B. F. TROUP.

MAIL BAG CATCHER AND DELIVERER.

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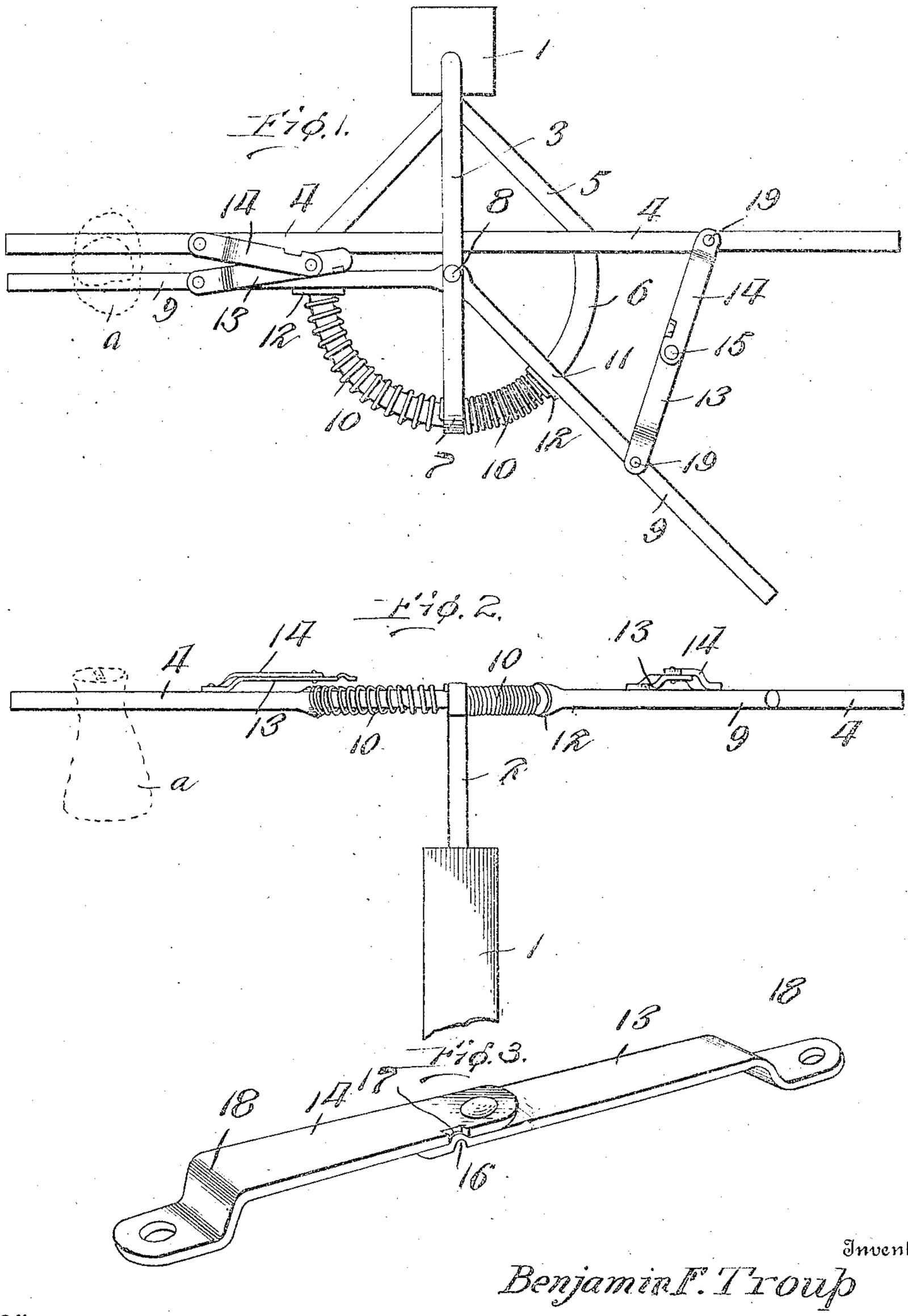

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Witnesses

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BENJAMIN F. TROUP, OF MONROE, IOWA.

