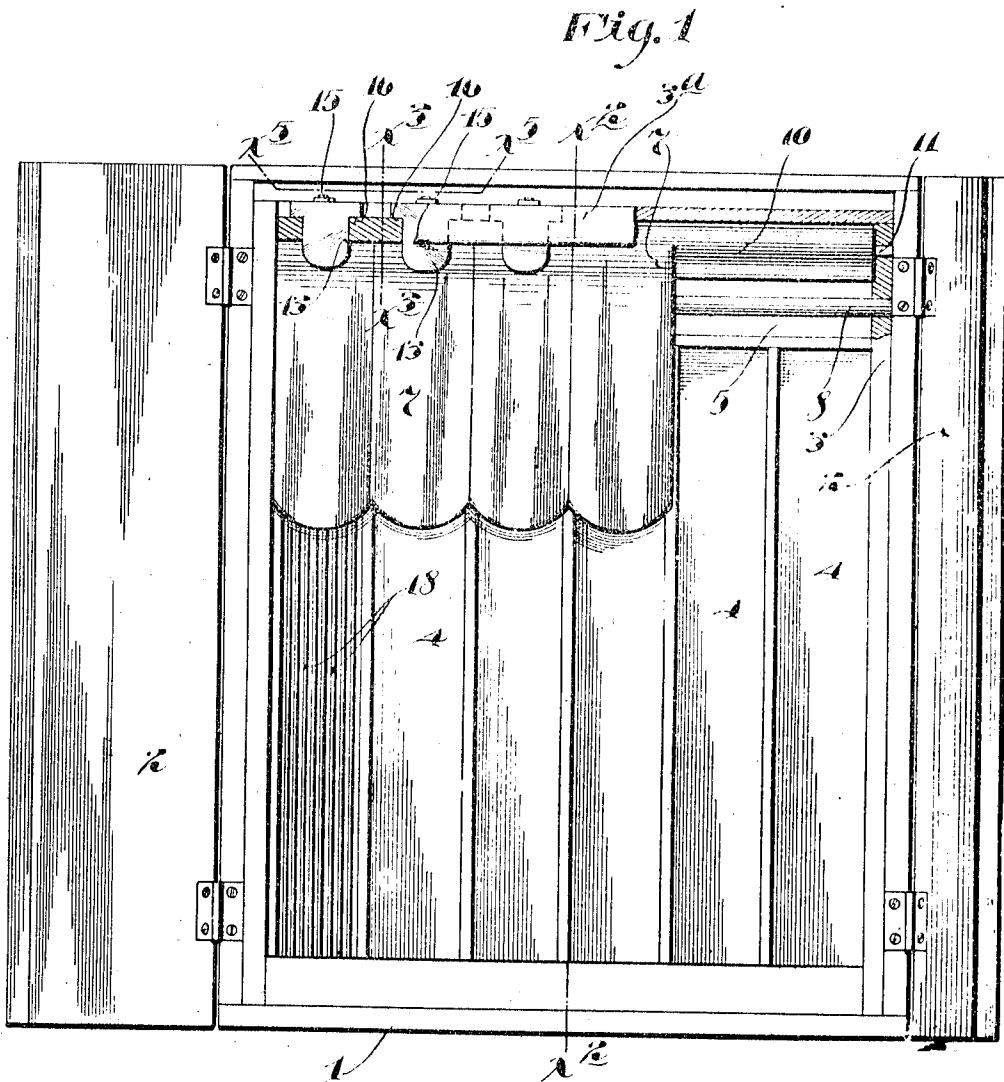


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 MULTICOMPARTMENT CABINET.  
 APPLICATION FILED JUNE 10, 1912.

1,035,641.

Patented Aug. 13, 1912.  
 2 SHEETS-SHEET 1.



