

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARCUS P. NORTON, OF TROY, NEW YORK.

POST-OFFICE WAY-BILL ENVELOPE.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 35,539, dated June 10, 1862.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARCUS P. NORTON, of the city of Troy, county of Rensselaer, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Post-Office Way-Bill Envelope; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and object of the same, reference being hereby had to the annexed drawings, making a part of the same.

Like letters represent and refer to like parts.

Figure 1 shows one side of the said way-bill envelope, with the different parts thereof, hereinafter described. Fig. 2 shows the front side of said way-bill envelope, with the way-bill in blank thereon printed, and hereinafter described.

The nature of my invention consists in constructing a post-office way-bill envelope with an opening at one end only to receive therein letters for transportation, as hereinafter described and set forth; also, with way-bill on the outside of said envelope and combined therewith by being printed thereon or otherwise, for the purposes hereinafter described and set forth.

Hitherto the way-bill has been on a separate piece of paper used for that purpose only, which, when made up for use, has been and is now put with the letters for transportation, and with them inclosed by sheet wrapping-paper in a bundle or package, which package is then addressed to the post-office of its destination. This plan requires a large quantity of paper, and in most instances a quantity of twine for the purpose of securing such package. The way-bills are now required on a separate piece of paper, and the paper required to wrap up each bundle of letters with way-bill is also a separate sheet, and requires a large amount of paper. The way-bill thus used is often omitted through accident or mistake, which causes a disarrangement among the mails.

By this way-bill envelope a large amount of paper is saved—to wit, all the paper now required for separate way-bills and about one-third of that required for wrapping purposes. This way-bill envelope requires no twine, thereby saving the expense for the same. Mails can be made up more accurately, with more rapidity, with less amount of labor, and are more safely transmitted than by the pres-

ent system. The way-bill envelope thus made and filled up in the blank spaces, hereinafter described, is thus and thereby directed to its proper place of destination, whereby extra writing is saved, while the package can remain open until within a few minutes of the departure of the mail, thus giving more time to business men to complete their correspondence.

This way-bill envelope is more convenient to postmasters than the present system.

Having thus set forth the main features and advantages gained in this improvement or invention, I will now describe the construction and manner of using the same, which is as follows, to wit:

I take strong paper of suitable thickness and quality and make it into envelopes of any required size and capacity, to hold from one to one hundred or more letters. This envelope has one end of the way-bill side turned or lapped over the back or opposite side, C, as seen at F, Fig. 1, which is securely fastened thereto by any adhesive substance. One edge of the said way-bill side is turned or lapped over the said back or opposite side, C, as seen at E, Fig. 1, which is also fastened thereto in like manner of the lap F, at the end of said envelope. One end of said way-bill envelope is made open, so as to admit letters therein and into said envelope. This end is closed when ready for that purpose by the flap A, Fig. 1, which flap is made in shape and size to meet any requirements thereof. It turns over from the way-bill side of said envelope upon the said back side, C, and is then and thereto firmly held by the piece or strip, B, which is made from cloth containing a strong adhesive substance. This holds the package of letters of any size in a firm and safe condition. On the side opposite to that of C, Fig. 1, I construct the way-bill D, as seen at Fig. 2. This way-bill contains all the matter required in making up any mail. *a*, same figure, is the place to give the date of the letters mailed, and in said envelope *b* is the place for the name of postmaster who makes up such mail. *c* is for the name of the city or town, *d* for the county, and *e* for the State to which the letters inside are directed, all of which are in blank, so as to meet any requirements. The number of letters, amount of postage, how and when paid, will be written

by such postmaster upon such way-bill in the proper column, as indicated at the head of the same. Any other kind of way-bill which will answer the same purpose may be used upon this way-bill envelope. In this condition, and with way-bill printed outside, and with the destination of such letters given in writing below, the said package of letters is transmitted in the mails. Letters containing money, checks, drafts, &c., can be more safely transmitted in the mails, for the whole package of letters is sealed up by the way-bill envelope and cannot be broken open without being detected.

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

A post-office way-bill envelope constructed substantially as and for the purpose herein described and set forth.

In testimony whereof I have, on this 1st day of March, 1862, hereunto set my hand.

MARCUS P. NORTON.

Witnesses:

F. SCOTT,

C. E. INGALLS.