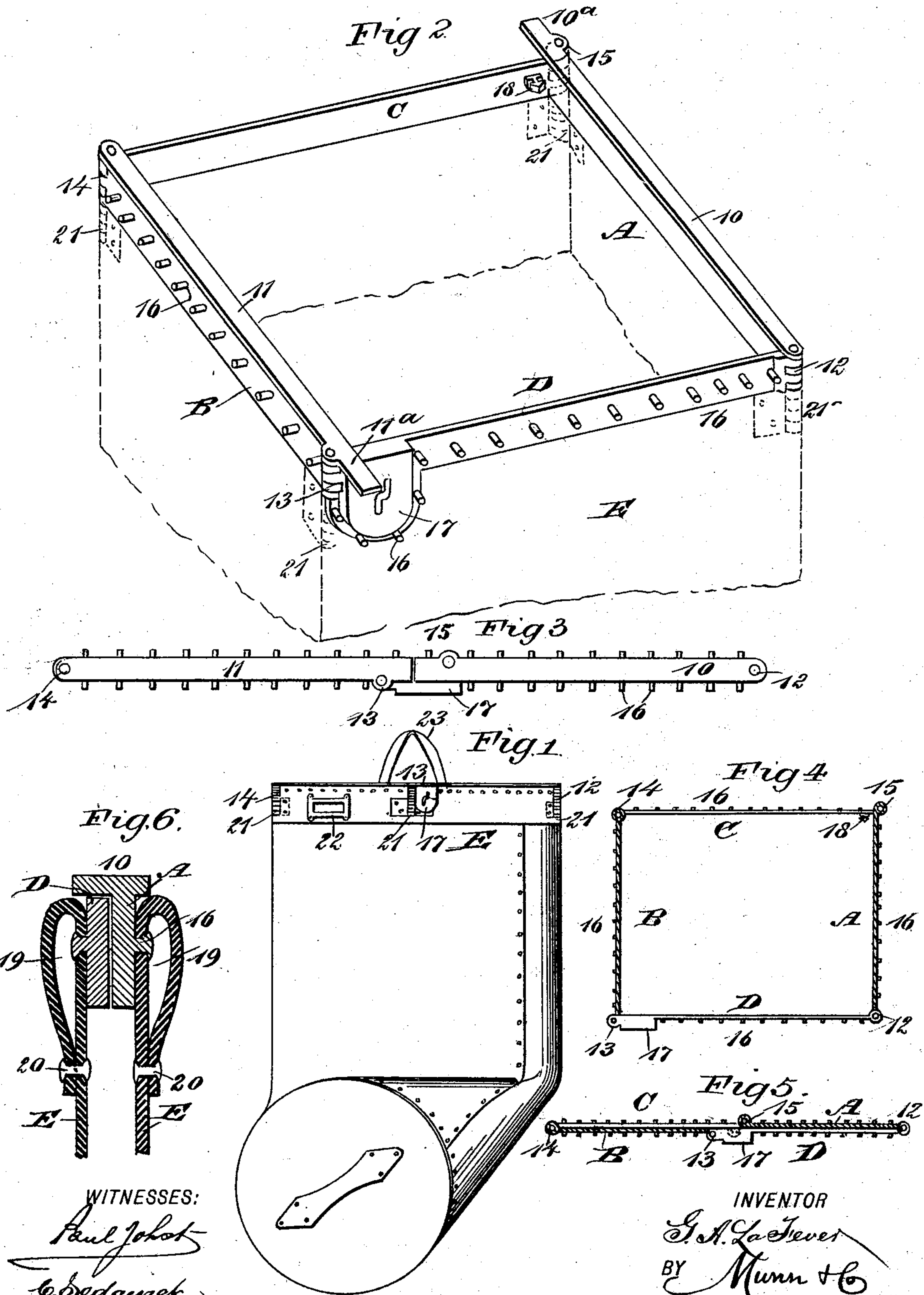


(No Model.)

G. A. LA FEVER.
FRAME FOR MAIL BAGS OR LIKE RECEPTACLES.

No. 506,515.

Patented Oct. 10, 1893.



WITNESSES:

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FRAME FOR MAIL-BAGS OR LIKE RECEPTACLES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 506,515, dated October 10, 1893.

