F. W. MEYER.

TRUNK.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 16, 1912.

1,120,215.

Patented Dec. 8, 1914.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1

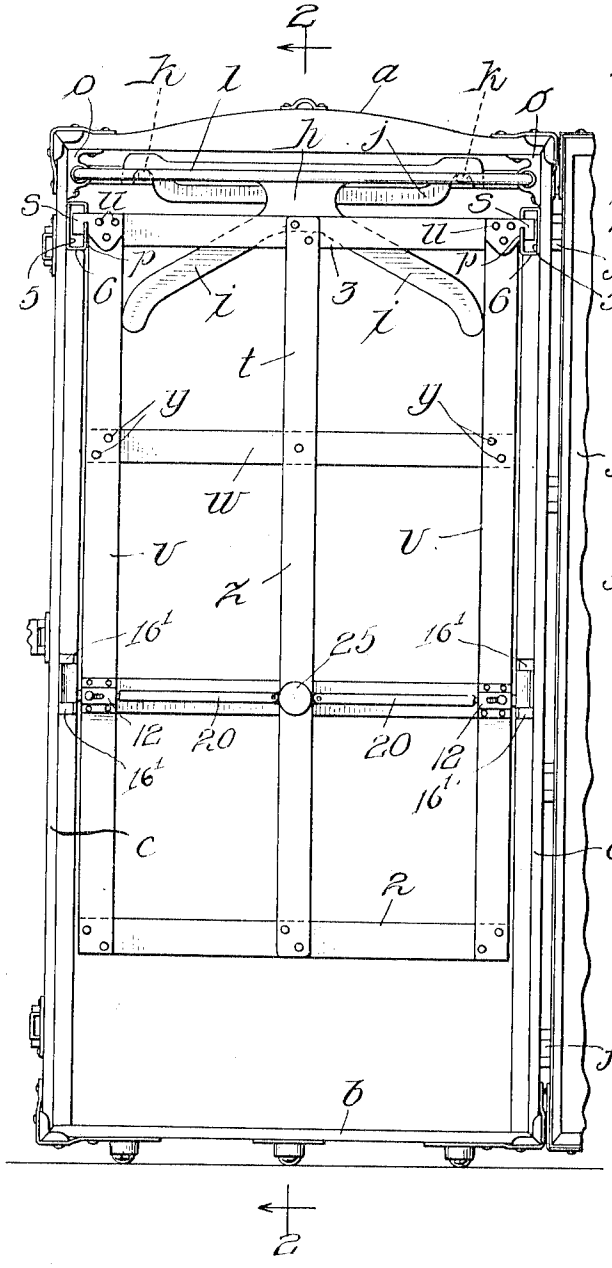
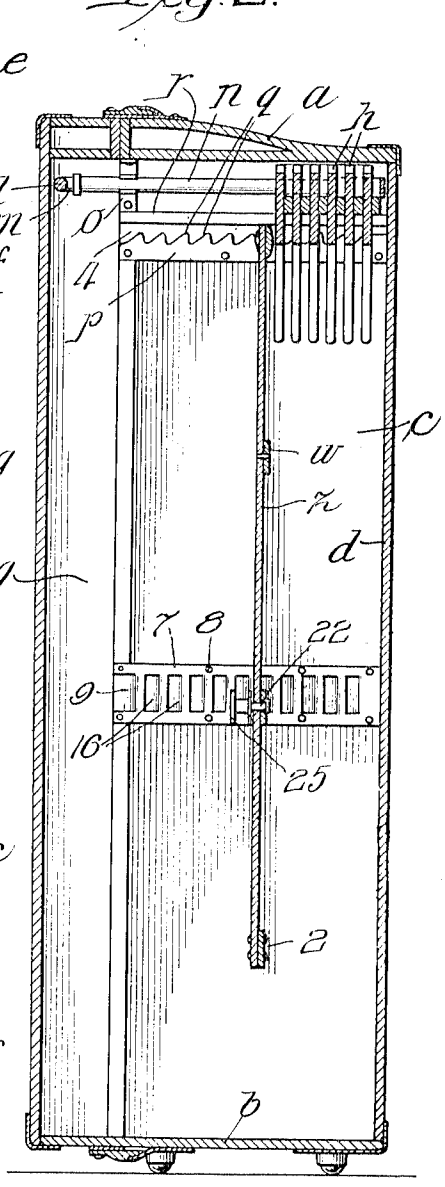


