

June 16, 1931.

C. W. THOMPSON

1,809,918

TOWEL HOLDER

Filed March 13, 1928 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

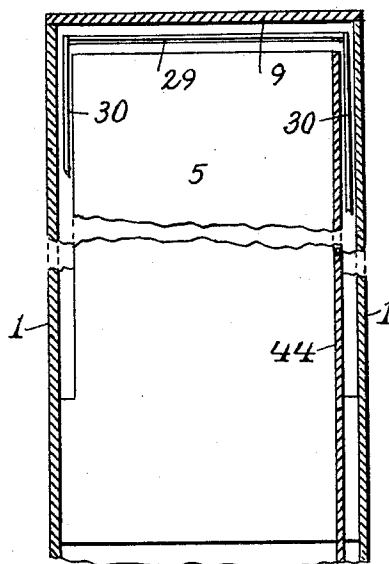
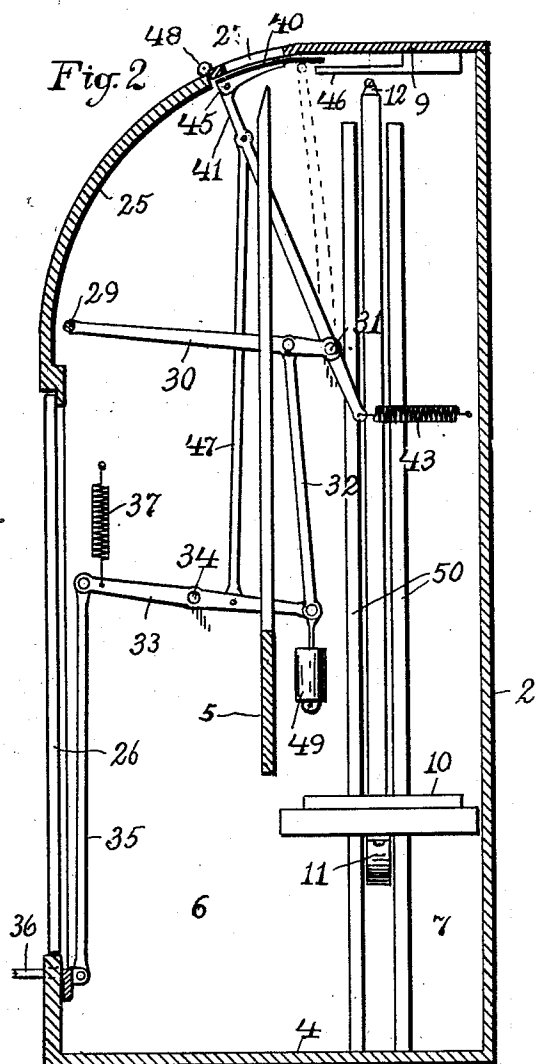


Fig. 4

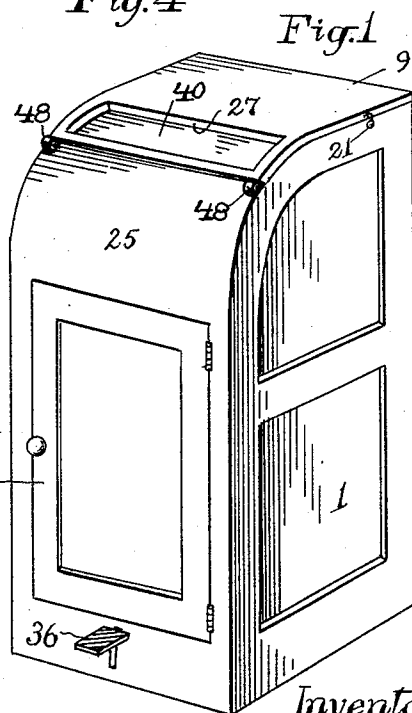


Fig. 1

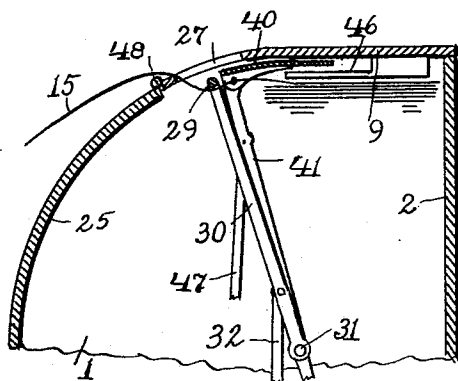


Fig. 3

Inventor,
Charles W. Thompson;
By A. B. Upham,
Attorney.

