

F. J. FLORENCE.

STORE.

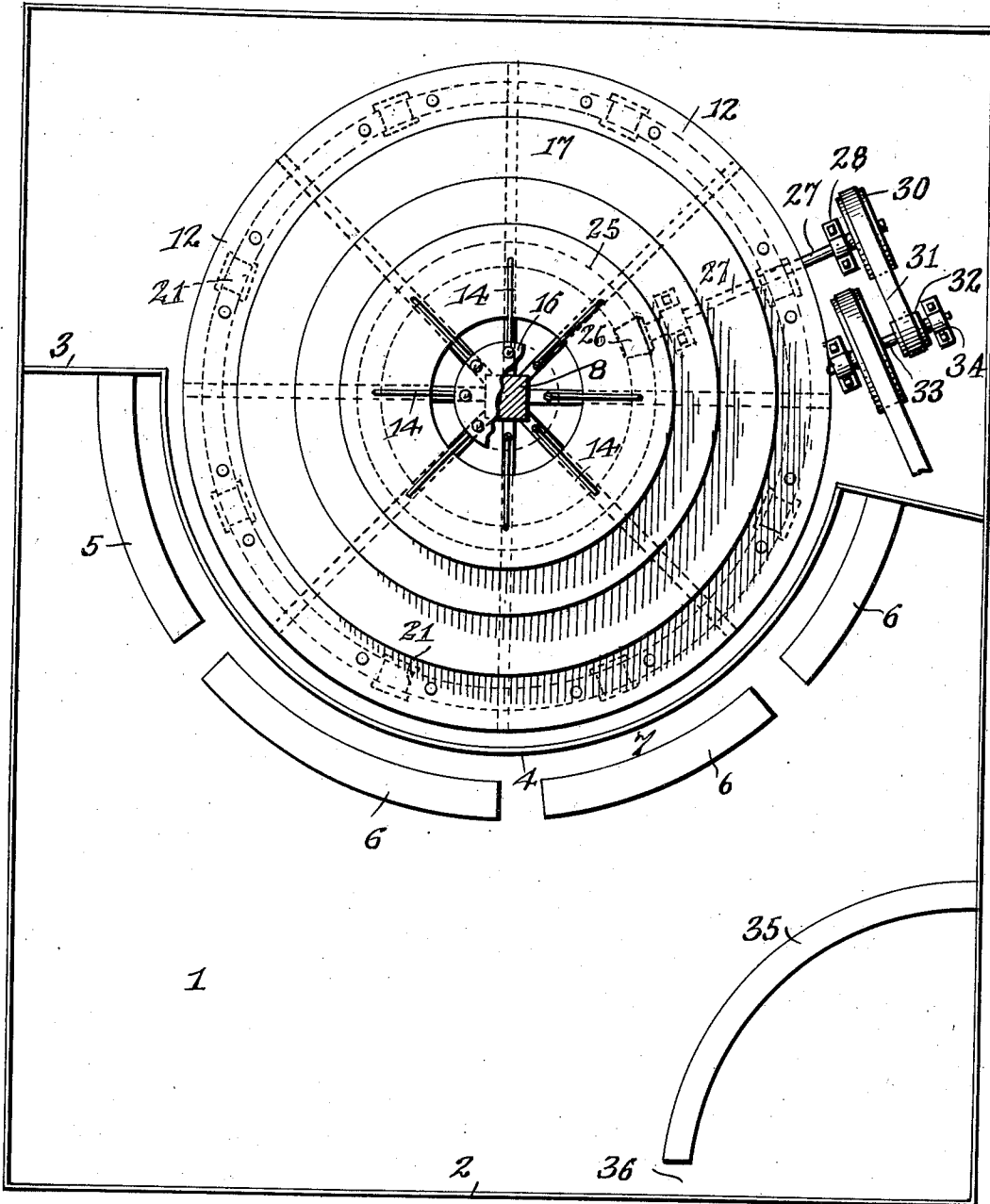
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1,400,948.

Patented Dec. 20, 1921.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.



