

O. O. AYRES.  
MAIL BAG CATCHER.  
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915,652.

Patented Mar. 16, 1909.

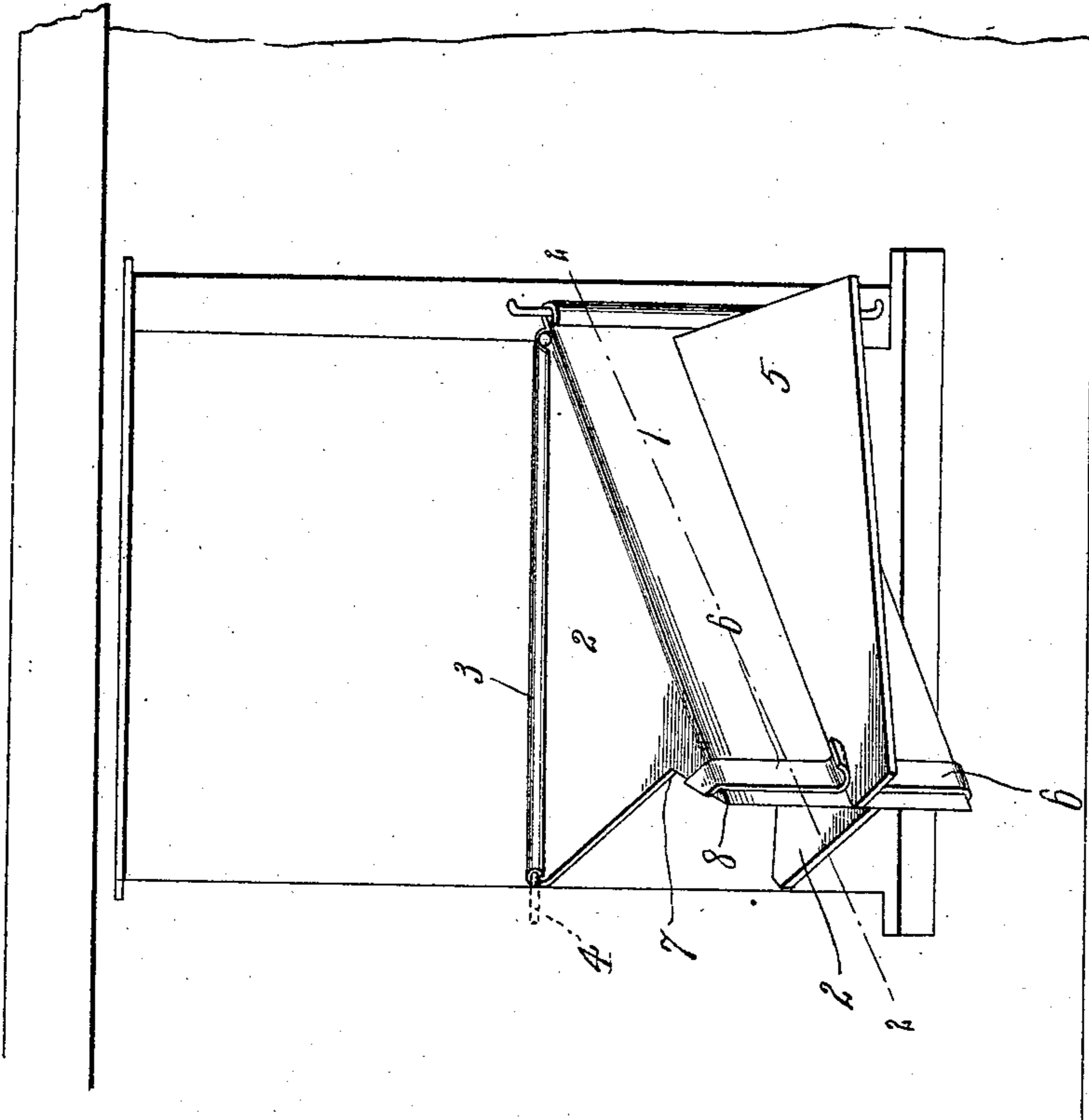
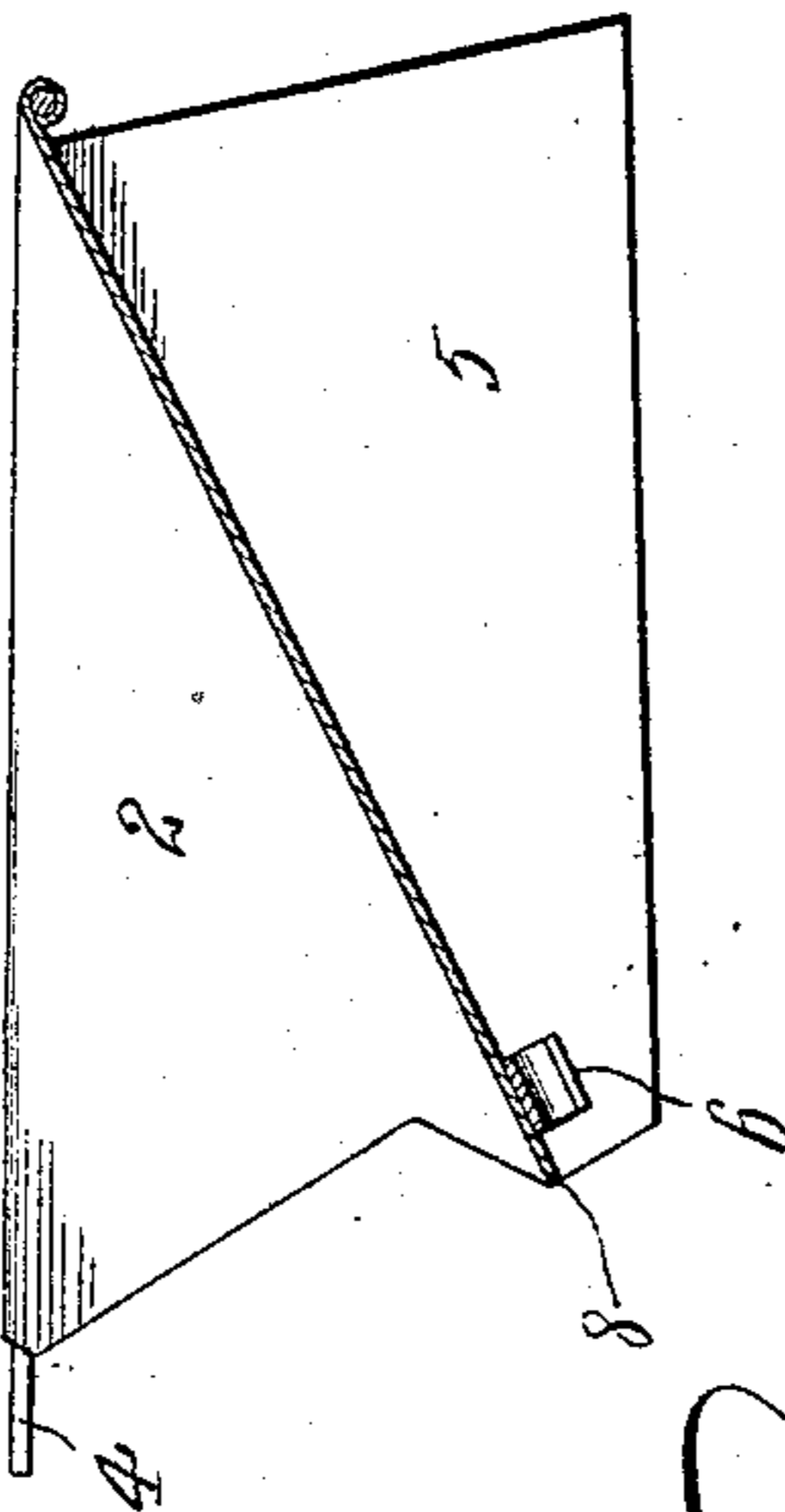