June 16, 1931.

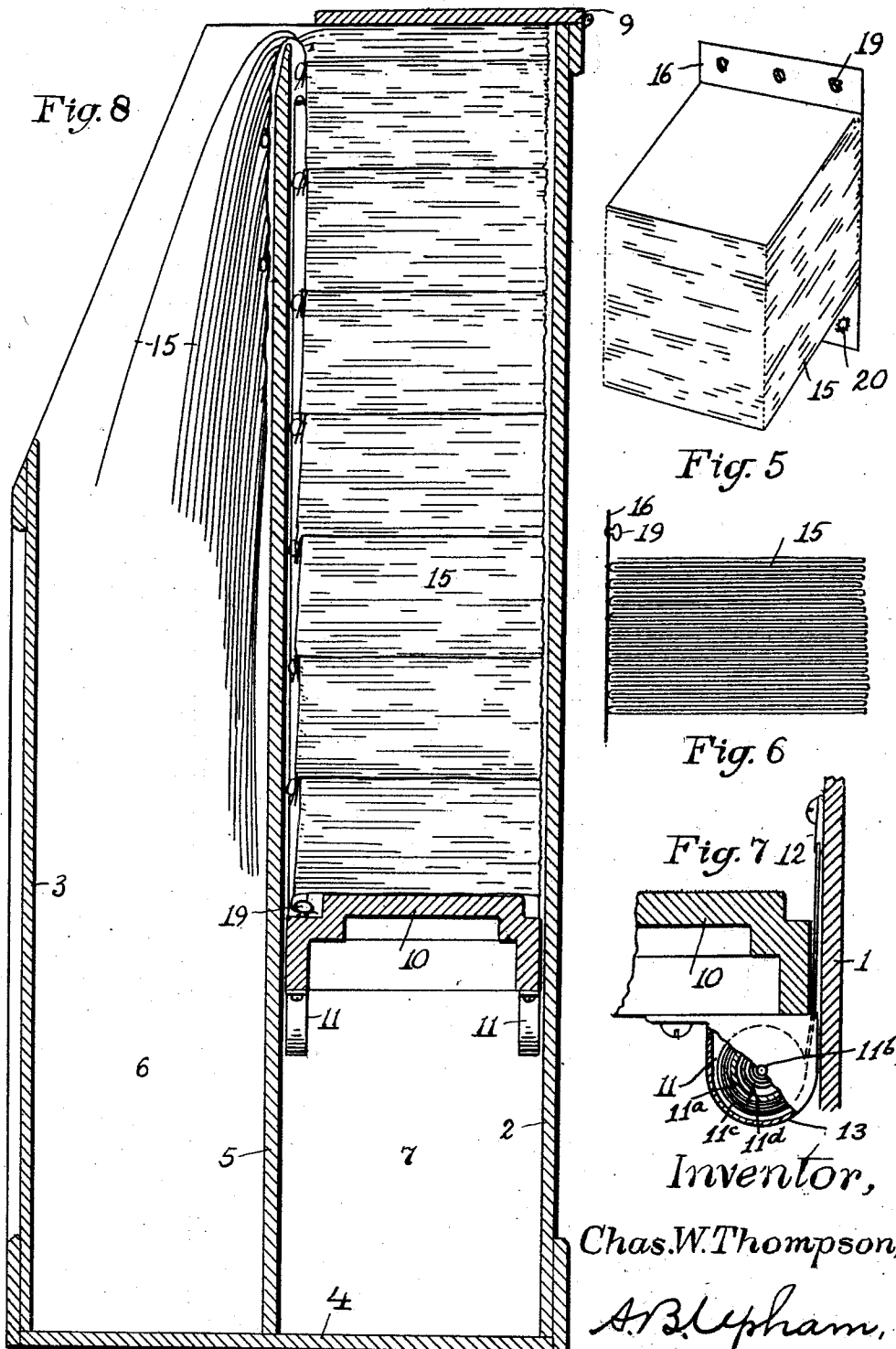
C. W. THOMPSON

1,809,918

TOWEL HOLDER

Filed March 13, 1928

2 Sheets-Sheet 2



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

CHARLES W. THOMPSON, OF WOLLASTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO HARVEY C. WHEELER, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

TOWEL HOLDER

Application filed March 13, 1928. Serial No. 261,230.

The object of this invention is the construction of a cabinet or holder wherein several hundred towels can be disposed for convenient individual use until the last one is reached. In carrying my invention into effect, the towels are arranged in groups each consisting of about fifty towels permanently attached to a fabric carrier side by side, and all piled upon a yielding supported shelf by which they are pressed up to present the topmost towel into convenient reach of its user; this shelf being located in one vertical chamber of the cabinet, and the used towels descending into the other vertical chamber thereof.

In the drawings forming part of this specification, Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the exterior of a cabinet embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a side sectional elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a side sectional elevation of the upper part of the cabinet showing one of the operative elements in a different position. Fig. 4 is a front sectional elevation of the cabinet. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of one of the towel-groups. Fig. 6 is a side view thereof. Fig. 7 is a sectional detail view showing the preferred means for yieldingly supporting the shelf. Fig. 8 is a side sectional elevation of a simplified form of the invention.

The towel holding case of Fig. 8, consists of sides 1, back 2, abbreviated front 3, floor 4, a vertical partition 5 separating the cabinet into chambers 6 and 7, and a hinged cover 9 for the chamber 7.

Within the chamber 7 is a shelf 10 vertically slidable therein and resiliently supported by means of sash-springs 11 of well known form attached to the underside of the shelf, and having their spring-terminals 12 attached to the sides of the chamber, as shown in Fig. 7, close to the top of the chamber. These sash-springs 11 consist of a pulley 11a rotatably mounted on a spindle 11b. Upon the outside of said pulley 11a is coiled the tape 11c, one end of which is fastened to said pulley and the other end to the side 1 of the towel holding case as shown at 12. Within the pulley 11a is a coiled spring 11d, one end of which is fastened in the usual way to the

