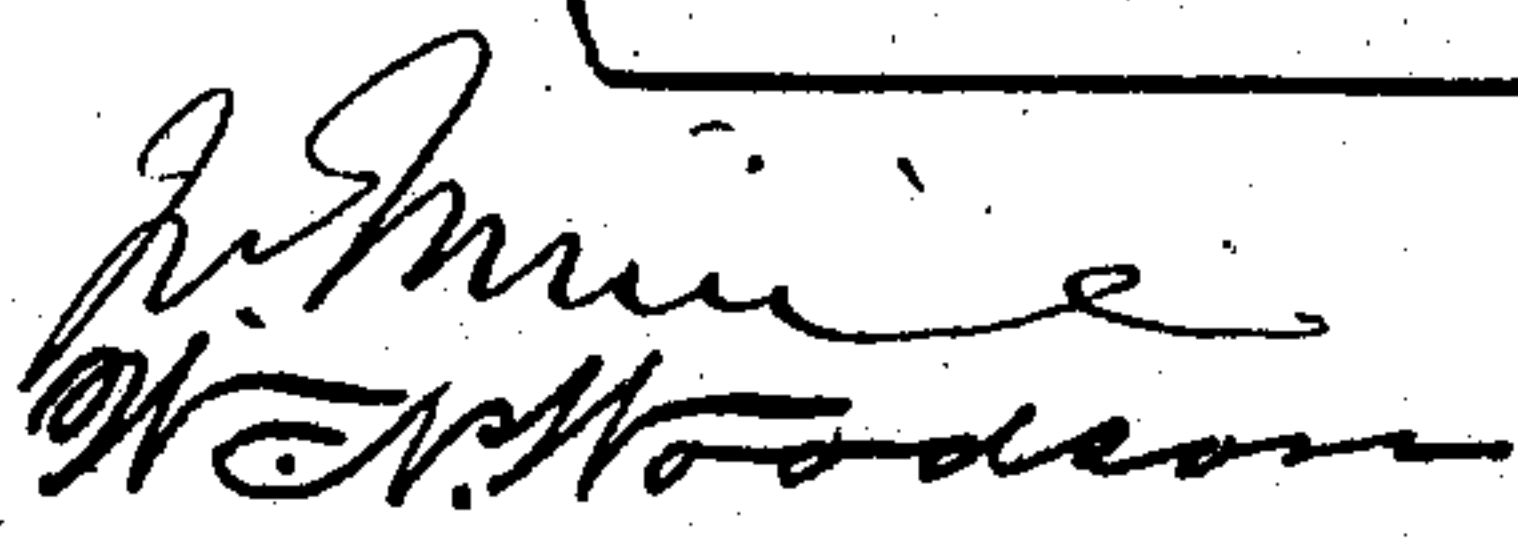


MAIL BOX SIGNAL.

915,837.

Patented Mar. 23, 1909.



W. H. Racy, Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MAIL-BOX SIGNAL.

No. 915,837.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 23, 1909.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HORACE C. FLETCHER, citizen of the United States, residing at Rock Creek, in the county of Ashtabula and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Box Signals, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to an improved signal which is designed to be employed in connection with mail boxes such as are utilized on rural free delivery routes to indicate whether or not mail has been deposited in the box.

The object of the invention is the provision of a signal device of this character which will be automatically set in an operative position when the box is open and which is so constructed that it can not be blown into an inoperative position by the wind or otherwise accidentally displaced previous to the removal of the mail.

For a full understanding of the invention and the merits thereof and also to acquire a knowledge of the details of construction and the means for effecting the result, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a mail box provided with a signal embodying the invention, the box being closed and the signal being locked in an operative position. Fig. 2 is an end view of the box with the cover thereof swung upwardly into an open position. Fig. 3 is a similar view, the box being closed and the signal plate being swung downwardly into an inoperative position.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 1 designates a mail box which may be of any suitable construction and is designed to be supported by a post or like member. This box is provided with a swinging closure 2 which is hinged to the back of the box as indicated at 3. Pivottally mounted upon one end of the box is a signal plate 4 which may be swung upwardly into an operative position so as to project above the box or downwardly into an inoperative position. A flange 5 projects from the signal plate 4 at right angles thereto and this flange renders the signal plainly visible from all directions.

A pair of links 6 connect the signal plate to

the swinging closure 2, the links being pivoted to each other at 7 and one of the links being pivoted to the cover at 8 while the opposite link is pivoted to the signal plate at 9. When the cover is swung upwardly to open the box the links 6 serve to move the signal plate in an operative position, a stop pin 10 being provided for limiting the movement of the signal plate. When the cover 2 to the box is closed the links 6 are doubled upon themselves and a spring member 11 upon the cover frictionally engages the signal plate to retain it in an operative position. When the mail has been removed from the box the signal plate is swung downwardly into an inoperative position, the stop pin 10 serving to limit the downward swinging movement of the signal plate so as to prevent the production of a dead center between the links and the signal plate. It will thus be obvious that with the present construction the signal plate will be automatically moved into an operative position when the box is opened to deposit mail therein, and will be securely held in such position by the spring member so that it cannot be accidentally displaced or moved into an inoperative position previous to the removal of the mail.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. The combination of a mail box, a swinging closure for the mail box, a signal plate pivottally mounted upon one side of the mail box, a pair of links pivottally connected to each other, one of the links being connected to the closure while the opposite link is connected to the signal plate and the said links serving to move the signal plate into an operative position when the closure is opened, and means for holding the signal plate in an operative position.

2. The combination of a mail box, a swinging closure for the mail box, a signal plate pivottally mounted upon one side of the mail box, a stop for limiting the movement of the signal plate, a spring member upon the closure for engaging the signal plate to hold it in an operative position, and a pair of pivottally connected links connecting the signal plate and the closure for moving the latter into an operative position when the box is opened.

3. The combination of a mail box, a swinging closure for the mail box, a signal plate pivottally mounted upon one side of the mail box, a pair of pivottally connected links con-

necting the closure and the signal plate for
moving the latter into an operative position
when the box is opened, a stop limiting both
the upward and downward movement of the
5 signal plate and preventing the signal plate
from being swung into such a position as to
produce a dead center with respect to the
links, and a spring member upon the closure

for frictionally engaging the signal plate to
hold it in an operative position. 10

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

HORACE C. FLETCHER. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

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ANNA AMIDON.