Witnesses:  
 E. C. Skinkle  
 Geo. Knudsen

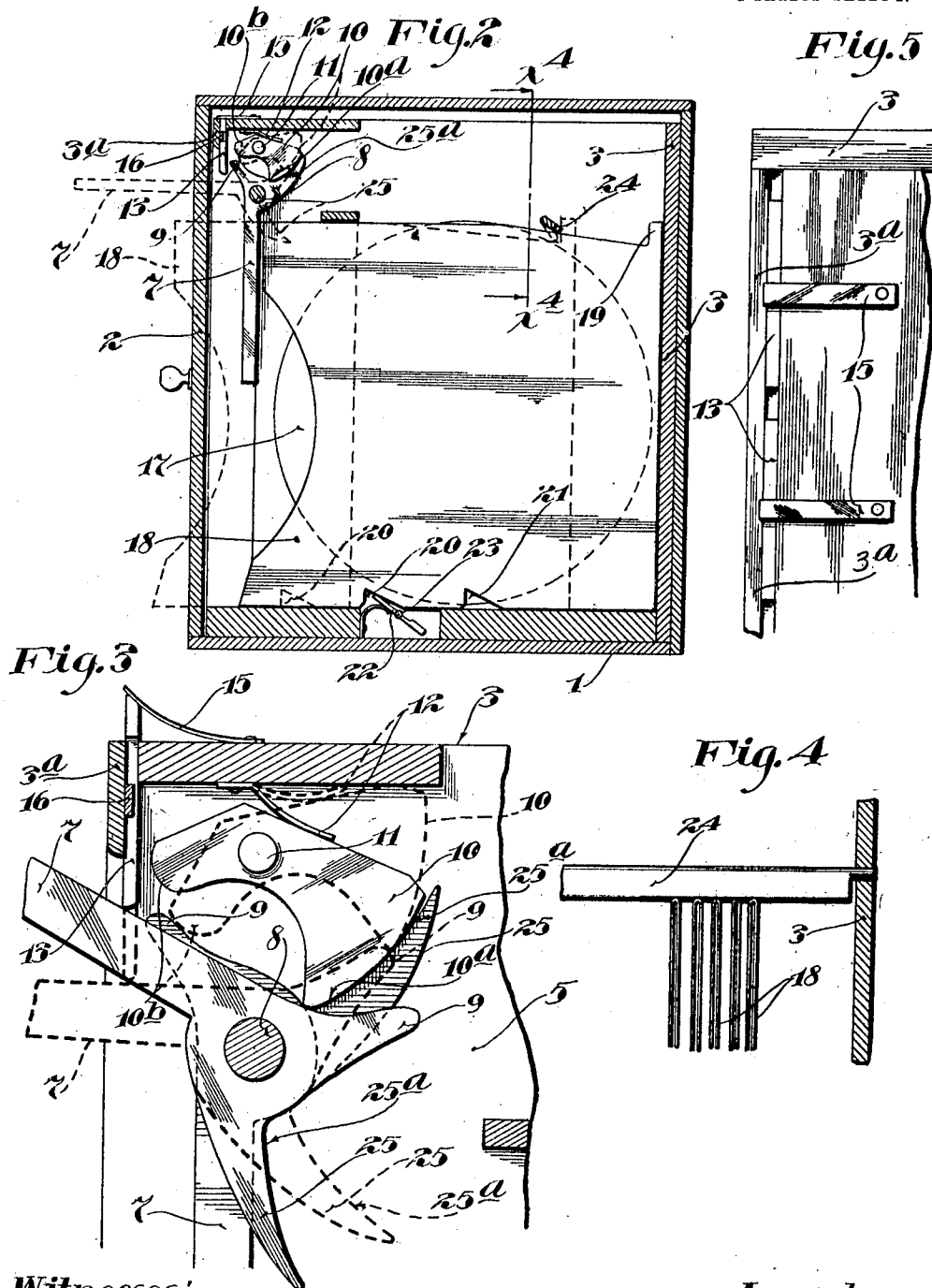
Inventor:  
 George Robbins  
 By his Attorneys:  
 Williamson & Merchant

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE ROBBINS, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

MULTICOMPARTMENT CABINET.

1,035,641.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 13, 1912.

