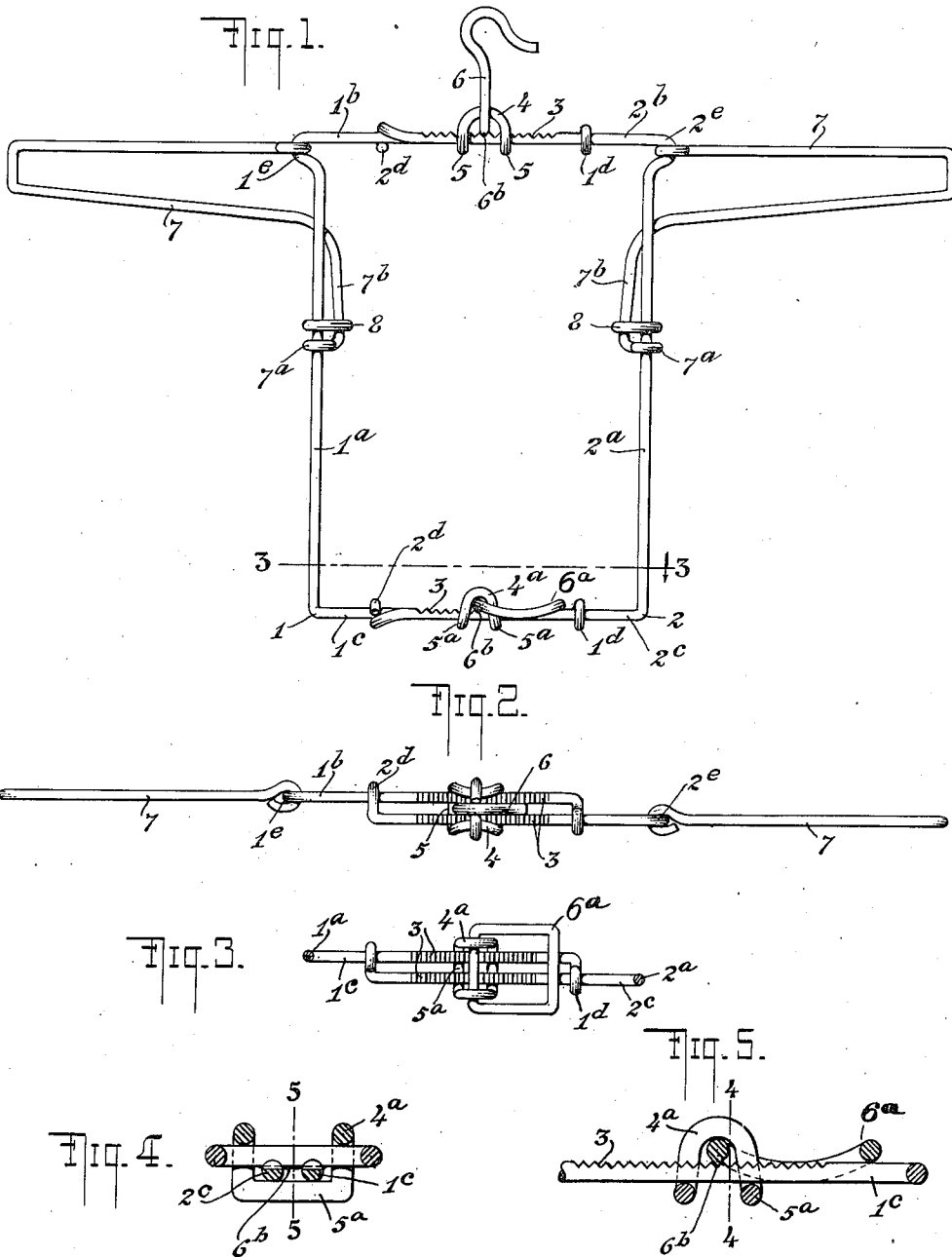


W. A. RINGLER.
GARMENT FRAME.

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1,052,426.

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WITNESSES

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GARMENT-FRAME.

