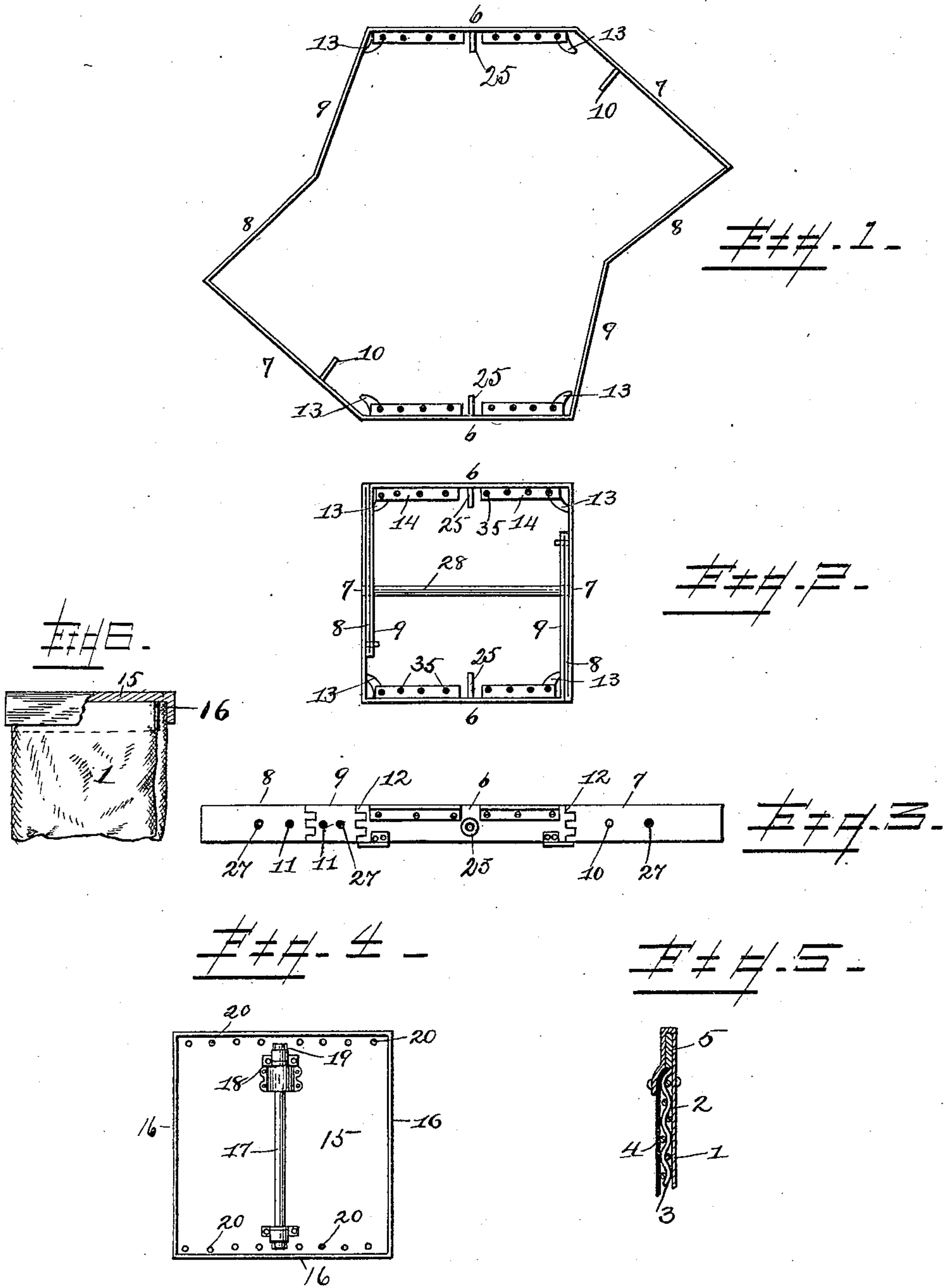


(No Model.)

W. F. BEASLEY.  
MAIL BAG.

No. 463,349.

Patented Nov. 17, 1891.



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM F. BEASLEY, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

## MAIL-BAG.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 463,349, dated November 17, 1891.

Application filed September 22, 1890. Serial No. 365,803. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM F. BEASLEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bags; and I do hereby 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.

My invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in mail-bags, although, as will be obvious from the following specification, it may be applied to bags used for other purposes; and it consists in the construction, arrangement, and combination of the parts thereof, as will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, in which corresponding parts are designated by corresponding letters, Figure 1 is a top view of my invention. Fig. 2 is a top view thereof, it being closed, but the cover being removed. Fig. 3 is a detached view of four of the hinged straps. Fig. 4 is an inverted plan view of the cover to be used with my invention. Fig. 5 is a sectional detail view showing the method of attaching the top pieces to the bag and the construction of the bag proper. Fig. 6 is an elevation of a bag having a cover applied thereto after this invention, the flanges of the cover being partly broken away.

The bag proper 1 is formed in three layers, the outer layer 2 being of canvas or duck which is woven in such a manner as to be seamless, the second layer 3 being of woven wire, while the third layer 4 is of sheet-rubber. By constructing a bag in this manner the safety of its contents is greatly increased, as there will exist no seams that may be ripped open, the contents of the bag abstracted, and these seams subsequently sewed up, as is now done with the bags in use, a seamless bag obviating these difficulties, as the only way to reach the interior thereof (except by the top) will be by cutting the bag, which would be readily detected and which would be difficult on account of the wire-netting contained within the canvas, the india-rubber rendering the bag water-proof, and affording an additional means of detecting whether the bag has been cut, as it will be impossible to join the edges

of the slit in such a manner as to avoid detection.

The upper edge of the canvas of the bag is brought around pieces or straps of metal and are riveted thereto, the edges of the canvas of the bag entirely inclosing the said straps and being riveted to the body of the bag below the straps, which are made of unequal length, I by preference having four longer straps and four straps which are slightly shorter, the longer straps being hinged together in sets of two, which are oppositely located in the hem of the edges of the bag, forming the stiffening for the sides and 6 7 thereof. The strap 5 within each of the sides 7 is hinged at its free end to one end of one of the shorter straps which forms the stiffening for the sides 8 8 of the top of the bag, each of the last-named straps being hinged at its opposite end to one end of another of the short straps, which strap is also hinged to one of the straps within the sides 6 6, and forms the stiffening for the sides 9 9 of the bag, thus permitting the top of the bag (which, when opened, is an irregular octagon) to be folded into the form of a square, the sides 8 and 9 folding against the inner surface of the sides 7, which are at right angles to the sides 6, as seen in Fig. 2. In order to retain the sides 7, 8, and 9 together, and to prevent any one or more of them from being drawn downward without the others a stud 10 projects inward from a portion of the side 7, and is adapted to pass through corresponding holes 11 in the proper portion of the sides 8 and 9, thus holding the latter up.

The hinges between the several straps are formed by projections 12 upon the ends which are bent around hinge-pins, as is well known, and needs no further description here, the said hinges being entirely concealed and protected from injury by the edge of the bag which, as before described, is wrapped around the straps. In some cases, indeed, the form of hinge before mentioned may be done away with, the hem of the bag re-enforced with leather being used for hinging the straps within the several sides thereof, such canvas and leather hinges being well known, and this, therefore, involves no departure from the principle of this invention, and in the following claims I do not desire to have the word



"hinged" limited to any particular form of hinge, but desire that word to cover either of the above forms and their equivalents.

In case a canvas hinge is used I place upon the ends of the sides 6, on the inner surface below their lower edges, shelves or noses 13, the upwardly-projecting flanges of which are riveted to the strap within the sides 6 of the bag, the said shelves being adapted to slide under the stiffening of the sides 9 9 when the bag is closed, and thus hold them up, and by means of the studs 10 to also hold up the sides 8 and 7. These shelves are also of value and are adapted to be used with metallic hinges, and I have therefore shown them in the drawings.

Each of the sides 7, 8, and 9 has a perforation 27 therein, which extends therethrough, the said perforations registering with each other when the top of the bag is closed, being thus adapted to receive the opposite ends of a transverse bar or bolt 28, which is slid therein from one side of the bag, it being of the same or slightly less length than the distance from the interior surface of one flange 16 to the corresponding surface of the other, and is thus prevented from being withdrawn when the cover is in place, preventing any one of the sides 7, 8, and 9 from being drawn down without the others, which is prevented by the barrel 17, as will be hereinafter more fully described.

