

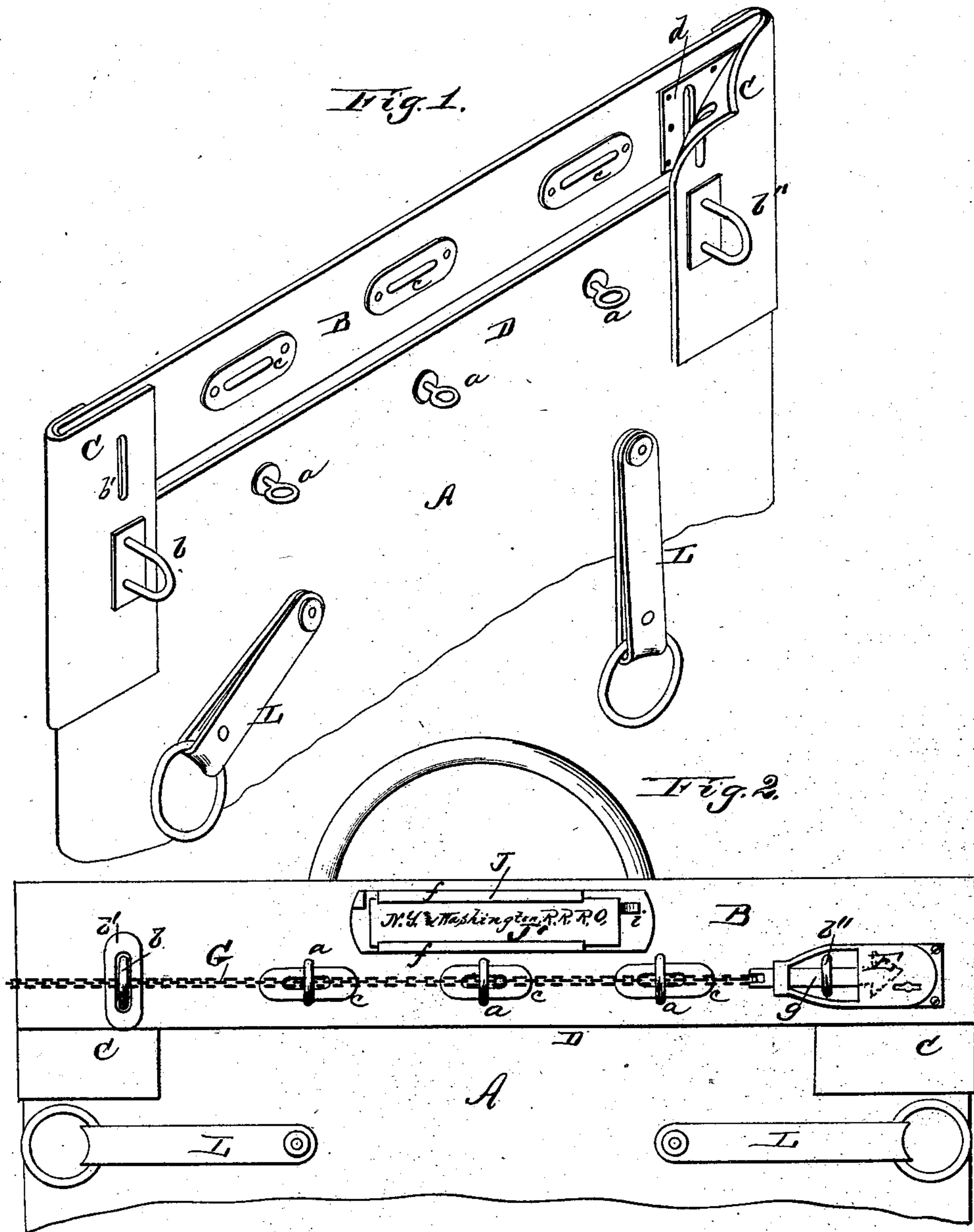
(No Model.)

W. J. STOWELL.

MAIL BAG.

No. 259,239.

Patented June 6, 1882.



Witnesses:  
H. B. McArthur,  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM J. STOWELL, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, ASSIGNOR TO DANIEL C. HEDDINGER OF JAMES AND J. W. LINDAN, BOTH OF SAME PLACE.

## MAIL-BAG.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 259,239, dated June 6, 1882.

Application filed April 22, 1882. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. STOWELL, of Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail Pouches or Bags; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the open end of my improved mail-pouch, showing its swivel-eyes, its elongated eyelets, staples, and lapped corners. Fig. 2 is a front view of the pouch with its mouth closed and securely fastened by a lock and chain.