Fig. 2



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3

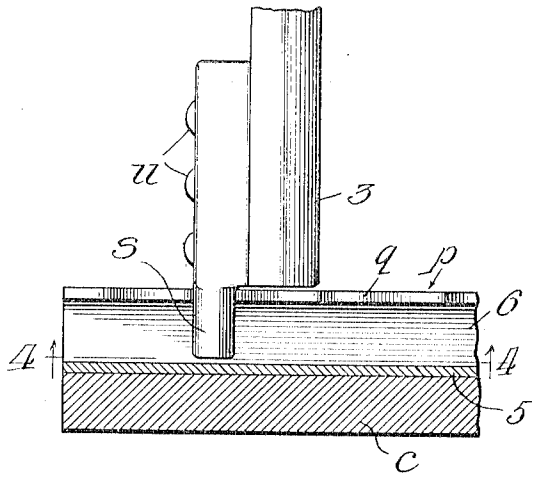


Fig. 5.

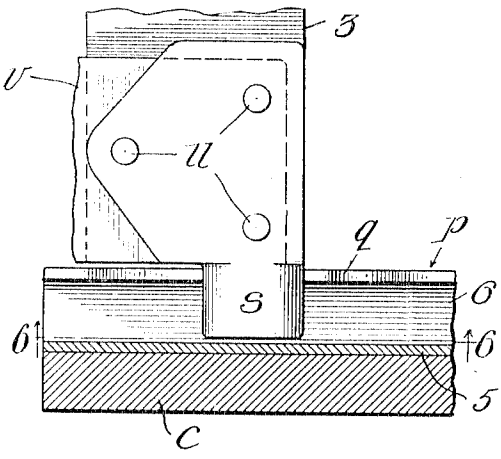


Fig. 4.

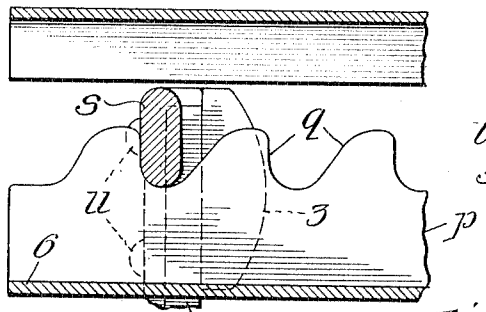


Fig. 6.

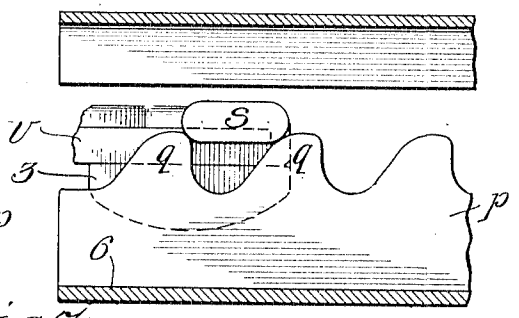
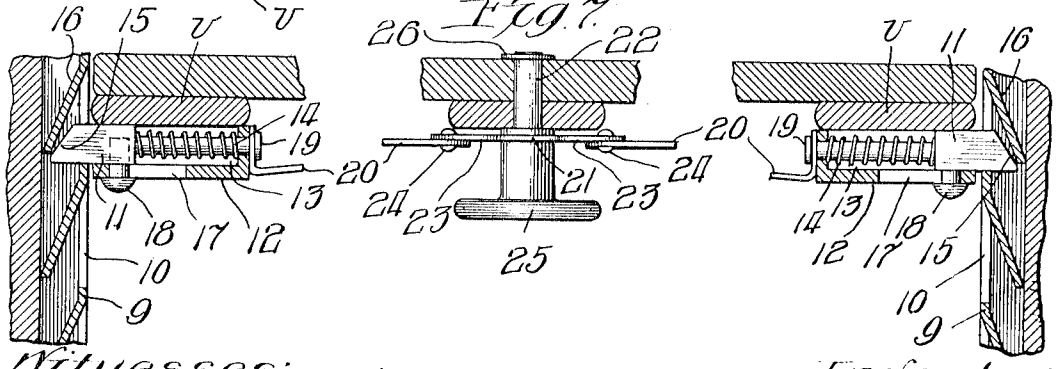


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK W. MEYER, OF OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN, ASSIGNOR TO THE OSHKOSH TRUNK COMPANY, OF OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN, A CORPORATION OF WISCONSIN.

