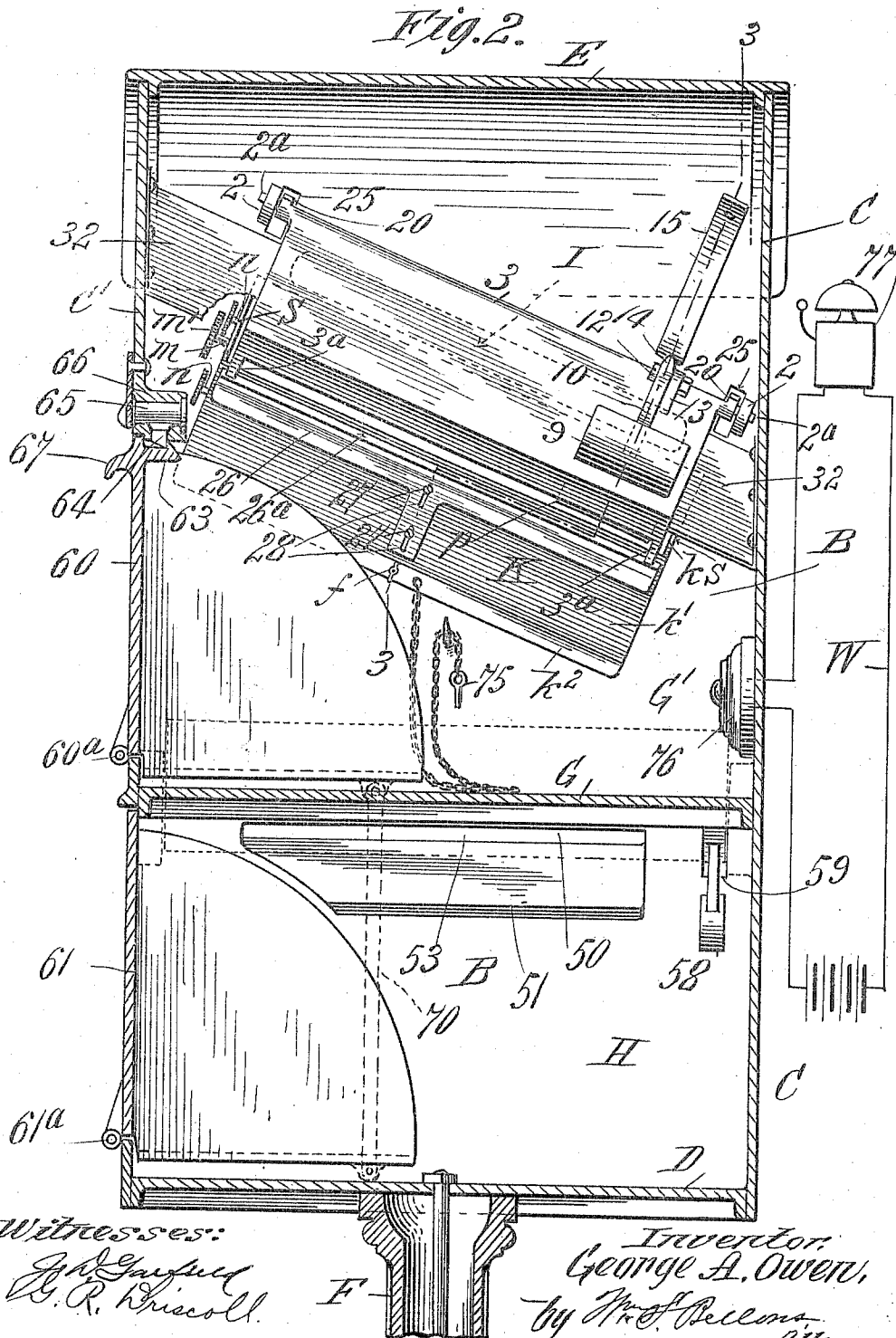
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4 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



