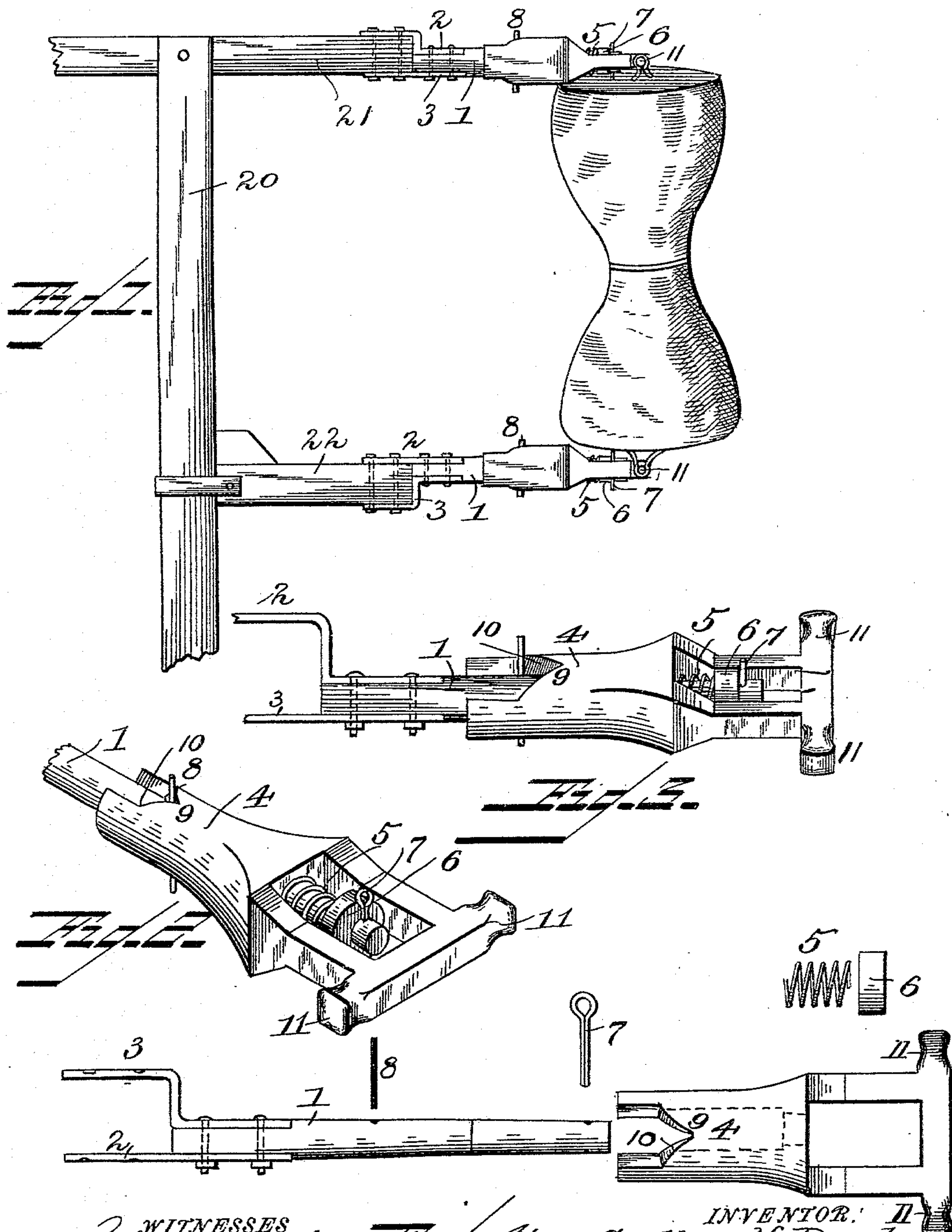


(No Model.)

C. H. RESSLER.
MAIL BAG HOLDER.

No. 545,308.

Patented Aug. 27, 1895.



WITNESSES
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MAIL-BAG HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 545,308, dated August 27, 1895.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CARTHON H. RESSLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hagerstown, in the county of Wayne and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bag Holders; and I do 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and to the figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements on the common mail-crane now in use; and it consists in a mail-sack holder embodying certain novel and valuable features which can be readily attached to the upper and lower arms of the common mail-cranes and which operates automatically with great certainty and effectiveness.

My invention will be hereinafter fully described and claimed.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, in which the same numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several views, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a common mail-crane provided with my invention. Fig. 2 is a perspective view, on an enlarged scale, of one of the holders. Fig. 3 is a side view of the same, showing the "tilter" in the position it occupies as the sack is taken from it by the catcher on the mail-car. Fig. 4 shows the parts of the device separated.

