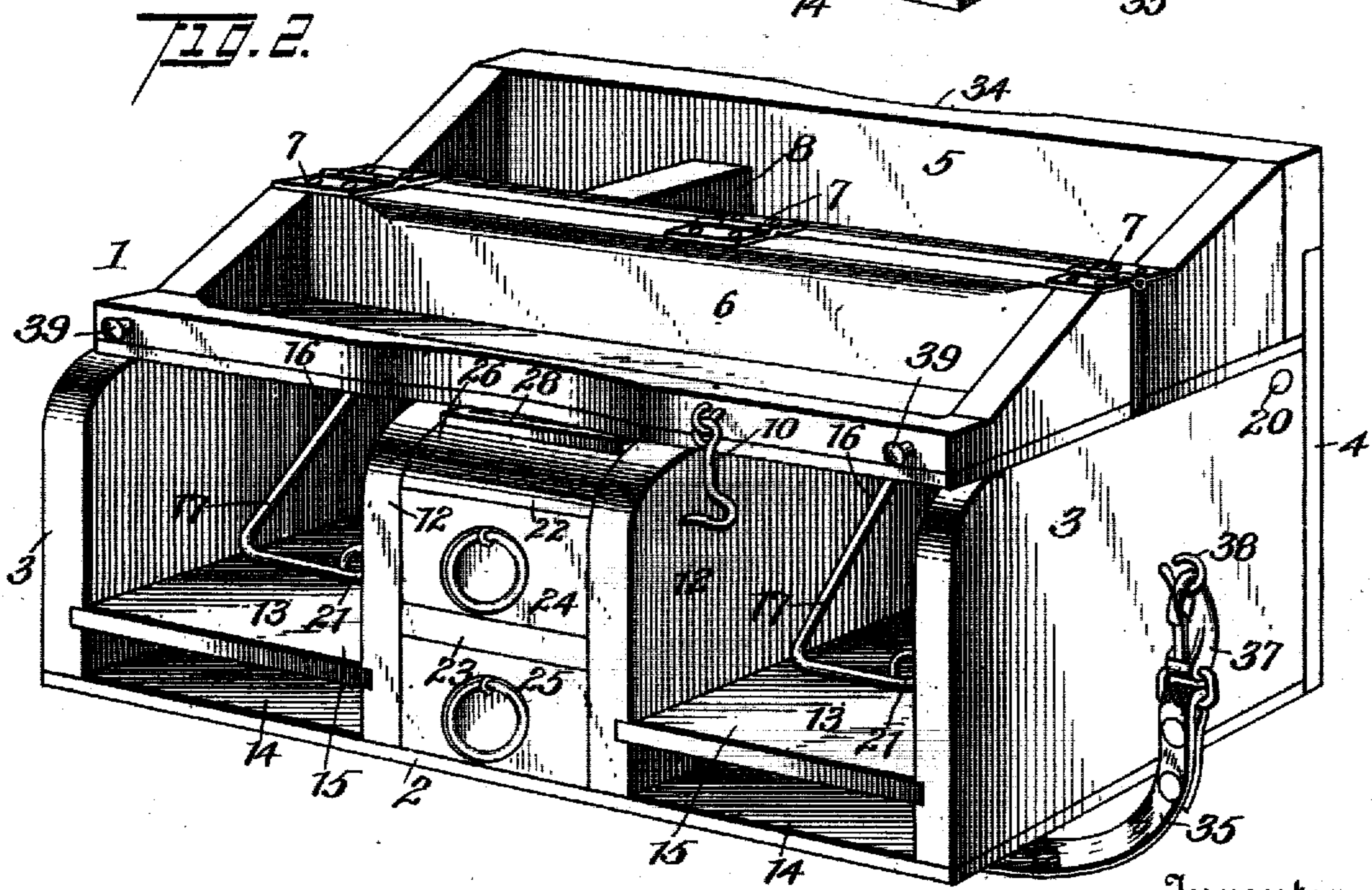