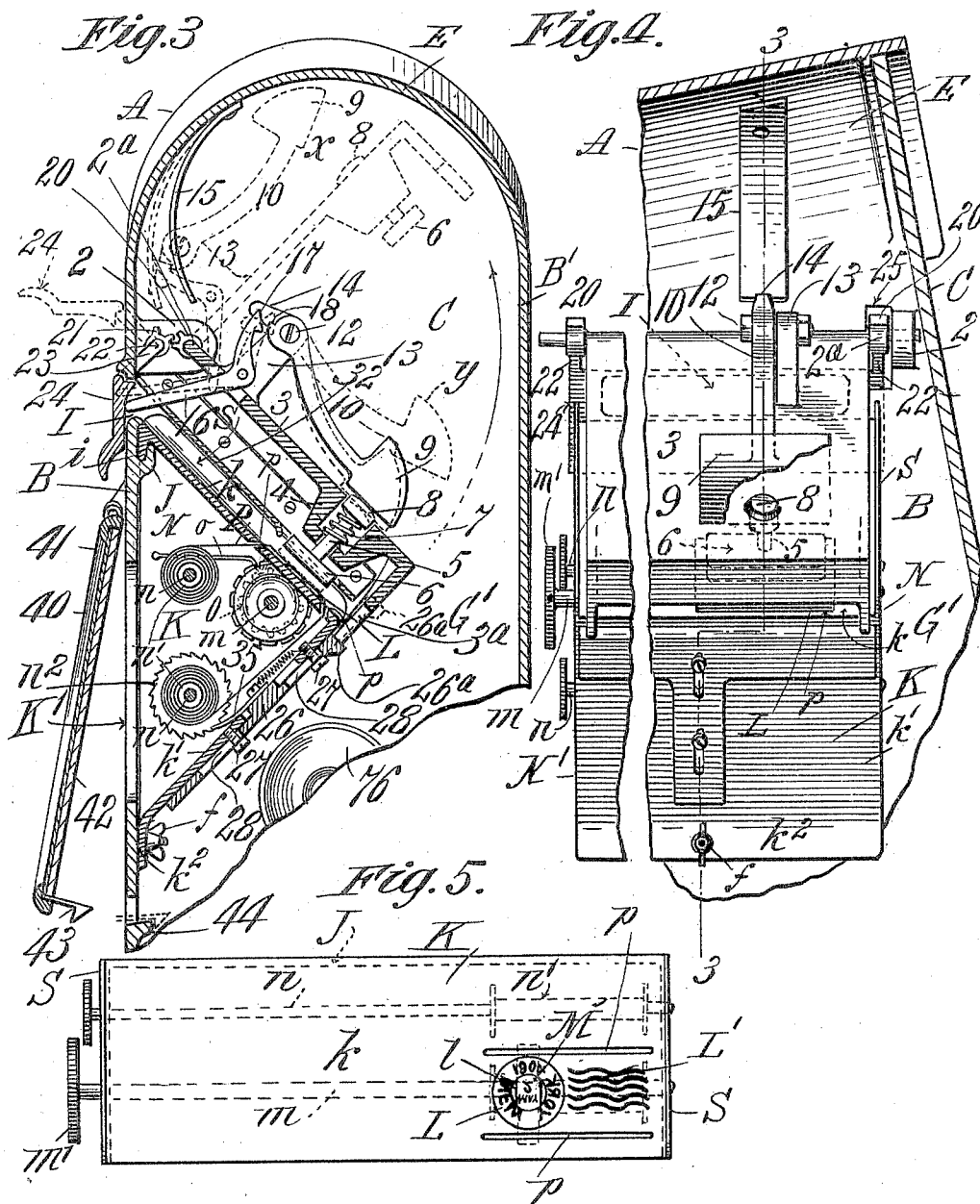
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4 SHEETS—SHEET 3.



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4 SHEETS—SHEET 4.

