

No. 833,856.

PATENTED OCT. 23, 1906.

H. TERSTEGGE.
MAIL BOX.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 29, 1905.

Fig. 1.

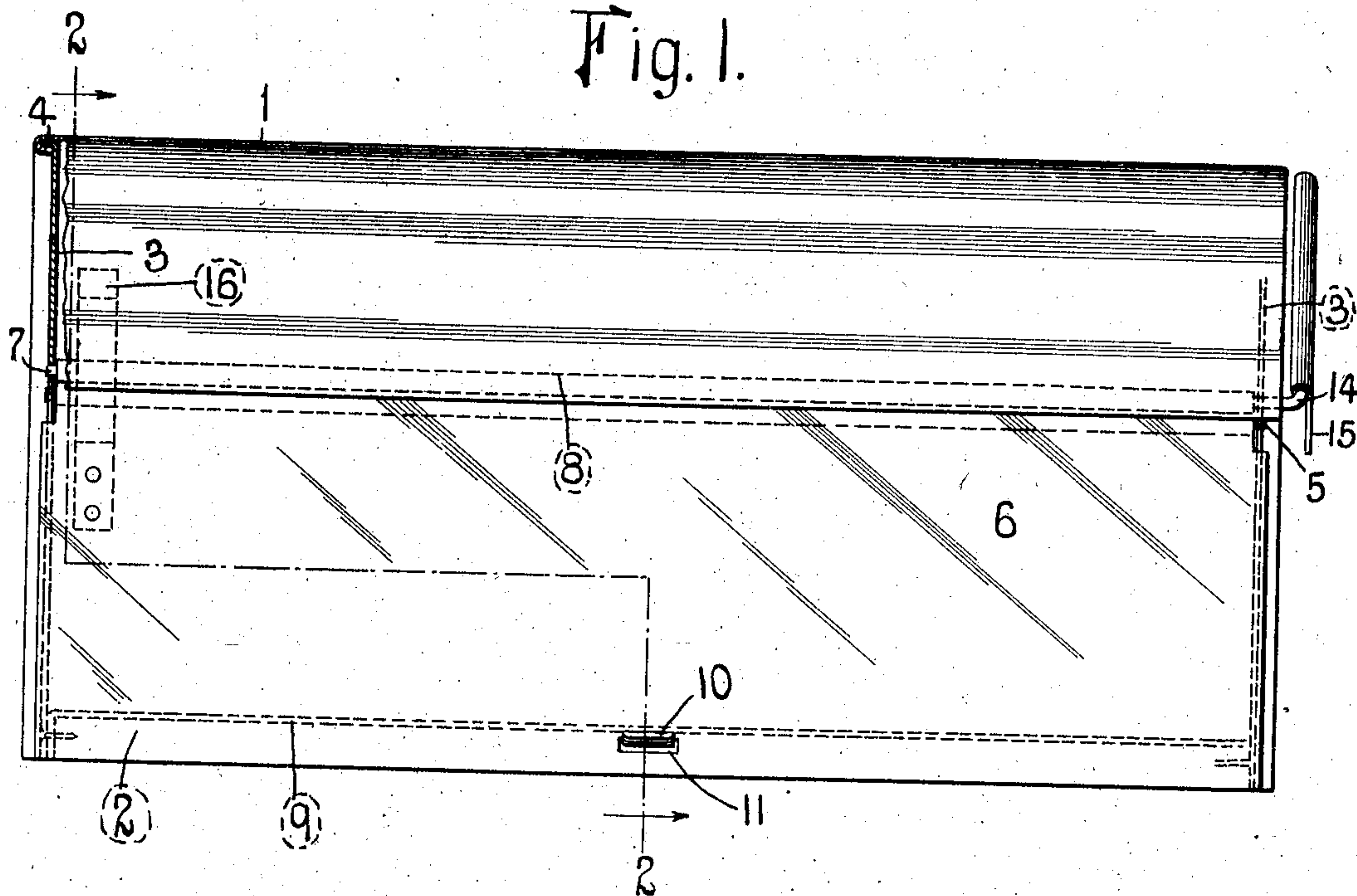
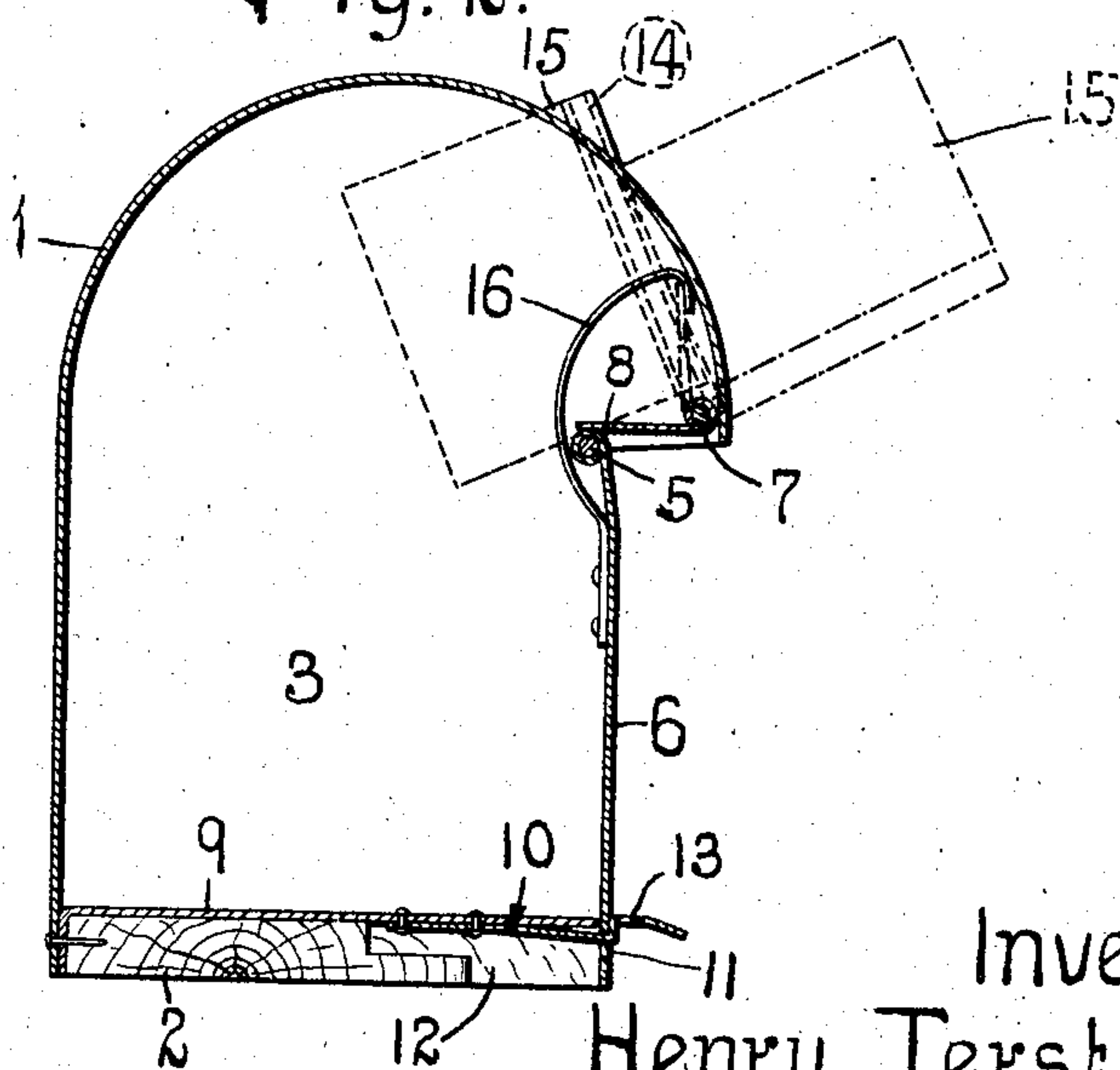


