L. EHRLICH.

CLOSURE FOR MAIL RECEIVING APERTURES.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 2, 1909.

951,182. Patented Mar. 8, 1910.

Fig. 1.

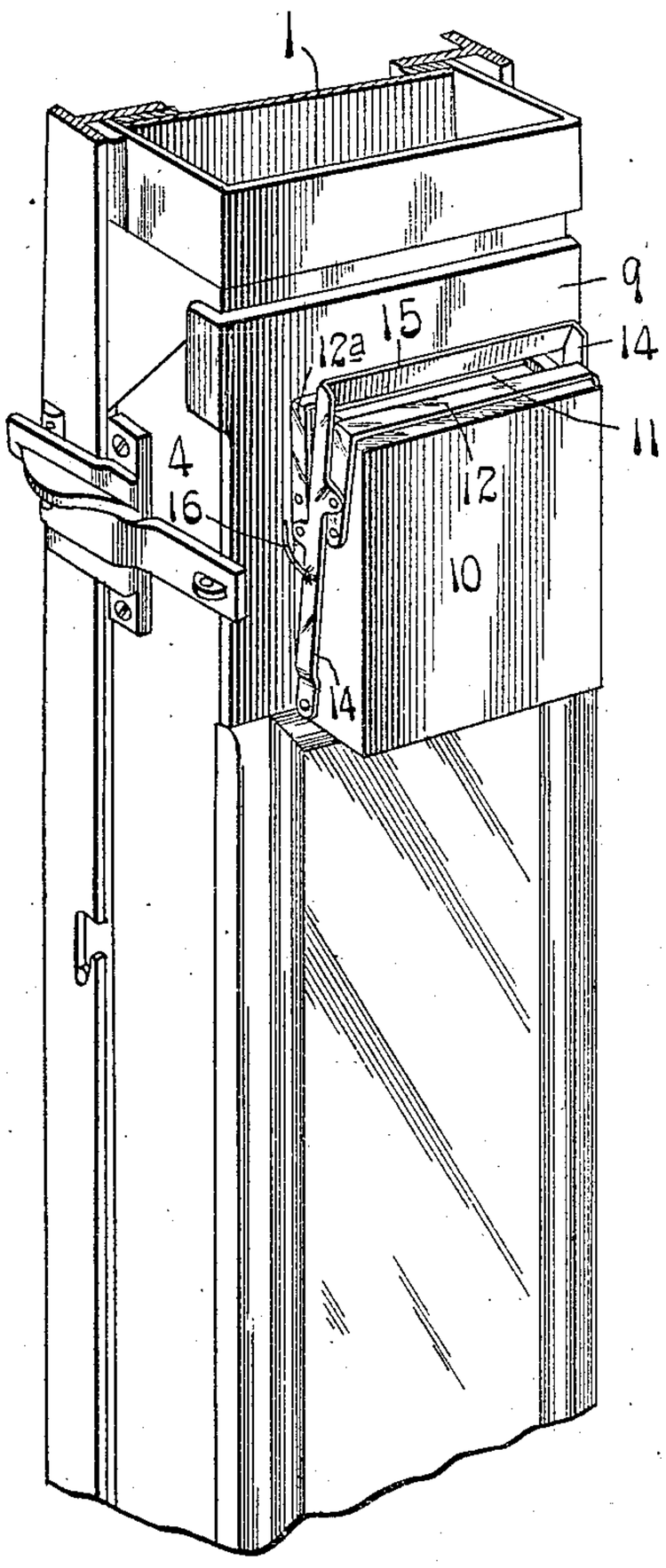
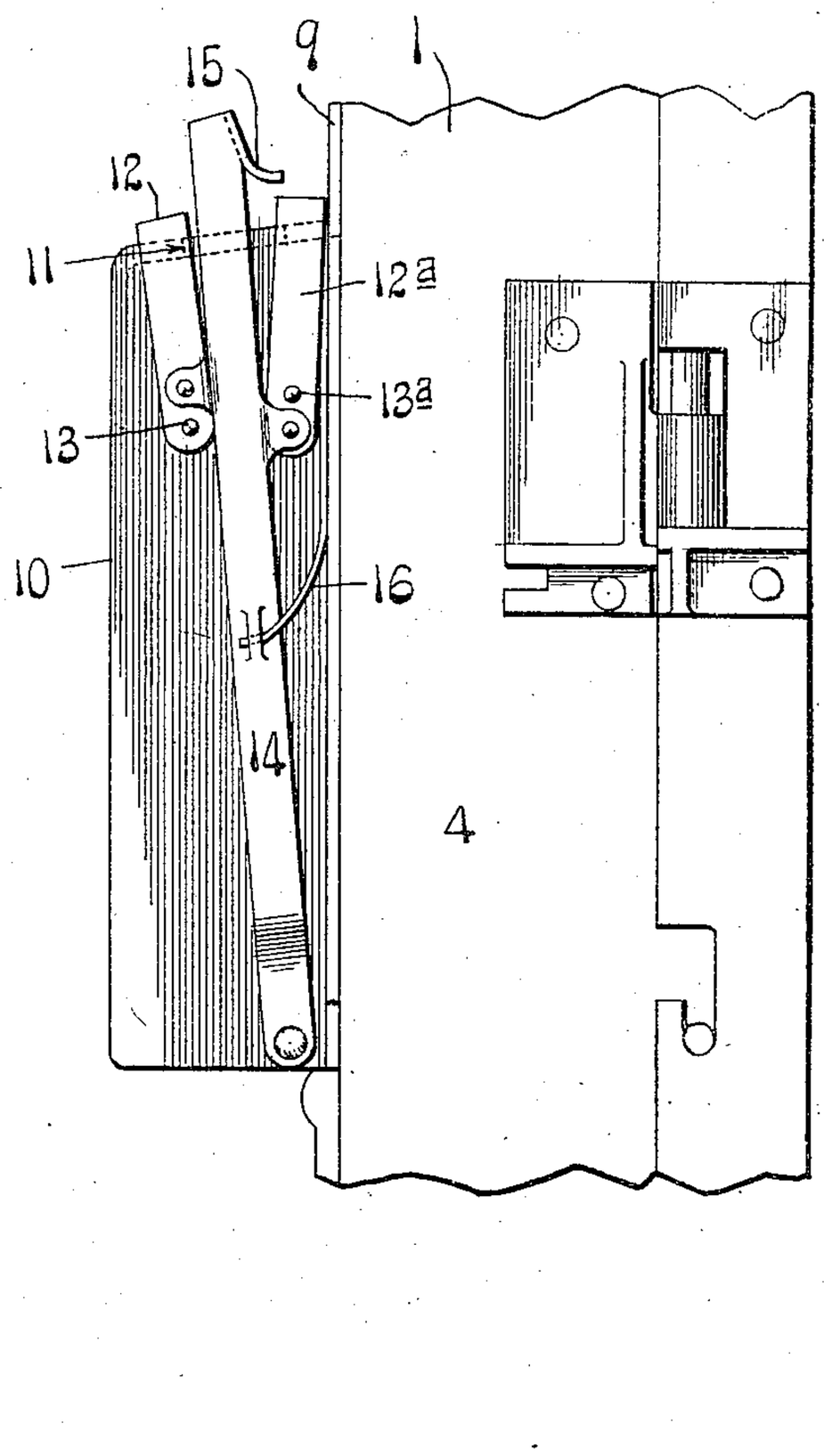


