Mar. 3, 1925. 1,528,243

J. E. BRIGGS

FIXTURE FOR SELF SERVING STORES

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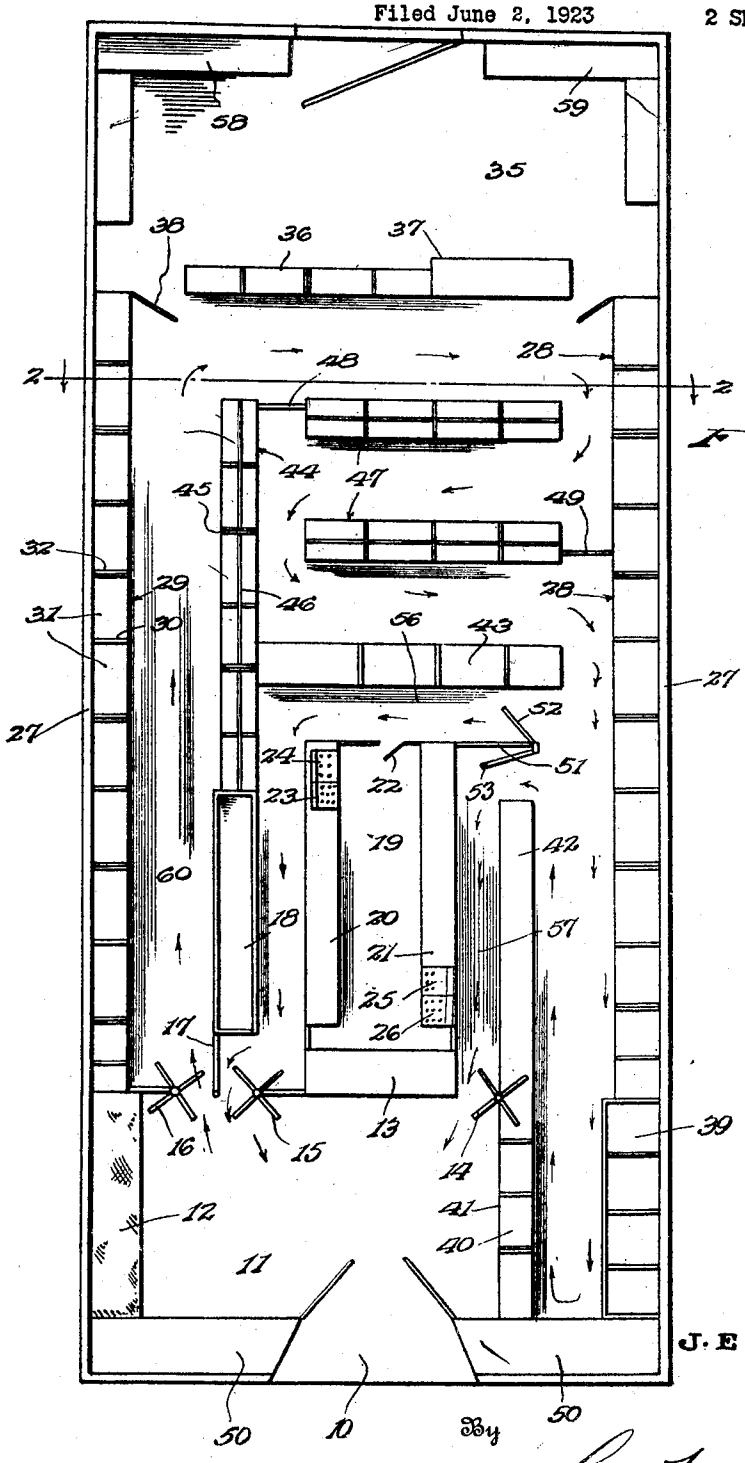


Fig. 1.

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Fig. 2.

