No. 833,879. PATENTED OCT. 23, 1906.

L. W. HOMIRE.

MAIL BOX.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 29, 1905.

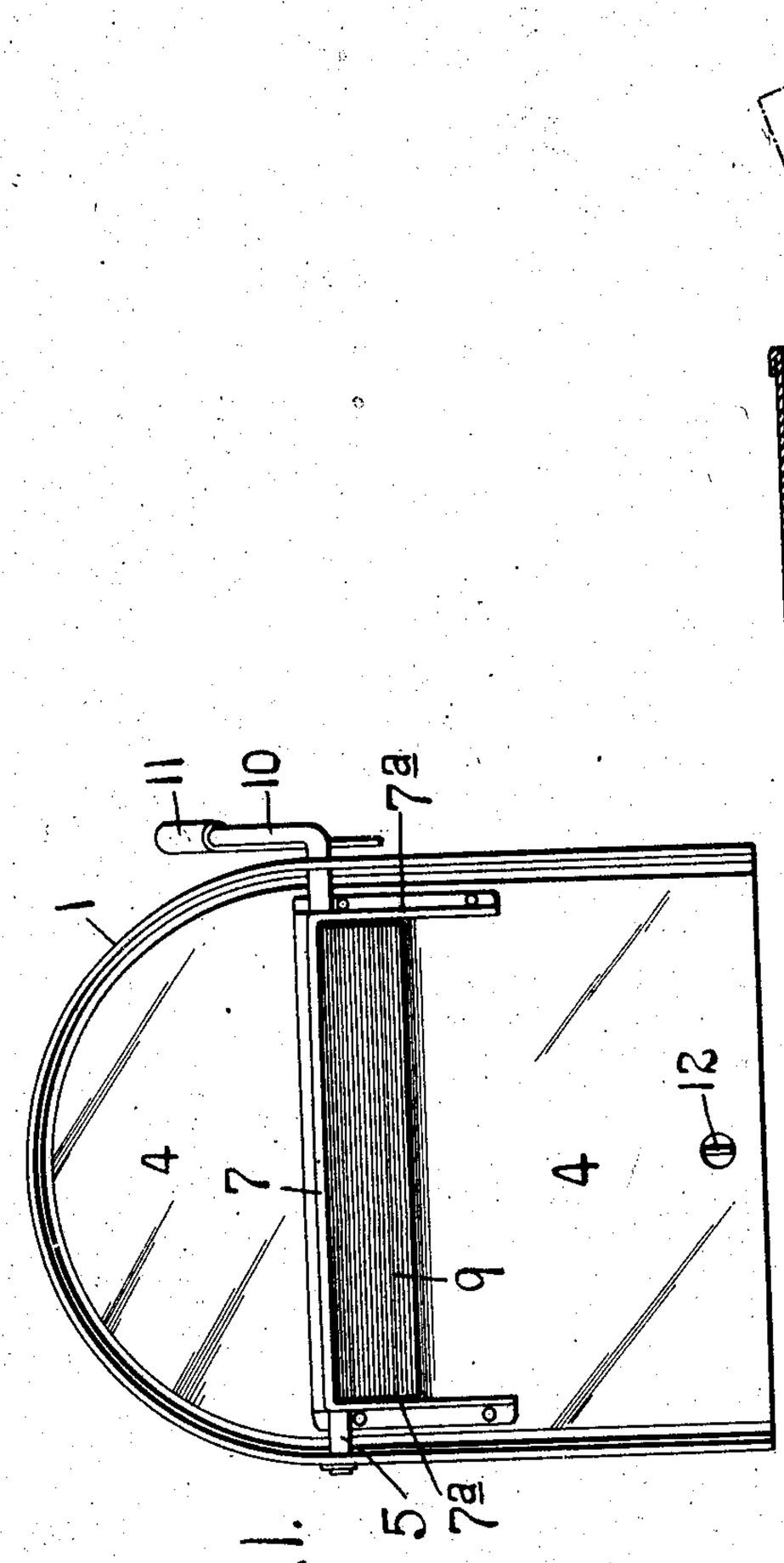

Fig. 1.

