

E. WOODWORTH, M. J. OUTWATER & E. HOFF.

MAIL BAG HOLDER.

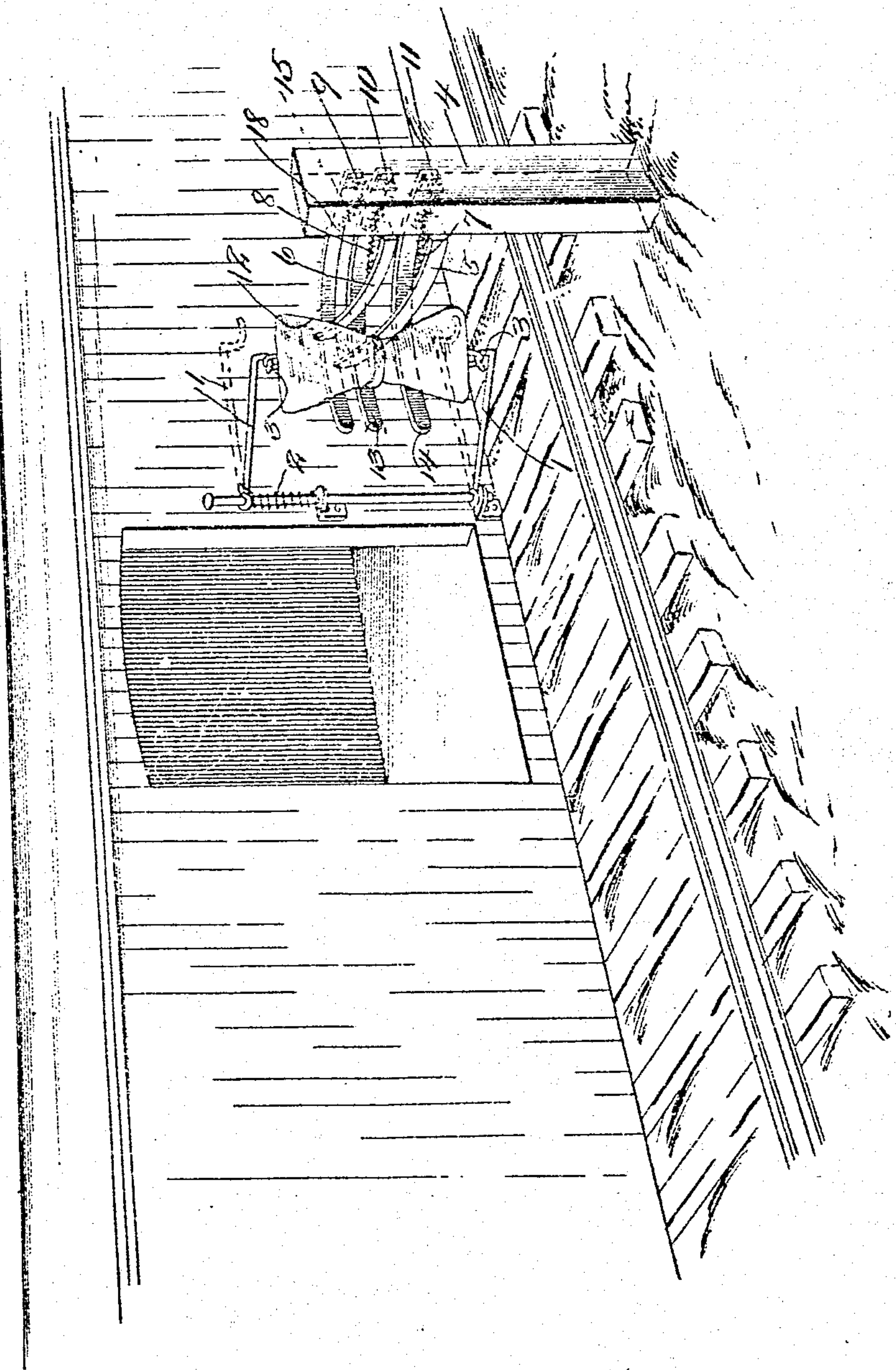
APPLICATION FILED MAR. 29, 1911.

995,647.

Patented June 20, 1911.

