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PATENTED MAR. 1, 1904.

W. D. McCLELLAN.  
MAIL BAG CATCHER.  
APPLICATION FILED NOV. 18, 1903.

NO MODEL.

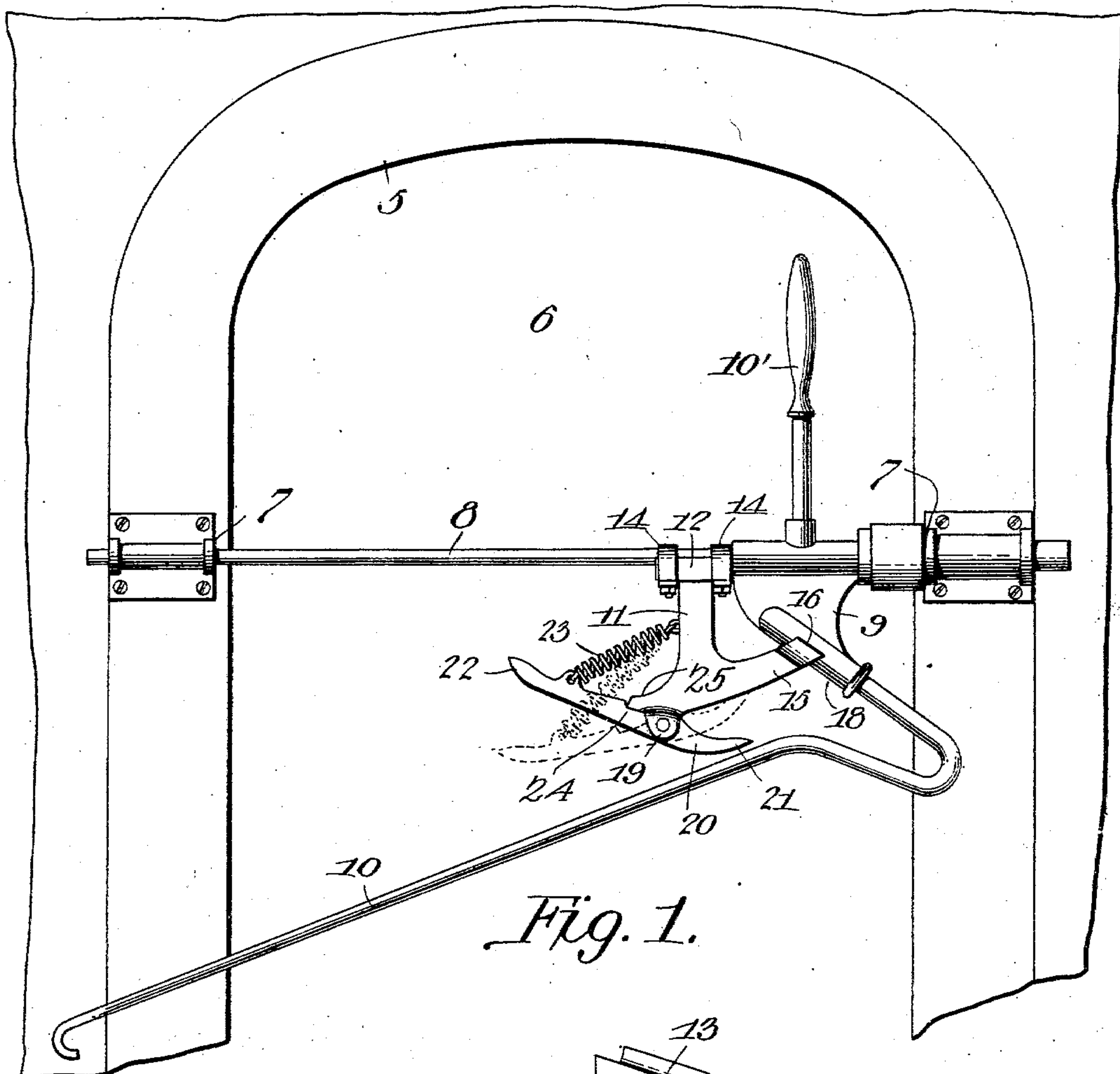


Fig. 1.