Fig. 2



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## MAIL-BAG CATCHER.

No. 915,652.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 16, 1909.

Original application filed March 27, 1908, Serial No. 423,685. Divided and this application filed August 3, 1908. Serial No. 446,712.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, OSCAR O. AYRES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Olathe, in the county of Johnson, State of Kansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bag Catchers; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

The present invention relates to improvements in mail-bag catchers, and more particularly to a catcher designed for attachment to a mail car and for use in connection with a station-located receiving and delivering apparatus of the type shown and described in my prior application, hereinafter identified, of which application, this case is a division, the principal object of this invention being the provision of an exceedingly simple, inexpensive and efficient catcher arranged for attachment to the car in such a manner as to permit of its reversal and operation irrespective of the direction in which the car is traveling.

Briefly described, the catcher is in the form of a vertical plate pivoted at one end to the frame of the car door and provided with a horizontal shelf upon which the bag is adapted to rest prior to its removal by the apparatus located at the receiving station, said plate having its upper and lower edges bent laterally into the form of triangular wings whose forward sides are notched, so as to cooperate with the adjacent end of the plate in producing an arm adapted to remove the bag from the above-mentioned station-located apparatus.

The preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which corresponding parts are designated by the same reference numerals throughout both views.

Of the said drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved catcher. Fig. 2 is a horizontal section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

The catcher, as shown, comprises a vertical plate 1 designed to be pivoted at one end to the adjacent side of the frame of the car door, such arrangement permitting pivotal movement of the catcher bodily in a horizontal plane. The upper and lower edges of the

plate are bent laterally to form horizontal triangular wings 2 which project toward the interior of the car, the inner edge of each wing being provided with a bead 3 adapted to receive a rod 4 which projects beyond the same at its forward end, as shown, and forms a stop which is designed to contact with the opposite side of the door frame, thus limiting the outward movement of the catcher, and disposing the plate 1 at an acute angle to the plane of the car side, as will be apparent.

The outer face of the plate 1 has secured thereto between its upper and lower edges in any preferred manner, a horizontal triangular shelf 5, whose width is greatest at its rear end. This shelf is adapted to support the mail-bag to be removed by the catcher (not shown) at the receiving station, the ring carried by the bag at one end thereof being held in position for engagement by the catcher hook by means of a spring strap 6 secured at its outer end to each wing and having its inner end bent outwardly. There are, as stated, two of such straps, one or the other of which is utilized, according to the direction in which the car is traveling, the pivotal connection between the plate and door frame being such that said plate may be removed from one side thereof, reversed, and subsequently attached to the other side. The forward edge of each of the wings is provided with an inwardly-extending V-shaped notch 7, the forward edge of the plate cooperating with the adjacent portions of said wings to form a forwardly-extending vertical shoulder 8 which is thus spaced away from the rear walls of the notches 7 and is adapted to remove the bag from the crane at the receiving station as the train passes thereby. It will therefore be obvious that during the passage of the train past the receiving station, the mail-bag resting upon the shelf 5 will be removed by the catcher located at the station, while the shoulder 8 will remove from the crane arms, the bag to be delivered to the train.

The apparatus located at the receiving station, has not been illustrated in this application, inasmuch as it forms the subject of a separate application filed March 27, 1908, Serial Number 423,685, of which application this case is a division.

What is claimed is:

1. A mail-bag catcher, comprising a

swinging plate; a laterally-projecting shelf carried thereby; and a depending strap secured to said plate and provided with an out-turned lower end, for positioning the ring of a mail-bag disposed upon said shelf.

2. A mail-bag catcher, comprising a swinging vertical plate provided at its upper and lower edges with inwardly directed triangular wings, to effect the disposition of said plate at an angle to the plane of its support; a horizontal shelf secured to the outer face of said plate; and a depending strap secured to said plate and having its lower end outbent, to position the ring of a mail-bag disposed upon said shelf.

3. A mail-bag catcher, comprising a vertical plate pivoted at one of its side edges and provided at its top and bottom edges with rearwardly-projecting horizontal wings, each of said wings having its forward edges notched, to cooperate with the other side edge of said plate in forming a bag-removing arm.

4. A mail-bag catcher, comprising an angularly-disposed vertical plate pivoted at its rear edge and provided at its top and bottom

edges with inwardly-extending triangular horizontal wings, the forward edge of each wing being provided with an inwardly-directed V-shaped notch, to cooperate with the forward edge of said plate in forming a bag-removing arm.

5. A mail-bag catcher, comprising an angularly-disposed vertical plate pivoted at its rear edge for swinging movement in a horizontal plane, and provided at its top and bottom edges with inwardly-extending horizontal triangular wings, the forward edge of each wing having an inwardly-extending V-shaped notch formed therein, to cooperate with the forward edge of said plate in forming a bag-removing arm; and a laterally-projecting horizontal shelf secured to the outer face of said plate and disposed longitudinally thereof.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

OSCAR O. AYRES.

Witnesses:

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