

No. 753,163.

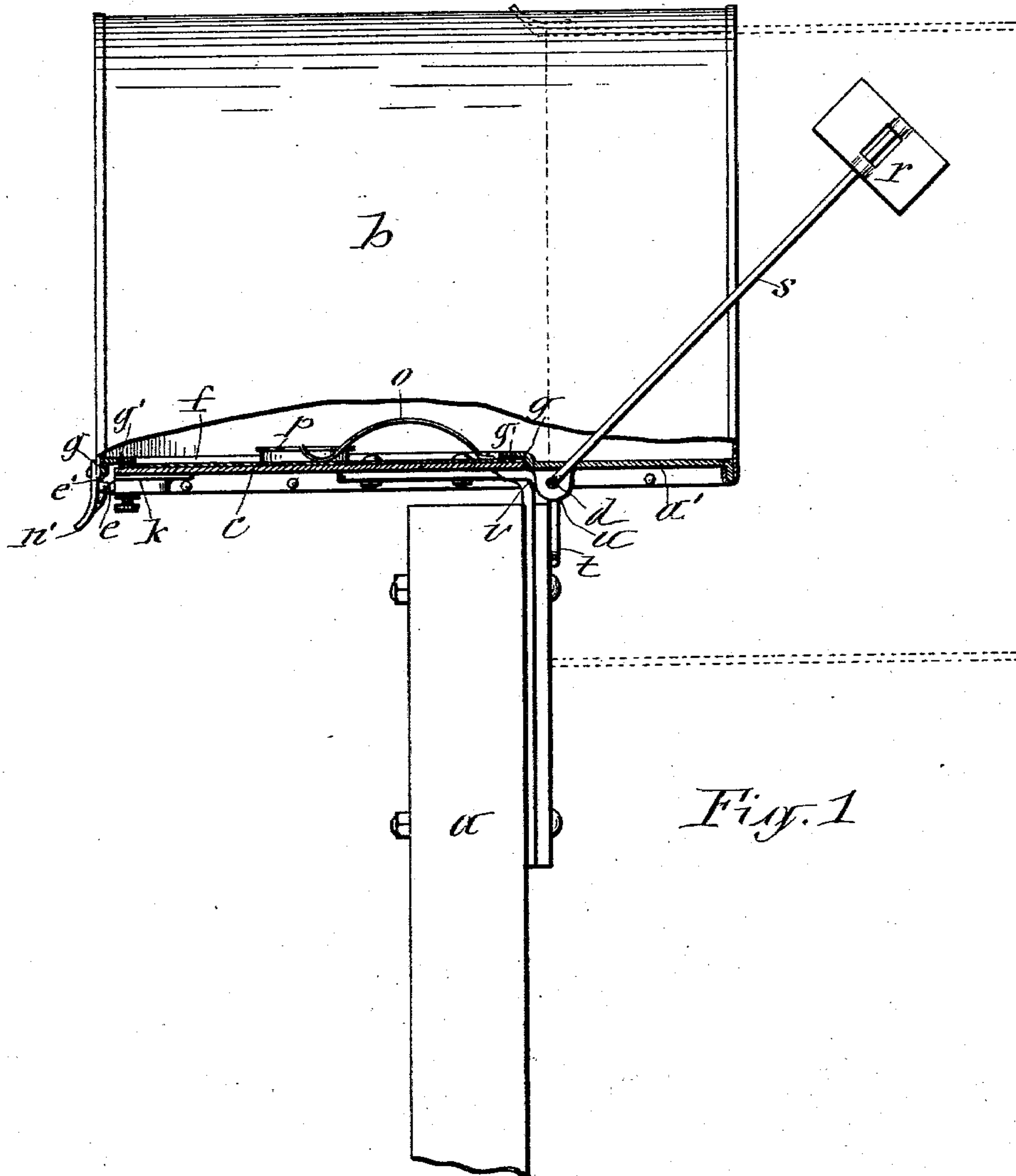
PATENTED FEB. 23, 1904.

G. E. ROBISON.
MAIL BOX.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 4, 1903.

NO MODEL.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



WITNESSES:

E. L. Meyer.

J. J. Laess.

INVENTOR:

George E. Robison

By E. Laass
his ATTORNEY.