Application filed June 10, 1912. Serial No. 702,746.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE ROBBINS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Minneapolis, in the county of Hennepin and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Multicompartment Cabinets; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My present invention relates to so-called multicompartment cabinets, and is in the nature of an improvement on the multicompartment cabinet disclosed and broadly claimed in my prior co-pending application S. N. 673,440, filed January 25th, 1912.

Generally stated, the invention consists of the novel devices and combinations of devices hereinafter described and defined in the claims.

These so-called multicompartment cabinets are serviceable for a great many different purposes. They are especially useful in the filing of phonograph records, but are also useful in filing various kinds of records and other articles which it is desirable to keep in order.

In my prior application, I provide means whereby when one article, such as an envelop, has been partially withdrawn from its compartment and a record removed therefrom, a second article or envelop in another compartment cannot be withdrawn until after the envelop first drawn out has been replaced. While it is highly desirable that some means be provided which will keep the person using the cabinet reminded of the fact that an envelop or article has been removed and which will thereby prevent accumulations, under ordinary conditions, of a large number of records or articles outside of the casing, nevertheless, there are times when it is very desirable that a number of records or articles from different compartments be withdrawn or removed from the cabinet.

In my present invention, I provide for both of these contingencies by the provision, in connection with the several compartments, of a multicompartment cabinet, of gates or closures for the several compartments and lock mechanism having the following peculiar action, to-wit; when the gate or closure of one compartment is moved into the pre-

determined intermediate position, it will permit of the removal from that compartment of the record or records or other articles contained in that compartment, but it will move a common lock bar or device into a position to lock all of the other closures or gates in their normal or closed positions. Hence, if a gate or closure be moved only far enough to permit the removal of an article from that compartment, articles cannot be removed from the other compartments. When, however, it is desired, without returning the first removed record or other articles into its compartment, to remove a record or article from another compartment, the gate or closure thus set in its intermediate position can be forced onward to an extreme position in which it will release the gates or closure of the other compartments. Hence, it will be seen that the so-called lock device does not positively prevent removal of articles from a second compartment after an article has been removed from one compartment, but makes it necessary to perform an unusual or otherwise unnecessary action in order to obtain this result. Otherwise stated, the lock device is really a very effective reminder of the fact that a record or article has been removed from one compartment.

The invention, in its preferred form, is illustrated in the accompanying drawings wherein like characters indicate like parts throughout the several views.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a view in front elevation with some parts sectioned and some parts removed, showing a multicompartment cabinet embodying my invention, some parts being sectioned and some parts being removed, and the doors of the outer casing being opened; Fig. 2 is a transverse section taken through the cabinet on the line  $x^2 x^2$  on Fig. 1, the doors of the outer casing of the cabinet being shown as closed; Fig. 3 is a fragmentary view in an enlarged vertical section taken on the line  $x^3 x^3$  on Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is a fragmentary section taken on the line  $x^4 x^4$  on Fig. 2; and Fig. 5 is a fragmentary view showing certain parts found in the vicinity of the line marked  $x^5 x^5$  on Fig. 1, the said parts being removed from the outer casing of the cabinet.

Preferably, and as shown, the cabinet proper comprises an outer casing 1 having

hinged doors 2, and a bodily removable inner casing 3 having a multiplicity of article compartments 4 and a transversely extended top compartment 5, in the front portion of which latter, certain elements of the lock mechanism are mounted.

In each compartment 4, there is a so-called compartment gate or closure that may take various forms, but which, for the purpose of holding in the compartments articles, such as phonograph record disks or envelopes containing the same, need only partially close the said compartments. As shown, these compartment gates 7, at their upper ends, are independently pivoted on a transverse rod 8 located just above the upper front portions of the compartments 4 and suitably secured to the sides of the inner casing 3. Each gate 7 is provided with an upwardly extended short arm or lug 9 and the arms or lugs 9 of all of the gates 7 cooperate with a common lock device, preferably in the form of a lock bar 10 having trunnions 11 at its ends, journaled in the sides of the said inner casing 3. A spring 12 anchored to the top of the inner casing 3 and engaging the top of the lock bar 10 yieldingly presses the inner edge of the said lock bar, downward and normally holds the segmental edge 10<sup>a</sup> thereof, against, or close to the hubs of the several gates 7. The normal positions of the gates 7 and of the common lock bar 10 is shown in Fig. 2, and in this position of the parts, it will be noted, that the lugs or arms 9 of the gates 7 stand in position to swing under the front edge 10<sup>b</sup> of the lock bar 10.