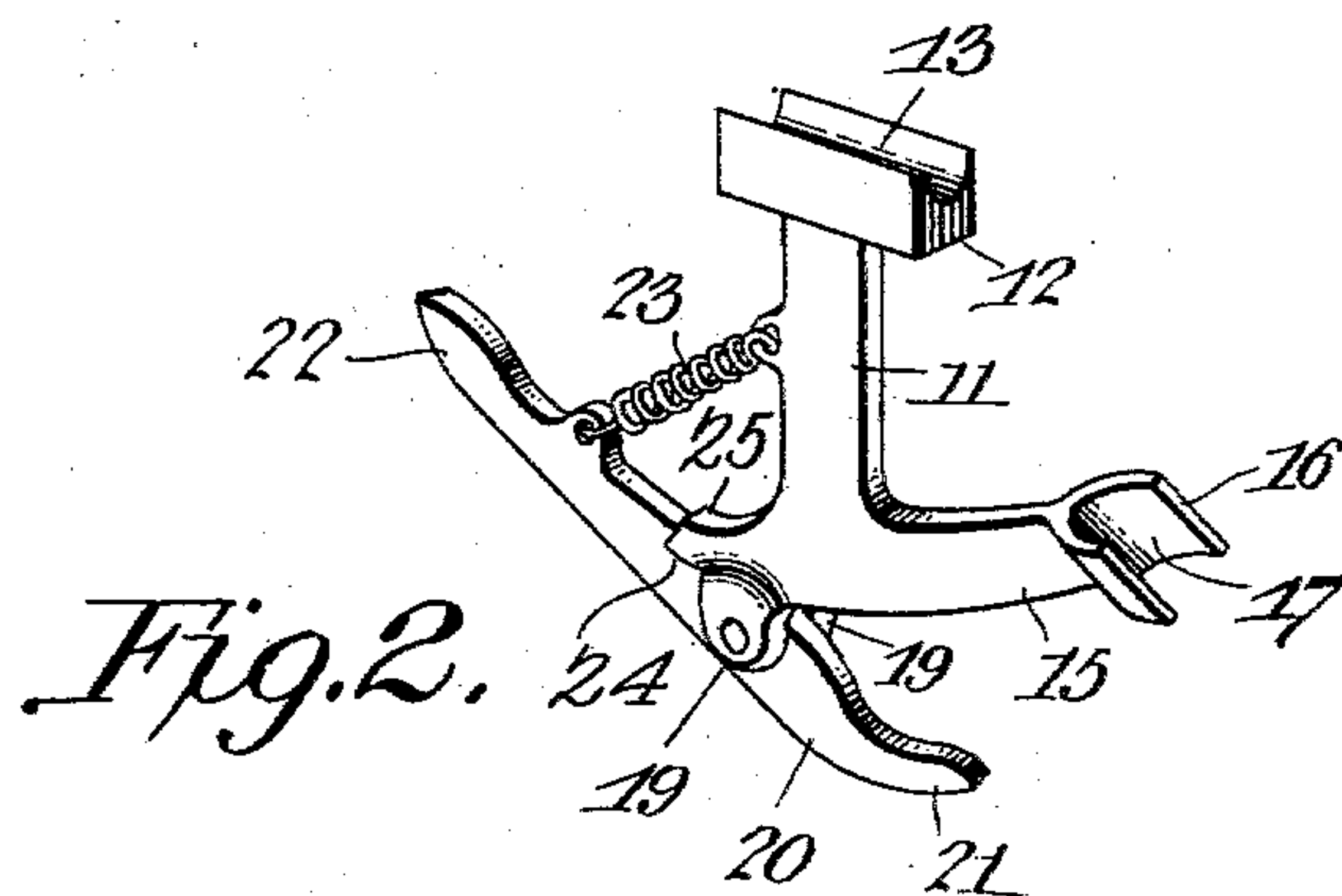


Fig. 2.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## MAIL-BAG CATCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 753,288, dated March 1, 1904.

Application filed November 18, 1903. Serial No. 181,721. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM DUNCAN McCLELLAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at McHenry, in the county of Harrison and State of Mississippi, have invented a new and useful Mail-Bag Catcher, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to certain improvements in mail-bag catchers, and more particularly to an attachment for retaining the bag on the receiving-arm after the same has been delivered from the crane.

The object of the invention is to provide a simple, inexpensive, and efficient device of this character capable of being quickly attached to the supporting-bar of any of the well-known forms of catchers now in use and which will effectively retain the mail-bag in position on the receiving-arm until purposely removed.

The invention consists in the construction and novel combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the claims hereto appended, it being understood that various changes in form, proportion, and minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a portion of a car, showing my improved attachment in position on the catcher-arm. Fig. 2 is a detail perspective view of the attachment removed.

