

May 26, 1942.

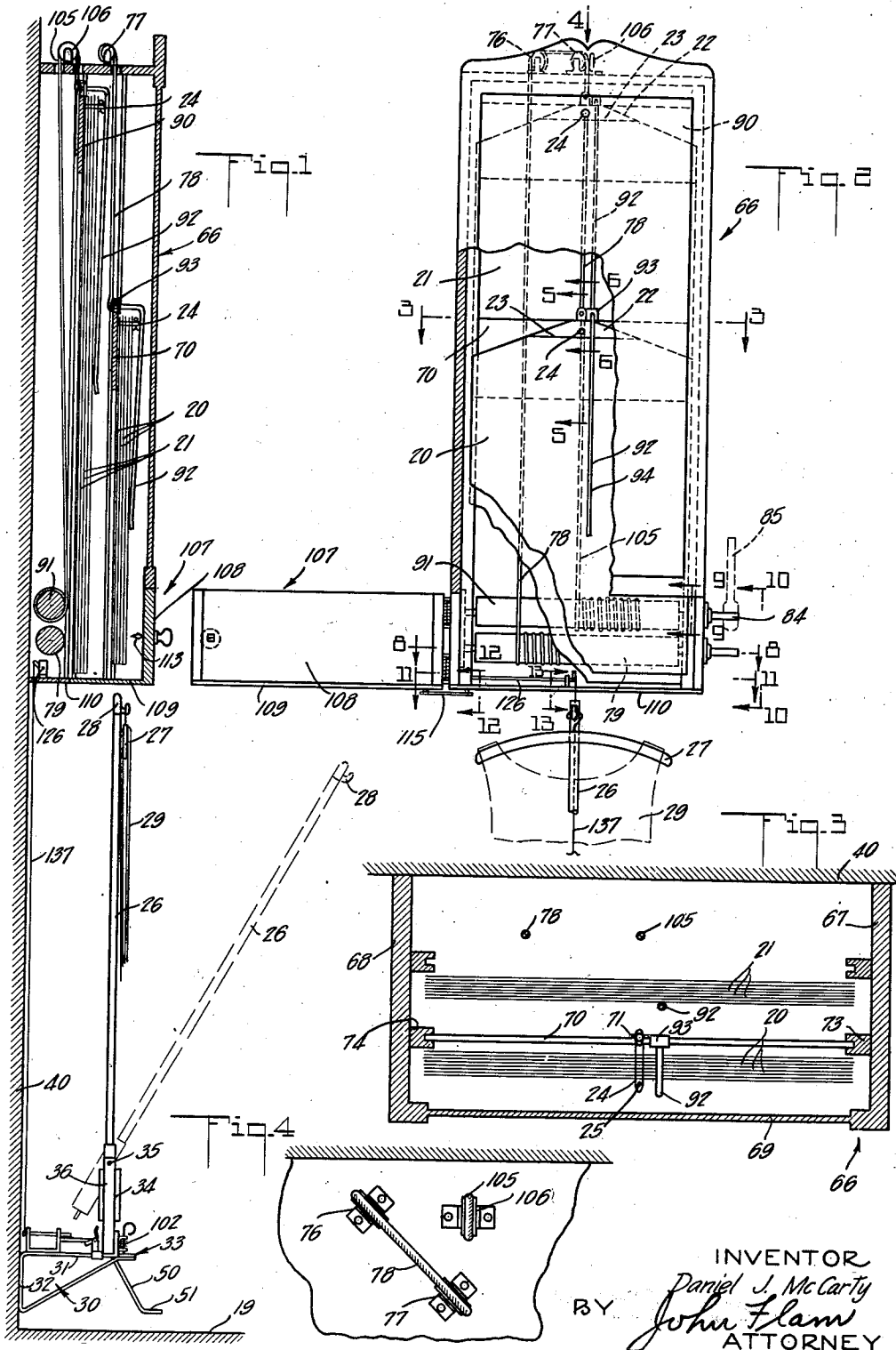
D. J. McCARTY

2,284,160

DEVICE FOR PLACING BAG COVERS OVER GARMENTS

Filed Sept. 11, 1939

3 Sheets-Sheet 1