spindle 11b and the opposite end to the pulley 11a, said spring being under tension and operating to yieldingly urge the pulley in a direction to wind up the tape thereon. This sash-spring mechanism is enclosed within the casing 13. There are four of the springs, one at each corner of the shelf, and made of sufficient strength to more than sustain the weight of the towels. The top edges of this shelf are cut away in order to ensure against the towels wedging in between the shelf and the surrounding chamber walls.

The towels 15 are in bunches attached to a fabric carrier 16, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6. I prefer to describe the towels as each attached at one end to the carrier and folded over at midlength to present its free end close to the carrier; although I find it simpler in actual practice to stitch to the carrier a double length of toweling at its midlength there- by attaching two towels to the carrier with a single line of stitching.

The fabric carriers 16 have their ends extend beyond the towels, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6; these extensions or flaps being provided with means for fastening one bunch to another. The fastening means preferred consist of wellknown forms of curtain fasteners 19 carried by one flap and eyes 20 in the other flap. The front recess of the shelf 10 is provided with like fasteners 19, as shown in Fig. 8.

Bunch after bunch of these towels having been loaded upon the spring shelf 10, attached to each other and to the shelf by these fasteners, until the shelf is almost in contact with the floor 4, then the door 9 is swung down upon the topmost towels and fastened, as by the locks 21 shown in Fig. 1, to hold the pile of towels down in place, the cabinet is ready for use.

To produce a towel, the free end of the topmost one which reaches just beyond the front edge of the cover 9, is grasped and pulled until the full length of the towel is released. After use, the towel is allowed to hang in the chamber 6. As more towels are used, the spring shelf rises, and the chain of soiled towels descends in the chamber 6, until the entire number is exhausted. Then

the towels are released from the fasteners 19 of the shelf 10, removed from the chamber 6 and carried to the laundry.