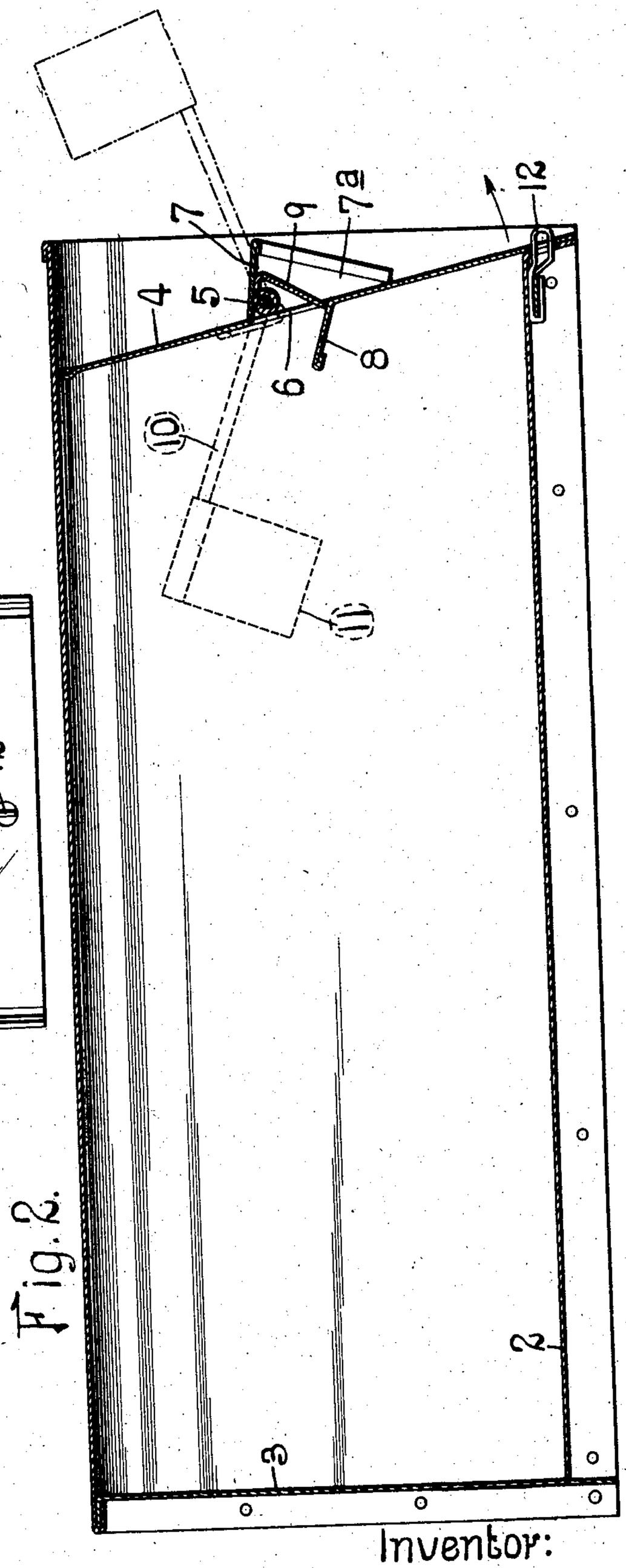

Fig. 2.

Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEVERETT W. HOMIRE, OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, ASSIGNOR TO HENRY TERSTEGGE, OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA.

MAIL-BOX.

No. 833,879. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 23, 1906.

Application filed December 29, 1905. Serial No. 293,790.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEVERETT W. HOMIRE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Louisville, Kentucky, have invented a certain 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 to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is an end view of a mail-box embodying the features of my invention, and Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the box shown in Fig. 1.

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

One of the objects of my invention is to provide a mail-box of simple construction which is provided with a signal that is moved automatically into and out of operative position in a novel manner.