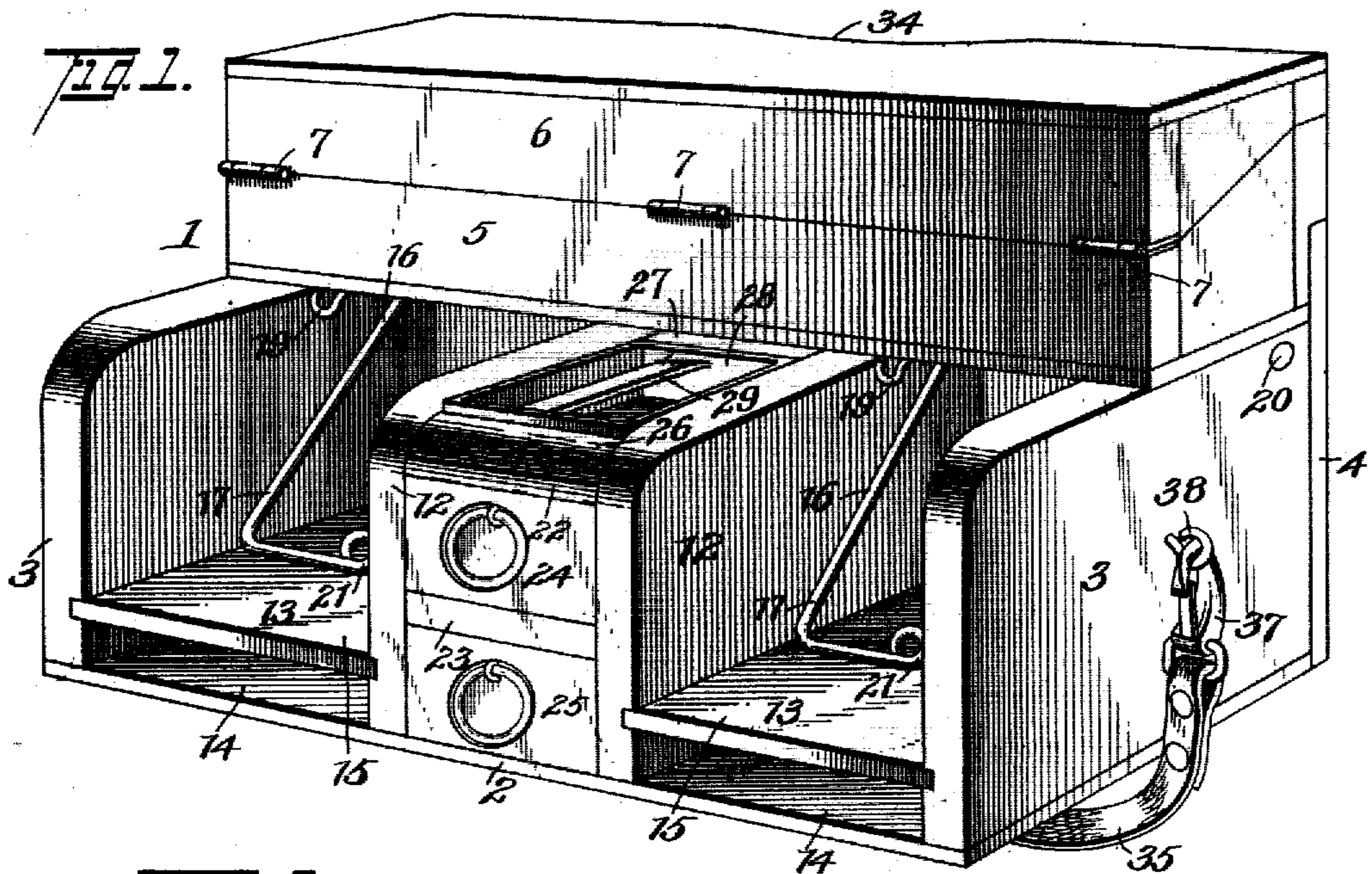


