

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

WARREN H. TAYLOR, OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO THE
YALE & TOWNE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

POST-OFFICE DEPOSITORY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 666,038, dated January 15, 1901.

Application filed November 4, 1899. Serial No. 735,803. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WARREN H. TAYLOR, of Stamford, in the county of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, have invented certain
5 new and useful Improvements in Post-Office Depositories; 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
10 to make and use the same.

My invention relates to an improvement in post-office depositories, and is designed particularly for the collection and distribution of mail in suburban or rural districts or in
15 localities not provided with post-offices or the house-to-house delivery system; and it consists in a box divided into a series of compartments, each having an independent door in its front and a sectional door common to all
20 of the compartments at the rear, the said sectional door forming when open a hood or shield for protecting the mail-matter from the weather.

My invention further consists in a box divided into a series of compartments, each having an independent door at its front, a door common to all of said compartments at the rear, and a flexible curtain covering the series of front doors.

30 My invention further consists in the parts and combinations of parts, as will be more fully described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view showing the rear door open. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the rear door closed. Fig. 3 is a view in front elevation of the depository with the curtain raised. Fig. 4 is a view in rear elevation of the depository, the rear door being open; and
40 Fig. 5 is a view showing a modified form of curtain.

A represents a box or casing preferably made of metal and provided with a stem *a*, depending centrally from its bottom and resting loosely within the hollow post *b*, so that in
45 bad weather the box can be turned, so as to shield the postman and the mail being sorted, collected, or delivered from the weather.

The box or casing is open at its front and
50 rear and is provided interiorly with a series

of compartments B, extending from the front to the rear, each compartment being provided at its front with a door C and each door having a suitable and independent lock.

The several doors C closing the fronts of the compartments may be secured to or mounted on a common frame, or, if desired, each compartment may be provided with a frame; but in either event with the several compartments closed each by a lock-door it will be seen that
55 access thereto from the front can only be gained by the employment of the proper key for each box.

The lower portion of the box or casing below the lower tier of pigeonholes forms a deposit-box D, into which letters may be deposited for collection. The lower portion of the front is inclined outwardly and provided with a deposit-slot leading to the box D, and the slot is covered normally by the hinged gravity
65 cap or cover *e*.

The several locks in the doors in the front of the box are normally closed and concealed by the hinged plates *f*, which latter not only protect the key-slots from dust and water, but also serve as handles for closing the doors. The doors C are set back from the front edge of the box or casing, and, if desired, I can provide a flexible curtain E, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 5, for covering and protecting all
80 the doors. This curtain can be of any approved material, and when made of a leather or a fabric, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, can pass upwardly through a slot in the overhanging front of the casing or box and wind on the
85 spring-roller F, located within the compartment formed in the curved top of the box. When the curtain is made of metal slats, as shown in Fig. 5, I connect the slats to an endless apron or bands G, carried by the rollers
90 F' F², located within the top compartment of the box or casing. The rollers are preferably spring-rollers, and while they may be constructed to normally hold the curtains up I prefer to have the curtains normally down,
95 the rollers having just tension sufficient to take up the slack of the curtain as it is raised up, but not sufficient power to support it in its open or raised positions. This curtain, whether it be in the form of slats or a sheet
100

of fabric or other material, is provided at its lower end with a strip *g*, the ends of which rest in grooves *h* in the sides of the box and hold the curtain in place.

5 The rear of the box is composed of two sections *H* and *H'*, each section comprising a face-plate *i* and two sides *i'*. The upper section *H* is hinged at the inner edge of its face-plate to the body or casing *A*, and the lower
10 section *H'* is hinged at the inner edge of its face-plate to the base of the casing, the sides *i'* of the upper and lower sections being of such length that when open they overlap, as shown in Fig. 1, forming a protecting hood
15 or pocket all around the four sides of the pigeonholes or compartments, which not only shields the mail from wind or rain while the box is open, but the face-plate of the lower section forms a table or shelf, which the postal
20 clerk may use for postmarking the mail-matter or canceling the stamps.

The box or casing is provided at its sides between the casing and the outer rows of pigeonholes with recesses for the reception of
25 the sides of the upper and lower sections *H* *H'* of the rear door, so that when the rear door is closed, as shown in Fig. 2, these sides are wholly within the box or casing. The outer edge of the face-plate of the upper section *H*
30 of the rear door overlaps the outer edge of the lower face-plate *i* of the section *H'*, and thus not only forms a closure against the ingress of water, but affords a convenient means for locking the two sections of the back in their
35 closed positions.

The sectional door is held in its open position by the bars or braces *J* and *J'*, arranged in pairs on the opposite sides of the sections. The braces *J* are each pivoted to the inner
40 face of the upper side plate at *j*, near the upper outer end of said plate, while the lower ends are pivoted to the outer faces of the lower side plates at *j'*, near the upper inner ends of the latter. The other braces *J'* of
45 each pair are pivoted to the inner faces of the lower side plates *i'*, as shown at *k*, while their upper ends, which are each provided with an elongated slot *k'*, engage pins *k''*, secured to the inner faces of the sides of the upper section, as shown in Fig. 1. With this construction it will be seen that the pivots *j* and *k* of the two braces *J* and *J'* of each pair are in line, so that the thrust will be through their centers, thus holding the two sections of the
50 rear door in place.