At the laundry, the bunches of towels are released from each other and washed independently or together.

As shown in Fig. 8, the partition 5 not only keeps the pile of towels in place, but separates the soiled ones from the fresh ones; and the cover 9 serves both to hold the pile of towels down against the upward push of the spring shelf, and to protect them from dust.

I have found that it is advisable to roughen the top surface of the shelf 10, as by affixing sandpaper thereto, in order that when the shelf has been nearly emptied, a pull upon the topmost one therein will not withdraw all the remaining ones at the same time.

With this arrangement, I am enabled to carry a supply of between four hundred and five hundred towels fully protected until used.

The upper section of the chamber 6 is cut away at an angle in order to give free access to the towels as each is being used.

Although I have described the towels as stitched to the carrier all the way across, I find this is not absolutely necessary but they may be stitched for a part of the distance; and by stitching one towel from one edge, and the adjacent one from the opposite edge, two towels can be used simultaneously by two persons side by side.

The only trouble with the construction above described is that the soiled towels are exposed to view. To obviate this defect, I construct the cabinet as shown in Figs. 1 to 4, wherein each towel after its use is drawn down out of sight. For this purpose, the chamber 6 is permanently enclosed by a curved front 25, and has a door 26 in its lower front for the removal of the used towels, and the cover 9 has an opening 27 above the top edge of the partition 5.

After a towel has been withdrawn and used, it is permitted to fall upon the curved front 25, its inner end being, of course, still attached with the others to its carrier 16. To enable such towel to be drawn down through the opening 27 out of sight, a horizontal rod 29 carried by arms 30 pivotally supported by the cabinet sides at 31, is swung up to a position close to the rear edge of the opening 27, as indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 2, so that, when the end of the topmost towel is seized to be withdrawn through this opening, it will be pulled out beneath the rod. Then, when the rod is forced down to its normal position shown in full lines in Fig. 2, this towel will be carried down with the rod to hang suspended within the chamber 6.

For the actuation of the arms 30, they are connected by rods 32 with levers 33 pivotally supported by the sides 1 at 34, the front

ends of the levers being connected by rods 35 with a treadle 36 near the bottom of the case, whereby a depression of the treadle will swing the rod 29 up to its uppermost position, and a release of the treadle will permit it to descend; tension springs 37 being provided for aiding the latter movement.

In order normally to keep the opening 27 closed, a sheet metal gate 40 is provided which is supported on arms 41 pivoted at 31 and retained closed by springs 42. When the arms 30 are swung up to present the rod 29 in its upper position, the arms 41 and gate 40 are pressed back to leave the opening 27 clear.

In this preferred form of the invention, the partition 5 does not descend to the floor 4, but leaves space beneath it for the accumulating used towels to spread over into the chamber 7, after the shelf 10 has risen in proportion. The partition does not connect at its edges with the sides 1 throughout its height, but at its lower portion only, in order to allow spaces for the parts 30, 33, and 41. A thin partition spaced from each side 1, as 44 in Fig. 4, may be provided for keeping the towels from interference with such parts.

I prefer to have the plate 40 hinged to the arms 41 at 45, and to have its outer edge remain between the cover 9 and the board 46 against which the pile of towels is upwardly pressed; the arms 41 being actuated by means of rods 47 connected with the levers 33. The cover 9 being hinged at 48 to the curved front 25, when it is opened it swings up with it the plate 40 and thereby removes the latter out of interference with the introduction of the clean towels into the chamber 7. By thus controlling the arms 41 and plate 40, the latter does not start to return to normal until after the rod 29 has moved away therefrom.

An oil plunger resistance 49 of well known construction is provided for keeping the rod 29 from a too sudden return to normal.