No. 825,456.

PATENTED JULY 10, 1906.

H. D. HACKNEY.
MAIL CARRYING CABINET.
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 7, 1905.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

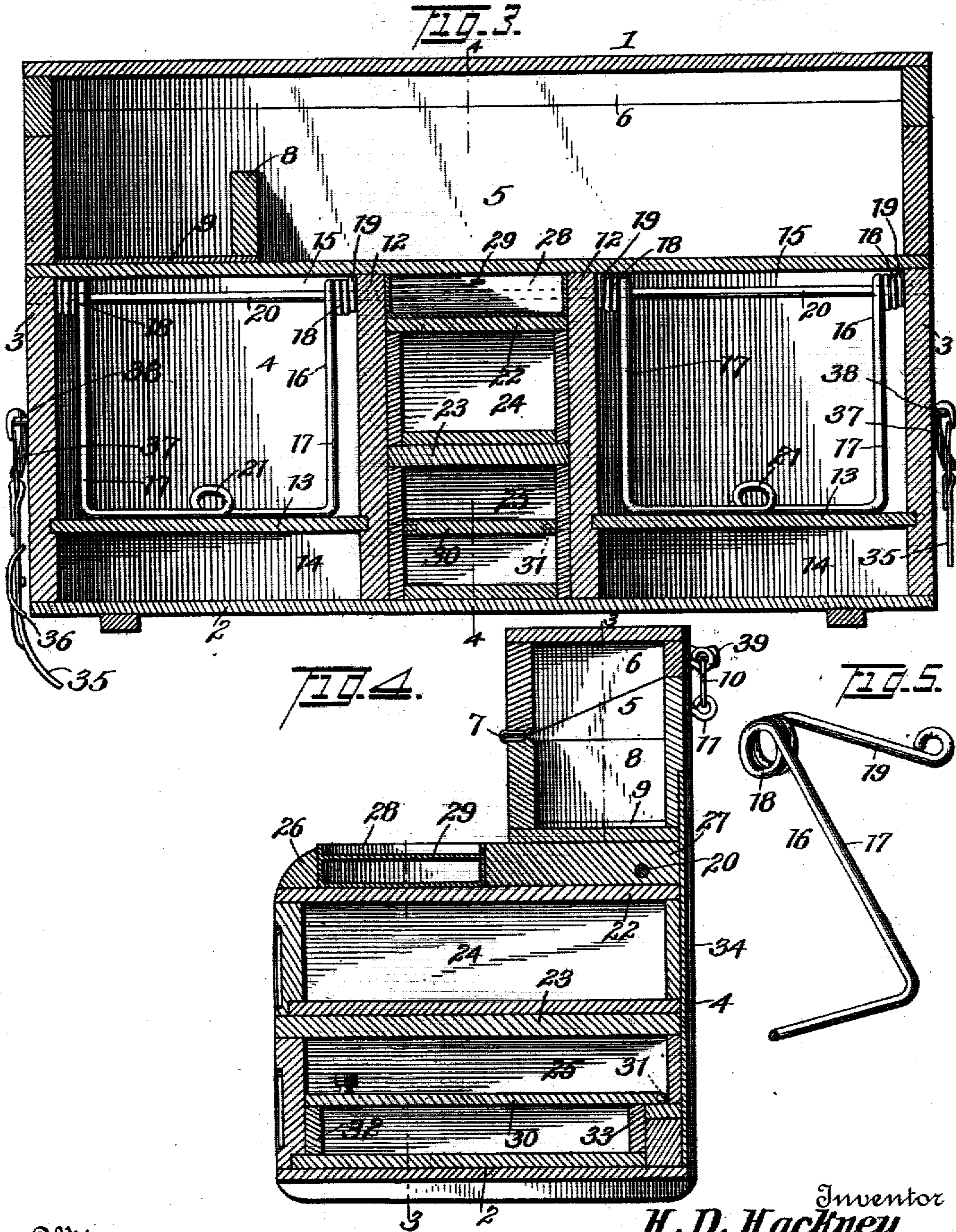


Witnesses
M. C. Lyddane
J. F. Riley

Inventor
H. D. Hackney
By *E. G. Siggers*
Attorney

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3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