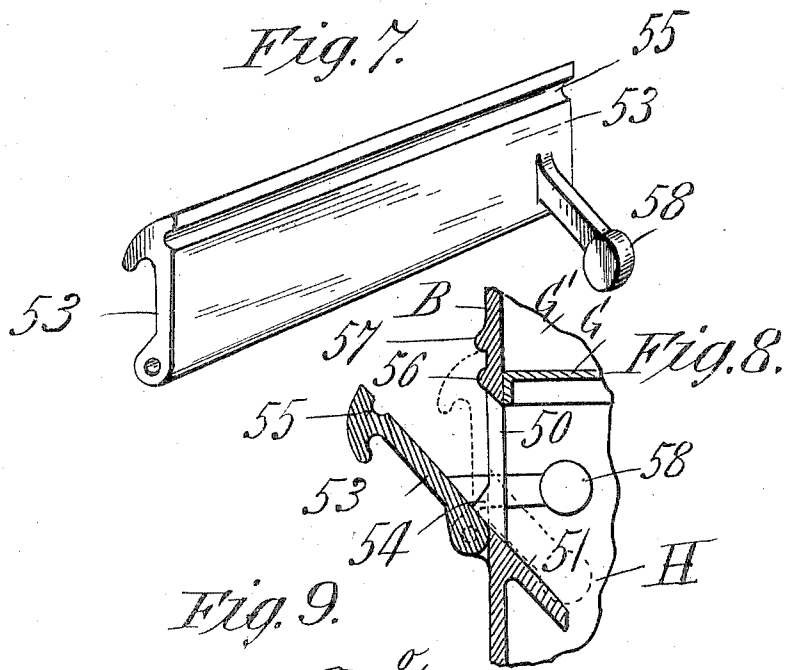
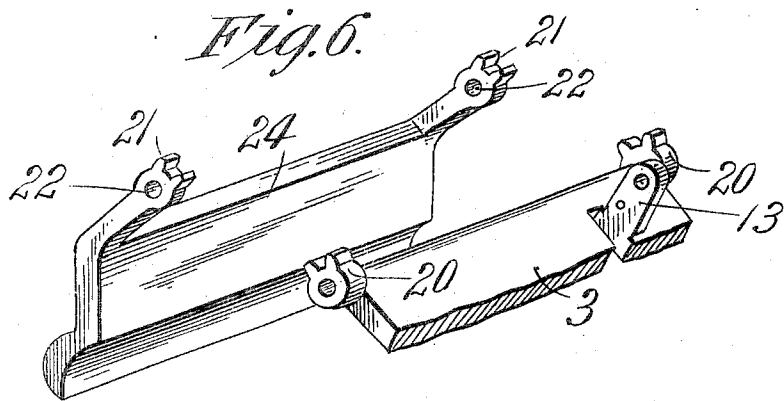
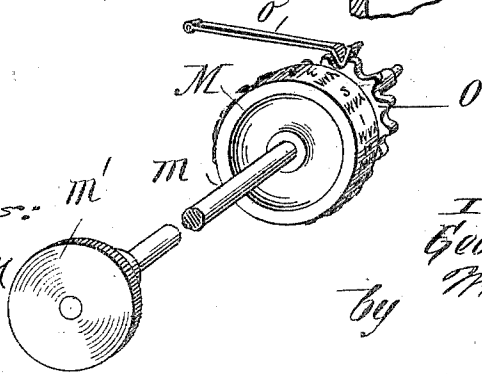


Fig. 9.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE ALFRED OWEN, OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.

MAILING-BOX.

No. 817,186.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented April 10, 1906.

Application filed January 20, 1905. Serial No. 242,021.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE ALFRED OWEN, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Springfield, in the county of Hampden and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mailing-Boxes, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The object of this invention is to provide a letter-box for the posting or reception of mail-matter to be collected at regular intervals by letter-carriers and taken by them to the mail-distributing department of a post-office, and more particularly to provide in connection with such a letter-box an efficient automatic dating and stamp-canceling mechanism contained therein, whereby a person desiring to expedite the transmission of a letter from the letter-box to the delivery-department of a post-office, if for local delivery, or to a railroad-station or to a steamship, if for delivery at a distance, "mails" or "posts" his letters one at a time in the letter-slot in a proper position relatively to that of the stamp thereon, (indicated by certain directions on the letter-box adjacent the letter-receiving slot,) and in so doing automatically operates mechanism in the letter-box which cancels the stamp and affixes the date and postmark, thus avoiding the detention of letters in the post-office necessary for the affixing of these marks, and thereby hastening the conveying of such prepared mail.

A further important provision in this letter-box in connection with the dating and canceling devices is the instalment therein of an electric signaling device whereby on the opening of the letter-box access to an electric annunciator connecting with the post-office permits the carrier to report the exact time of his visits to the said box, and as a further check on his movements a time-clock in the possession of the carrier may be operated by a dial-puncturing key that is kept chained or otherwise secured in the letter-box and is accessible to him only on the unlocking of the letter-box, whereby a mechanically-recorded report of the time of visits to the letter-box is made. These last-mentioned devices are rendered desirable in connection with the dating, postmarking, and stamp-canceling of letters by the sender, as the letter-carriers may thereby be held responsible for any lack of celerity in the transferring of letters from a letter-box to the post-office and thence to their destination.

Another object of this invention is to provide a more convenient and secure door-locking device for letter-boxes in connection especially with those having separate compartments for letters and for bulk-mail, and in such boxes I have provided doors for these compartments connected together and operable as one and secured by one lock, thereby saving the carrier's time by giving access to the entire letter-box by the mere turning of one key instead of the bothersome manipulation of two padlocks and chains such as commonly provided.

Other objects which I have attained in this invention are the convenient and efficient constructions of the various parts and instrumentalities combined in the dating and canceling mechanism, whereby in the daily setting and adjustment of parts in connection therewith easy access is provided.

