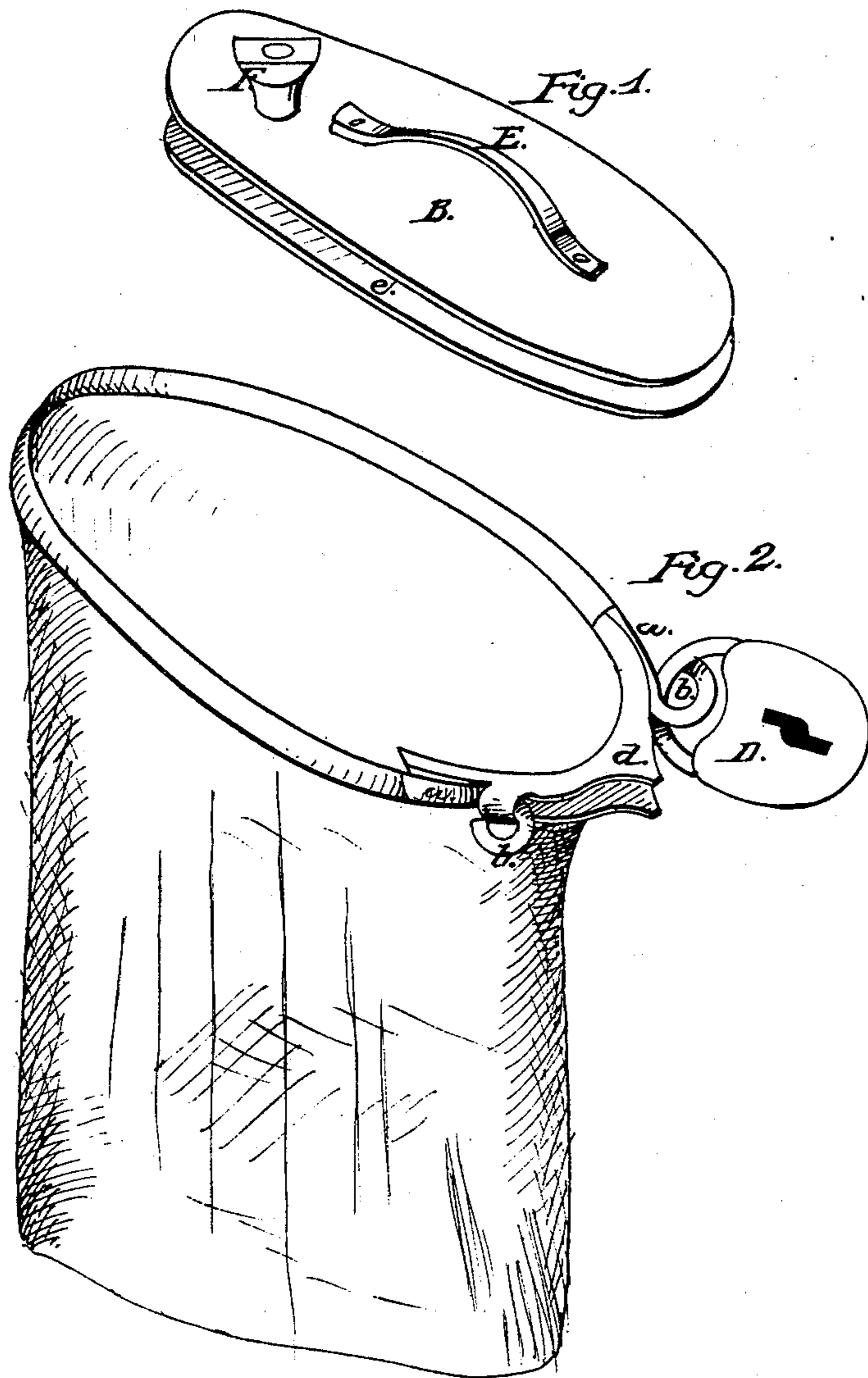


Z. T. SWEET.
MAIL BAG.

No. 94,526.