Instead of having the shelf 10 fitting the sides of the chamber 7, as shown in Fig. 8, it is slidably controlled by vertical ways 50; and two only of the sash springs 11 are provided.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. A towel holder comprising a case to hold clean and used towels, means dividing said case into separate compartments alongside each other for said clean and used towels, supporting shelf means adapted to force clean towels upwardly in said case, and means to draw used towels downwardly in said case, said last-mentioned means embodying a lever located outside of said case.

2. A towel holder comprising a case having a chamber for individual clean towels and another chamber for used towels, shelf means to support clean towels adapted to be automatically actuated by the act of the user in withdrawing a towel to thereby force

clean towels upwardly in said case, and means to draw said towels downwardly, after being used, into said chamber for used towels.

3. A towel holder comprising a case embodying a clean towel chamber and a used towel chamber, a cover for said clean towel chamber, means to force said clean towels upwardly against said cover, said case having an opening adjacent said cover through which a clean towel may be drawn, a gate for said opening, means to open said gate when a clean towel is desired, and mechanism to draw a used towel downwardly after it is used.

4. A towel holder comprising a case embodying a clean towel chamber and a used towel chamber, a cover for said clean towel chamber, means to force said clean towels upwardly against said cover, said case having an opening adjacent said cover through which a clean towel may be drawn, a gate for said opening, means to open said gate when a clean towel is desired, and mechanism to draw a used towel downwardly after it is used, said means and mechanism being operably connected whereby the release of said means closes said gate and permits said mechanism to draw said used towel downwardly.

5. A towel holder comprising a case, a cover for said case, said case having an opening through which a clean towel may be drawn, an arm supported by said case, a rod attached to said arm, means for swinging said arm to present said rod adjacent said opening, means for moving towels within the case towards said cover whereby the topmost towel may be withdrawn through said opening in such a position that when said rod moves away from said opening the towel withdrawn will be drawn into said case by said rod.

6. A towel holder comprising a case, a cover for said case, said case having an opening through which a clean towel may be drawn, a gate for said opening, an arm supported by said case, a rod attached to said arm, means for swinging said arm to present said rod adjacent said opening, means for moving towels within the case towards said cover whereby the topmost towel may be withdrawn through said opening in such a position that when said rod moves away from said opening it will draw the towel which was withdrawn into said case, said gate being adapted to move away from said opening when said rod is presented adjacent said opening and to return when said rod moves away from said opening.

7. A towel holder comprising a case divided into a plurality of chambers by a partition, a cover for one of said chambers, said case having an opening through which a towel may be drawn, a plurality of arms pivotally supported by said case, a horizontal rod connected to said arms; means to swing said arms to present said rod adjacent said

opening, means for moving towels within one of said chambers toward said cover whereby a towel may be withdrawn through said opening in such a position that when said rod moves away from said opening it will draw the latter-mentioned towel into one of said chambers.

8. A towel holder comprising a two-chambered case, one chamber for clean towels and one for used towels, a shelf slidable in one of said chambers, a cover for said latter chamber, means for counterbalancing said shelf against the weight of a multiplicity of towels laid thereon whereby as one of said towels is withdrawn the pile moves upwardly and comes in contact with said cover, said means embodying a sash spring.

9. A towel holder comprising a case divided into two chambers by a vertical partition, a cover closing the top of the rear of said chambers, an opening being provided above the top of said partition, arms pivotally supported by the case having a horizontal rod held at their free ends, means for the swinging of said arms to present said rod close beyond said opening, and means for pressing a pile of towels within the rear chamber up to said cover, whereby the topmost towel can be withdrawn through said opening beneath said rod when the latter is in its uppermost position, and after use can be dragged down within the front of said chambers by the return of said rod to normal.

10. A towel holder as set forth in claim 9, wherein a gate is provided for said opening, adapted to be moved away from the latter when the horizontal rod swings to its uppermost position, and to return when the rod swings back to normal.

11. A towel holder as set forth in claim 9, wherein a gate is provided for closing said opening, and swinging arms for carrying said gate.

12. A towel holder as set forth in claim 9, wherein the vertical partition is spaced from the sides of the case at its upper portion to allow room for said arms, but attached at its lower section to the sides.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing invention, I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of January, 1928.

CHARLES W. THOMPSON.