TRUNK.

1,120,215. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 8, 1914.

Application filed December 16, 1912. Serial No. 736,884.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK W. MEYER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Oshkosh, in the county of Winnebago and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trunks; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to trunks or cases having a compartment or compartments formed thereby or therein and provided with an adjustable partition or inner frame, and means for securing the latter in different adjusted positions.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a trunk with an adjustable partition or inner frame and means for enabling the partition to be moved to and securely held in different adjusted positions in a simple and efficient manner.

A further object of the invention is to provide a trunk having garment-supporting members therein, with an adjustable partition or inner frame adapted to be readily moved into and out of engagement with garments to be supported by the garment-supporting members, and to be removably secured in different adjusted positions so as to prevent the garments from becoming disengaged from the garment-supporting members, and to hold the garments in such a manner as to prevent them from being crumpled or disarranged.

Other and further objects of the invention will appear from an examination of the following description and claims and from an inspection of the accompanying drawings.

The invention consists in the features, combinations, and details of construction herein described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view in elevation of a trunk or casing constructed in accordance with my improvement, showing my improved adjustable partition or inner frame and garment supports in position therein, with a portion of the cover broken away; Fig. 2, a vertical section, taken on line 2 of Fig. 1 looking in the direction of the arrow, and showing the trunk or case with cover closed; Fig. 3, a detail view of a portion of one of the racks upon which the adjustable partition or frame is adapted to be suspended, and showing the means for connecting the frame with the supporting racks, the frame-supporting pivot or rack-engaging finger being shown in the position which it occupies when the frame is in upright or operative position; Fig. 4, a view in elevation of the parts shown in Fig. 3, taken on line 4 of said figure; Fig. 5, an enlarged detail view of the parts shown in Fig. 3, with the partition or frame-supporting pivot or finger and the adjacent portion of the partition or frame in the position which they would occupy when the frame or partition is in horizontal or inoperative position—as when the upper end of the frame or partition is being moved along the racks into or out of operative position; Fig. 6, a view in vertical section, taken on line 6 of Fig. 5, of the parts shown in said figure; and Fig. 7, a view of the spring-pressed catches or bolts, and means for releasing or operating the same, and showing portions of the toothed racks located on opposite sides of the adjustable partition or frame in horizontal section.

In constructing a trunk or case in accordance with my improvements, I provide a main body portion or casing which comprises end walls *a* and *b*, side walls *c*, a bottom or back wall *d* and a cover *e* which is connected with the main body portion by means of suitable hinges *f*, all forming a compartment or inner inclosed space *g* adapted to contain garments or articles to be placed therein.

The trunk or case here shown is provided with a set of garment supports *h*, each of which comprises lower garment-engaging arms *i* and upper supporting arms *j* slidably mounted upon parallel horizontal frame portions or rods *k* which are connected by means of a metallic frame member or rod *l* which extends at right angles to the rods *k*. The opposite extremities of the rod *l* are connected with or bent to form parallel rod portions *m* which are slidably mounted in sleeves or tubes *n*, said sleeves or tubular telescoping members, in turn, being slidably mounted in suitable supporting sock-

ets or brackets *o* on opposite sides of the garment-supporting members, and in such position that they will be in the upper portion of the case or trunk when the latter is on end or in upright position as shown in the drawings. The garment-supporting members *h* are thus suspended from and slidable upon the rods *k* of the telescoping or sliding frame so as to enable the slidable metallic frame members to be moved outward or inward to collapsed position, as desired. The garment-supporting members *h* and, with them, the garments suspended thereon may thus be moved outward along the rods *k*, thus rendering the garments readily accessible and enabling them to be removed from or placed upon the garment-supporting members with facility. The hangers may thus be separated or moved close together, so as to enable garments supported thereby to be inclosed and properly held within the receptacle in an efficient manner.