A convenient and novel construction of a swinging lid for the bulk-mail compartment is among the minor objects attained.

In the accompanying four sheets of drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the external appearance of a letter-box embodying my invention as in use. Fig. 2 is a vertical section through the entire letter-box, taken on line 2 2, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a partial vertical section taken on a plane at right angles to that of Fig. 2, the line on which it is taken being shown by lines 3 3 in Figs. 2 and 4. Fig. 4 is a partial section similar to Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a plan view of a removable portion of the letter-box in which is embodied the postmarking or printing parts of my invention. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the mailing-slot lid and a swinging plate or carrier coacting therewith. Figs. 7 and 8 are views illustrative of certain parts of a mail-slotway and lid therefor to be hereinafter referred to. Fig. 9 is a perspective view of the dating-stamp wheel comprised as a part of the postmarking device.

Similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all of the views.

In the drawings, A is the letter-box casing, comprising sides B and B' and ends C and C', in which are formed the various openings for doors and the letter and package or bulk-mail slots, together with a bottom plate D and a curved roof portion E.

A supporting post or pedestal F, on which the letter-box may rest, is shown in Figs. 1 and 2; but any means for attaching the letter-box to the side of a building or to an elec-

tric-light or other post or pole whenever available may be employed.

The interior of the letter-box casing A is divided into two compartments by a partition G, an upper or letter compartment G', and a lower or bulk-mail compartment H. About midway of the height of the letter-compartment G' in the side B thereof is formed the diagonally-extending letter-slot I. (See Fig. 1 and in dotted lines in Fig. 2.) The interior portion of the front side B has formed thereon just below the letter-slot I and extending parallel therewith a hook-like rib J, which supports by a locking engagement therewith the rib *i* of the angularly-shaped casing K, the upper or roof portion of which forms a letter-slide *k*, which closely adjoins the lower edge of letter-slot I and has formed on either end thereof upstanding flanges S S. (See Figs. 4 and 5.) The lower angularly-extending side *k'* of casing K terminates in a vertical and depending flange portion *k*², which is held tightly to side B of casing A by a thumb-screw *f*. In Figs. 3 and 4 of the drawings, to which reference will now be made, this angular-shaped and diagonally-attached casing K is represented for the sake of simplicity and clearness in the projection as being in a vertical position—that is, the casing A is assumed to be tilted at such an angle as to bring the letter-slot I into a horizontal position, the true position of these parts with the letter-box in its normal or vertical position for use being clearly shown in Fig. 2.

Near the lower edge and near one end of the letter-slide *k*, formed in relief thereon, is a postmark L of the usual style with the name of the locality and the year-date, and arranged in a circle inside of this circular postmark and extending up through an aperture *l* therein is so much of the periphery of a date-wheel M as contains the month and calendar date thereof. Adjacent the postmark L, also on part *k*, is the usual cancel-mark L', also in relief.

The date-wheel M is fixed on a shaft *m*, which extends parallel with the letter-slide K and has bearings in the end walls N N' of casing K. The end of the shaft *m* near the end wall N' is provided with a knurled knob *m'*, and the opposite end of said shaft has secured thereto the spacing notch-wheel O, which is engaged by the spring-detent *o*. (See Figs. 3 and 9.) Supported in said end walls N N' and extending parallel with shaft *m* are two shafts *n n*, arranged one above the other, and at a point on these shafts opposite the date-wheel M are the spools *n' n'*, on which are wound the end portions of an ink-ribbon P, the intermediate portion of which passes up through slots *p p* in letter-slide *k* and extends across the post-mark L and cancel-mark L' and provides an adequate inking means therefor.

Formed on side B of casing A somewhat above and at either side of letter-slot I are two bearing-lugs 2 2, and pivotally supported or hinged thereto at 2^a is a swinging plate 3, (which is here shown as of the same size as letter-slide *k*, but obviously may be of smaller dimensions,) which rests normally in an inclined plane parallel with said letter-slide. On the under side of this swinging plate 3 at a point adjacent the center of postmark L is a downwardly-extending tubular bearing-lug 4, in which a plunger-rod 5, having a platen or head 6 on its lower end, is slidably fitted. A spring 7, surrounding this plunger-rod 5, bears against a head 8 on the upper end of said plunger-rod and maintains the same at a point slightly above the upper surface of swinging plate 3 and maintains the platen 6 normally at a slight distance above letter-slide *k*. Spring 7 also holds in a slightly raised position the head 9 of a hammer 10. This hammer 10 is pivotally supported at 12 to an upstanding lug 13 on the upper side of swinging plate 3, and an extended portion 14 of said hammer 10 is adapted to engage a stout spring abutment 15, which is rigidly secured to casing A, on an upward movement of said swinging plate 3 and to raise by this engagement with spring 15 the hammer-head 9. (See dotted position *x* in Fig. 3.) The part 14 of hammer 10 contacts with spring 15 immediately following a slight raising of plate 3 and raises the hammer-head, as described, and a further raising of plate 3 is compensated for by the yielding of the spring 15. Coincident with the raising of hammer 10, as just described, a pivoted angular lever 16 engages by its hook end 17 a hook 18 on a hub-like portion of hammer 10, thereby holding the hammer 10 raised.