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY TERSTEGGE, OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA.

MAIL-BOX.

No. 833,856.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 23, 1906.

Application filed December 29, 1905. Serial No. 293,775.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY TERSTEGGE, a citizen of the United States, residing at New Albany, Indiana, have invented a certain
5 new and useful Improvement in Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had
10 to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of a mail-box embodying the features of my invention, and Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional
15 view taken on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1.

This invention relates to mail-boxes, and particularly to mail-boxes that are used for the rural free delivery.

One of the objects of my invention is to
20 provide a mail-box having a mail-receiving opening and a mail-discharge opening extending approximately the full length of the box, said box being also provided with a projecting canopy which protects the mail-receiving
25 opening and also the front of the box from direct contact with the weather.

Another object of my invention is to provide a mail-box having a signal which is moved automatically into operative position
30 whenever mail is deposited in the box and which is returned automatically into inoperative position whenever the door of the box is opened to remove the mail.

Other desirable features of my invention
35 will be hereinafter pointed out.

Referring to the drawings, which represent the preferred form of my invention, 1 designates a plate that forms the back and the top of the box. The bottom of the box consists
40 of a plate 9, to which the plate 1 is attached, and also the plates 3, which form the end walls of the box, said plates being preferably formed of sheet metal. The end plates are provided with flanges 4, and the end edges of
45 the plate 1 are bent around said flanges, as shown in Fig. 1, to form a tight joint. While I have herein shown the end walls of the box as consisting of separate plates, it should be understood that the end walls and top could
50 be formed of a single plate. The end walls support a rod 5, which acts as a hinge for the plate 6, that forms a door which extends the full length of the box, and said end walls also support a rock-shaft 7, having rigidly con-
55 nected thereto a plate 8, which forms a closure for the mail-opening, the plate 1 being of