Each of the sides 6 6 has an inwardly-extended rounded projection or lug 25 in the center thereof, and has on each side of the lug inwardly-projecting flanges 14, which have perforations 35 therein, the use of which will be hereinafter described, the said lugs and flanges being riveted in place by rivets passing through the straps 5 contained within the said sides, one of the said lugs and sides 6 being apertured in order to admit the passage of a key to actuate the barrel secured to the cover of the bag, which locks the latter in place. The said cover 15 is square and is of such a size as to fit snugly over the sides 6 and 7 of the top of the bag when the latter is closed, as in Fig. 2, the flanges 16 on the said cover inclosing the said sides, that flange of the cover corresponding to the apertured side 6 of the bag being also apertured, the said aperture being in alignment with the end of the revolving barrel 17, which is carried on the under surface of the cover 15 by means of standards 18, the opposite ends of the said barrel having arc-shaped flanges 19 thereon, which are adapted, when the cover is placed upon the top of the closed bag and the barrel rotated, to revolve upon the lugs 25 and to catch below the lower surface thereof, thereby locking the cover against removal. The barrel 17 is revolved by means of a key inserted in the apertures in the side 6 and in the side of the flange 16, corresponding therewith, the end of the key being received by a slot in the corresponding end of the barrel 17, whereby it may regulate the position of dogs or

pins, as is well known in the so-called "Yale lock," thus locking or unlocking the barrel against or for rotation, in the latter of which cases the barrel may be turned by means of the key, locking or unlocking the cover, as may be desired. I may also, if desired, place a registering mechanism upon the said barrel, the said mechanism being of the character granted to Henry Clarke by Letters Patent of the United States No. 220,124, dated September 30, 1879; but as I have described such a lock-lid in an application for Letters Patent filed by me on the 22d day of September, 1890, and serially numbered 365,802, I do not desire to claim such a lock herein.

A series of teeth 20 project downward from the lower surface of the cover at the sides thereof corresponding to the sides 6 6 of the bag, the teeth being in such a position that they are adapted to enter the perforations 35 in the flanges 14 on the sides 6 6, thereby holding the said sides 6 6 more securely and preventing a sideward movement of the top of the bag within the cover. It will be noticed that the top of the bag is entirely contained within the flanges 16 of the cover, and that as long as the cover is in place it will be impossible to force the sides of the top of the bag in such a manner as to permit the abstraction of its contents.

It will be obvious that any of the layers of the bag may be done away with, or that any suitable number of straps permitting sides for the bags may be used without departing from the nature of my invention. It is also obvious that the edge of the bag may be secured to the straps in any desired manner without changing the character thereof.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. A bag having a series of hinged stiffening-straps secured to the top thereof, two of the opposite straps having inwardly-projecting shelves at their opposite ends and at their lower edges, the said shelves being adapted to slide under the stiffening-straps of the contiguous sides, as described.

2. The combination, with a bag having a series of hinged straps secured to the top thereof and two opposite straps having inwardly-projecting perforated flanges, of a cover having a series of teeth adapted to enter the perforations in said flanges, as described.

3. The combination, with a bag having a series of hinged straps secured to the top thereof, and two opposite straps having inwardly-projecting lugs thereon, of a cover having a rotating barrel on the under surface thereof, the said barrel having arc-shaped flanges upon its opposite ends adapted to engage the said lugs, as described.

4. A bag having a series of eight stiffening-straps secured to the top thereof, two of the said straps when closed being parallel and separated from each other and the remaining straps, in sets of three, folding upon each other, the opposite ends of the outer and inner



straps of each of the said sets of three being hinged to the said opposite ends of the said parallel straps, as described.

5 5. The combination, with a bag having a series of hinged stiffening-straps secured to the upper edges thereof, the straps being adapted to fold in horizontally on each other, of a cover adapted to slide vertically down on the said straps when folded and to be locked  
10 thereon, as described.

6. The combination, with a bag having a series of hinged straps secured to the upper

end thereof, the opposite straps having perforations therein, of a bolt crossing the mouth of the said bag and having its ends contained 15 in the said perforations and a cover adapted to fit over the said bag and hold the bolt in place, as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM F. BEASLEY.

Witnesses:

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ZADIE GIBSON.