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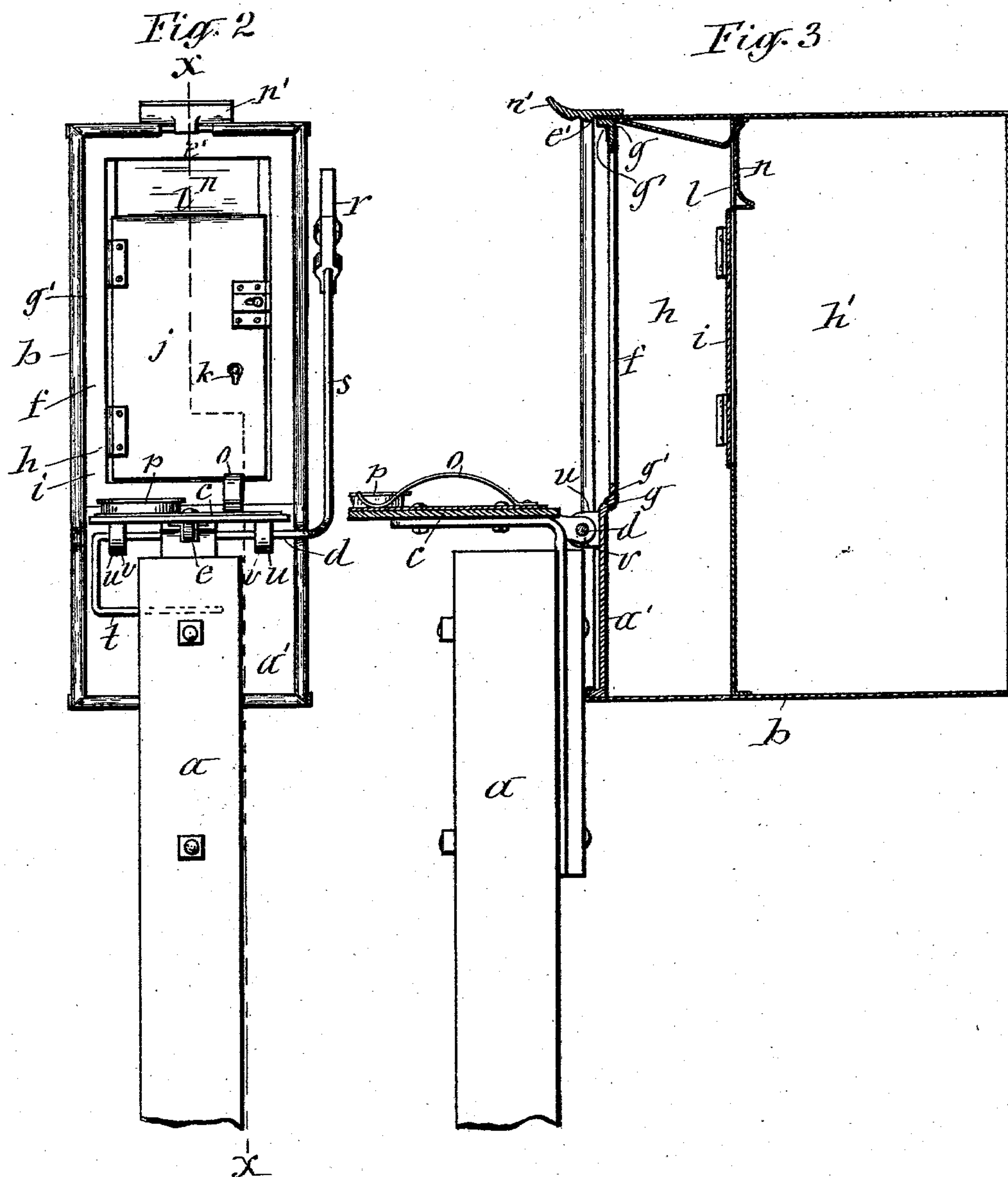
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE ELMER ROBISON, OF LOCKE, NEW YORK.

MAIL-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 753,163, dated February 23, 1904.

Application filed September 4, 1903. Serial No. 171,900. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE ELMER ROBISON, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Locke, in the county of Cayuga, in the State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Mail-Boxes, of which the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to the class of mail-boxes which are designed chiefly for rural mail-delivery or for private use.

The object of the invention is to provide a mail-box which shall be convenient and safe in its use and shall have its interior protected from dust, moisture, snow, and ice incident to the exposure of the box to the weather; and to that end the invention consists chiefly of a mail-box which is mounted movably to and from its normal position on its support and is provided with a door which is concealed by the normal position of the box; and the invention also consists in a novel construction and combination of the component parts of the mail-box, which has its door fastened in a horizontal position to the support of the box to allow the box to tilt into a vertical position and afford access to the interior thereof; and the invention, furthermore, consists in novel auxiliary devices connected to the mail-box, as hereinafter described and claimed.

Referring to the annexed drawings, Figure 1 is a side view of a mail-box embodying my invention shown in its normal position by full lines and in its tilted position by dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a front view of the mail-box in its tilted and open position, and Fig. 3 is a vertical longitudinal section on line X X.

a represents a post or other suitable stationary support on which the mail-box *b* is mounted and to which it is pivotally secured in a suitable manner to allow the box to be tilted to and from its normal position on said support. I preferably hinge the box *b* to its support by means of a pivot-rod *d*, passing through ears *u u*, projecting from the bottom of the box, and through the ears *v v*, formed on the door *c*, which constitutes a portion of said bottom and is rigidly secured in a horizontal position to the support *a*.

The mail-box *b* is retained in its horizontal

position and with the door *c* closed thereon by means of a spring-bolt *e* or analogous releasable catch sliding in a case *k*, attached to the door and engaging catch-plate *e'*, attached to the box. To allow the box *b* to be tilted, and thus open the door *c* without requiring manipulation of the bolt *e*, I prefer to form the engaging portion of the catch-plate with a rounded or blunt projection, which allows the bolt to slip over said projection by simply lifting the adjacent end of the box from the door *c*.