This invention relates to certain novel improvements on mail-bags, or what are denominated in the postal mail-service as "pouches." These pouches are usually made of leather, and their mouths are secured by means of straps passed through staples, which are attached to the pouches and fastened by detachable locks. My object is not only to secure the mouths of mail-pouches safely, but also to combine in a permanent manner in a pouch all of the means required to obtain security in the closing of their mouths or ends, and in addition thereto to afford greater facilities for the handling of the pouches in the distribution of the mail and in fastening and unfastening them both in post-offices and on board of railroad postal-cars, as will be understood from the following description, when taken in connection with the annexed drawings.

The pouch A is preferably made of leather; but it may be made of any other flexible material, and it may be made of any desired size. The mouth of this pouch is composed of a flap or overlapping portion, B, terminating at its ends in double thickness of material, forming corner-seals C C, which lap over the front side of the bag with the main intermediate portion of the flap B, as shown in Fig. 2, and effectually prevent mail-matter from being purloined from the pouch at its corners without cutting the pouch. These corner-seals or double-lapping corners C C not only afford security against thieves, but they greatly strengthen and render more durable the pouch at these points.

Along the front part of the pouch, which I shall call the "breast" and letter D, is a row of swivel-eyes, *a*, arranged at safe distances apart, and so applied to plates that are secured to both sides of the breast that they (the eyes) can be turned freely and adjusted either as shown in Fig. 1 or as shown in Fig. 2. Near the corners of the pouch, and secured rigidly to the breast of the bag, are strong staples *b b'*. The swivel-eyes pass through oblong eyelets *c c*, formed in metal plates secured near the edge of the flap or lapping portion B when this flap is closed over the breast, as shown in Fig. 2, in which position the eyes are turned at right angles to the elongated eyelets, as shown in this figure last referred to, thereby locking the flap closely to the breast. The staple *b* passes through eyelets *b'*, made through the two thicknesses of one of the corner-seals C, and the staple *b''* passes through an eyelet made through one of the thicknesses of a corner-seal C, and also through an eyelet or slot made through an open extension of the case of a lock, E, which is securely riveted to the outside of the flap B, the rivets passing through a metal plate, *d*, on the inside of this flap, as shown in Fig. 1.

G designates a chain, which is strongly fastened to the back of the pouch near the corner, to which staple *b* is secured. This chain has an arrow-head bolt, *g*, secured to its free end, which, when the flap B is adjusted on the eyes and staples, is passed through these eyes and staples (carrying with it the chain) and engaged with the lock E by simply thrusting the arrow-head into the lock. The lock is of the self-engaging kind, and requires a key to release the bolt and chain.

At the middle of the length of the flap B, and permanently secured to it, is a metal label-holder, J, consisting of a plate having grooved jaws *f f*, a fixed label-stop at one end, and a spring-stop, *i*, at the opposite end. The spring-stop allows a label, J', to be readily inserted into the holder. The label thus combined with the pouch is in a conspicuous place for indicating the destination of the fastened pouch, and the slip or label is easily removed for substituting another in the holder by simply depressing the spring-stop *i*. When the mouth

of the pouch is opened and the pouch is hung upon hooks by four straps, L L, attached to its front and back sides, the flap B is turned inward, thereby again exposing to view the  
5 label in the label-holder J', and indicating at a glance to the person distributing mail-matter the proper pouch in which to put it.

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

1. In a mail pouch or bag, the combination of the single flap B, the double-lapped corners C C, formed as described, the eyelets *c b'*, the staples *b b''*, the eyes *a* on the breast D, a chain  
15 fastening, and means for securing the chain, substantially as and for the purposes described.

2. The combination, in a mail bag or pouch, of a flap, B, the double-folding corners C C, the breast D, the edge of which is below the  
20 said flap, the staples and eyelets for the cor-

ners, intermediate swivel-eyes, a chain or flexible strap and a lock therefor, which is permanently secured to the pouch and adapted to receive through its case the staple *b''*, substantially in the manner and for the purposes de- 25 scribed.

3. In a mail bag or pouch having a lock permanently secured to it, the combination of the staple *b''* and the extension of the lock, having a slot or eye through it for the passage of the  
30 staple to receive the locking-chain, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM J. STOWELL.

Witnesses:

SAMUEL E. KIRK,

WALTER S. ADAMS.