1,052,426.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. RINGLER, a subject of the Emperor of Germany, and resident of Montclair, county of Essex, State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Garment-Frames, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to garment frames and more particularly to such frames which are employed for the purpose of preventing shrinkage in garments of any kind after same have been washed.

My improvement has for its object to provide such a frame which is simple in construction, easy and cheap to manufacture, and which may be readily and quickly adjusted in various ways to meet varying conditions, and which when not in use may be folded within a small compass.

My invention will be fully described hereinafter, and the features of novelty will be pointed out in the appended claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of my improved frame in its operative position. Fig. 2 is a plan view thereof; Fig. 3 is a horizontal section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 5, and Fig. 5 is a similar view on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

My improved frame comprises a body composed of two sections 1 and 2 each preferably constructed of a single length of wire or similar material and bent to form side members 1^a and 2^a and end members 1^b, 1^c and 2^b, 2^c respectively. The end members 1^b, 2^b and 1^c, 2^c are located adjacent to each other as clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3, and are slidably connected with each other. In other words, the free ends of the end members 1^b, 1^c are preferably bent at an angle and into the form of an eyelet 1^d through which the members 2^b and 2^c pass, which members 2^b and 2^c have their free ends preferably similarly formed with eyelets 2^d through which the members 1^b, 1^c pass. With this construction, the body sections are adjustable or slidable relatively to each other to adjust the width of said body and preferably have a portion of their upper surfaces serrated or otherwise roughened

as indicated at 3. Clamping devices of any desired construction are provided for securing said body sections 1 and 2 in their adjusted positions and preferably comprise yokes or loops 4, 4^a extending upwardly at opposite sides of the end members 1^b, 1^c, 2^b, 2^c, and connected by horizontal members 5, 5^a which engage the lower surfaces of the end members 1^b, 2^b, 1^c, 2^c at spaced intervals, as shown best in Figs. 1 and 5. Locking levers 6 and 6^a are preferably each provided with cam members 6^b which extend through the loops 4, 4^a as shown in Figs. 2 and 3 and which are adapted to exert a pressure against the upper serrated surfaces 3 of the end members 1^b, 2^b, 1^c, 2^c as will be more fully explained hereinafter. The locking member 6 is arranged to perform its operative or locking functions when in a vertical position and is preferably made in the form of a suspending hook or other device, while the locking lever 6^a is constructed to perform its locking functions preferably when in horizontal position as clearly shown in Figs. 3 and 5. Arm members 7 each formed preferably from a continuous length of wire or similar material bent to the required shape, have their free ends pivotally connected with the side members 1^a and 2^a of the body sections 1 and 2 respectively. In order to prevent a movement of the arm members, as a whole, lengthwise of the said body sections, the free end of the upper portions thereof is preferably pivotally secured in a bend 1^e, 2^e formed on each body section 1 and 2 as shown in Fig. 1 so as to be seated therein and to fix said upper portions of each arm member against a movement lengthwise of the body. The free end of the lower portion of each arm member is slidably mounted on the side members 1^a and 2^a respectively, preferably by having its free end bent into the form of a ring or eyelet 7^a. Thus by sliding these ends 7^a lengthwise of the members 1^a, 2^a, the stretching action exerted by the sleeve members on the sleeve of a garment may be increased or diminished or otherwise adjusted at will. In order to maintain these lower portions of each arm member in their adjusted position, I provide clamps 8 which may consist simply of rings extending about the side members 1^a, 2^a and

the downwardly extending portions 7^b of each sleeve member 7. With this construction the portions 7^b preferably incline away from the members 1^a and 2^a in a downward direction so that the clamps 8 as they are moved downwardly thereon will frictionally engage the members 7^b and firmly clamp the free ends 7^a of the arm members in their adjusted position.