Similar numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in both figures of the drawings.

5 designates a portion of a car, and 6 the doorway through which the mail is delivered and at which the mail is received. Journaled in suitable bearing-brackets 7, secured to the door-jambs, is a supporting rod or shaft 8, to which is secured the usual head 9, provided with a catcher-arm 10 and operating-handle 10'. Mounted on the rod or shaft 8 at a point adjacent the head 9 is a bracket 11, the base of which is provided with a foot 12, having a longitudinally-disposed groove or channel 13 formed therein for the reception of the rod 8,

said bracket being clamped in position on the rod in any suitable manner, as by clips 14. The bracket 11 is provided with a rearwardly-curved arm 15, the end of which is inclined or beveled, as shown at 16, and provided with a groove or channel 17, adapted to receive the inclined edge 18 of the head 9.

Pivoted between a pair of outwardly-projecting ears or lugs 19, preferably formed integral with the bracket 11, is a pawl or locking-trigger 20, one end of which is curved, as shown at 21, and normally closes the passage formed by the catcher-arm 10 and the curved arm 15 of the bracket, the opposite end of the trigger being provided with a suitable handle 22, as shown. A preferably coiled spring 23, one end of which is secured to the trigger at a point adjacent the handle 22, the opposite end thereof being fastened in any suitable manner to the bracket, serves to tilt the curved end of the trigger at the proper angle or inclination. As a means for limiting the downward movement of the trigger-bar and to relieve the pivotal point of excessive strain incident to the delivery of a mail-bag I form the trigger 20 with a notch or recess 24, which engages an angular extension 25 in the bracket 11 and holds the trigger in operative relation to the catcher-arm.

In operation the head carrying the catcher-arm is tilted outwardly, with the receiving end thereof facing the front of the train, and as the train passes the mail-crane (not shown) the arm 10 catches the mail-bag, which is forced rearwardly past the trigger into the passage formed by the arms 10 and 15.

By having the trigger formed with the notch or recess engaging the angular extension on the bracket the inward thrust on the trigger, due to the impact of the mail-bag, is prevented from injuring the pivot-pin, while said trigger is always held at the proper angle or inclination with respect to the catching-arm.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that I have provided an extremely simple and inexpensive attachment capable of being quickly attached to or detached from the supporting rod or shaft and by means of which the mail-bag is effectively retained in position on the catcher-arm.



Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is—

1. The combination with a catcher-arm and its supporting-rod, of a detachable bracket rigidly secured to the supporting-rod, and a spring-actuated locking-trigger carried by the bracket and coöperating with the catcher-arm.

2. The combination with a catcher-arm and its supporting-rod, of a bracket detachably secured to the supporting-rod, and forming a passage between the catcher-arm and said bracket and a spring-actuated locking-trigger pivoted to the bracket and normally closing the entrance to said passage.

3. The combination with a catcher-arm and its supporting-rod, of a bracket detachably secured to the supporting-rod, and forming a passage between the catcher-arm and said bracket, a spring-actuated locking-trigger pivoted to the bracket and normally closing the entrance to said passage, and means for limiting the downward movement of the locking-trigger.

4. The combination with a catcher-arm and its supporting-rod, of a bracket detachably secured to the supporting-rod, ears or lugs formed on the bracket, a locking-trigger pivoted between said ears or lugs, and a spring, one end of which is secured to the bracket, the opposite end thereof being fastened to the locking-trigger.

5. The combination with a catcher-arm and

its supporting-rod, of a bracket provided with an angular extension detachably secured to the supporting-rod, a locking-trigger pivoted to the bracket, and means for yieldably holding the locking-trigger in engagement with the angular extension.

6. The combination with a catcher-arm and its supporting-rod, of a bracket provided with an angular extension detachably secured to the supporting-rod, a locking-trigger pivoted to the bracket, there being a notch or recess formed in one end of said trigger adapted to engage the angular extension of the bracket.

7. The combination with a catcher and its supporting-rod, of a bracket having one end thereof provided with a grooved foot adapted to engage the supporting-rod, the opposite end thereof being inclined or beveled and provided with a groove or channel for the reception of the head of the catcher-arm, ears or lugs formed integral with the bracket, a locking-trigger pivoted between the ears or lugs, and a spring, one end of which is secured to the bracket, the opposite end thereof being fastened to the locking-trigger.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM DUNCAN McCLELLAN.

Witnesses:

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