When the sections are closed, as shown in Fig. 2, by simply dropping the lower section *H'* the upper section will be raised by the rods or braces *J*, and by raising the bottom section the lower pivots *j'* of the upper rod are thrown inwardly toward the box, thus causing the upper section to fall and fold itself over the upper edge of the face-plate of the lower section. With this arrangement of
60 parts the several compartments are always accessible to the holders of the keys therefor, while the series of pigeonholes or com-

partments are accessible to the person holding the key of the rear door, thus enabling those having a right of access to the box to
70 get at his or their respective compartments by the use of a single key only and also gives the postal employee or other person holding the key to the rear door access to the interior of the box by the use of a single key. The
75 rear door being composed of two sections, each having side plates, as shown, forms when open a projecting hood or pocket at the rear of the pigeonholes or letter-boxes, which, as before stated, protects the mail being distrib-
80 uted or collected. The postal employee is thus provided with a convenient and protected support upon which he can sort, cancel, or postmark the mail he is delivering to the private boxes in the depository or the mail
85 that has been deposited therein for delivery.

It is evident that many slight changes might be resorted to in the relative arrangement of parts herein shown and described without departing from the spirit and scope of my in-
90 vention. Hence I would have it understood that I do not wish to confine myself to the exact construction of parts shown and described; but,

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

1. In a depository for mail-matter a box or casing having a series of compartments therein, a depository below the compartments and
100 an independent door for the front of each compartment, of a combined door and hood made in sections so constructed that when closed they form a closure for the rear of the compartments and depository and when open
105 form a projecting hood.

2. In a depository for mail-matter, the combination with a casing or box having a series of compartments therein, and an independent door closing the front of each compartment,
110 of a sectional door common to all the compartments and closing the rear of the box or casing, the said sections composing said door being independently hinged to the box and connected together so as to move in unison. 115

3. In a depository for mail-matter, the combination with a box or casing revolvably mounted on a post or support and provided with a series of compartments, and an independent door for the front of each compartment,
120 of a sectional door at the rear of the box or casing, and common to the entire series of compartments, the said sections composing the rear door being each independently hinged to the box and connected together
125 so as to move in unison.

4. In a depository for mail-matter, the combination with a box or casing revolvably mounted on a post or other support and provided with a series of compartments, and an
130 independent lock-door for the front of each compartment, of a sectional door common to all of said compartments, and adapted when open, to form a protected compartment at

the rear of the box and means connecting said sections of the door whereby they are caused to move in unison.

5 In a depository for mail-matter, the combination with a box or casing having a series of compartments and a lock-door for the front of each compartment, of a sectional rear door covering the rear ends of the compartments, each section of the rear door consisting of a
10 face-plate and two side plates, and means for holding said sections in their open positions.

6. In a depository for mail-matter, the combination with a box or casing having a series of compartments and a lock-door for the front
15 of each compartment, of a rear door composed of two sections one section being hinged to the top of the box or casing and the other to the lower end of the box, each section comprising a face-plate and two side plates, and
20 means for holding said sections in their open positions.

7. In a depository a combined door and hood made in sections, the sections being so constructed that when closed they form a door
25 or closure for one face of the depository and when open form a projecting hood for protecting the inside of the depository against the weather.

8. In a depository the combination with a
30 casing having a series of compartments therein, of a sectional door located at the rear of the compartments so as to expose said compartments when open, each section of said rear door being hinged to the casing and
35 means connecting the sections whereby they are caused to move in unison.

9. In a depository the combination with a casing having a series of compartments, of a

sectional door for closing the rear ends of said compartments, each section of said door
40 being hinged to the casing, and means connecting the sections of said door for holding them in their open positions.

10. A post-office depository provided with a series of letter-boxes and a hood adjacent
45 thereto, and means for pivotally supporting the depository whereby it may be rotated horizontally.

11. A post-office depository open at one side and inclosing a series of small doors, a pair
50 of doors hinged to the casing at opposite edges of the open side and adapted to swing outward, each of these doors being provided with flanges or extensions adapted when the doors are open to form the opposite walls of a
55 hood of which the doors form the remaining walls, said flanges being adapted to fold into the casing when the doors are closed.

12. A post-office depository comprising a casing open at one side and inclosing a series
60 of small boxes, a pair of doors hinged respectively at the upper and lower edges of said open side, the ends of these doors being provided with flanges adapted when the doors are open to form the opposite side walls of a
65 protected compartment, said flanges being adapted to fold into the casing and overlap at their ends, and links connecting each pair of adjacent flanges.

In testimony whereof I have signed this
70 specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WARREN H. TAYLOR.

Witnesses:

SCHUYLER MERRITT,
HENRY C. TAYLOR.