The present method generally followed in fastening mail-sacks to the crane-arms is to tie the end rings of the sack or pouch to rods on the arms of the crane. When the catcher-arm of the rapidly-moving mail-car strikes the pouch thus suspended it frequently tears off the rings and end straps of the pouch and frequently tears holes in the ends of the pouch, which makes a constant source of expense to the Government for repairs.

The object of my invention is to prevent this injury to mail-sacks, and I secure this result by the following construction.

In the drawings, 20 indicates an ordinary crane-post, having the usual pivotally-mounted upper and lower arms 21 22.

My invention consists of an arm or shaft 1, round in cross-section, to the inner end of

which are bolted the straight and angled securing-irons 2 3, which are readily bolted, as shown, to the outer ends of the crane-arms, thus securing the devices in operative position. Upon this round shaft is mounted the cylindrical body 4 of the "tilter," as I will call it for convenience of reference, and a coil-spring 5 surrounds the outer end of the shaft 1, between the outer end of the cylindrical body 4 and a collar or nut 6, which is secured in position either by threading it and the extremity of the shaft and screwing it in position or else by a pin, as 7. The tilter is held in position by the pressure of this spring between the spring and a stop-pin 8, which extends transversely through the shaft and against which the inner end of the tilter rests at the point 9. From the point 9 the tubular inner end of the tilter body is cut away to form the V-shaped openings 10 10 on both its upper and lower sides, for the purpose hereinafter explained. At its outer end the tilter is formed with the oppositely-extending projections or wings 11 11, which are grooved at their outer ends to form seats for the rings of the mail-sack.

In operation the mail-sack is hung by its end rings on the grooved projections pointing in the direction which the train is moving. When the mail-sack thus hanging is taken by the catcher of the rapidly-moving mail-car the tilters slide on the shafts 1 with a combined longitudinal and rotary motion against the pressure of the coiled springs 5 5, the catcher-arm striking the middle of the mail-bag, jerking its upper end downward and outward from the crane, while its lower end is jerked upward and outward, the tilters sliding outward against the pressure of their springs, and at the same time the inclined sides of their V-shaped openings 10 sliding against the fixed guide-pin 8 from the points 9 to 12 causes them to turn on the shaft with a rotary motion, as illustrated in Fig. 3, the supporting-projection 11 of the upper tilter on which the ring of the sack is hung, thus moving outward and downward, while the corresponding projection of the lower tilter moves outward and upward, thus enabling the rings of the mail-sack to slip off easily in the direction of the moving train without injury to the rings, straps, or sack

ends. As soon as the sack is taken off the coil-springs 5 automatically readjust the tilt-ers in position with their projections 11 extending in a horizontal plane by pressing the inclined sloping sides of the openings 10 against the guide-pin 8. The outer ends of the V-shaped openings 10 are formed straight at 10^a to form stops which limit the rotary motion of the tilter.

10 It will be seen from the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, that my invention, while simple in construction, being devoid of all useless and complicated parts, is exceedingly
15 effective in its operation. It securely holds the mail-sacks for trains running in both directions and releases them in such a manner as to entirely prevent all strain and injury to the end rings, straps, and the ends of the
20 sacks, thereby effecting a great saving for repairs.

The device, as described, automatically adjusts itself after the mail-sack is taken from it.

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

1. A mail bag holder comprising a rounded shaft attached to a crane arm and a mail bag supporting device having a tubular body
30 mounted thereon to turn with a combined longitudinal and rotary motion as the mail bag is taken from it, substantially as set forth.

2. A mail bag holder comprising a shaft at-

tached to a crane arm, a rotating and sliding mail bag supporting device mounted on the
35 shaft, and means for automatically returning said device to its normal position after the mail bag has been removed, substantially as set forth.

3. The mail bag holder consisting of the
40 round shaft having the transverse guide pin, a tubular body mounted on said shaft and having inclined bearing faces at its inner end engaging with said pin, and oppositely extending projections at its outer end, and a
45 coiled spring secured on the outer end of the shaft to bear against said tubular body, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

4. The herein-described mail bag holder consisting of the round shaft having the trans-
50 verse guide pin, and the bearing nut or collar at its outer end, the tilter consisting of the tubular body having the inclined bearing faces at its inner end and the oppositely extending grooved projections at its outer end,
55 and the coiled spring mounted on the shaft between the outer end of the tubular tilter-body and the fixed bearing-nut; substantially as set forth.

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

CARTHON H. RESSLER.

Witnesses:

ELI KEITH,

ARCH HINDMAN.