Referring to Figs. 3 and 4 of the drawings, a sector-gear 20 is formed rigidly on either pivotal corner of swinging plate 3 and engages similar sector-gears 21 adjacent the pivotal points 22 of angular arms 23 of the swinging letter-slot lid 24, which project through openings 25 in side B of the letter-box, to the end that a raising of letter-slot lid 24 by a person desiring to send a letter causes the engagement of the gear-teeth 21 of the lid with those, 20, of the swinging plate 3 and raises the plate 3, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 3, and through the engagement of hammer 10 by the spring 15 said hammer is raised and held in said raised position by the hook of angular lever 16 engaging hook portion 18 of said hammer. Simultaneous with the raising of the letter-slot lid 24 on the outside of the letter-box and the consequent raising thereby of the swinging plate 3 inside, as just described, a T-shaped gate or stop-plate 26 (which is slidably engaged on the face *k'* of casing K by screws 27, which pass through slots 28 in said plate,) the motion permitting and limiting, is raised by the lifting-spring

26^b, Fig. 3, and this upward movement of sliding plate 26 carries its top edge 26^a slightly above the lower edge of letter-slide *k*, thereby forming a ledge or gate at this point to intercept a posted letter so long as the letter-slot lid 24 is held in a raised position. Assuming that the lid 24 has been raised by one desiring to mail a properly stamped and directed letter, the directions "Post all mail sidewise with stamp down," which are formed on the letter-box adjacent the letter-slot lid 24, are intended to instruct the sender to introduce his letters into the letter-slot 25 one at a time with the letter-faces bearing the stamp and address downward and with the long sides of the envelop of the letter parallel with the edges of the letter-slot. Then the letter on leaving the sender's hand will slide downward on the letter-slide *k* and passing over the ribbon-covered postmark, dating, and canceling stamp lodges against the spring-raised portion 26^a of plate 26, and by reason of the inclination of the surface of the letter-slide *k* the letter has slid to the left toward and against the lower flange *S* of casing *K*, with the final result of accurately positioning the letter at the termination of its downward and sidewise travel to receive the impact of the platen 6 by hammer 10, thereby imprinting the various marks at the usual and proper place on the envelop. A sheet-metal guard-piece 32 extends from end to end across the letter-box, slightly above the surface of letter-slide *k* and is secured to the ends *C* and *C'* (shown only in Figs. 2 and 3) and prevents any jumping or rebounding of the letter in its descent to the above-described position. The releasing of the lid 24 from its raised position by the sender of a letter after having deposited the same in the letter-box as directed causes the dropping not only of said lid, but of the previously-raised swinging plate 3, carrying downward therewith the "cocked" hammer 10. At the latter end of this downward drop of the gear-connected lid 24 and plate 3 the downward-projecting arm of angular lever 16 is hit by said lid 24 and is swung downward, thereby causing the hook-arm 17 of said lever to swing from engagement with the catch 18 on hammer 10, which descends by gravity from the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 3 at *y*, and striking the plunger-head 8 the blow is transmitted through plunger 5 and platen 6 to the back of the letter-envelop, forcing the latter against the ink-ribbon-covered marking and canceling devices, making an imprint on the face of said envelop. The blow of the hammer 10 as it descends overcomes the plunger-spring 7 by the impact thereof; but said spring 7 is of a strength which, while not able to resist the impact of the descending hammer 10, is sufficient to raise the same slightly after the blow is struck. The lower extremities of the

downwardly-extending flanges 3^a on the free edge of the swinging plate 3 engage the top edge 26^a of sliding plate 26, carrying said plate downwardly, and thereby removing the gate or flange that held the letter from sliding off from letter-slide *k*, and the simultaneous rebound of the platen 6, as above described, succeeding the delivery of its print-imparting blow leaves the letter free to slide from the letter-slide *k* into the lower part of compartment *G'* of the letter-box. If the sender has several letters he desires to post for quick transmission, he merely posts them, in the manner directed, one at a time, and the automatic devices described prepare the same for forwarding without the usual delay incidental to the hand-stamping process that ordinarily intervenes in post-offices.