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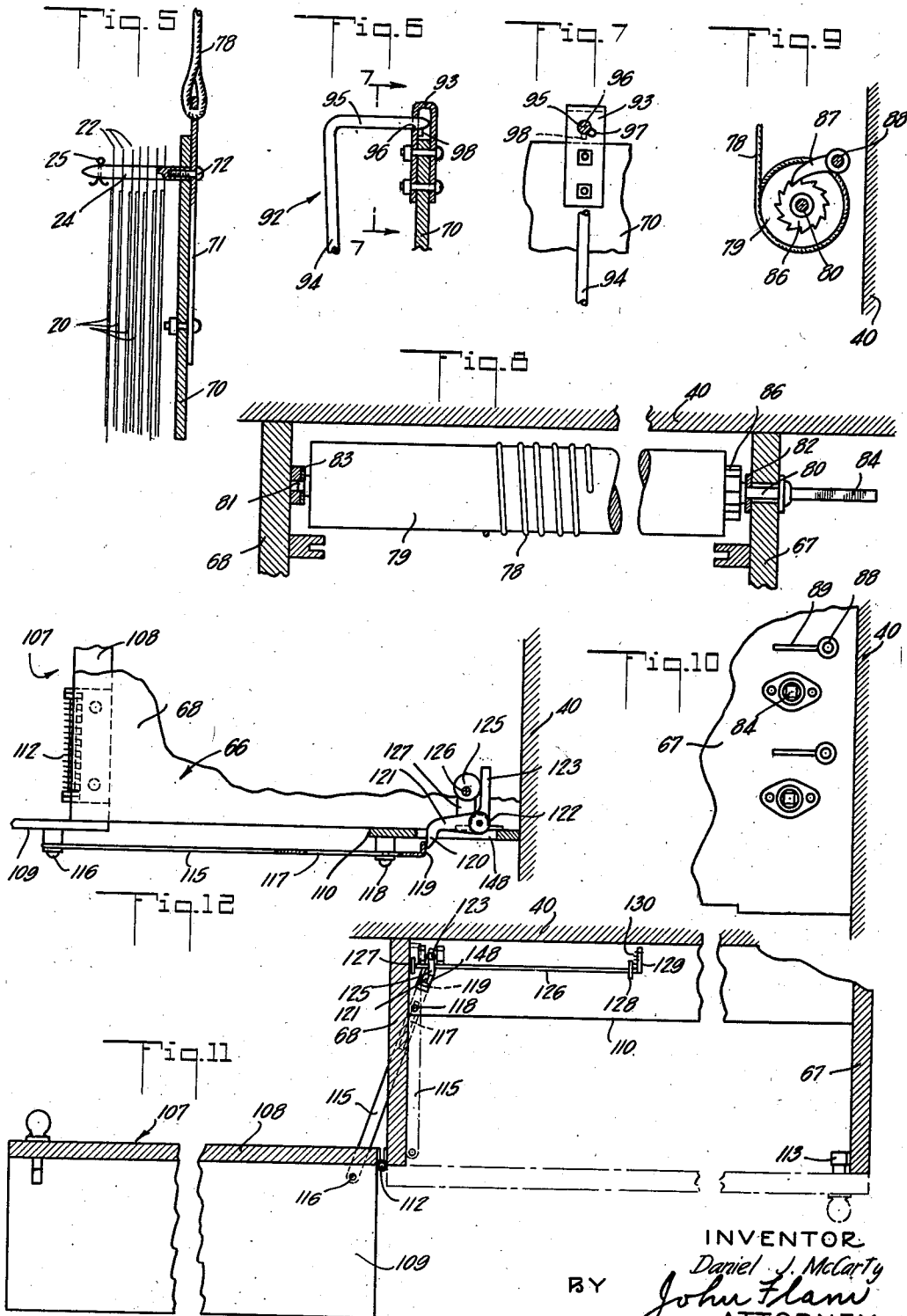
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3 Sheets-Sheet 2