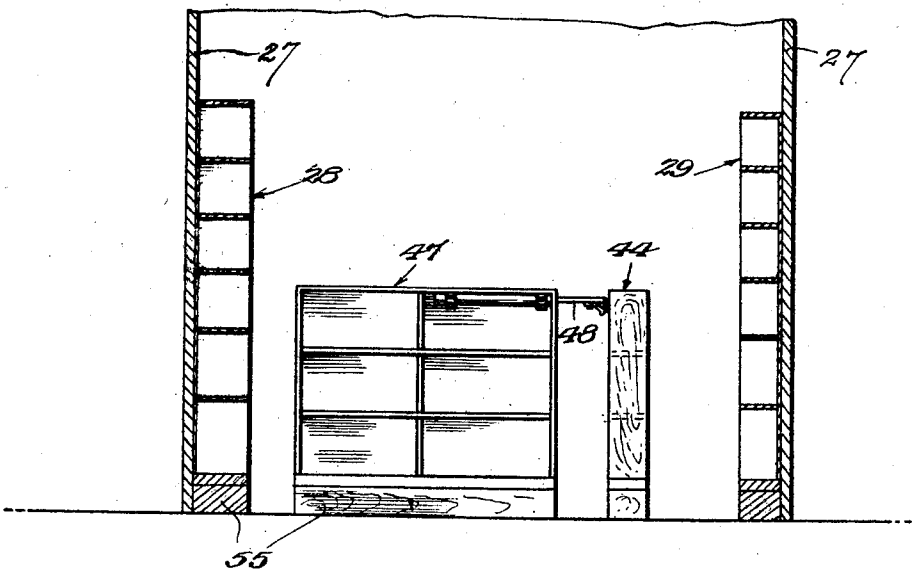
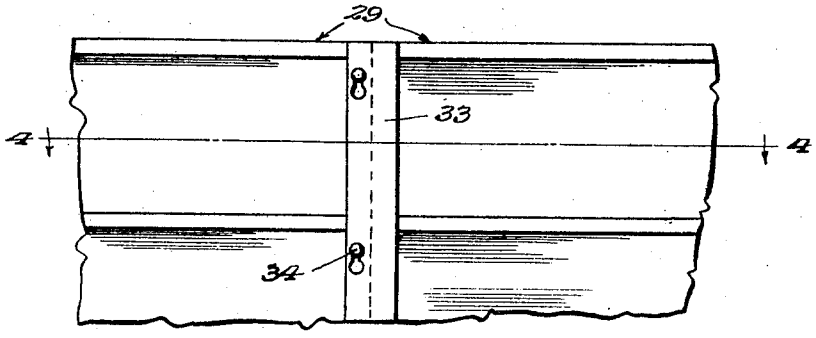


Fig. 3.



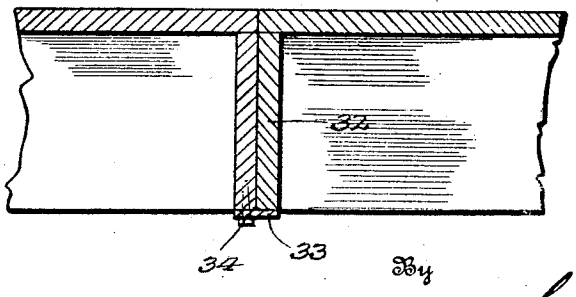


Fig. 4.

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Patented Mar. 3, 1925. 1,528,243

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN E. BRIGGS, OF WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS.

FIXTURE FOR SELF-SERVING STORES.

Application filed June 2, 1923. Serial No. 642,941.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN E. BRIGGS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wichita Falls, in the county of Wichita and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fixtures for Self-Serving Stores, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to fixtures primarily intended for self serving stores and the main object of the invention is to provide units or sections which permit a rapid and convenient installation of these store fixtures. Each unit is so constructed that it fits against and interlocks with another unit, and a number of these units thus form continuous rows of shelving. By providing these sections or units in uniform sizes and with suitable locking devices, they can not only be quickly erected and assembled, but also very easily detached and removed from the store without drawing a nail or taking out a screw, or splitting a board.