Witnesses
W. C. Lyddane
J. J. Riley

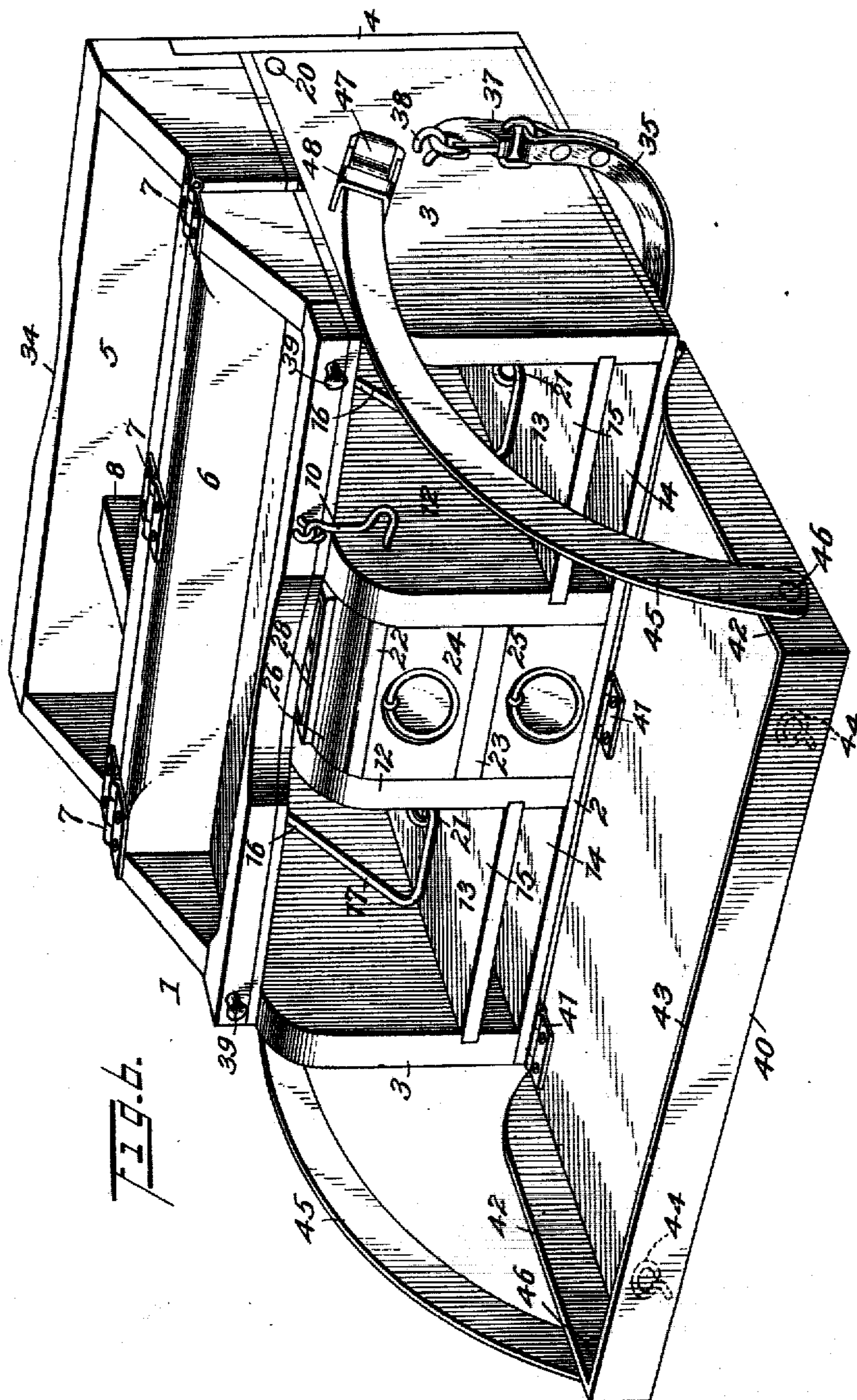
Inventor
H. D. Hackney
By E. G. Singer
Attorney

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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.



H. D. Hackney, Inventor

By *E. G. Siggers*
Attorney

Witnesses
W. C. Lyddane
J. T. Riley

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HIRAM D. HACKNEY, OF SEDGWICK, KANSAS.

MAIL-CARRYING CABINET.

No. 825,456.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 10, 1908.