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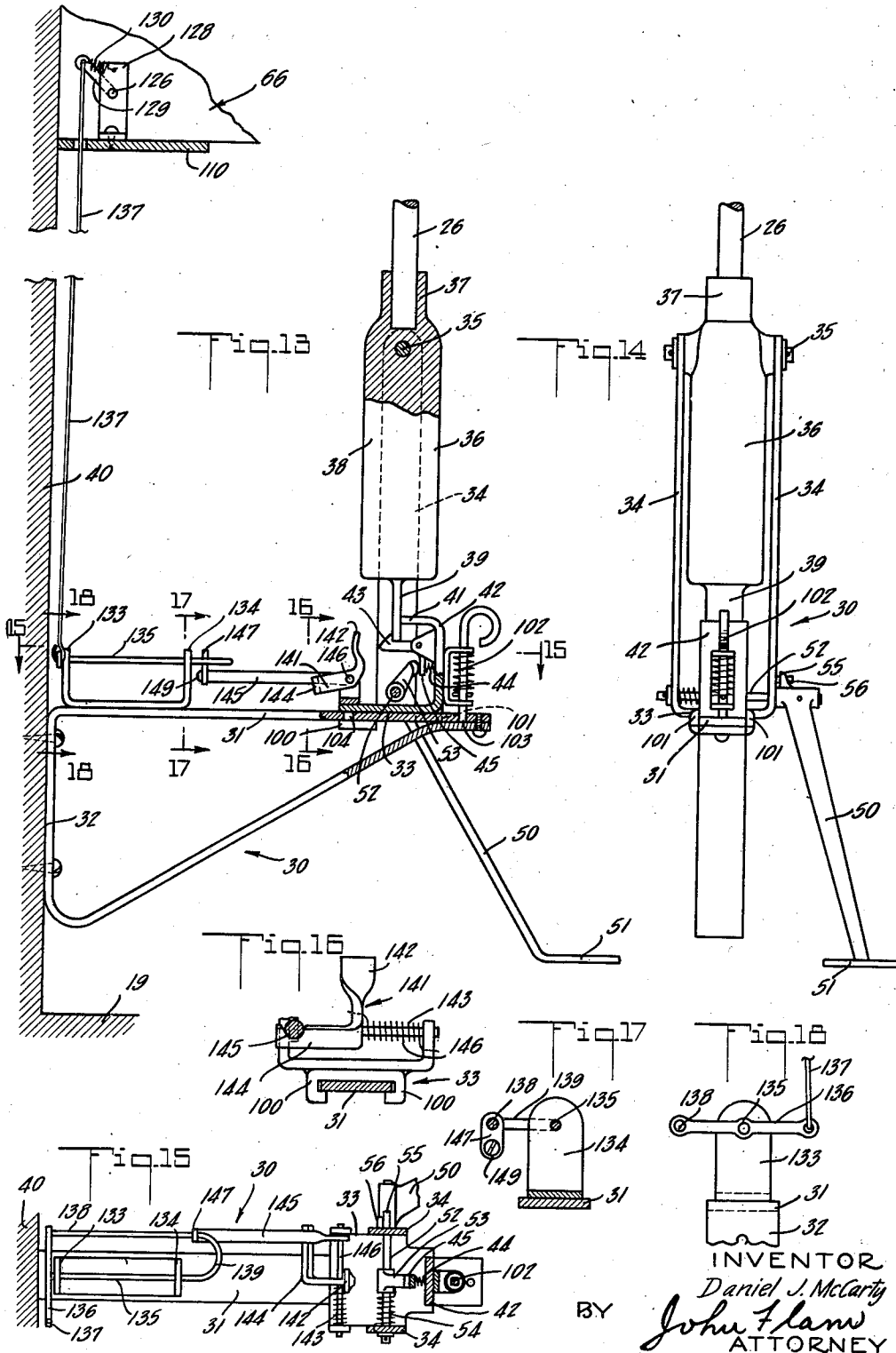
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,284,160

DEVICE FOR PLACING BAG COVERS OVER GARMENTS

Daniel J. McCarty, Los Angeles, Calif.

