Sept. 2, 1930. R. C. EATON 1,774,792

ATTACHMENT FOR DRAFTSMEN'S DRAWERS

Filed May 16, 1928

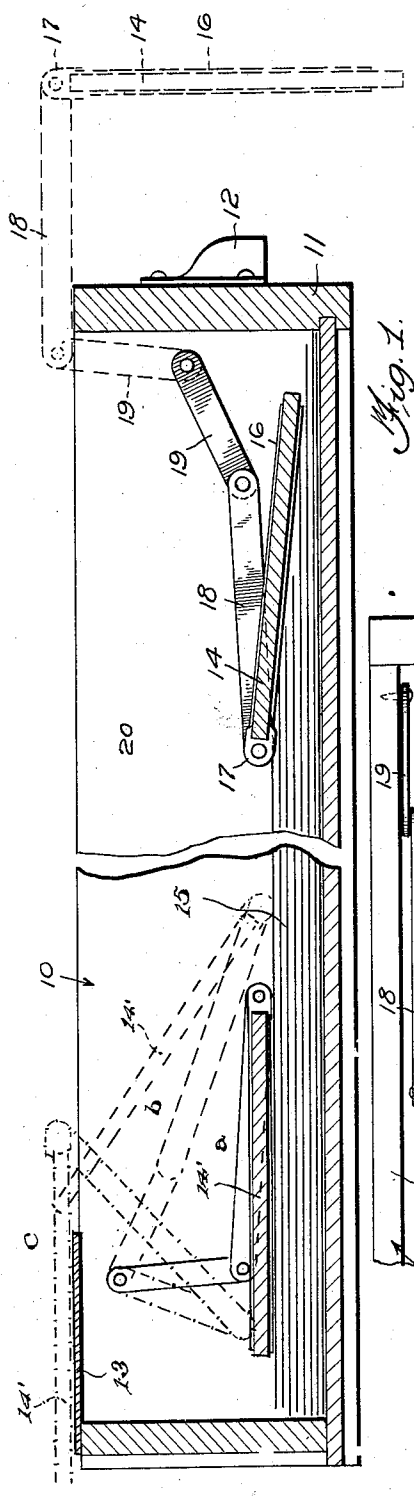

Fig. 1.

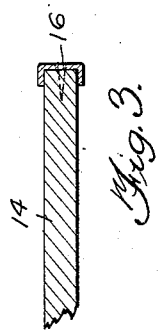

Fig. 3.

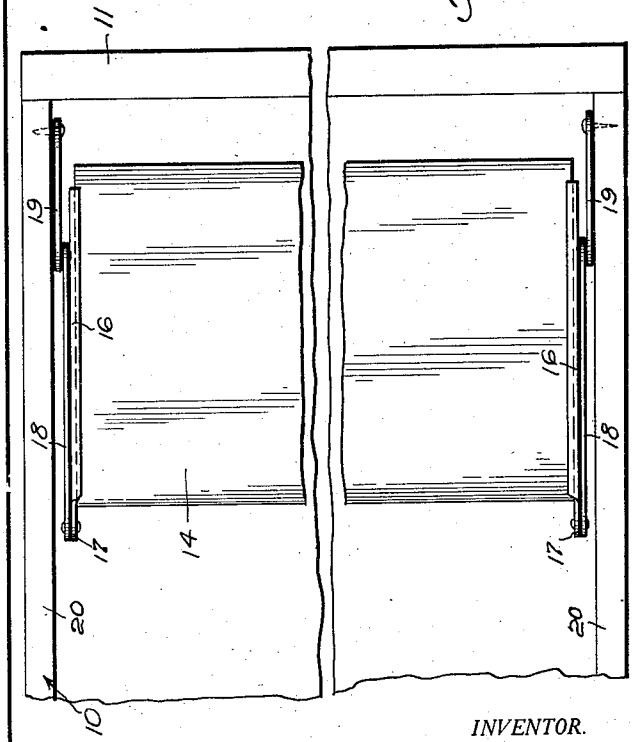

Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ATTACHMENT FOR DRAFTSMEN'S DRAWERS

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The invention has for an object to provide a novel and efficient device for use in drawers to retain drawings of large size—and also drawings of mixed sizes as well as small drawings—in flat condition. While I am aware that weight or other appliances have been used in coordination with receptacles so as to rest upon papers in the receptacles, still there has been no device which meets the requirements served by my appliance, and there has been a need for such an article. My invention is particularly applicable to use in coordination with drawers for architects' drawings, blue-prints and the like, in which there is ordinarily provided what is called a "flash-board" in the rear part. It is desirable in such an appliance that the drawer be left entirely clear as far as practicable without projecting parts on the inner sides when open for the reception or removal of drawings, and it is also desirable that there should be no projections above or without the body of the drawer when it is closed or to be closed. It is an object of my invention to attain these ends and in addition provide an appliance which, while adapted to lie closely against the front end of the drawer, may still move upwardly and downwardly to accommodate itself to drawings while lying flat upon the same, to hold the edges and corners so that they will not curl.

Additional objects, advantages and features of invention reside in the construction, arrangement and combination of parts as will be understood from the following description and accompanying drawings, wherein,

Figure 1 is a longitudinal sectional view of a drawer equipped with my invention, with the parts of my device dotted in open position with respect to the drawer.