Application filed December 7, 1905. Serial No. 290,853.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HIRAM D. HACKNEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Sedgwick, in the county of Harvey and State of Kansas, have invented a new and useful Mail-Carrying Cabinet, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to a mail-carrying cabinet for rural routes.

10 The object of the present invention is to improve the construction of mail-carrying devices and to provide a simple and comparatively inexpensive cabinet or casing which will be light, strong, and durable and adapted to be conveniently carried and capable of use in a mail-wagon, common buggy, or other vehicle.

15 A further object of the invention is to provide a cabinet of this character having suitable compartments for holding cash, stamps, postal cards, envelopes, money - order and registered-letter blanks, and the like, and provided also with convenient means for holding the mail for distribution and the mail-matter collected.

20 The invention also has for its object to provide convenient means for enabling the mail-matter for distribution to be conveniently assorted while driving from one point or box to another.

25 With these and other objects in view 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 the form, proportion, size, and minor details of construction within the scope of the claims may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

30 In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a mail-carrying cabinet constructed in accordance with this invention, the top box being closed. Fig. 2 is a similar view, the cover of the top box being opened to provide a receptacle. Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially on the line 3-3 of Fig. 4. Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially on the line 4-4 of Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of one side of one of the upper clamps for holding mail-matter. Fig. 6 is a perspective view showing the mail-carrying cabinet provided with

a hinged front or door, the latter being swung down to form a writing table or desk.

Like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

60 The mail cabinet or casing 1, which is adapted to be placed in a buggy or other vehicle against the dashboard, so as to be within easy reach of a person seated in the vehicle, is provided with a flat horizontal bottom 2 and vertical side walls 3, which are connected at the back by a rear wall 4. The front of the cabinet or casing is open, as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and the rear wall is extended above the side walls, which have mounted upon them a top box 5. The top box 5, which is suitably secured upon the upper edges of the side walls 3 at the rear portion of the cabinet, is also fastened to the extended portion of the rear wall 4; but the latter may be constructed in any other desired manner, as will be readily understood. The box 5, which is oblong, is provided with a cover 6, hinged at the front at 7 and tapered rearwardly, as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The end walls of the body portion of the box are also tapered, and when the cover 6 is swung forward and downward to open the box the receptacles formed by both the cover and the body of the box will be fully exposed and in convenient position for use. The box is designed to hold packages and to receive the mail collected on the route and is provided with a movable or adjustable partition 8, having a bottom plate 9 slidable on the bottom of the box and adapted to maintain the partition 8 in an upright position. The partition 8 may be conveniently moved up against the letters and similar mail-matter collected for supporting the same edgewise within the box in convenient position for handling. The cover when closed is secured by a hook 10 and an eye 11; but any other suitable fastening devices may be employed, as will be readily understood.

100 The cabinet is provided at opposite sides of the center with vertical partitions 12, which are spaced from the side walls and which have their upper edges arranged in the same horizontal plane as the upper edges of the side walls to assist in supporting the box 5. The side spaces between the vertical partitions 12 and the side walls 3 are divided by horizontal partitions 13 into large upper mail-receiving compartments and small

lower assorting-compartments 14, adapted to receive individual mail-matter to enable the same to be assorted and conveniently arranged while the carrier is driving from one box or point to another. The mail-matter is securely held within large mail-receiving compartments 15 by means of clamps 16, which are substantially U-shaped. The clamps 16 consist of transverse engaging portions and sides 17, provided at their upper ends with spring-coils 18 and having arms 19 extending from the coils and engaging the bottom of the box 5. The spring-coils form eyes and are arranged on a pintle-rod 20, which extends across the space between the vertical partitions 12 and the side walls 3 at the back thereof. The clamps extend downward and forward, and the transverse engaging portions are centrally coiled to form loops 21 for enabling them to be readily lifted out of engagement with the mail-matter.

