This invention relates to that class of inventions and appliances now commonly referred to in the trade as garment and apparel bagging devices, and has reference in particular to a structure designed to supplement and operate in conjunction with conventional paper bag hoisting and lowering means.

Persons acquainted with this specialized line of endeavor are aware that in cleaning, dyeing and clothes pressing establishments, devices ranging from makeshift conveniences to elaborate structures are used for this purpose. I shall not, however, attempt to give a general résumé of the state of the art as it is known to me, but prefer to recite certain ways and means now utilized.

In most establishments a simple pulley and cable arrangement is utilized for handling the paper bags, the paper bags being dropped down in an inverted position over the garments and having an aperture in the closed end thereof to fit over the usual hook of the wire garment hanger employed. One familiar structure utilized in handling the garment and bag alternately consists in hanging a pole or the like from the ceiling to convenient distance with the reach of the user and providing this with a hook to accommodate the garment hanger. The paper bag slides upwardly on this pole under the action of a pulley controlled cord. By placing the garment on the hanger and engaging the hanger with the hook on the lower end of the pole and raising the bag, the bag is allowed to drop down over the garment after which the bagged garment is removed for delivery to the customer.

In accordance with my idea, I contemplate the provision of a simple and expedient garment hanging pole, this being of a receding character and having telescopic disappearing connection with a relatively fixed tubular casing mounted on the floor. It is my object to hang the garment on the sliding pole underneath of the pulley-controlled bag-lowering device, and to simply lower the bag over the garment and then slide the pole down to facilitate handling the then bagged garment.

As is evident, my aim is to generally improve upon prior art devices in this specific classification by providing a simple and economical arrangement which promotes ease of handling garments and bags and permits the desired result to be attained in a relatively superior and practicable manner.

Other features and advantages will become more readily apparent from the following description and drawings:

In the drawings:
Figure 1 is a view, in elevation, showing the complete assemblage and indicating, in dotted lines, the bag covered garment detachably suspended or hung on the receding pole for subsequent removal.

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary view taken at right angles to Figure 1 and illustrating in particular the slidably cleated pole guide and pedal-actuated trip mechanism.

Figure 3 is a view partly in section and elevation showing the spring-retained foot-released pawl or trip lever.

Figures 4 and 5 are enlarged horizontal sections taken on the planes of the lines 4—4 and 5—5 respectively of Figure 1.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary sectional view of the lower end portion of the receptacle casing into which the slidably pole telescopically drops or recedes.

Figure 7 is a fragmentary view of the portion of the receptacle underneath the floor to accommodate the disappearing or receding pole.

The disappearing or receding slidable pole is indicated by the numeral 8 and may be some five or six feet in length. It may be of wood or light weight tubular metal. It is cylindrical in cross-section and preferably has the upper end portion thereof tapered as indicated at 9 to render it smooth and not likely to damage fragile garments. On the extreme upper end of the pole is a horseshoe-shaped hanger accommodation clip or keeper 10 to accommodate the usual suspension hook 11 on the conventional wire garment hanger (not shown).

The pole is telescopically mounted in a relatively fixed sheath-like receptacle or casing. This is indicated as a unit by the numeral 12. The casing is slightly shorter in vertical dimension than the pole and the pole in its lowest position projects a few inches above the top of the casing as indicated in Figure 3. The casing includes a tubular upper guide portion 13 and a somewhat larger base portion 14. At the bottom is a removable screw cap 15 which serves as a stop and it preferably contains a bumper or rubber cushion 16 to absorb the shock of the downwardly receiving gravity-lowered sliding pole 8. The lower portion is made larger to avoid frictional binding and the upper portion is made just slightly larger in cross-sectional diameter than the pole so as to provide an effective guide. In effect the entire unit 15 is merely an appropriate fixed guide for the portion extending below the floor 17 and the portion extending above the floor. The last
named portion rises from 18 to 20 inches above the floor where it is not in the way to become a nuisance or hazard. This protruding portion is formed near its top with an accommodation slot 20 and that portion which goes through the floor is surrounded by an attaching and stabilizing collar 19. Thus far, it will be seen that we have a pole which is slidable mounted in a relatively fixed guide wherein the pole is allowed to drop down to a predetermined distance and when in its lowermost position has its upper and keeper-equipped end projecting slightly above the corresponding end of the tubular guide so that the pole can be grasped and lifted up to the desired elevation to hang the garment on it.