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CLOSURE FOR MAIL-RECEIVING APERTURES.

951,182. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 8, 1910.

Original application filed August 10, 1907, Serial No. 388,007. Divided and this application filed February 2, 1909. Serial No. 475,683.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEO EHRLICH, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis, Missouri, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Closures for Mail-Receiving Apertures, 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.

Figure 1 is a detail view of a mail chute showing my improved mail aperture closure in position thereon; Fig. 2 is a side elevational view of the same.

This invention relates to a new and useful improvement in mail aperture closures for mail chutes, the object being to provide means for preventing bulky packages of mail matter from being introduced into the mail-receiving aperture.

My present application is a division of an application filed by me August 10th, 1907, Serial No. 388,007.

In the drawing, 1 indicates a section of a mail chute, which, so far as my present invention is concerned, may be of any suitable construction or design.

9 is a plate constituting part of the front wall of the mail chute, which plate is secured in position on the side walls 4, said plate having a forward housing-extension 10 in the upper wall of which is an opening 11 constituting the mail-receiving aperture. On each side of this mail-receiving aperture are two bails 12 and 12ª pivotally mounted on the housing 10 at 13 and 13ª respectively. Connected to these bails below and above their pivotal points of connection to the housing respectively are lever arms 14 whose cross piece 15 forms practically a back guiding wall for the mail-receiving aperture. A spring 16 tends to normally hold the arms 14 and the cross piece 15 in a forward position.

In the event that mail matter of ordinary size is introduced into the opening 11 it is obvious that the cross piece 15 need not be moved. In the event, however, that bulky packages are sought to be introduced into the mail-receiving aperture the cross piece 15 will be moved rearwardly toward the chute and such movement will cause the bails 12 and 12ª to approach each other and close the mail-receiving aperture 11, or so reduce it that it is impossible to introduce a bulky package therein.