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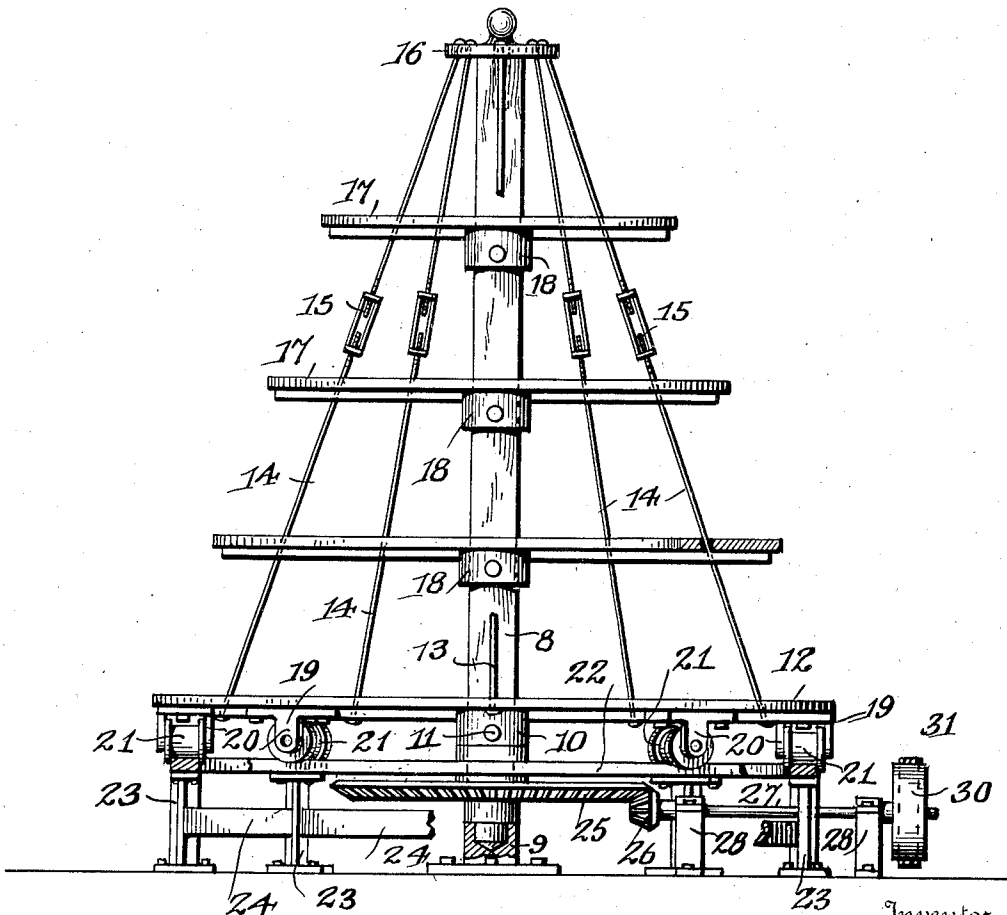
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK J. FLORENCE, OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA.

STORE.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK J. FLORENCE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pensacola, in the county of Escambia and State of Florida, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in a Store, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a store and has for its principal object to provide a structure whereby customers may wait upon themselves in an efficient manner and conveniently without the assistance of clerks.

Another object of the invention is to provide simple and efficient means for displaying the articles to be sold in the store so that they may be readily seen by the customer and within easy access so as to be obtainable with little effort when the customer desires any article being displayed.

A further object of the invention is to provide an arrangement of tables conveniently situated for placing articles thereon after they have been selected by the customer.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a structure of this nature which will be simple and capable of being manufactured at a comparatively low cost and one which will be efficient and reliable in operation.

With the above and numerous other objects in view the invention consists in certain novel features of construction and the arrangement and combination of parts as will be hereinafter more fully explained and claimed.

In the drawing:—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a store embodying my invention, and

Fig. 2 is an elevational view of the article container and displayer.