I next call attention to a unitary part which may be conveniently referred to as a standard 20. This is made up of a pair of spaced parallel rigidly supported metal strips or bars 21. These are attached by a way of a connection 22. In 23s which surround and are fastened to the guide socket 13. There is a lower ring indicated at 24 which vertically connected to this as at 25 is an arm 26 carrying a conveniently fashioned foot pedal 27 located just above the floor. This arm is attached by a wire 28 to the free swingable end of a pivoted pawl or trip lever 29. The lever is pivotedly mounted intermediate its ends as at 30 on the upper end of the standard and is normally maintained in gripping position by a coiled spring 31 fastened to the lever and anchored on the adjacent connection 22. The effective or working end of the pawl is formed with a roughened surface to provide gripping teeth as indicated at 32 in Figure 3. It is evident that this toothed end works through the slot 18 and engages the pole and holds the pole in any desired set position. In other words, the pole is normally engaged with the lever to prevent it from sliding and is released whenever necessary or desired by simply pressing the foot on the pedal 27. Manifestly however, any suitable holding means manually operable, or foot-controlled may be utilized to hold the pole in different elevated positions.

In practice it is understood that the metal casing and pole, as a unit, are mounted directly underneath of suitable bag hoisting and lowering means (not shown). With the protruding end 9 of the pole shown in Figure 3 close to the floor the attendant simply reaches down and catches hold of this and pulls it up to the desired elevation. This may be some three or four feet above the floor. With the pole locked by the pawl in this position, the garment, which is then on the usual wire garment hanger, is connected with the keeper 10. Now then the paper bag is lowered by the usual lowering cord and allowed to drop down over the garment. By grasping hold of the bag and garment with one or both hands, the foot pedal 27 is depressed and this releases the pole and the pole drops down by gravity into its accommodation guide or casing. Thus the pole is out of the way and the garment is held in the hand of the attendant for convenient disposition.

In effect the pole 9 may be broadly referred to as a disappearing receding temporary garment-hanging "tree" or rack on which the garment is hung until the bag is slipped over it, after which the pedal is pressed and the tree disappears to be out of the way and to thereby promote convenient handling of the bagged garment. It is also evident that since the pole drops down close to the floor it will not be in the way of the shop or establishment attendant.

Briefly, all that is required of this simple device is to catch hold of the pole, lift it up to the desired elevation, hang the garment on it, then drop the bag over the garment, then drop the pole, while still holding the bag and garment in the hand.

It is thought that the description taken in connection with the drawings will enable a clear understanding of the invention to be had. Therefore, a more lengthy description is thought unnecessary.

While the preferred embodiment of the invention has been shown and described, it is to be understood that various changes and modifications may be resorted to if desired.

I claim:
1. In a structure of the class described, in combination, a receptacle closed at its bottom and open at its top, a pole slidable in said receptacle, said pole having means on its upper end to accommodate the garment hanger, a support secured to said receptacle extending longitudinally thereof and being disposed in spaced relation thereto, an arm pivotally mounted to the upper portion of said support having one end thereof serrated and extending through a slot in said receptacle for engagement with said pole, a foot lever secured to said receptacle, and a link connecting the free end of said arm to said foot lever.
2. In a structure of the class described, in combination, a receptacle closed at its bottom and open at its top, a pole slidable in said receptacle, said pole having means on its upper end to accommodate a garment hanger, a support secured to the outer portion of said receptacle and being parallel thereto and in spaced relation with said receptacle, an arm pivotally mounted to the upper portion of said support, one end of said arm being serrated and extending through a longitudinal slot in said receptacle for engagement with the periphery of said pole for locking said pole in position, resilient means normally urging said arm to a position to engage said pole, a foot lever pivotally mounted to said receptacle for releasing said arm from engagement with said pole, and a link connecting the free end of said arm to said foot lever.

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