In Fig. 2 the garment-supporting members *h* are shown in position to hold garments in suspended position within the compartment formed by the casing. On each side wall *c* near the upper portion of the casing is mounted a toothed rack *p*, which is formed preferably of metal and comprises a series of upwardly extending ratchet or rack teeth *q* and a flange *r* which projects over the teeth *q*, and in parallel relation to the toothed portion of the rack in position to form a guard which extends over and in engagement with laterally projecting pivots or supporting fingers *s* which are formed of metal and secured to the opposite upper corners or marginal portions of a frame or partition *t* by means of rivets *u*, or other suitable securing means. The frame or adjustable partition here shown comprises longitudinal side members *v* and transverse connecting members or slats *w*, the opposite ends of which are connected with the side frame members *v* by means of rivets *y*, or other suitable securing means, and a central, longitudinal or upright member *z* extends from end to end of the frame and is connected at its opposite ends with the transverse end members 2 and 3 of the frame or partition, thus forming a light and substantial lattice-work partition or adjustable inner frame which is suspended from the toothed racks *p* by means of the laterally projecting pivots or fingers *s* which are adapted to be moved between the guard flange *r* and the teeth *q* to or from any desired adjusted position or to be entirely removed from the casing, as desired. The pivots or supporting fingers *s* are, in cross-sectional form, elongated vertically, or in the direction of the length of the partition, and are adapted to enter at their lower edges between the teeth of the racks *p* when the partition is in operative or vertical position, as seen in Figs. 2, 3 and 4, and to slide along the tops of said teeth, beneath the guard flange *r*, when the partition is swung to and held in a horizontal position, as seen in Figs. 5 and 6. Said pivots or fingers are made wider vertically and thinner transversely, or in their shorter dimensions, than the spaces 4 between the tops of the teeth and the bottom edge of the guard flange, so that they may slide or move readily through or along said spaces, when the partition is held in a horizontal position and is moved or shifted inwardly or outwardly, and will be held by the lower edges of said guards in engagement with the teeth of the racks, when the partition is in its vertical or operative position; the lower edges of the guards being so near the teeth and the fingers being of such vertical width as to prevent the fingers becoming disengaged from the rack-teeth by any lifting or upward shifting movement of the partition, so that the partition will be locked from backward or forward movement at its upper end, except when intentionally swung into a horizontal position for the purpose of adjusting the partition inwardly or outwardly.

The toothed rack *p* and guard *r* for each side of the trunk or compartment may be made in one integral piece, the rack portion and guard being connected by means of a vertical main body portion or web 5, the upper marginal portion of which is bent to form the guarding flange *r* and the lower portion of which is bent to form a bottom inwardly projecting, horizontal flange portion 6 which may be integral with the vertical rack portion *p* which is thus supported in position to form a guide for the partition or frame and to permit the latter to be swung to horizontal position in the operation of inserting it or removing it and to be adjusted to any desired position or in engagement with any desired teeth of the racks without allowing the pivots *s* to slip out of place or out of position to properly engage the racks.

In order to provide means for holding the lower portion of the adjustable partition or inner frame in the different adjusted positions in which it is adapted to be placed, lower racks 7 are mounted on opposite sides of the partition, respectively, and each secured to a side wall *c* of the compartment or case by means of screws 8, or other desired securing means. These racks are, by preference, formed of metal and are each so constructed as to comprise a series of rack teeth 9, best shown in Figs. 2 and 7, the outer edges of which are flush with or so disposed that they do not extend inward

beyond the inner surface or edge 10 of the main body portion of the rack of which they form a part. These racks, respectively, may be formed of a metallic plate having a series of notches cut therein so as to leave upper and lower continuous marginal portions which extend longitudinally of the racks from end to end thereof and between which the tongues or teeth 9 are located, said tongues or teeth being bent back or inward, as shown in Fig. 7, so as to extend in oblique relation to the inner surface or edge 10 of the rack.