The intermediate space between the vertical partitions 12 is divided by horizontal partitions 22 and 23 into upper and lower compartments for the reception of drawers 24 and 25. The upper partition 22 is spaced from the upper edges of the vertical partitions 12, which are also connected by cross-pieces 26 and 27, arranged on the horizontal partition 22 and spaced apart to provide a recess for the reception of a cash-box 28. The cash-box 28, which is provided with a centrally-arranged handle 29, is removably fitted in the recess and is adapted to be readily lifted out of the same. The top drawer may be conveniently utilized for holding money-order blanks and blanks for registering letters and parcels, and the lower drawer, which is provided with a false bottom 30, is especially adapted for holding stamps, envelopes, postal cards, receipts, and the like. The false bottom is provided at its rear end with suitable pivots 31, and it is supported in its closed position by front and rear transverse bars or cleats 32 and 33.

The back of the cabinet is provided with a centrally-arranged concave face 34 to fit the body of the person carrying it and is adapted to be suspended from the shoulder of the carrier by means of a strap 35, having a buckle 36 for adjusting it and provided at its ends with snap-hooks 37, which engage suitable eyes 38 of the ends of the cabinet. The concave portion may be of any desired depth, and the cabinet may be conveniently constructed of wood or any other suitable material. The box is provided at its rear face with buttons 39 for the attachment of an oil-cloth or other suitable cover for protecting it from the weather. The buttons preferably project from the cover of the box. The mail-carrying cabinet may, as illustrated in Fig. 6 of the drawings, be provided with a hinged front or door 40, designed to be constructed of galvanized sheet metal or other

suitable material and adapted when closed to cover the front of the case and a portion of the top of the same, and thereby obviate the necessity of employing an oil-cloth or other cover, as only a small portion of the top will be left exposed.

The hinged front or door 40 is connected at its inner or lower edge by hinges 41 with the flat horizontal bottom 2 of the cabinet, and it is provided at the side edges and at the upper or outer edge with flanges 42 and 43. The side flanges 42 fit against the sides 3 of the cabinet when the hinged front or door 40 is closed, and the other flange 43 extends inward over the top of the cabinet at the upper edges of the sides 3. When the hinged front or door is swung downward to the position illustrated in Fig. 6 of the drawings, it forms a convenient writing table or desk for making out receipts, money-orders, and the like and for assorting and reassorting the mail.

The hinged front or door may be supported in a horizontal position by suitable chains, (not shown,) eyes 44 being provided for enabling the chains to be readily connected with the door. Curved supporting-bars 45 are preferable. These bars are secured at their outer ends to the side flanges of the hinged front or door by rivets 46 or other suitable fastening devices, and their inner ends, which are provided with suitable stops 47, are extended through openings of guides 48, which are mounted on the mail-carrying cabinet at the ends thereof. These curved supporting-bars and the guides permit the hinged front or door to be readily opened and closed and support the same in a horizontal position.

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

1. A mail-carrying cabinet having spaces or compartments for the reception of mail-matter and provided at the top with a box having a cover hinged at the front and arranged, when open, upon the side walls of the cabinet, whereby it is adapted to serve as an additional compartment.

2. A mail-carrying cabinet provided at the top with a box consisting of a body portion, and a hinged cover supported, when open, by the cabinet to provide an additional compartment.

3. A mail-carrying cabinet provided at the top with a box consisting of a body portion, and a hinged cover supported, when open, by the cabinet to provide an additional compartment, said body portion and cover being reversely tapered.

4. A mail-carrying cabinet, comprising a bottom, side and rear walls, vertical partitions mounted on the bottom of the cabinet and spaced apart, horizontal partitions connecting the vertical partitions and forming drawer-receiving spaces, cross-pieces connect-

ing the partitions and forming a recess, and a removable receptacle mounted in the recess.

5 A mail-carrying cabinet, comprising a bottom, side and rear walls, vertical partitions mounted on the bottoms and having
their upper edges in the same plane as the upper edges of the side walls, a box mounted on the side walls and the partitions and having
a hinged cover arranged to be supported by
10 the said side walls and partitions, horizontal partitions arranged in the spaces between

the vertical partitions and the side walls, and a plurality of drawers mounted between the vertical partitions.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as 15
my own I have hereto affixed my signature
in the presence of two witnesses.

HIRAM D. HACKNEY.

Witnesses:

S. M. SPANGLER,
S. R. McARTHUR.