Application filed September 14, 1892. Serial No. 445,853. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE A. LA FEVER, of Selkirk, in the county of Albany and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Frame for Mail-Bags or Like Receptacles, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to an improvement in the frames of mail bags or like receptacles, and the object of the invention is to provide a frame composed of rigid sections the sections being united by hinged connections in such manner that the sections may be folded out in rectangular form, or whereby the sections may be folded one upon the other to form practically a long flat bar. When the frame is brought to its rectangular position the mouth of the bag is opened, and when the frame is folded, one member upon the other, the mouth of the bag is closed.

Another feature of the invention consists in providing two of the members with projecting flanges, whereby when the frame is opened the flanges will be at diagonally opposite corners, enabling the bag to be suspended in a ready and convenient manner.

It is another feature of the invention to construct the frame in such manner that the body of the bag may be attached to the outer side or face thereof, and to provide the body of the bag immediately below the hinges in the frame, with correspondingly located hinges acting in conjunction with those of the frame, thus preventing any strain upon the body, and insuring the co-operation of the body with the frame.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combinations of the several parts, as will be hereinafter fully set forth and pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which similar figures and letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the mail bag, illustrating the application of the frame thereto, the mouth of the bag being closed. Fig. 2 is a perspective view, showing the frame in its open or rectangular position, a portion of the body of the bag being represented in dotted lines. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the frame

closed. Fig. 4 is a view of the frame in its open position, the flanged members being in horizontal section, the section being taken immediately below the flanges. Fig. 5 illustrates the frame as shown in Fig. 4 in folded position to disclose the position and character of its hinges; and Fig. 6 is a transverse section through the frame when folded, illustrating one way of securing the body thereto, and providing a cushion for the upper portion of the body of the bag.

The frame of the bag is composed of four bars, A, B, C and D. The bars are made of metal or of other rigid material, and each of the bars A and B, is provided with a horizontal flange upon its upper edge, the flanges of the two bars being designated as 10 and 11, and the flanges project over the inner faces of the bars. At one edge the flanges are flush with the ends of the bars; but at the other edges the flanges extend over and beyond the ends of the bars, and these end projections of the flanges are designated respectively as 10^a and 11^a. The projections of the flanges, however, are not at the same ends of the bars, but at opposite ends, as illustrated in Fig. 1; and the outer extremities of the projecting portions of the flanges are preferably made straight.

The bar D, is connected with the bar A at the end opposite that beyond which the flange extends; and the hinge 12, by means of which the connection is made, is so shaped as to be partially within and partially without the frame. The opposite end of the bar D, is connected with the end of the bar B beyond which the flange extension 11^a, is projected, and the hinge 13 effecting a connection at this point extends outward from the frame; that is to say, it is upon the outside of the frame. The bar C, is connected by a hinge 14, with the opposite end of the bar B, and the hinge is partially within and partially without the frame, as has been described in connection with the hinge 12, which when the frame is brought to a rectangular position is diagonally opposite the hinge 14. The other end of the bar C, has a hinged connection 15 with that end of the bar A, carrying the projecting portion of the flange 10^a, and the hinge 15, is formed upon the outer surface of these two bars. Thus what may be termed the flush

hinges 12 and 14, are diagonally opposite, and the outwardly formed hinges sustain the same relation to each other; that is, when the frame is opened or in a rectangular position.

5 Upon the outer face of each of the bars, a series of pins 16, is produced; and ordinarily upon the bar D, near the flange extension 11^a, a lock 17, is located, the lock being upon the outer face of the bar; and upon the inner face of
10 the opposite bar C, near the projecting flange 10^a, a staple 18, of any approved construction is located, which is adapted to enter the lock. When the lock 17, is not used, the bar D, is provided with a slot through which the sta-
15 ple 18, which is then of the ordinary character, is adapted to extend to receive a pad-lock, or like fastening device. The pins 16, extend around the side and bottom edges of the lock 17 when the lock is employed.

20 The leather body E of the bag is attached to the outer face of the frame, said frame comprising the bars A, B, C and D, by causing the pins to project through the leather, and then riveting the heads of the pins. This is
25 the ordinary way of making the attachment, but if it is desired the body of the bag may be attached to the frame, as illustrated in Fig. 6, in which the attachment between the frame and the body is made below the upper
30 edge of the latter and the upper edge is carried downward upon the body over a filling 19, and the folded portion of the body is secured to its straight portion by means of rivets 20, or the equivalent thereof. By this
35 means a cushion is formed along the outer faces of the frame, which protects the frame and likewise protects the attaching medium of the body. In any event, by attaching the body to the outer face of the frame the latter
40 is more or less protected.