That the dating-stamp *M* may be always in accord, the letter-carrier is required to rotate the same daily the distance of one tooth of the notch-wheel *O*, which is easily accomplished by turning the knob *m'* on shaft *m* from the outside of casing *K* until the detent *o* is known to have caught the next succeeding tooth of notch-wheel *O* by the sense of feeling or by the audible click of the detent *o* as it catches the next tooth of *O*.

A simple device for feeding the ink-ribbon *P*, that it may always present a new surface, is illustrated in Fig. 3, and consists in providing a spring-pawl 35 on sliding plate 26, which on the downward movement of said plate, as described, engages a ratchet-wheel *n*² on the lower one of the two ink-ribbon shafts *n*, thereby giving said shaft a slight rotation and moving the ink-ribbon *P* a corresponding distance on the side *B* of the letter-box below the letter-slot *I* thereof, and opposite the location of angular casing *K* is a hinged rabbeted frame 40, adapted to contain the usual notice-card 41, relating to the closing of mails in different directions, &c., (which card may be protected from the weather by a glass or transparent celluloid pane, or the card may have a waterproof glazed surface,) and the card and glazed front backed up by a panel 42, preferably of sheet metal. The lower or free edge of this frame 40 is provided with a spring-latch 43, which engages a ledge or catch 44, formed on the side *B*, thus forming a spring-lock operable from the interior of the letter-box only.

Extending through the side *B* of the letter-box and connecting with the interior of the angular casing *K* is a rectangular opening *K'*, through which an easily-accomplished adjustment or substitution of contained parts may be performed by the carrier by unlocking and raising the frame 40, which covers the said opening.

Occupying the lower portion of the letter-box *A* and separated from the upper or letter compartment *G'* by the partition *G* is the bulk-mail compartment *H*. This compart-

ment has connecting therewith a horizontally-extending mailing-slot 50 in the side B of the letter-box and is located near the upper portion of the compartment H, the lower edge of said slot 50 being extended into the compartment H at a suitable angle by the mail-slide 51, which not only guides the packages passed thereover, but renders any attempt to reach into compartment H from the outside difficult.

A swinging lid 53 is provided on the outside of the letter-box and is hinged by its lower corners to lugs 54, formed on the side B. (See Figs. 1 and 9 and in dotted lines in Fig. 2.) The upper portion of this lid 53 has a hook-shaped flange extending thereacross, which provides a convenient means for pulling open the lid, and a groove 55, adapted, as shown in Fig. 9, to engage a corresponding rib 56, formed on side B, serves, in connection with a second rib 57, to exclude water or dust from getting into compartment H. To the end of insuring the closing of lid 53 a counterweight 58 is provided on one end of said lid and extends through an opening 59 in the wall B of the letter-box into compartment H, as seen in Figs. 2, 7, and 8 of the drawings.

Compartment G' and compartment H are provided with outwardly-swinging doors 60 and 61, which are hinged by their lower edges to the end wall C' of the letter-box at 60^a and 61^a, respectively.

The letter-compartment door 60 is provided at its upper or free end with a lock-catch 63, adapted to be engaged by the spring-bolt 64 of a Yale lock 65, which is contained in a socket-shaped lug 66 on end wall C'. Door 60 is also provided with a hook-shaped flange 67 on the outside thereof, and that these doors 60 and 61 may be simultaneously opened by the carrier and by the employment of only one key, with which he is provided, a connecting-bar 70 is provided, which unites these doors 60 and 61, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings, whereby any movement of door 60 is imparted to door 61 therethrough.

The practicability and convenience of this dial arrangement of doors, whereby letters and packages contained in the letter-box may be quickly discharged and by which access is quickly had to the electric push-button 76, connecting by its circuit W with a bell or other signal in the post-office, and also to the chained key 75 of the carrier's time-clock, is rendered apparent in the illustrations in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In an apparatus of the character described, a mail-box having a slanting mailing-slot, and an outwardly-opening mailing-slot lid, a stationary mail-slideway on the inside

of the mail-box, leading, downwardly inclined, from the mailing-slot, postmarking and canceling means on the slideway, a platen movable against and away from said slideway, and platen-operating mechanism in engagement with and actuated by the mailing-slot lid.