Application September 11, 1939, Serial No. 294,227

9 Claims. (Cl. 226—18)

This invention relates to a device that may be used for the insertion of garments into bag coverings.

This application relates to apparatus of the type disclosed in copending applications filed in the name of Daniel J. McCarty, Serial No. 139,442, filed April 28, 1937 (now Patent No. 2,182,156), and Serial No. 148,077, filed June 14, 1937 (now Patent No. 2,226,173), each entitled "Device for placing bag covers over garments."

In garment cleaning and pressing establishments, it has now become the custom to place a paper bag or covering over the garment after cleaning or pressing, and prior to delivery to a customer. Such bags are usually arranged with an open bottom, so that they may be slipped over a garment hung on a conventional clothes hanger. The clothes hanger is usually provided with a hook that can project through a small opening in the top of the bag.

The act of placing the bag over a garment hanging on a hanger, has been clumsy and time consuming. Especially is this true where the garment is a full-length one; such as a woman's dress, or an overcoat or a suit of clothes.

It is one of the objects of this invention to provide a device that makes it possible to place such covering bags easily over the garment.

It is another object of the invention to make it possible to store a large number of bags in a convenient manner and in a position ready for placing them over garments as desired.

It is still another object of this invention to provide an apparatus of the character disclosed including a closed cabinet for storing the bags which is opened at the time it is desired to withdraw a bag, and is automatically closed upon completion of the act of placing the bag on the garment.

It is still another object of this invention to make it possible, by the mechanism, optionally to place either a long or a short bag over a garment, as may be required by the character of the garment.

This invention possesses many other advantages, and has other objects which may be made more easily apparent from a consideration of one embodiment of the invention. For this purpose there is shown a form in the drawings accompanying and forming part of the present specification. This form will now be described in detail, illustrating the general principles of the invention; but it is to be understood that this detailed description is not to be taken in a limiting sense,

since the scope of this invention is best defined by the appended claims.

Referring to the drawings:

Figure 1 is a side view of a complete apparatus embodying the invention, the cabinet being shown in section;

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the cabinet, partly broken away, and in open position;

Fig. 3 is a detail cross section of the cabinet as seen on plane 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary top plan view of the cabinet;

Figs. 5 and 6 are detail sections as seen on correspondingly numbered planes of Fig. 2;

Fig. 7 is a section as seen on plane 7—7 of Fig. 6;

Figs. 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 are detail sections as seen on correspondingly numbered planes of Fig. 2;

Fig. 13 is a detail elevation partly in section of the lower part of the apparatus;

Fig. 14 is a front elevation of the apparatus of Fig. 13; and

Figs. 15, 16, 17 and 18 are sections as seen on the correspondingly numbered planes of Fig. 13.

There are provided two stacks of garment bags 20 and 21 (Figs. 1, 2 and 3), shown as of conventional form, and identical except as to length. Each bag is open at the bottom and has an upwardly extending tab 22. The upper end of each bag converges, and there is an opening 23 immediately below tab 22, formed as a narrow slit, through which the hook of a garment hanger may pass.

Such garment bags are available in different lengths to suit various garments. Thus, for example the bags 20 are shown as relatively short, such as are used for enclosing jackets, short coats, sweaters, blouses and other short garments. The bags 21 are shown as longer and are intended for use with suits and dresses, or overcoats.

The cabinet which encloses the bags is arranged to provide an independent supporting means for each group of bags 20 and 21. Thus the bags may be positioned with their open, lower ends adjacent the lower end of the cabinet convenient for use regardless of their lengths. Since the supports for each group of bags are the same, the description of one will suffice for both.

Thus, the garment bags 20 are supported at their upper ends by the aid of their tabs 22 through which passes a supporting member 24

(Figs. 2, 3 and 5). This supporting member is conveniently made in the form of a rod or spike with a pointed end which may be forced through the tabs 22. The support 24 is of sufficient length to accommodate a comparatively large number of bags 20, only a few being shown in the drawings. Some means to guard against the bags 20 slipping off the support 24 is desirable, and a cotter pin 25 may be secured in the end of support 24 for this purpose.