In order that the body of the bag may move concertedly with the frame, and without cracking or creasing, hinges 21, are located at the corners of the bag body, as shown in dotted
45 lines in Fig. 2, and these hinges are immediately beneath the hinges of the frame and are situated in like manner; in fact, the pintles of the frame hinges are also made to constitute the pintles of the hinges of the body.
50 Thus these two parts must of necessity move together.

A socket or pocket 22, is placed upon the outer face of the body of the bag at one side of the frame, as shown in Fig. 1, for the re-
55 ception of the tag indicating to what portion of the country the bag is to be sent; and a handle, or handles, 23, may likewise be attached to the frame if in practice it is found desirable.

60 In folding the frame from an open to a closed position, the bar C folds close to the inner face of the bar B beneath the flange 11 thereof, and the flanged bar A, receives in engagement therewith the bar D, the flange
65 of the bar A, covering the top of the bar D, and the projecting ends of the two flanges overlap the upper edge of the bar D adjacent

to or over the lock; these two flanges practically abut, as shown in Fig. 3, and serve to strengthen the frame. The hinges of the
70 frame are constructed in the manner above described; that is, two hinges facing outward and two of the hinges flush, in order that the bars of the frame may be folded close together, as the flush hinges are at the extrem-
75 ity of the folded frame while the outwardly projecting hinges are at the central portion thereof, one at each side, as shown in Figs. 3 and 5.

This frame is exceedingly strong, it is eco-
80 nomic in its construction and it is capable of being readily opened, and when open it will assume a rectangular position and the body of the bag will assume the same position; when the bag is open the projecting flanges may be
85 utilized to suspend the bag from any convenient support.

It will be understood that the frame is applicable to any character of bag in which it is desirable to have the mouth held open or
90 to hold the mouth readily closed.

The frame, when constructed as above described may be made exceedingly light and yet be very strong, and as but four pieces constitute the frame it is readily put together
95 and is capable of being conveniently and expeditiously manipulated.

It will be noticed by reference to Figs. 3 and 5 that the hinges 13 and 15, at the center of the folded frame do not come opposite
100 each other, but are arranged to break joints, thus securing a rigidity and firmness as well as a degree of safety not obtained when the two central hinges are brought in the closed frame opposite one another.
105

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

1. In a mail bag or kindred receptacle, a frame, the same consisting of four bars, the
110 bars being hinged at their ends in order to constitute a rectangular shape when in one position, two opposite bars being provided with flanges upon their upper edges inwardly extending, the flanges projecting beyond op-
115 posite ends of the bars, as and for the purpose set forth.

2. A frame for mail bags or similar receptacles, consisting of four rigid bars, the bars being hinged to form a rectangular figure,
120 two diagonally opposite hinges extending within and without the frame and the other diagonally opposite hinges projecting beyond the outer surface of the frame, and fastening devices integral with and projecting from the
125 outer faces of the bars and adapted to receive the body of the bag, the inner faces of the bars being free from projections to permit them to contact as and for the purpose specified.

3. In a mail bag or similar receptacle, a
130 frame, the same consisting of four bars connected by hinges at their ends to form a rectangular figure, two diagonally opposite hinges projecting beyond the outer faces of the bars

and the other two diagonally opposite hinges being practically flush with the outer face of the bars, and horizontal flanges located upon two opposite bars and extending beyond opposite corners of said bars, as and for the purpose specified.

4. In a mail bag or like receptacle, the combination with a frame consisting of four rigid bars having a hinge connection and grouped to form a rectangular figure, of a body portion secured to the bars, the body portion being provided with hinges beneath the hinges of the frame bars, as and for the purpose set forth.

5. In a mail bag or like receptacle, the combination, with a folding frame provided with hinges at the ends of its members, of pins se-

cured upon the outer faces of the members of the frame, and a body portion secured to the said pins, the said body being provided with hinges beneath the hinges of the frame, as and for the purpose set forth.

6. The combination with the frame formed of the hinged bars having projections on their outer faces, of the bag E secured near its upper edge upon said projections, with its upper edge folded over upon the outer face of the bag and riveted thereto as at 20 thus concealing the projections 16 and forming the cushion 19, substantially as set forth.

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Witnesses:

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