Patented Sept. 7, 1869.



WITNESSES:

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ZARA TOUSEY SWEET, OF DAVISVILLE, CALIFORNIA.

Letters Patent No. 94,526, dated September 7, 1869.

IMPROVED MAIL-BAG.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern :

Be it known that I, ZARA TOUSEY SWEET, of Davisville, county of Yolo, State of California, have invented an Improved Mail-Bag; and I do hereby declare the following description and accompanying drawings are sufficient to enable any person skilled in the art or science to which it most nearly appertains, to make and use my said invention or improvement, without further invention or experiment.

My invention relates to an improvement in mail-bags or sacks, in which letters and small parcels and packages are placed, for transmission by post from place to place, and is intended to render them more convenient for receiving the letters which are to be placed in them, as well as to provide a secure fastening for the bag; and

It consists in securing to the bag, around the open end, a heavy wire or metal rod, which is bent to the proper form, to make a convenient-shaped opening or mouth, for the reception of the mail-matter. This orifice or mouth is closed by a lid or cap, made of the proper form, and provided with a groove passing entirely around its edge, of the proper size to receive the wire. The wire is drawn tightly around this lid, and confined by a padlock, embracing each end of the wire, which is properly arranged for receiving it.

In order to better illustrate my invention, reference is had to the accompanying drawings, and letters marked thereon, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a view of the cover.

Figure 2 is a view of the bag and fastening.

Similar letters of reference in each of the figures indicate like parts.

A is a sack or bag, of any of the styles or forms of bags for containing mail or express-matter to be conveyed from place to place, and may be made of any suitable material, but preferably of India rubber, or other water-proof material.

Around the upper or open end of the sack I secure a wire or metal rod, *a*, bent into any suitable form, the most convenient being that of an ellipse. The mode of attaching the rod or wire to the sack or bag is immaterial, but, perhaps, the most secure and convenient way is to sew it in.

The ends of the wire *a* are provided with hooks or rings *b b*, the object of which will be hereafter explained.

By this arrangement, a convenient-shaped mouth for receiving the matter to be deposited in the sacks is obtained, and all that is necessary to do to prepare

it for receiving the mail is to suspend it by any convenient or usual method by the wire, with the mouth upward.

To close and secure the mouth of the bag, I employ a lid or cover, B, made of wood, vulcanized rubber, or other suitable material. I prefer vulcanized rubber, on account of its not being easily split or broken. This lid is also made in the form of an ellipse, in order to fit the opening or mouth.

The edge of the cover is provided with a groove, *e*, passing entirely around it, large enough to receive the wire *a*.

The cover is placed in the open mouth, and the wire, around which the bag is secured, placed in the groove. The two ends of the wire are then drawn together, a semicircular grooved plate, *d*, protecting and confining the space between the two ends, and fitting closely in the groove at the end of the cover.

The ends of the wire or rod are then confined by a padlock, D, or by other suitable means, binding the cover firmly in its place, so that it cannot be removed without first releasing the ends of the surrounding wire.

The cover is provided with a suitable handle, E, by which the bags, when filled, can be handled, and a hollow screw, F, is inserted and screwed down through it, leaving a projecting portion above the cover, as shown, through which air can be introduced into the bag, for the purpose of inflating it, when, by turning the screw partly round, so as to shut off the air which has been introduced, the air will be retained inside, if the bag is made of rubber, or air-tight material.

By this manner of constructing mail-bags, they are rendered much more convenient for receiving the mail-matter, while the bag, when once closed and locked up, cannot be opened without first taking off the lock, and any tampering with the cover can easily be detected.

Having thus described my invention,

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination and arrangement of the cover B, encircling-wire *a*, and lock D, substantially as and for the purpose set forth and described.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

ZARA TOUSEY SWEET. [L. s.]

Witnesses:

E. L. BROWN,
F. P. WARREN.