In order that one of the bags 20 may be pulled downwardly over a garment and its hanger, provisions are made for supporting a garment with its hanger immediately below the bags 20. The structure for effecting this result is illustrated in Figs. 1, 13 and 14.

To utilize this structure, it is desirable that the bags 20 be supported at a sufficient height above the floor 19 so that an operator in standing position may be able conveniently to grasp the bottom of one of the bags to pull it downwardly.

A structure is provided for supporting a garment hanger 27 with a garment 29 thereon, immediately below the garment bags 20 or 21. This supporting structure includes a pole 26 which carries at its upper end a bracket 28 provided with a hook like extension at one side over which the garment hanger 27 may be placed (see Fig. 1).

Pole 26 is adapted to be maintained normally in the upright position shown in Fig. 1. The hanger 27 on which the garment 29 is hung is supported at the top of pole 26 by the aid of bracket 28. In this position one of the bags can be pulled over the garment 29 by pulling the bag downwardly, tearing its tab 22 off the support 24.

In order to facilitate removal of the garment 29 with its hanger 27 from pole 26, this pole is pivotally supported as by the aid of a bracket structure 30 (Figs. 1 and 13).

This bracket structure 30 may include a bar bent to a triangular form, having a horizontal portion 31 and a vertical portion 32 adapted to be fastened to the wall 40 so that the horizontal portion 31 extends outwardly from the wall near the floor 19 and a substantial distance below the bags 20, 21. A carriage 33 (Figs. 13, 14, 15 and 16) is slidably supported on bar 31 and carries a pair of spaced upwardly directed arms 34. A pivot pin 35 extends between the arms 34 and pivotally supports a member 36, provided with a socket 37 at its upper end for receiving the pole 26. In this way, the pole is permitted to swing with respect to the bracket 30 and the wall about pivot 35. Accordingly when it is desired to unload the garment 29 and its hanger 27 from pole 26, the pole structure may be tilted away from the wall 40 bringing its upper end out from under the bags 20, as indicated by broken lines in Fig. 1. The garment hanger 27 and the garment 29 together with the encompassing bag 20 may then be removed from the pole for delivery of the garment to a customer. The bracket structure 30 forms a permanent installation beneath the cabinet.

Provisions are made to ensure the return of the pole 26 to its initial, or vertical, position as soon as released by the operator. For this purpose, member 36 is provided with a heavily weighted portion 38 below the pivot 35. To maintain the pole in the vertical position, member 36 has a depending lug 39, adapted to engage a stop 41 supported on carriage 33 by means of an upright bar 42. When pole 26 returns from the dotted position of Fig. 1, lug 39 travels counterclockwise until it engages stop 41. Lug 39 is

retained against stop 41 by means of a latch arm 43 which is pivotally supported on bar 42. A compression spring 44 which engages a downward extension 45 of latch 43 urges the latch into engagement with lug 39. This latch is effective to maintain lug 39 against stop 41, thus holding pole 26 in a vertical position, until released by the operator, in a manner now to be described.

Means are provided whereby the operator may at will release the latch 43, as by foot pressure. Thus, a lever 50 carrying a small pedal 51 at its extremity is secured to a shaft 52 pivotally mounted in arms 34 just above the carriage 33. A lever 53 having a cam surface engaging latch arm 45 is mounted on shaft 52. The arrangement is such that downward movement of pedal 51 will cause arm 53 to swing the latch 43 about its pivot and out of engagement with lug 39. A torsion spring 54 is mounted on shaft 52 between lever 53 and one of arms 34. One end of spring 54 is attached to lever 53 and the other end to arm 34, the spring being so wound as to urge the shaft in a counterclockwise direction to bring a lug 55 carried by the hub of lever 50 against a stop pin 56 on the adjacent arm 34 (Figs. 14 and 15).