Laterally movable, spring-pressed catches or bolts 11 are mounted upon the adjustable partition in position to project laterally beyond the inner edges of said partition or frame into engagement with the teeth 9 of the respective racks 7, each of said bolts being mounted in a suitable metallic casing 12 adapted to form a slot or socket 13 in which the bolt is slidably mounted. Each bolt is provided with a compressible spring 14 one end of which is in engagement with the casing and the opposite end of which is in engagement with a shoulder or enlarged portion of the bolt so as to yieldingly hold the bolt in extended position, in which position the inclined end surface portion 15 of the bolt is adapted to slidably engage the adjacent oblique surface portion 16 of the teeth 9, so as to permit the bolt to be automatically pressed into locking engagement with the adjacent rack teeth and yieldingly held in such position by means of the spring 14 when the partition is in operative position or in engagement with the garments or articles to be held in place thereby. The casings 12 in which the bolts 11 are mounted are each provided with a slot 17 through which a stud 18 having its inner end secured to the bolt extends at right angles to the bolt. The slots 17 and studs 18 thus serve to guide the bolts and to limit the movement thereof in one direction, the movement of the bolts in the opposite direction being limited by the springs. Each of the sliding bolts is provided with a head 19 and operating bars 20 are provided, each having a perforated end portion in sliding engagement with a bolt 11 and connected with the bolt by means of the bolt head 19, the opposite ends of said operating bars being pivotally connected with an operating rocking lever 21 which is pivotally mounted upon the partition t between the inner adjacent ends of said operating levers by means of a stub-shaft 22. The lever 21 is in fixed relation to the stub-shaft or pivot 22 and has opposite lever arms 23 which normally extend outward in opposite directions from the shaft or pivot 22, which is, by preference, midway between the opposite edges of the frame, said lever arms being pivotally connected with the ends of the respective operating rods 20 by means of pivot pins 24, as shown in Fig. 7. The stub-shaft 22 is provided with a handle or operating knob 25 mounted upon and in fixed relation thereto on the outer side of the adjustable partition, and said shaft is provided with a washer or nut 26 on its inner end adapted to hold the shaft in operative position in the partition or frame and to permit it to be rocked or partially rotated in the operation of drawing the bolts to retracted or releasing position or in the movement of the bolts to extended or rack-engaging position.

When the levers 23 are in position to extend in diametrically opposite directions transversely of the partition, or at right angles with respect to the longitudinal center of the partition, the bolt-engaging ends of the operating rods 20 will be in position to permit the sliding bolts to engage the rack teeth and hold the partition in operative position or in any adjusted position in which it has been placed, as indicated in Fig. 7,—the bolts being yieldingly held in engagement with the rack teeth by means of the springs, as already suggested. In order to release the bolts so as to permit the partition or suspended frame to be withdrawn from operative position or adjusted to any desired position, it is only necessary to rock the shaft 22 and thereby the operating levers 23 in either direction, thereby moving the bolts against the tension of the respective springs to retracted position. The partition may then be raised to horizontal position and withdrawn or adjusted by moving it along the upper toothed racks, as desired.

The bottom racks and the rack teeth thereof are of such width as to permit the partition to swing inward with the ends of the sliding bolts in sliding engagement with the teeth 9 of the racks 7 and without necessitating the withdrawal of the bolts to retracted position by the operator in order to permit the partition or frame to swing inward to operative or vertical position. The bolt-engaging edges of the teeth 9 being flush with the inner edges or surface of the respective racks 7, it will be seen that there are no sharp or projecting toothed portions on said racks which extend or project inward beyond the marginal inner surface portion of the racks so as to catch or tear or otherwise injure garments or articles contained within the trunk or compartment.

In order to provide means for reinforcing and securely holding the racks 7 in position upon the side walls of the trunk, parallel strips 16′ are mounted in position to admit the oblique teeth or tongues 16 of the racks therebetween and the metallic strips or plates which form the racks proper are secured to these strips by means of nails or

screws 8 which extend through the marginal portions of the metallic rack members and through said parallel strips 16'.