Another object of my invention is to provide high shelving along the walls, and low double shelving in the center of the room about three feet high and standing on a six inch base, and in this manner the clerks will have a full view of every person in the room and of the contents of the lower shelving so that every article or division holding a number of the same articles can be labeled and seen from any place in the store by the customer or the clerk. A further object of the invention is to arrange the shelving in such a manner that a customer is compelled to pass almost every article in the store before reaching the exit. It is also the purpose of this invention to arrange canned goods or other articles in such a manner that they will decorate the room and make it more attractive.

In the accompanying drawings one embodiment of the invention is illustrated; and

Figure 1 represents a plan view of a self serving store according to the present invention;

Figure 2 is a transverse section along line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary elevation showing the joining of two shelving sections or units; and

Figure 4 is a horizontal section along line 4—4 of Figure 3.

In the drawings reference numeral 10 represents the main entrance to the store leading into a lobby or entrance hall 11, which may be provided with a seat 12 for waiting customers. Facing the door in the lobby is a show case 13 with glass top and sides for displaying sundry articles. On both sides of this show case are furnished turnstiles 14 and 15 respectively for exit only and an entrance turnstile 16 is shown at the extreme left in Figure 1 close to the bench 12. Between the two turnstiles 15 and 16 extends a partition 17 to which the exit turnstile 15 may be locked, and similarly the other turnstile 14 may be locked to the show case 13 so that the passage of the customers may be directed to one or the other of these exits if necessary.

Each turnstile is of the ordinary ratchet construction so as to turn only one way and the ratchet has preferably eight catches and a spring dog arranged to engage in the catches.

At 18 is shown a basket rack in convenient position for the customers coming in through the entrance turnstile 16 and it is also in a convenient position for the clerks stationed in the space 19 formed by the two counters 20 and 21 and the show case 13. The rear end of the counters is provided with a small gate 22 which may be locked to prevent unauthorized persons to enter the space 19 for the clerks. On the counter 20 is positioned an adding machine 23 and a cash register 24, preferably at one end thereof, and at the opposite end of the counter 21 are also placed an adding machine 25 and a cash register 26 for the use of a second clerk tending to the counter 21.

Along both side walls 27 of the store are arranged units or shelving consisting of sections or units 28 and 29. The shelving 28 is preferably six feet high, six feet long, and twelve inches deep, while the shelving 29 is six feet high, six feet long, and eight inches deep, each provided with a central partition 30 dividing each unit into twin compartments 31. One of the end walls 32 on each unit is reinforced, as best seen in Figures 3 and 4, by a face plate 33 secured to one of the units and engaging with the adjacent unit by means of studs 34 in the end wall thereof entering in suitable key-hole shaped apertures in the plate 33. In this manner, it will be evident that the sections are interlocked and cannot come apart when erected, but can very easily be removed when

necessary. This shelving continues the whole length of the store with the exception of a storage room 35 formed behind transversely situated sections or units 36 of the same construction as those already described and interlocked in the same manner, and of a refrigerator 37 positioned in continuation of the shelving 36 and handy for refilling from the storage room 35.

Between the shelving 29 along the left hand side wall of the store and the transverse shelving 36 as well as between the refrigerator 37 and the adjacent shelving 28 are furnished gates or doors 38 for closing the storage room 35 to the public. Along the right hand side wall 27 and facing the bench 12 in the entrance hall, are placed large bins 39 intended to hold vegetables and fruits, and smaller bins 40 are placed against the partition 41 forming one side of the lobby or entrance hall and intended for smaller vegetables or fruits, and nearest the exit is provided substantial shelving 42 and 43 for heavy articles such as potatoes, turnips, flour, salt and the like.

Parallel to the side walls and in continuation of the basket rack 18, I provide double shelving 44 also constructed in sections about three feet high, six feet long, and eighteen inches deep, standing on a base about six inches high. This shelving is of similar construction to that already described, that is to say, they have interlocking ends 45, but with the central longitudinal partition 46 dividing the units into shallow compartments facing in both directions of the sections.