2. In an apparatus of the character described, a mail-box having a slanting mailing-slot, a mail-slideway on the inside of the box and stationary therein, downwardly leading from the mailing-slot, postmarking mechanism relatively to which the letters are guided by the slideway, and means exteriorly of the letter-box for actuating the postmarking mechanism.

3. In an apparatus of the character described, a mail-box having a slanting mailing-slot, and a slanting mailing-slot lid, a mail-slideway on the inside of the mail-box, and stationary therein, leading, downwardly inclined, from the mailing-slot, postmarking and canceling means on the slideway, a platen, and platen-operating mechanism, actuated by the mailing-slot lid, and a letter-stop movable adjacent a lower portion of the slideway, and means for changing the positions of said stop.

4. In an apparatus of the character described, a mail-box having a mailing-slot extending diagonally across one side thereof, and having apertures therethrough, an externally-located lid downhanging over said slot, provided with upwardly and angularly extended hinge-arms projecting through said apertures, and pivotally supported within said box, a downwardly-inclined slideway within the letter-box, a swinging plate, operably engaged by the lid, a stop-plate arranged for a reciprocatory movement across the lower portion of the slideway, spring-pressed for its letter-intercepting position, and retired from such position by the swinging plate.

5. In an apparatus of the character described, a letter-box having a mailing-slot, a mailing-slot lid, a mail-slideway, postmarking characters on the slideway, a movable platen, and platen-operating mechanism comprising a swinging plate and gear connections between the swinging plate and the letter-box.

6. In an apparatus of the character described, a mail-box having a mailing-slot extending diagonally across one side thereof, and having apertures therethrough, a downhanging outside lid provided with upwardly and angularly extended hinge-arms projecting through said apertures, and pivotally supported within said box, a mail-slideway on the inside of the letter-box leading from the mailing-slot, postmarking and canceling means on the slideway, a platen and platen-operating mechanism mounted on a hinged plate above the slideway, said plate being

pivotally supported adjacent the pivotal support of the said mailing-slot lid, and gear connection between said plate and said mailing-slot lid.

5 7. In an apparatus of the character described, a mail-box having a mailing-slot extending diagonally across one side thereof, a casing inside the mail-box removably attached thereto, a downwardly and inwardly
10 inclined top or letter-slide portion formed in said casing, the upper edge portion of which is parallel with, and joined to, the lower edge of the letter-slot, a postmarking and stamp-canceling sign in relief on said letter-slide,
15 and a dating-stamp wheel supported below said letter-slide, the upper edge of said dating-wheel extending up through an aperture in the postmark portion of said slide, an ink-ribbon passed over said postmarking, dating
20 and canceling relief designs and the spools therefor, and pawl-and-ratchet devices for advancing the ribbon.

8. In an apparatus of the character described, a letter-box having a mailing-slot, a
25 mailing-slot lid, the mail-slideway, postmarking means on the slideway, the swinging plate, gear connected with the lid, and having a platen supported thereon and movable independently thereof, a hammer for the
30 platen, and means for causing a striking thereof on the return of the swinging plate.

9. In an apparatus of the character described, a mail-box, a casing in the mail-box, removably attached, and comprising as a
35 part thereof a letter-slide, having a portion thereof adjoined to the letter-slot, stamp designs on the slide and a dating-wheel peripherally projecting through the slide, and means for operating the dating-wheel.

40 10. In an apparatus of the character described, a letter-box having a slot through the wall thereof, a letter-slide downwardly inclined from the slot, and having printing means, an externally-located lid for closing
45 the mailing-slot, a swinging plate pivotally mounted within the letter-box, connected with, and to be actuated by, the lid, a platen carried by the swinging plate and movable relatively thereto, a hammer pivotally mounted
50 on the swinging plate, a lever also pivotally mounted on the swinging plate and co-operating with the mailing-slot lid, and operable to engage and disengage the hammer on the movements of the swinging plate.

55 11. In an apparatus of the character described, the combination with a letter-box having a slot, a downwardly-inclined slideway, a swinging plate pivotally mounted above the slideway, and gear connected with
60 the lid, a platen carried by, and movable independently relatively to, the swinging plate, a hammer pivotally mounted on the swinging plate and having the hook 18 and the projected portion 14, a trigger or angular lever
65 also pivotally connected with the swinging

plate, having a hook-ended member coacting with the hammer-hook, and also cooperating with the lid.