For each gate 7, there is a yielding stop adapted to be engaged and forced onward by movement of the cooperating gate beyond an intermediate position in which it will release a disk or other article from the corresponding compartment. These yielding stops are preferably in the form of small stop bars 13 mounted for vertical movements in the upper front bar 3<sup>a</sup> of the inner casing 3, and yieldingly pressed downward by springs 15 attached to the top of the casing 3 and independently operative upon the said yielding stops. The stop bars 13 are shown as provided with expanded upper ends that engage with stops 16 on the front bar 3<sup>a</sup> of the inner casing 1.

In the drawings, the cabinet is illustrated as designed for holding phonograph record disks 17 contained in envelopes, or containing casings 18, a multiplicity of each of which is, as shown, adapted to be contained in each article compartment 4. The front edges of the envelopes 18 are open so that the disks may be inserted therein or removed therefrom without requiring the envelopes to be completely withdrawn from the cabinet.

The upper rear portions of the envelopes

18 are notched or cut down to form stop projections 19 on the upper rear corners of the said envelopes. Also the lower edges of the envelopes are preferably provided with ratchet-like notches 20 and 21. The notches 21 stand in position to be filled in or closed by the disks 17 when the latter are placed in the envelopes; and the notches 20 stand just in front of the notches occupied by the disks when positioned in the said envelopes. Normally, the front notches 20 of all of the disks 18 are engaged by the front edge of a common spring pressed latch bar 22 having at its ends trunnions 23 that are journaled in the sides of the inner casing 3.

As has already been described, normally, all of the gates 7 are released so that any one thereof may be freely moved from its closed or normal position indicated by full lines in Fig. 2 and by light dotted lines in Fig. 3, into an approximately horizontal intermediate position indicated by the heavy dotted lines in Fig. 3. It may be here stated, also, that any number, two or more, or all of the gates 7 may, if simultaneously moved, be moved from their normal into their horizontal disk releasing positions for the reason that no locking action takes place until after at least one of the gates has been moved from its normal position. Assuming now that one of the gates 7, has been moved into its approximately horizontal intermediate or disk releasing position, shown by heavy dotted lines in Fig. 3, it will be noted that in such position, the lug 9 of such moved gate engages the rear edge 10<sup>a</sup> of the common lock bar 10, and forces the front edge 10<sup>b</sup> of the said lock bar into engagement with or behind the lugs 9 of all of those gates that have been left in their normal positions. Hence, when one or more of the gates 7 stands in an intermediate position just stated, all other of the gates 7 will be located in their normal or closed positions. If, however, the said lever 7 instead of being returned to its normal position, be moved on or upward to its extreme position, indicated by full lines in Fig. 3, it will then be noted that the lug 9 of such extremely moved gate passes beyond or backward of the inner edge 10<sup>a</sup> of the lock bar 10 and permits the lock bar to again assume its normal position indicated by full lines in Fig. 3, and in each position, its front edge 10<sup>b</sup> is raised above and out of the path of movement of the lugs 9 of those gates that have been left in their normal or downturned closed positions. In this way, therefore, all of the gates standing in normal position may be released by an extreme upward movement by any one, or more, of the said gates 7. When the extremely opened gate 7 is forced downward or back to its normal position, its lug 9 has a sort of a camming action on the inner edge 10<sup>a</sup>

of the common lock bar 10 which oscillates said lock bar and raises the rear edge of the same so as to permit the said lug 9 to pass back into its normal position.