2 SHEETS-SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.



Witnesses

Francis G. Powell  
L. Dunn

Inventors  
Earl Woodworth, Mary J. Outwater  
and Eva Hoff,

By S. Swift & Co.  
Attorneys

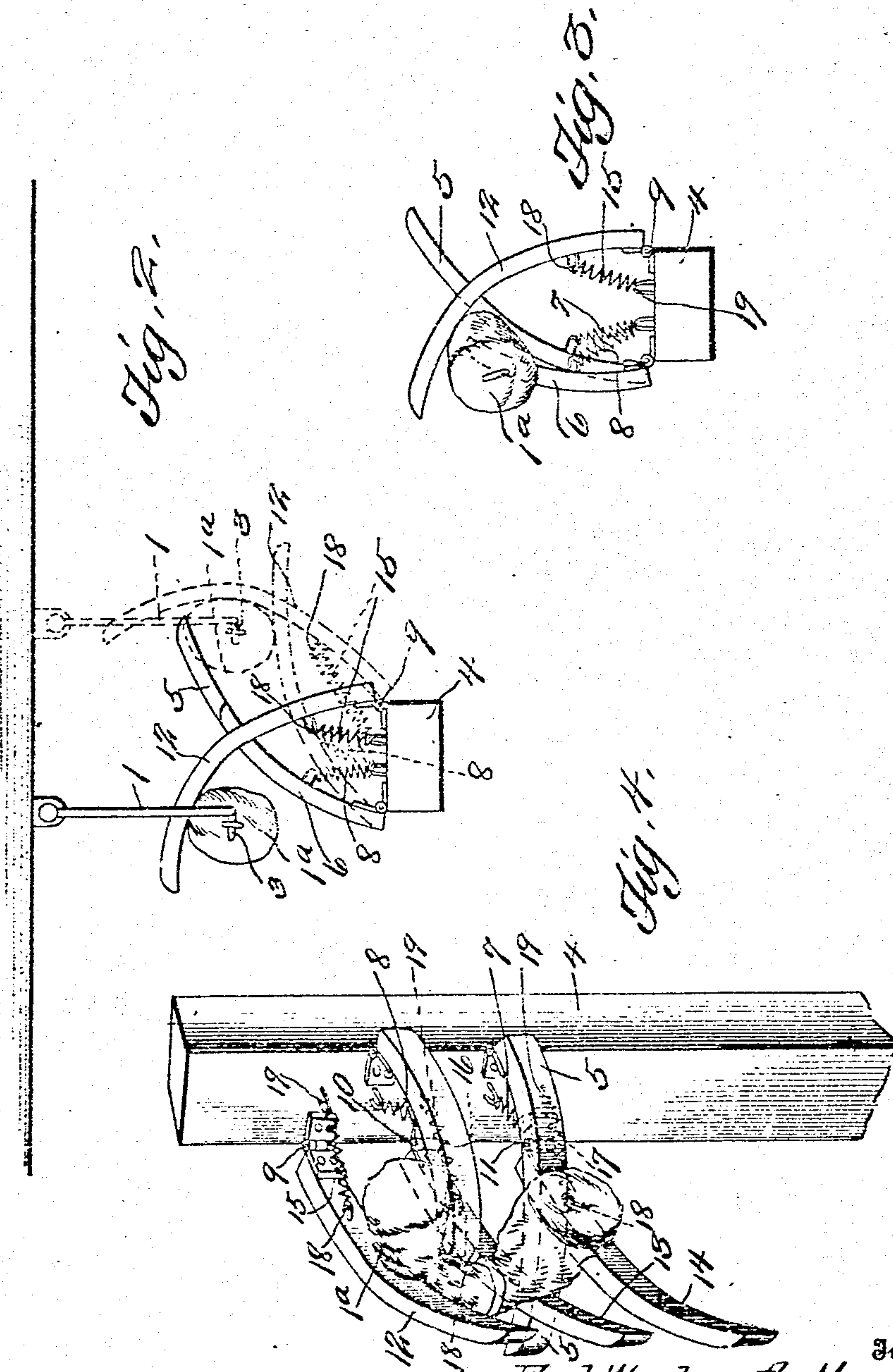
E. WOODWORTH, M. J. OUTWATER & E. HOFF.  
MAIL BAG HOLDER.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 29, 1911.

995,647.

Patented June 20, 1911.

2 SHEETS-SHEET 2.



Witnesses

Francis T. Powell,  
I. Dunn

Inventor  
Earl Woodworth, Mary J. Outwater  
and Eva Hoff,

By D. Swift & Co.

Attorney



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EARL WOODWORTH, MARY J. OUTWATER, AND EVA HOFF, OF LEONIDAS, MICHIGAN.

MAIL-BAG HOLDER.

995,647.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 20, 1911.

Application filed March 29, 1911. Serial No. 617,768.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, EARL WOODWORTH, MARY J. OUTWATER, and EVA HOFF, citizens of the United States, residing at Leonidas, in the county of St. Joseph and State of Michigan, have invented a new and useful Mail-Bag Holder; and we 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.

This invention relates to a new and useful device for catching or receiving mail pouches or bags from fast moving trains, and in which novel features, of construction are involved.