12. In an apparatus of the character described, the combination with a letter-box
70 having a slot, a downwardly-inclined slideway, a swinging plate pivotally mounted above the slideway, and gear connected with the lid, a platen carried by, and movable independently relatively to, the swinging plate,
75 a hammer pivotally mounted on the swinging plate, and having the hook 18 and the projected portion 14, a trigger or angular lever also pivotally connected with the swinging
80 plate, having a hook-ended member coacting with the hammer-hook, and also cooperating with the lid, and the spring-abutment 15 located in the path of movement of the hammer projection 14, and constituting a yielding
85 resistance against the movement thereof.

13. In an apparatus of the character described, a mailing-box having a mailing-slot, an externally-located lid therefor, an internally-located downwardly-inclined slideway
90 having postmarking characters thereon, the stop-plate movable across the lower end of the slideway, and having a spring for forcing it to its position across the slideway, the swinging plate gear-connected with the mail-slot lid, and carrying a platen and adapted to
95 engage for retiring the said stop-plate from its letter-intercepting position, and platen-actuating mechanism.

14. In an apparatus of the character described, a letter-box having a mailing-slot,
100 way, a lid externally located for covering said slot, a slideway for letters, stationary, and located within the letter-box, downwardly inclined from the slot, postmarking and canceling mechanism combined in, and
105 coacting with, the slideway, and in engagement with and actuated by said lid, a hinged door through the wall of the letter-box to permit the withdrawal of the mailed and postmarked matter therefrom, having an
110 internally-located lock-catch 63, a suitable lock provided in the letter-box wall, and operable, through the manipulation of its key, to engage and disengage the lock-catch 63.

15. In an apparatus of the character described, a letter-box having a letter-mailing
115 compartment, and a bulk-mailing compartment, and having mail-withdrawal openings through the side of the box and one above the other, hinged doors for the respective
120 mail-withdrawal openings having inward extensions, a single link, vertically arranged between, and pivotally connected to, said door extensions, and one of each doors having a
125 lock-catch, and the letter-box wall having a lock fitted therein and engaging the said lock-catch, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

16. In an apparatus of the character described, a letter-box having a mailing-slot, an
130

externally-located lid therefor, and having an opening for the withdrawal of the mailed and postmarked matter and a door for said opening, having a lock therefor, a normally open
 5 electric circuit, having a generator therein the connections of which are located within the mail-box, a push-button for closing said circuit located within the box and accessible only as the aforesaid door is unlocked, and an
 10 electrically-actuated signaling or alarm device, connected in the circuit.

17. In an apparatus of the character described, the combination with a letter-box having in its front a mailing-slot, an opening
 15 K' thereunder, and the door 60 for the withdrawal of mailed and postmarked matter from the letter-box, a casing K located within the letter-box having an inclined top plate *k* which constitutes a letter-slideway, post-
 20 marking character-imprinting means on the slideway, a dating-wheel supported by said casing and peripherally projecting through said plate *k*, the ribbon-spools and ribbon, arranged as shown, in the casing, a platen
 25 and platen-operating means controlled by the mailing-slot lid, a hinge-plate overlying the said front opening K', and having a spring-latch 43 adapted to engage through an aperture in the letter-box wall, the inter-
 30 nally-located catch-ledge 44, and a suitable lock securing the door closed, and permitting, by the manipulation thereof, the opening of said door for the withdrawal of the mail and also enabling the disengagement of the
 35 spring-latch 43, whereby said closing-plate for the front opening may be swung away to

disclose, and give access to, the mechanism mounted within said casing K.

18. In an apparatus of the character described, a letter-box having a letter-mailing
 40 compartment, with a mailing-slot, and postmarking mechanism therein, and having a bulk-mail compartment H provided with a mailing-opening 50, and having above the
 45 said opening the ribs 56, 57, an intermediate groove, having at the bottom of the mailing-opening the downwardly-inclined ledge 51 and the lid 53, hinged at its bottom to the letter-box wall, having near its upper edge portion the longitudinal groove 55 matching
 50 with the rib 56, and provided with the inwardly-extending counterweighted arm, substantially as described and shown.

19. In an apparatus of the character described, the combination with the letter-box
 55 having a slanting mailing-slot and an internal hook-shaped rib J thereunder, of a casing having the rib *i* to engage said rib J, and having the depending portion *k*² disposed against the inner side of the letter-box wall,
 60 and the thumb-screw fastening therefor, together with postmarking mechanism supported by the said casing, and bodily removable, with the same, from the letter-box.

Signed by me at Springfield, Massachusetts, in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GEORGE ALFRED OWEN.

Witnesses:

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 G. R. DRISCOLL.