5 When one of the envelopes 18 is drawn outward far enough to engage its rear notch 21 with the latch bar 22, the stop lug 19 on the upper rear edge thereof, will be engaged with a pivoted stop bar 24, and its  
10 further outward movement will thus be intercepted. The said stop bar 24 extends above and is common to all of the envelopes of the several compartments, and at its ends it has trunnions journaled in the sides of  
15 the inner casing 3. If, when the envelop is thus thrown forward or partly outward, the disk 17 be removed therefrom, the latch plate 22 will hold the said envelop against return movement until the disk is again  
20 placed therein. The replacing of the disk within the envelop presses the latch plate 22 out of operative engagement with the notch 21 and thus permits the envelop with its disk to be returned to normal position.  
25 When the latch plate 22 moves upward into an engagement with the notch 21 of an outwardly drawn envelop, it moves into the notches 20 of all of those envelopes which remain in normal position. This statement  
30 makes clear the purpose of the said notches 20. If at any time it should be desirable to remove an envelop or envelopes from the cabinet, the stop bar 24 must be turned upward, so that it will clear the stop lugs 19 of the  
35 said envelopes.

As already indicated, this cabinet is adapted for many other uses than that of filing phonographic records. In the filing of letters and various other loose sheets, it  
40 is desirable to maintain an open space where a letter or loose sheet has been removed, and for such purpose, I provide the hub of the gate or closure 7 with a projecting divider arm 25, the main body of  
45 which is of considerable width, but the outer surface of the edge 25<sup>a</sup> of which, is preferably made quite sharp. With this arrangement, when the gate is thrown into either of the positions shown by dotted lines  
50 and heavy full lines in Fig. 3, the arms 25 will enter between the loose sheets or letters, or loose leaves and maintain the spacing or separation into which the said removed part may be very conveniently returned always  
55 to the proper place.

In Fig. 2, by dotted lines, the envelop 18 is shown as drawn out from the cabinet as far as permitted by the stop 24, and far enough to permit the disk 17 to be easily removed therefrom. In this position of the  
60 envelop, the corresponding gate 7 must, of course, be in its approximately horizontal or intermediate position, and the said gate will be held in this position when the envelop is thus partly drawn out. Further-

more, the envelop cannot be pushed backward into the cabinet while the disk is removed therefrom. Hence, it follows that, if it is desired to remove disks from several  
70 of the compartments of the cabinet at the same time, such operation must be accomplished by forcing the opened gate onward or upward from its intermediate position, and not by a return or backward movement. The manner in which the said  
75 onward movement of the gate from its intermediate position accomplishes the release of gates controlling other compartments has already been fully explained. When the  
80 above described device is used in connection with envelopes of the character shown in the drawings, the so-called divider arms 25 of the gates 7 will not be employed.

In the specification and in the claims, the term "gate" is herein used in a very broad  
85 sense to include a device which will cut off access to a compartment or which will hold an article within the cabinet. The term "envelop" is also used in a broad sense to include any kind of a device for holding  
90 any kind of an article.

It is important to note that the so-called inner casing and all of the mechanism of the multi-compartment cabinet are removable as an entirety from the outer casing.  
95 This is important because it permits the inner casing and the mechanism of the device to be made complete and, thereafter, to be inserted into any suitable form of outer casing; such, for instance, as the various forms  
100 of cabinets or cases found in the market.

What I claim is:—

1. A multi-compartment cabinet having a plurality of gates and mechanism operative when a gate is moved to an intermediate position to lock other gates in normal positions, but operative on either side  
105 of said intermediate position to release the several gates.

2. The combination with a multi-compartment cabinet and a plurality of envelopes movable therein, of a plurality of envelop retainers therefor, and lock mechanism coöperating with said retainers to secure other envelopes in normal positions  
115 within said cabinet, but operative in either of two extreme positions of said retainer to release other envelopes.

3. The combination with a multi-compartment cabinet and a plurality of envelopes therein, of a plurality of gates, and a lock bar common to said gates, said gates and lock bar having coöperating means operative when one of the gates is moved into an intermediate position to lock the other  
125 gates in their closed positions, but operative in either of two extreme positions of any gate, to release all of the other gates.

4. A multi-compartment cabinet having a plurality of gates and mechanism oper-  
130

ative when a gate is moved to an intermediate position to lock other gates in normal positions, but operative on either side of said intermediate position to release the several gates; and a stop device operative to prevent the envelopes from being completely withdrawn from the compartments.