In using the frame, the garment is placed thereon by introducing the body of the frame into the body of the garment and the sleeve members into the sleeves thereof, after which the body sections 1 and 2 may be adjusted relatively to each other to the desired extent to secure the proper stretching action, it being of course, understood that during its adjustment, the lever 6 is in horizontal inoperative position, and the lever 6^a is in a vertical inoperative position, while the clamps 8 are also preferably in an inoperative position. After the desired adjustment of the body section has been attained, the lever 6 is swung to its vertical position, and the lever 6^a is returned to its horizontal position, this operation in each instance causing the cams 6^b to enter one of the serrations of the surfaces 3 and thus draw the portions 5, 5^a of the clamping loops 4, 4^a against the lower surfaces of the members 1^b, 2^b, 1^c, 2^c and cause the same to exert a pressure in an upward direction, the cam 6^b of the levers 6 and 6^a similarly engaging the upper surfaces of said end members and exerting a pressure in the opposite or downward direction. The end members will thus be firmly clamped between the portions 5 of the clamping yokes 4, 4^a and the cams 6^b of the levers 6, 6^a, and will firmly secure the body sections 1, 2 in their adjusted position. It will be seen that the cams 6^b extend through the loops 4, 4^a between the portions 5, so that the downward pressure of the levers or rather of the cams thereof takes place at a point between the points on which an upward pressure of the portions 5 is exerted. A very firm and secure gripping action is secured with this construction. After this has been done, the lower or movable portions of the sleeve members may be adjusted as described to secure the desired stretching effect on the sleeves of the garment and the clamps or rings 8 then moved downwardly to an operative position or until they firmly clamp the members 7^b and consequently the ends 7^a and lower movable portions of the sleeve members in their adjusted position. It is to be understood that these clamps 8 are preferably held in position by friction, which action may be increased by serrating or otherwise roughening the surface of the portions 7^b engaged by said clamps which roughening or serrations may also be produced on the side members 1^a, 2^a if desired.

Each lever 6 and 6^a is maintained in its locking position by means of the cams 6^b in the serrated surfaces 3 and are held thereby against any accidental dislocation of the lever 6, 6^a.

In the illustration the clamping yokes 4 and 4^a in cooperation with the eyelets 1^a, 2^a, prevent complete separation of the body sections 1 and 2; if the yokes should be omitted and other means used to secure the body sections in an adjusted position this complete separation would be prevented by the eyelets 1^a, 2^a, themselves coming into engagement with each other. After the garment has thus been placed on the frame, the said frame with the garment thereon may be suspended by means of the lever 6 in any convenient or desired location, the garment being maintained against shrinkage or other distortion until completely dry, after which it may be readily removed from the frame, by releasing the several clamping devices and reducing the size of the body and sleeve members as will be obvious. When not in use, the frame may be adjusted so that the body sections are moved toward each other as far as they will go, and the sleeve members may be swung inwardly about the side members 1^a, 2^a; to their folded condition. In this condition of the parts, the frame occupies a very small amount of space, and may be readily and conveniently shipped or otherwise transported or stored. It is to be understood that while I prefer to construct the various parts of my improved frame of continuous lengths of wire or similar material, any other suitable material or construction arranged to secure the desired results may be substituted therefor. In addition to this, if found advisable, clamping means other than those shown and described for maintaining the parts in their adjusted position may be used.

Various modifications in the specific construction shown and described may be made within the scope of the claims without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim:

1. A frame of the kind described comprising connected body sections having end members slidable relatively to each other, and side members connecting the same, clamping loops engaging said end members, clamping levers extending through said loops and arranged to cooperate therewith to secure said end members in an adjusted position, and sleeve members pivotally mounted on said body sections to move in planes substantially parallel with said end members.

2. A frame of the kind described comprising connected body sections comprising end members slidable relatively to each other, and side members connecting the same, clamping loops engaging said end

members, clamping levers extending
through said loops and arranged to coöper-
ate therewith to secure said end members in
an adjusted position, one of said levers also
5 serving as a suspending device, sleeve mem-
bers pivotally mounted on said body sec-
tions to move in planes parallel with said
end members and each having a portion ad-
justable lengthwise of the side members and
10 a clamp for securing said adjustable por-

tions of said sleeve members in their ad-
justed position.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set
my hand in the presence of two subscribing
witnesses.

WILLIAM A. RINGLER.

Witnesses:

JOHN A. KEHLENBECK,
W. WECKMANN.