In transverse direction between the shelvings 28 and 44 are placed units 47 similar to units 44. Between the outer ends of the transverse shelving 47 and the longitudinal ones 28 and 44 are formed spaces or passages. However, the rear end unit 44 connects across the space to the nearest unit 47 by means of a sliding bar 48 which has a concealed lock within the shelving not visible to the customers, and a similar bar 49 is placed across the space of the middle transverse shelving 47 connecting it with the high shelving 28. By providing these sliding bars 48 and 49, the customers will be compelled to take a circuitous course through the store, while when the clerks fill the shelves with groceries, the bars may be pushed in along the shelving and permit free passage in either direction, in order to shorten the way for the clerk.

The arrangement of the store as indicated in Figure 1, is intended for a comparatively narrow room, but a similar arrangement may be used for wider rooms, in which case, a suitable number of sections 47 and 43 may be added across the store and one or more extra, lengthways running shelf units may be placed parallel to the shelving 28 along the right hand wall 27 and between the same and the bins 40 and shelving 42.

The window tables 50 may be used for display purposes.

It will now be evident that every shelf and bin can be seen by the clerks positioned in space 19 as the lower shelving in the middle of the room does not prevent them from looking across the same to the side shelving 28 and 29, and similarly, for the customer's convenience, an open view from any part of the store is possible so that he will know where to find the article he desires to purchase. All of the shelving is placed on six inch high bases 55.

At the end of partition 51, running across the end of the counter 21 is furnished a pair of gates 52 and 53, the former intended to close the branch passage 56 leading to the counter 20 and the latter to close the branch passage 57 running along the counter 21 and to turnstile 14. This is for the purpose of directing the course of the customers so that when, for instance, only one clerk is stationed in the space 19 he can get all of the customers to pass by one of the counters instead of having to attend to both of them and turn around first to the one and then to the other of the counters as the customers pass it. These doors may be fastened in open position or locked in closed position as desired.

The storage room 35 is equipped with counters 58, shelves 59 and scales for the convenience of the clerks.

Upon entering the store through the main doors 10, the customer passes through the lobby or entrance hall 11 and by the turnstile 16 into the left hand passage 60 between the side shelving 29 and 44 running towards the rear of the store. If he intends to buy many and heavy articles, he can take a basket from the rack 18, conveniently positioned at the right as he enters this passage. When he has reached the end of shelving 44, he has to turn to the right and proceed across the store to the shelving 28 along the right hand wall, when he has to turn again to the right and proceed between the two transverse shelvings 47 until he reaches the low shelving 44, when he turns to the left, again proceeding towards the high shelving 28, when he may follow the branch passage 57 past the bins 43 and pay for his goods at the counter 20 and leave by the turnstile 15; or he may proceed along the shelving 28 and the bins 39 and turn back along the shelving 42 and go through the gate 51 along the branch passage at the counter 21 to pay for the goods and pass out through the turnstile 14.

The shelving units may, of course, be erected in other stores and their use is not limited to self serving stores.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

Store fixtures comprising a row of shelving units of uniform length and height arranged along the side walls of a store room short of the front and rear walls thereof, another row of shelving units arranged transversely of the store room and connected with the rearmost of said first shelving defining a storage department adjacent the rear wall; a row of bins arranged along one side wall in continuation of the corresponding shelving and extending to the front wall, a second row of bins spaced from the first row and of substantially the same length, a show case parallel with the front wall and spaced therefrom substantially level with the foremost of the rows of side shelving units defining a lobby adjacent the front wall; the side and transverse shelving together with the show case constituting a self-serving store; a basket rack, and a row of double shelving units spaced from the row of shelving units along the second side wall forming an entrance passage and terminating short of the row of transverse shelving units, rows of other transverse shelving units spaced from each other and connected alternately with the double shelving units and the shelving units along said first side wall forming a zig-zag passage in continuation of the entrance passage; counters connected with the show case, exit passages formed between the counters and the basket rack and bins respectively, and turnstiles placed respectively in said entrance and exit passages substantially level with said show case.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN E. BRIGGS. [L. S.]