5. A multi-compartment cabinet having a plurality of gates and mechanism operative, when a gate is moved to an intermediate position, to lock other gates in normal positions, but operative on either side of said intermediate position to release the several gates, a stop device operative to prevent the envelopes from being completely withdrawn from the compartments, and a latch operative on the envelopes to prevent the same from being returned empty to normal positions, which latch is thrown out of action by the article placed in said envelop.

6. The combination with a multi-compartment cabinet and a plurality of envelopes movable therein, of a plurality of gates, and an oscillatory lock bar common to all of the gates and having inner and outer bearing edges, and the said gates having projecting lugs cooperating with the inner and outer edges of said common bar and operative, when a gate is moved into an intermediate position to cause said lock bar to lock the other gates in closed positions, but operating both in extreme open and in closed positions of the gates, to release the other gates.

7. A multi-compartment cabinet having a plurality of gates and mechanism operative when a gate is moved to an intermediate position to lock other gates in normal positions but operative on either side of said intermediate position to release the several gates, and yielding stops against which said gates must be moved when forced to extreme open positions.

8. The combination with a multi-compartment cabinet and a plurality of envelopes movable therein, of a plurality of gates, an oscillatory lock bar common to all of the gates and having inner and outer bearing edges, the said gates having projecting lugs cooperating with the inner and outer edges of said common bar and operative when a gate is moved into an intermediate position to cause said lock bar to lock the other gates in closed positions, but operating both in extreme open and in closed positions of the gates to release the other gates, and yielding stops against which said gates must be moved when forced to extreme open positions.

9. The combination with a multi-compartment cabinet, of a plurality of gates cooperating therewith, said gates having projecting arms, which, when the gates are opened, are thrown into the cabinet in position

to engage between the articles therein contained and to thereby maintain a separation of the articles at the open gate.

10. A multi-compartment cabinet having a plurality of gates and mechanism operative when the gate is moved to an intermediate position to lock other gates in normal positions, but operative on either side of said intermediate position to release the several gates, said gates having projecting arms, which, when the gates are opened, are thrown into the cabinet in position to engage between the articles therein contained and to thereby maintain a separation of the articles at the open gate.

11. The combination with a multi-compartment cabinet and a plurality of envelopes movable therein, of a plurality of gates, an oscillatory lock bar common to all of the gates and having inner and outer bearing edges, the said gates having projecting lugs cooperating with the inner and outer edges of said common bar and operative when a gate is moved into an intermediate position to cause said lock bar to lock the other gates in closed positions by operating both in extreme open and in closed positions of the gates to release the other gates, said gates having projecting arms, which, when the gates are opened, are thrown into the cabinet in position to engage between the articles therein contained and to thereby maintain a separation of the articles at the open gate.

12. In a multi-compartment cabinet, the combination with a plurality of gates therein, of a movable lock bar common to all of said gates, said gates having projections engageable with said lock bar and operative thereon when the gate is moved into an open position, to cause said lock bar to lock other gates in closed positions, and which lock bar is operative to yieldingly hold the said gates in opened positions.

13. The combination with a multi-compartment cabinet and a plurality of envelopes movable therein, of a plurality of envelop retainers therefor, and lock mechanism cooperating with said retainers to secure other envelopes in normal positions within said cabinet when a retainer is in an intermediate position, but operating in extreme positions of said retainer to release other envelopes, the said envelopes when moved from normal positions serving to prevent an open retainer from being returned to a normal position but permitting the same to be moved to its other extreme position.

14. The combination with a multi-compartment cabinet, and a plurality of envelopes movable therein, of a plurality of gates, and a lock mechanism common to said gates, said gates and lock mechanism having

coöperating means operative when one of the gates is moved into an intermediate position to lock the other gates in closed positions, but operative in either of two extreme positions of said gate, to release the other gates, and which envelopes when moved from normal positions prevent opened gate from being returned to a closed posi-

tion, but permit the same to be moved onward to its other extreme position.

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

GEORGE ROBBINS.

Witnesses:

HARRY D. KILGORE,  
F. D. MERCHANT.