The box is preferably formed of galvanized iron or other suitable metal fastened at its edges to the bottom plate *a'*, formed of cast metal and with an opening *f*, which is closed by the door *c* when the box is in its normal position.

To protect the interior of the box from dust, water, sleet, and ice incident to the exposure of the box to the weather, I form the bottom plate *a'* with a rabbet *g* around the jamb of the door *c* and place in the said rabbet a packing *g'*, of rubber or other suitable material, to render the door-jamb air and water tight.

The interior of the box *b* is divided into front and rear compartments *h* and *h'* by a partition *i*, which is provided with a door *j* to permit access to the rear compartment *h'* when the box is tilted to open the door *c*. The door *j* is provided with a suitable lock *k'* to retain the door in its closed position. Said lock is provided with a removable key, (not shown,) which is intended to be in possession of the proprietor of the box. Above the door *j* is another opening *l* in the partition *i*, through which opening the mail is deposited into the rear compartment *h'* by the mail-carrier. The opening *l* is provided with a gate *n*, which is preferably suspended from the top of the partition *i* to cause the gate to automatically close the opening *l* by gravity of the gate. To the inner face of the door *c* is attached a suitable holder *o* for unstamped mail placed in the box by its proprietor. The said holder may consist of a bowed spring-plate attached at one end to the door *c*, as shown, and bearing with its opposite end on the mail-matter inserted under it.

p denotes a receptacle for payment for the

required stamps. Inasmuch as the door is maintained in a horizontal position, the receptacle *p* may be in the form of a plate, as shown.

5 *r* represents a signal to indicate the operative position of the box and call attention to the use thereof. This signal I prefer to attach to the free end of an arm *s*, extending from one end of the pivot-rod *d*, the opposite
10 end of which is formed with a crank *t*, disposed to engage or abut against the box-support *a* when the mail-box is in its normal position. In the operation of tilting the mail-box *a* into its open position the aforesaid engagement of the crank *t* causes the signal-arm
15 *s* to be swung into a position to indicate that the box has been opened.

n' denotes a handle by which to tilt the box *a* as aforesaid.

20 The described mail-box is used in the following manner: When the mail-box is in its normal and closed position, it is placed horizontally upon its support *a* and with the door *c* closed, as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings.
25 The signal-arm *s* is then to be swung to a position to expose the signal *r*. When the mail-carrier wishes to deliver mail into said box, he tilts the box into a vertical position from the stationary door *c*. In this movement of the
30 box the engagement of the crank *t* with the support *a* causes the signal-arm *s* to be swung to a position to conceal the signal. The mail-carrier passes the mail through the opening *l* in the partition *i* and drops it into the rear
35 compartment *h'* and collects the mail-matter he may find in the front compartment *h*, and in case he finds in the holder *o* unstamped mail-matter and in the receptacle *p* payment for the required stamp he collects the said
40 mail-matter and payment and then tilts the box down to its horizontal and closed position and throws the signal-arm *s* over to expose the signal *r*.

To collect the mail delivered by the mail-
45 carrier, the proprietor of the box tilts the said box into a vertical and open position, as hereinbefore described. Then by means of the key in his possession he unlocks the door *j* and extracts the delivered mail from the rear com-
50 partment *h'*, then closes and locks the door

and removes the key and deposits his outgoing mail in the front compartment *h* and then tilts the box down to its closed position, in which it conceals the door *c*. After the proprietor has thus restored the box *a* to its nor- 55 mal position he swings the arm *s* to a position to expose the signal *r*.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. The combination of a stationary support, a door rigidly secured in a horizontal position 60 on said support, and the mail-box pivotally connected to said door as set forth.

2. The combination of a stationary support, a door fastened in a horizontal position to said support, the mail-box pivotally connected to 65 said door, and a signal adjustably connected to the box-support as set forth.

3. The combination of a mail-box having its door fastened in horizontal position to the support of the box and hinged to the box by a pivot-rod formed at one end with a crank engaging the 70 box-support during the tilting of the box from its door, an arm extending from the opposite end of the pivot-rod, and a signal attached to said arm as set forth. 75

4. A mail-box having its door fastened in horizontal position to the support of the box and hinged to the box to allow it to tilt vertically from the door, a rabbeted door-jamb on the box, and a packing in said door-jamb as set 80 forth and shown.

5. The combination of a stationary support, a door fastened horizontally to said support, a holder for unstamped mail, and a pay-receptacle secured to the top of said door, and the 85 mail-box hinged to the door and housing said holder and receptacle as set forth.

6. The combination of a stationary support, a door fastened horizontally to said support, the mail-box hinged to said door, a partition 90 dividing the box into front and rear compartments and provided with a mail-depositing opening leading to the rear compartment, and a door in said partition provided with a lock and a removable key as set forth.

GEORGE ELMER ROBISON. [L. s.]

Witnesses:

A. C. MCINTOSH,
CHAS. J. HEWITT.