MAIL-BAG CATCHER AND DELIVERER.

No. 920,695 Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 4, 1909.

Application filed October 2, 1908. Serial No. 455,791.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN F. TROUP, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Monroe, in the county of Jasper and State of Iowa, have invented new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bag Catchers and Deliverers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to mail bag catchers and deliverers, and one of the principal objects of the same is to provide simple and efficient means for catching a mail bag from a moving train and delivering a bag at the same time by means of a simple device pivoted to a post to carry a bag at one end to be delivered to the mail car and having the opposite end ready to catch a bag suspended from the crane upon the car.

Another object of the invention is to provide a reversible device which may be readily turned upon the supporting post to catch a mail bag coming from either direction upon a mail car and to deliver a bag at the same time.

These and other objects may be attained by means of the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which,—

Figure 1 is a plan view of a mail bag catcher and deliverer made in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a detail perspective view of the pivoted links for holding the jaws open.

Referring to the drawing, the numeral 1 designates a post to be driven into the ground between the car tracks. Pivotally mounted in the upper end of the post 1 is a standard 2, said standard having a horizontal arm 3 projecting from its upper end. Secured to said horizontal arm 3 is a supporting bar 4, and diagonal braces 5 extend from the horizontal arm to said supporting bar to hold it firmly in place. Extending from the supporting bar 4 is a semi-circular spring support 6, said support being circular in cross section. The outer end of the arm 3 is provided with an eye 7 through which the spring support 6 passes.

Pivoted at 8 to the arm 3 are the independent holding members 9, and encircling the spring support 6 upon opposite sides of the eye 7 are the springs 10. The members 9 are provided with eyes 11 through which the spring support 6 passes, and a washer 12 upon said spring support bears against the eye 11, as shown in Fig. 1. Pivoted links 13, 14 are connected to the support 4 and to the member 9, said links being pivotally connected together at 15 and the link 13 being provided with a projection 16 which engages a notch or recess 17 in the link 14. These links are offset, as at 18, and are pivoted at 19 to the support 4 and to the member 9.

The operation of my invention may be briefly described as follows:—The standard 2 may be swung upon the post 1 to project in either direction depending upon which way the train is coming to deliver and receive a mail bag. The open jaws consisting of the support 4 and the member 9 are held in position to receive a mail bag from the car by the pivoted links 13 and 14 swung into the position shown at the right of Fig. 1, while a mail bag *a* shown in dotted lines in Figs. 1 and 2 is held between the members 4 and 9, as shown at the left of Figs. 1 and 2. When the mail bag strikes the links 13 and 14, they are swung inwardly, and the member 9 is closed against the bag to hold it between itself and the support 4, while at the same time the mail bag *a* is carried out of the delivering end of the device.

From the foregoing, it will be obvious that my invention is of simple construction; can be swung to either side of the post; that a mail bag may be held from either end of the device and the opposite end opened to receive a mail bag; that the device is identical in construction at both ends, cannot readily get out of order and will operate efficiently for its purpose.

I claim:—

1. A mail bag catcher and deliverer comprising a post, a standard pivoted in the post and provided with a horizontal arm, a supporting bar connected to said arm, a spring support connected to said bar, members pivoted to said arm, links connected to said arm and support for holding said parts separated, and springs for closing said members to catch and hold a bag.

2. A mail bag catcher and deliverer comprising a post, a standard pivoted to the post and provided with a horizontal arm, a bar connected to said arm, pivoted members,

springs for closing said members, and pivoted links for holding said members separated from the bar.

3. A mail bag catcher comprising a post, a standard pivoted to the post, an arm on said standard, a bar secured to said arm, a semi-circular spring support, springs on said support, members pivoted to said arm and actuated by said springs, and links for holding said members separated from said bar.

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

BENJAMIN F. TROUP.

Witnesses:

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