

string in lengths from 9 in. to 12 in., small sub-office bags may be fastened with one strand only; but care must be exercised to see that the bags are fastened tightly.

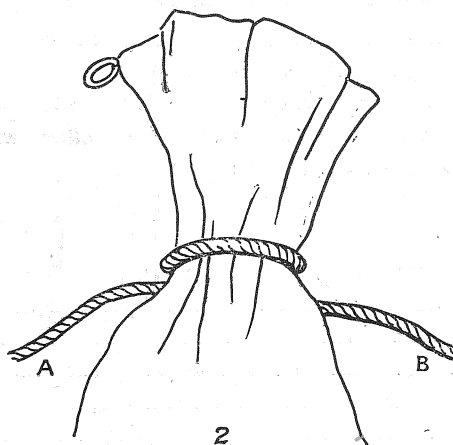
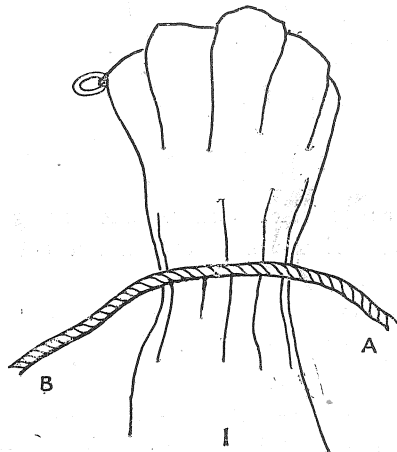
336. (a.) Lead-sealing is the standard method of sealing mails of all descriptions made up for places within and beyond the Dominion.

(b.) The sealing of mails enclosed in paper covers may be effected by means of the departmental sealing-label (Mail 75). The label must be closely fastened down, and an impression of the date-stamp of the despatching office made partly on the label and partly on the envelope. Care must be taken to see that the label is dry before the mail leaves the office; and the envelope is to be examined by the receiving Postmaster before it is opened. As many sealing-labels are to be used on one packet as may be required to make it secure.

337. It is of the utmost importance that lead seals should be properly used and securely fastened. Particular attention should be given to the following points:—

Fine twine is to be used. The bag must first be tied with a clove hitch, followed by a single knot; the seal should then be threaded on the string and another single knot tied well into the seal, after which the seal should be squeezed until the edges of the dies are parallel, and the ends of the string cut off short. The following drawings indicate the manner in which a clove hitch is tied.

The Clove Hitch.



The string should be passed twice round the neck of the bag as shown in drawings 1 and 2.