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

Referring to the drawings, which represent the preferred form of my invention, 1 designates a plate that comprises the side walls and the top of the box, and 2 designates the bottom of the box. One end wall of the box is formed by the plate 3, and the other end wall of the box is formed by the door 4, which is oscillatingly mounted on a rod 5, journaled in the side walls of the box. The plates from which the box is formed preferably consist of sheet metal and are joined together in a suitable manner to make the box water-tight. A mail-opening 6 is formed in the door 4 and is partially surrounded by a hood 7, that is connected to the door, the side flanges 7^a of said hood being provided with openings to receive the rod 5, and thereby act as the means for connecting the door to the said rod. The door is provided at the lower edge of the mail-opening with an inwardly and upwardly projecting plate 8, which coöperates with the closure-plate 9 to prevent rain or snow from leaking through the mail-opening. The closure-plate 9 is rigidly connected to the rock-shaft 5, and one end of said shaft has an arm 10, which carries a signal 11. When the closure-plate is down, as shown in full lines in Figs. 1 and 2, the signal will occupy its inoperative position, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2; but when the closure-plate is raised, as shown in dot-and-dash lines in Fig. 2, to insert a piece of mail in the mail-opening the signal will be moved automatically into its operative position. Shown in dot-and-dash lines in Fig. 2. The weight of the signal will cause it to remain in this position, and thus either notify the owner of the box that the box contains some mail for him or notify the mail-carrier that there is some mail in the box to be collected.

As shown in dot-and-dash lines in Fig. 2, when the signal is in its operative position the closure-plate will contact with the inner face of the upper portion of the door 4, so that as the lower portion of said door is swung outwardly in the direction of the arrow in Fig. 2 to remove the mail from the box the upper portion of the door will be moved inwardly and accordingly will engage the closure-plate and swing it downwardly to normal position, thereby automatically returning the signal to inoperative position.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that I have devised a mail-box having a signal which is operated in a simple manner, so that the box can be manufactured at a small cost. Preferably the door is inclined relatively to the bottom of the box so that its upper end is located some distance inwardly from the edge of the plate that forms the side walls and the top of the box. The bottom of the box is provided with an eye 12, that projects through an opening in the door 4 to enable said door to be locked by a padlock or other suitable device. (Not shown.)

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 closure-plate for a mail-receiving opening, and a signal rigidly connected to said closure-plate and adapted to move therewith; substantially as described.

2. A mail-box provided with a closure-plate for a mail-receiving opening, a signal rigidly connected to said closure-plate and adapted to move therewith, and a door which upon being moved outwardly engages the closure-plate and moves it into its closed position; substantially as described.

3. A mail-box provided with a closure-plate for a mail-receiving opening, and a sig-

nal rigidly connected to said closure-plate and adapted to move therewith, the weight of said signal retaining the closure-plate in its open or closed position; substantially as described.

4. A mail-box provided with a door having a mail-receiving opening therein, a rock-shaft on which said door is mounted, a closure-plate rigidly connected to said shaft for closing said opening, and a signal connected to said rock-shaft and adapted to move into one position as said closure-plate is opened, said plate being engaged by the door when it is swung outwardly whereby said plate is closed and the signal moved into a different position; substantially as described.

5. A mail-box having a door located in one end thereof, said door being provided with a mail-receiving opening, a rock-shaft, means on said door for pivotally connecting it to the rock-shaft, a closure-plate rigidly connected to said rock-shaft for closing said opening, and a signal connected to said rock-shaft which moves into one position as said closure-plate is opened, said plate when opened engaging the upper portion of the door so that as the lower portion of said door swings outwardly the upper portion thereof will engage the closure-plate and move it into its closed position, thereby moving the signal into a different position; substantially as described.

6. A mail-box provided with a door having a mail-receiving opening, a hood partially surrounding said opening, a rock-shaft journaled in said hood, a closure-plate rigidly connected to said rock-shaft and coöperating with an inwardly-projecting plate at the lower edge of the mail-opening, and a signal connected to said rock-shaft; substantially as described

7. A mail-box, comprising a bottom, a single plate forming the side walls and the top of the box, an end wall, a door forming the other end wall of the box and inclined inwardly, a rock-shaft mounted in the side walls of the box and having a closure-plate rigidly connected thereto which closes a mail-opening formed in the door, means for pivotally connecting the door to said rock-shaft, and a signal connected to said rock-shaft and adapted to be moved into one position as the closure-plate is opened and into a different position as the door is opened; substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature, in the presence of two witnesses, this 23d day of December, 1905.

LEVERETT W. HOMIRE.

Witnesses:
J. N. CLEMENS, Jr.,
F. M. STEEL.