I claim:

1. In a trunk, the combination of a wardrobe section, horizontal toothed racks located in and on opposite sides of said wardrobe section, guard members arranged parallel with and spaced a distance vertically from the teeth of said racks, a partition member or follower adapted to be moved bodily inward and outward in said wardrobe section, fingers carried by said follower and adapted for locking engagement with the teeth of said racks, said fingers when in locking engagement with the teeth of said racks extending across the spaces between said rack teeth and the guard members and pivotally supporting the follower in said wardrobe section, said fingers being adapted to be turned out of locking engagement with the teeth of said racks and permit bodily movement of said follower inward and outward in said wardrobe section, and means for detachably holding said follower against swinging movement when said fingers are in locking engagement with the teeth of said racks.

2. In a trunk, the combination of a wardrobe section, horizontal toothed racks located in and on opposite sides of said wardrobe section, horizontal guard members arranged parallel with said toothed racks and spaced a distance vertically from said rack teeth, locking fingers extending into the spaces between the rack teeth and guard members and adapted for locking engagement with said rack teeth, and a follower or partition member connected and turnable with said fingers and acting to turn the fingers into and out of locking engagement with said rack teeth in the bodily swinging movement of said follower.

3. In a trunk, the combination of a wardrobe section, horizontal toothed racks located in and on opposite sides of said wardrobe section, guard members arranged parallel with and spaced a distance vertically from the teeth of said racks, a partition member or follower adapted to be moved bodily inward and outward in said wardrobe section, fingers carried by said follower and adapted for locking engagement with the teeth of said racks, said fingers when in locking engagement with the teeth of said racks extending across the spaces between said rack teeth and said guard members and pivotally supporting said follower in said wardrobe section, said fingers being moved out of locking engagement with the teeth of said racks when said follower is swung into a substantially horizontal position, and means for holding said follower against swinging movement when said fingers are in locking engagement with said rack teeth.

4. In a trunk, the combination of a wardrobe section, horizontal toothed racks located in and on opposite sides of said wardrobe section, a partition member or follower adapted to be moved bodily inward and outward in said wardrobe section, fingers carried by said follower and adapted when in locking engagement with the teeth of said racks to pivotally support said follower in said wardrobe section, said fingers being moved out of locking engagement with the teeth of said racks in the bodily movement of said follower, guard members spaced a distance vertically from the teeth of said racks and adapted to limit the vertical movement of said fingers, and means for detachably holding said follower against swinging movement when said fingers are in locking engagement with said rack teeth.

5. In a trunk, the combination of a wardrobe section, horizontal channel members located in and on opposite sides of said wardrobe section, each channel member being provided with upper and lower parallel horizontal flanges, one of said flanges having rack teeth thereon, and the other of said flanges forming a guard flange, a partition member or follower adapted to be moved bodily inward and outward in said wardrobe section, and fingers carried by said follower and adapted to extend between said flanges, and movable with the follower in the bodily swinging movement of the latter, to bring said fingers into and out of locking engagement with said rack teeth.

6. In a trunk, the combination of a wardrobe section, horizontal channel members located in and on opposite sides of said wardrobe section, each of said channel members having upper and lower horizontal parallel flanges, the lower flange of each channel member being provided with rack teeth and the upper flange of each channel member constituting a guard flange, and a partition member or follower adapted to be moved bodily inward and outward in said wardrobe section, and fingers carried by said follower and adapted to extend between said flanges, and movable with the follower in the bodily movement of the latter, to bring said fingers into and out of locking engagement with said rack teeth.

7. In a receptacle of the class described, the combination of a casing forming a compartment, horizontal racks located at opposite sides of the compartment, a partition provided at its upper end with rigid, laterally projecting fingers adapted for engagement with the teeth of said racks, lower, inwardly facing racks located at opposite sides of the compartment, spring-actuated, sliding bolts secured to the sides of the partition and adapted for engagement with the said lower racks, and means for operating said bolts comprising a shaft mounted on the

partition and provided with a turning knob, rigid lever arms on the shaft and operating bars pivotally connected with said arms and said bolts.

In testimony, that I, claim the foregoing as my invention I affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses, this 12th day of December A. D. 1912.

FRANK W. MEYER.

Witnesses:
A. H. WENDLAND,
W. E. KRIPPEM.