From the above it will be seen that the part 15 constitutes a barrier across the mail-receiving aperture, which barrier prevents the introduction of mail larger than the usual size, into the aperture. Any attempt to introduce bulky packages into the aperture will necessitate the movement of the barrier and the closure of the aperture. It will thus be seen that in the ordinary operation of dropping a piece of mail into a mail chute, it is impossible to crowd a bulky package into the mail-receiving aperture.

I am aware that in certain mail chute constructions heretofore patented, various devices have been utilized for the purpose of preventing the introduction of bulky packages into the chute, but in so far as I am aware, these devices have been located on the interior of the chute or within the housing in which the mail receiving aperture is formed. Therefore, such devices do not prevent the introduction of bulky packages through the mail receiving aperture, but engage said packages after they have been partially inserted through the aperture, and when an attempt is made to remove a package partially inserted and caught by the device in the chute, there is a tendency to tear and mutilate the cover of the package. It will be noted that my improved aperture closure means is located wholly on the exterior of the chute, and therefor the aperture will be closed or reduced in size when an attempt is made to mail a bulky package in the chute and before any portion of said bulky package is inserted through the aperture.

I am aware that minor changes in the construction, arrangement and combination of the several parts of my device can be made and substituted for those herein shown and described without in the least departing from the nature and principle of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A mail chute having a mail-receiving aperture and means on the exterior of the chute for preventing the introduction of bulky packages into said aperture.

2. A mail chute having a mail-receiving

aperture, a barrier adjacent to said aperture, and means on the exterior of the chute, and operated by said barrier to close the aperture.

3. A mail chute having a mail-receiving aperture, a movable part adjacent to said aperture, and means on the exterior of the chute, and connected to said movable part for closing the said aperture when the movable part is operated.

4. A mail chute having a mail-receiving aperture, a barrier across said aperture, and means operated by said barrier to prevent the introduction of bulky packages into said aperture when barrier is moved.

5. A mail chute having a mail-receiving aperture and means on the exterior of the chute for closing said aperture upon the attempt to introduce bulky packages thereinto.

6. The combination of a mail chute having a mail-receiving aperture, a movable element adjacent said aperture and means for closing said aperture upon attempting the introduction of bulky packages thereinto, said means including a closure connected to said movable element; substantially as described.

7. The combination of a mail chute having a mail-receiving aperture, a movable element adjacent said aperture, and means operated by said movable element to close said aperture upon attempting the introduction of bulky packages thereinto; substantially as described.

8. The combination of a mail chute having a mail-receiving aperture, a movable element adjacent said aperture, and a swinging bail connected to said movable element and movable to close said aperture when said wall is moved in one direction; substantially as described.

9. The combination of a mail chute having a mail-receiving aperture, a movable element adjacent said aperture, and two bails connected to said movable element, and capable of motion toward each other to close said aperture when said element is moved in one direction; substantially as described.

10. The combination of a mail chute having a mail-receiving aperture, a movable element adjacent said aperture, a pair of closures movable toward and from each other, and a spring for holding said movable element and closures in normal position; substantially as described.

11. The combination of a mail chute having a mail-receiving aperture, a movable element adjacent said aperture, a spring for holding said movable element in normal position, and means connected to said movable element for reducing the area of said aperture upon attempting the introduction of bulky packages thereinto; substantially as described.

12. A mail chute having a mail receiving aperture, and a spring-held means on the exterior of the chute for preventing the introduction of bulky packages into said aperture.

13. The combination of a mail chute having an extending housing in which is formed a mail-receiving aperture, and means on the exterior of said housing for preventing the introduction of bulky packages into said aperture.

14. A mail chute having a mail-receiving aperture, and means located in a plane above the aperture for closing the same upon attempting the introduction of bulky packages into said aperture.

15. A mail chute having a mail-receiving aperture, a barrier above said aperture, and means between said barrier and the aperture and operated by said barrier to close the aperture.

16. A mail chute having a mail receiving aperture, a spring-held barrier above the aperture, and means operated by said barrier to close the aperture.

17. In a mail chute having a mail receiving aperture, an aperture closure, and means located on the exterior of the mail chute for actuating said aperture closure.

18. In a mail chute provided with a mail receiving aperture, a pair of aperture closures, and means located on the exterior of the mail chute for actuating said aperture closures.

19. In a mail chute provided with a mail receiving aperture, a pair of aperture closures, and an element on the exterior of the mail chute for simultaneously moving said aperture closures toward one another.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses, this 30th day of January, 1909.

LEO EHRLICH.

Witnesses:
F. R. CORNWALL,
LENORE CLARK.