Figure 2 is a top view of the front end of the drawer.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary cross sectional view of the outer link of my appliance.

There is illustrated a drawer 10 which may be of any usual construction for containing large and small sheets of drawings such as are kept by architects and engineers in their drafting departments, the drawer having a front board 11 to which there is attached the familiar drawer pull 12 by which the drawer may be opened. In the rear portion of the drawer there is laid a board 14′ adapted to rest upon the rear portion of papers in the drawer, being similar to and mounted in the same way as the board 14 at the front portion, and now to be described. At the forward part of the drawer there is provided a supplementary removable presser board or weight 14 connected in such manner to the sides of the drawer that it may lie flat by gravity upon the papers 15 which are laid in the lower part of the drawer under the boards 14 and 14′. As shown, it is adapted to accommodate itself to the papers so that it may lie inclined in case there are fewer sheets under one side than under the other, so that all may be pressed upon alike, or in case the sheets thereunder are of an even depth it will lie horizontally in the drawer resting upon the papers thereunder, and in either event the edges and corners of the papers will be held down and prevented from curling upward. The presser-board 14 is ordinarily formed of wood, though any other material may be used, such as fiber board or the like. As embodied, for using a wooden board the connections include at each side of the drawer an outer link 16 with channelled inner sides in which the end edges of the board are set and secured by means of screws engaged through proper apertures in the link 16. The link projects at the front edge of the board, where ears 17 are formed, to the extremities of which there are pivoted respective long links 18 while to the extremities of the links 18 there are pivoted outer short links 19. The links 19 are pivoted at their outer ends upon the respective sides 20 of the drawer at a distance from the upper edge of the drawer slightly less than the radius of the link 19, so that the latter may swing upwardly to support the link 18 above the top edge of the drawer, permitting the link 18 to extend forwardly, resting upon the top edge of the front board 11 of the drawer, as dotted in Figure 1. The links 19 are pivoted upon respective sides of the drawer at a distance from the top edge slightly less than the ra-

dius of this link, so that when it is swung upwardly the link 18 may extend therefrom horizontally or downwardly over the front board 11 of the drawer, as dotted in Figure 1. The links are all freely movable and so shaped that they may lie close beside or swing past each other, permitting the board 14 to fall easily into whatever position it may upon the papers thereunder, where it serves as a weight to flatten them.

In the use of this appliance, the parts being connected as described, the links 19 and 18 extend rearwardly from the pivotal connection with the side of the drawer, with the board 14 extending forwardly between the links from adjacent the rear or inner end of the link 18. The forward edge of the board 14 is preferably spaced slightly from the front board 11 of the drawer when the board 14 is at its lowermost position in the drawer.

Drawings being held under the board, in case it is desired to remove a small drawing or examine the drawings to locate a particular one, the front edge of the board 14 is simply raised and moved rearwardly on the rear ends of the links 18 as pivots until it falls upon the board or whatever else may be immediately inward of the initial position of the board 14. A drawing may be pulled out from under the boards 14 and 14′ but if desired the board 14 may be raised bodily, drawn forwardly and allowed to fall in front of the drawer, where it may hang from the forwardly projecting ends of the links 18 as shown in dotted lines in Figure 1, while the board 14′ may be raised at one edge, or bodily. For putting new drawings in place in the drawer, the board 14 should be swung to the forward position in front of the drawer, and the board 14′ raised as necessary. The board 14′ may be raised and pushed slidably back over the board 13 at the rear end of the drawer, across the top edges, by the movements indicated at *b* and *c*, the board 14′ being adapted to rest upon the contents at various positions from *a* to *b*, as indicated in Figure 1.

It will be observed that by reason of the links 18 extending forwardly from a pivotal connection with the links 19 above the top of the drawer, they do not project into the way of persons handling drawings or using the drawer in removing or replacing sheets. It is also apparent that with the parts in closed position the drawer and incorporated parts may readily clear the frame-work of the drawer cabinet.

When the board 14 is in front of the drawer it is held spaced forwardly thereof so as to clear the drawer pulls, and a person may easily observe index cards on the front of the drawer through the space between the board 14 and front of the drawer and between the links 18. By the arrangement of links shown they may lie so close beside the sides of the drawer that when the board 14 is turned rearwardly, drawings of ordinary sizes may be drawn out between the links without liability of damage. The links hold the board 14 rigidly against lateral movement, but permit the freest desired movement from and to the varied positions described.

I claim:

1. A horizontal drawer, a weight member having a shape adapted to lie upon and hold papers thereunder in desired position and a mounting therefor comprising a first link at each side having a channel form receiving one edge of the weight and at least two links connected in train with the extremity of each first link and to the adjacent side of the drawer, the last-named links clearing the path of pivotal movement of the weight, the length of said train plus the distance from the connection at the side of the drawer to the nearest fixed cross member of the drawer being greater than the corresponding measurement of the weight.

2. A device of the character described consisting of a drawer, a weight member adapted to lie within the drawer and across the edges of papers, relatively long links connected pivotally to respective sides of the weight member closely adjacent one transverse boundary, and respective relatively short links connected to the extremities of the long links, and to the sides of the drawer, said short links being of such a length as to allow said long links to swing above the top of the drawer.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

REUBEN C. EATON.