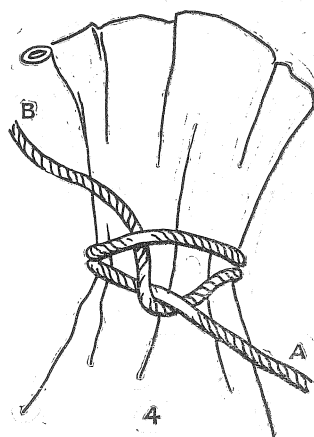
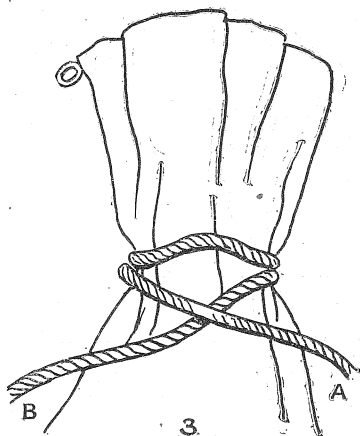


The ends should then be crossed (Drawing 3), and the end marked "B" passed between the string and the bag (Drawing 4).



One end should then be taken in each hand, and the string pulled as tight as possible, a single knot being tied afterwards, to prevent slipping if the bags are moved before the seals are affixed.

The seal should then be threaded on the string and another single knot tied, after which the seal should be pressed and the ends of the string cut off *quite close to the seal*.

338. As lead-sealers are liable to break unless lubricated at friction-points, officers must see that they are kept oiled. The sealers are to be used only for the purpose for which they are provided, and any employment of them for hammering, drawing nails, or other irregular purpose will be severely noticed. In the event of damage through abuse of sealers the officer responsible for the malpractice will be required to pay for a new sealer.

339. Sealers must be kept in the custody of responsible officers, and so safeguarded that it will be possible for the officer charged with their custody to state positively at any time that the sealers have not been used without his authority.

340. Postmasters at offices at which lead seals are received must keep all used seals, and return them by post at the end of each month to the Stores Manager. Canvas pouches are provided for keeping used seals. String attached to the seals should be cut away from the seal close to the lead before the seals are returned.

341. (a.) Chief Postmasters and Postmasters are to periodically give special attention to the matter of tying and sealing mail-bags. Ineffective fastening of a mail-bag is likely to lead to very serious results, and the utmost vigilance is to be exercised by all officers to provide against insecure tying. A special officer must be deputed by written order to constantly examine seal-impressions, and to report every case of a defective impression.