the form shown in Fig. 2 and extending some distance beyond the door 6, so that a canopy is provided which protects the hinge of the door from direct contact with the weather, 60 and thus prevents snow and ice forming thereon and also protects the door which forms the front of the box and which usually has the name of the owner stamped thereon. This device for sheltering the mail-opening and 65 also the front of the box is one of the most desirable features of my invention, as it prevents the closure for the mail-receiving opening and also the closure for the discharge-opening from freezing tight in extremely cold and 70 sleety weather. As the door is protected, it will not become covered with snow or ice, which would obliterate the owner's name stamped thereon and cause it to soon wear off. The mail-receiving opening and the 75 mail-discharge opening, which, as previously stated, extend the full length of the box, enable large packages—such, for example, as magazines—to be placed in the box and also facilitates the removal of the contents of the 80 box. Preferably the bottom plate 9 has fastened thereto a spring-catch 10, which engages the edge of a recess 11 in the door and retains it in its closed position. The box is mounted on a board 2, which is adapted to 85 be fastened to a post or other support, and said board has a recess 12 formed therein to provide for the movement of the catch, the catch being provided with an opening 13 for receiving a padlock or other suitable fasten- 90 ing device. (Not shown.) The right-hand end of the rock-shaft 7 is provided with an extension 14, having attached thereto a plate 15, which constitutes a signal. When the closure-plate 8 is in its normal position for 95 closing the mail-opening in the box, formed by the projecting portion of the plate 1, the edge portion of said closure-plate rests upon the upper edge of the door 6, and the signal occupies its inoperative position, as shown in 100 dotted lines in Fig. 2.

The operation of inserting a piece of mail in the mail-opening in the box causes the closure-plate to be rocked upwardly, and thereby automatically moving the signal 105 into its operative position, (shown by dot-and-dash lines in Fig. 2,) and thus either notifying the owner of the box that mail has been deposited therein or else notifying the mail-carrier that the owner of the box has placed 110 some mail therein which he desires to have collected, the weight of said signal and clo-

sure-plate retaining the closure-plate in its open position and the signal in its operative position. When the signal is in its operative position, the closure-plate 8 will engage a hook 16, fastened to the door 6, so that as said door is swung outwardly to permit the mail to be removed from the box said hook will engage the closure-plate and will move it downwardly to restore it to normal position, thereby automatically moving the signal back into its inoperative position.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that I have produced a mail-box which is of very simple construction, which has a canopy for protecting mail-receiving and mail-discharge openings, and which is provided with a signal that is moved automatically into and out of operative position, so that a great deal of time is saved to the mail-carrier, as no additional movement is required to throw the signal into or out of position.

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

1. A mail-box provided with a top which extends some distance beyond the front wall of the box to form a canopy and a mail-receiving opening extending the full length of the box, a movable plate for covering said opening, a mail-discharge opening extending the full length of the box, and a door for said opening, said canopy protecting the plate for the mail-receiving opening and also said door from direct contact with the weather; substantially as described.

2. A mail-box provided with a closure-plate and a door, a signal connected to said closure-plate and adapted to be moved into one position whenever said closure-plate is opened, and a hook on said door for engaging said closure-plate to move the signal into a different position as said door is opened; substantially as described.

3. A mail-box provided with a closure-plate, a signal which is moved into one position as said closure-plate is opened, a door, and means carried by said door for returning the closure-plate to its closed position and

also moving the signal into a different position when said door is opened; substantially as described.

4. A mail-box provided with a closure-plate, a signal connected to said plate and adapted to move therewith, a door, and means carried by said door for engaging the closure-plate when it is open and moving it into its closed position as the door is opened; substantially as described.

5. A mail-box having end walls, a door fulcrumed on a rod carried by said walls, a rock-shaft carried by said end walls and having a closure-plate rigidly connected thereto, a signal connected to said rod and occupying one position when the closure-plate is open, and means carried by said door for engaging the closure-plate and rocking it downwardly whenever said door is opened; substantially as described.

6. A mail-box having end walls, a door pivotally connected to said walls, a plate forming the back and top of said box and extending beyond said door to form a mail-opening, a closure-plate for said opening secured to a rock-shaft that is journaled in said end walls, and a signal secured to said rock-shaft substantially as described.

7. A mail-box having a bottom and provided with end walls, a door pivotally connected to said end walls, a plate forming the back and top of said box and extending beyond the door to form a mail-opening, a closure-plate carried by a rock-shaft for closing said opening, a signal fastened to said shaft and adapted to be moved into one position whenever the closure-plate is rocked upwardly, a hook carried by the door for engaging the closure-plate and rocking it downwardly whenever the door is moved outwardly, and means for holding the door closed; substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature, in the presence of two witnesses, this 9th day of December, 1905.

HENRY TERSTEGGE.

Witnesses:

J. M. STUTZ,
F. J. THOBEN.