The main object of the invention is to provide a simple, efficient and practical device of this character for firmly holding the mail pouch or bag when received.

A further object of the invention is to provide outstanding yieldably mounted arms for hugging the mail pouch, until pulled from the holder of the mail car, there being a short yieldably mounted arm, which is passed by the mail pouch when it contacts with the first mentioned arms, and when the pouch is pulled from the holder of the mail car, the first mentioned arms spring back in position, in order that the short arm will assist in locking and holding the mail pouch in position between the first mentioned arms and the short arm. These arms are carried by stationary posts adjacent each side of the railroad track, the first mentioned arms being hinged to one side of the post, there being three or more of them, while the short arm and additional arm of the same length as the first mentioned arms hinged to the other side of the post. The additional arm is moved out of its normal position by the mail pouch and assists the short arm in holding the mail pouch when caught.

The main object for providing yielding means for the arms is to permit them to yield under the force of the mail bag or pouch. These yieldably mounted arms are shown in the drawings as being carried by a stationary post for receiving the mail pouch from a moving train, but it is to be understood that similar arms may be carried by the train, for catching a mail pouch from the stationary holder on the side of the track. In the drawings, however, there is only disclosed one form of the present invention, but in practical fields this form may require alter-

ations, to which the applicants are entitled, provided the alterations are comprehended by the appended claims.

The invention comprises further features and combination of parts, as hereinafter set forth, shown in the drawings, and claimed:

In the drawings:—Figure 1 is a view in perspective showing the application of the mail receiving or catching device, the same being constructed in accordance with the invention. Fig. 2 is a plan view showing the yieldably mounted arms for first catching the mail pouch, in the act of pulling the pouch from the holder of the mail car. Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2, showing the pouch caught, the arms for first catching the pouch thrown back in their normal positions, whereby a short arm assists in holding the pouch caught. Fig. 4 is an enlarged perspective view of the mail receiving or catching device.

Referring more especially to the annexed drawings, 1 designates the usual form of mail pouch holder, which is carried by the moving mail car, and which may be thrown out of operative position, when not being used, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1. This mail pouch holder is mounted in order to yield against the action of the spring 2. The mail bag or pouch is suspended between the hooks 3 of the holder. This holder is of the usual construction, therefore the same will form no part of the present invention.

Erected on the side of the railroad track is a stationary upright post 4. Secured to the post on one side is a long arm 5, and a short arm 6, and connecting between these arms are the springs 7 and 8. Hinged at 9, 10 and 11 on the other side of the post are three long arms 12, 13 and 14. Torsional springs 15, 16 and 17 are connected between the arms 12, 13 and 14 and the post, by means of the eyes 18 and 19. The arms 5 and 6 are curved on an arc of a circle toward the arms 12, 13 and 14, while the arms 12, 13 and 14 are similarly curved, but toward the arms 5 and 6.

By means of the springs 15, 16 and 17, the arms 12, 13 and 14 are permitted to yield under the force of the blow of the mail pouch, and when the arms 12, 13 and 14 fly back in position, the arms 5 and 6 assist in limiting their movements. However, when the arms 12, 13 and 14 fly back in position,



the arms 5 and 6 slightly yield under the force of the blow of the arms 12, 13 and 14. The arms 5 and 6, as was hereinbefore stated assist in holding the mail pouch after being caught by the arms 12, 13 and 14. When the mail pouch is caught, it is held between the arms 12, 13 and 14 and the arms 5 and 6.

From the foregoing, it will be clearly evident that there has been devised a novel, efficient and practical device for catching mail pouches from moving trains, and one which is found to fully answer the purpose.

The invention having been set forth, what is claimed as new and useful is:

1. In combination, a stationary post, a plurality of spring tensioned arms hinged to one side of the post adapted to yield under the force of the blow of the mail bag for pulling the same from a moving car, and a short and a long arm having yielding means hinged to the other side of the post, adapted to be passed by the mail pouch, and subsequently relieve the force of the blow of the first arms when flying back in their normal positions.

2. In combination, a stationary post, a plurality of long curved arms hinged to one side of the post for catching a mail pouch from a moving train, springs connecting between the arms and the post to permit the arms to yield under the force of the blow of the mail pouch, a long and a short curved arm hinged to the other side of the post, and intercrossing the first arm, and springs connecting the long and the short arm and the post, the long and short arms adapted to be passed by the mail pouch, and subsequently relieve the force of the blow of the first arm when returning to their normal position.

In testimony whereof we have signed our names to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

EARL WOODWORTH.  
MARY J. OUTWATER.  
EVA HOFF.

Witnesses:

RHEUAMA YOUNG,  
ALICE B. KINGSLEY.