Referring to the drawing in detail it will be seen that 1 designates a room or store generally having the entrance 2 situated at any convenient place. A partition 3 is disposed transversely across the store 1 intermediate its ends and is provided with an intermediate curved portion 4 which is sufficiently high to prevent the customers from entering the rear of the store and yet allow them to see clearly thereover and reach thereover for a purpose to be hereinafter more fully explained. A curved table 5 is situated adjacent the curved portion 4 of the partition 3 and preferably a plurality of containers such as baskets will be placed

thereon for the use of the customer. A plurality of similar tables 6 are arranged concentric with the curved portion 4 so as to form an aisle 7.

A rotatable displaying and article containing mechanism is disposed within the rear of the store 1 so that a portion thereof will be within the area formed by the curved portion 4. This mechanism includes a rotary supporting member 8 which extends vertically from and is rotatable in a suitable bearing 9 fixed to the floor. A collar 10 is fixed to the member 8 by means of a bolt 11 or in any other suitable manner and supports a rotary table 12 thereon which is braced by means of the rods 13 and the adjustable rods 14 which are provided with turn buckles 15. The upper ends of these rods are fixed in a disk 16 which is suitably fixed to and braced on the upper end of the member 8. A plurality of tables 17 are fixed at regular intervals along the member 8 and rest on the collars 18 and are braced by the adjustable rods 14 which pass therethrough. It will be noted that these tables 17 grow smaller toward the top of the member 8. The table 12 is much larger than the other tables 17 and is adapted to hold heavier articles and is therefore provided with the series of brackets 19 each of which consists of a pair of spaced apertured ears 20 in which are journaled the rollers 21 which ride on the track 22 which is circular and mounted on the supports 23 which are held in rigid engagement with the track and also with each other through a circular brace ring 24. A beveled gear 25 is keyed to the member 8 adjacent its bottom end and is in mesh with the beveled pinion 26 mounted on a shaft 27 which is suitably journaled in the supports 28. The other end of the shaft 27 is provided with a pulley wheel 30 over which is trained a belt 31. This belt 31 is driven by a pulley wheel 32 mounted on a shaft 33 journaled in the brackets 34. This shaft 33 may be rotated in any suitable manner.

In one of the forward corners of the store 1 there is preferably situated a curved desk 35 having an entrance 36 to the rear thereof. A cashier is situated in behind this desk 35. The customers enter the store through the entrance 1 and go to the table 5 and obtain a basket or other container therefrom. They then pass in to the aisle 7 and as the display mechanism is rotating they select what

articles they desire and place them in the container which they may conveniently rest upon one of the tables 6. After having purchased what they desire they then pass to the desk 35 and the articles in the basket are checked up by the cashier and payment duly made by the customer. Of course it will be understood that there may be several of the displaying mechanisms if so desired arranged in a convenient manner and well within the scope of the present invention. The disclosure in the accompanying drawings and described above refer to the preferred embodiment of the invention and of course various changes may be made therein within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new is:—

1. In a store of the class described, a rotary displaying mechanism, a partition arranged transversely of the store and provided with a curved portion arranged concentrically with the rotary displaying mechanism and encircling a portion thereof.

2. In combination, a store, a partition arranged transversely thereof and provided with a curved intermediate portion, a displaying mechanism situated in the rear of the store so as to be partly encircled by the

curved portion of the partition, and a plurality of curved tables arranged concentrically and in close proximity to the semi-circular portion of the partition.

3. A displaying mechanism of the class described comprising a rotary supporting member, a plurality of tables mounted thereon, rollers on one of the tables, a circular track for engaging the rollers, means for rotating the supports, and a plurality of rods connected to one of the end tables, passing through the other tables and attached to the rotary supporting member.

4. In combination, a store, a partition arranged transversely of the store and provided with a curved intermediate portion, a displaying mechanism partly encircled by the curved portion, a plurality of curved tables arranged concentric with the curved portion and slightly spaced therefrom so as to form an aisle, and a cashier's desk disposed in one of the forward corners of the store.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

FRANK J. FLORENCE.

Witnesses:

ALBERT S. MACK,
CONRAD H. YOUNG.