When it is desired to swing pole 26 out of its vertical position, pedal 51 is depressed, swinging latch 43 downwardly out of engagement with lug 39. Pole 26 may then be swung clockwise about pivot 35 against the force exerted by weight 38. When the pole 26 is released, weight 38 swings downwardly, returning the pole to a vertical position. Lug 39 passes over latch 43 and strikes stop 41, spring 44 urging latch 43 into engagement with the lug 39 and locking it against the stop.

For convenience in operation, and as heretofore stated, the bags 20 and 21 should be sustained at a sufficient height to permit their ready manipulation by an operator standing on the floor 19. To facilitate loading the bag support 24, an elevating and lowering mechanism is provided, whereby the support 24 may be lowered to receive the bags 20, after which it may be elevated to its desired height.

For this purpose there is provided an enclosing cabinet 66, best shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, having sides 67 and 68 and front panel 69, and supported directly on wall 40 which may form the back of the cabinet. This cabinet serves not only to provide a support for the bags, but keeps them clean and protects them from dust and moisture.

The lowering and elevating mechanism includes a pulley and drum device and a carriage 70 operated thereby. This carriage supports at its upper end the bag support 24. The support 24 extends through the carriage 70 and is secured directly to a bracket 71 on the rear side of carriage 70 as by a machine screw 72 (see Fig. 5). Carriage 70 is guided for vertical movement by the aid of grooved guide members or cleats 73 and 74 fastened to the inside of side walls 67 and 68 respectively.

Guide members 73 and 74 extend substantially the entire vertical distance within cabinet 66. As shown in Figs. 1 and 4, pulleys 76 and 77 are provided on top of the cabinet over which passes a flexible element such as a light rope or cord 78. One reach of cord 78 is attached to bracket 71, while the other reach of cord 78 is intended to be wound on a drum 79 located near the bottom of the cabinet. This drum is shown in Fig. 8 as having pintles 80 and 81 journaled in bear-

ing members 82 and 83 fastened to the inside surfaces of side walls 67 and 68. Pintle 80 extends through side wall 67 and has a squared end portion 84 adapted to receive a detachable ratchet handle 85 or the like indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 2. Handle 85 provides means for rotating drum 79 in a direction to wind cord 78 thereon and thus raise carriage 70 together with bags 20. To retain the carriage in its elevated position, a ratchet wheel 86 is secured to the end of drum 79 (Figs. 8 and 9) and cooperates with dog 87. This dog is mounted on a short shaft or pin 88 which is pivotally supported in the cabinet wall 67, and extends therethrough, having a handle 89 secured to its outside portion. The dog 87 is urged by its own weight into engagement with ratchet wheel 86 and thus prevents rotation of drum 79 in a direction to lower carriage 70. When it is desired to lower carriage 70, the dog 87 is lifted out of engagement with wheel 86 by means of handle 89. This permits the carriage to descend by its own weight.

It will be clear from the foregoing that the carriage 70 may be raised the required distance to bring the lower ends of the bags to the desired height. Thus bags of different lengths may be used, and by providing a plurality of carriages, such as 70, bags of different lengths may be accommodated in the cabinet. Thus, in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, a second group of bags 21 of greater length than bags 20, are shown as supported on a carriage 90, behind carriage 70. This carriage 90 is arranged to be raised and lowered by means of a drum 91, about which one reach of a cable 105 is wound. The cable 105 passes over a single pulley 106 on top of the cabinet 66 (Fig. 4) and is secured to carriage 90, all in a manner similar to that just described.

In order to ensure that the bags in each group hang compactly, a bar, as 92, is supported on each carriage as by a bracket 93 (see Figs. 6 and 7) secured at the top of the carriage adjacent the supporting bracket 71. Bar 92 has a long portion 94 adapted to hang substantially vertically and about half the length of the bags with which it is to be used, as well as a short right angled portion 95 which engages a hole 96 in the bracket.

Bracket 93 is of inverted U-form, the hole 96 being only in its outer leg and being slotted as indicated at 97. Bar 95 carries a pin 98, which, when bar 94 is vertical, is out of registry with slot 97. By swinging bar 94 to the right (Fig. 7), pin 98 may be aligned with slot 97, and bar 95 inserted in hole 96 until the end of said bar encounters the back leg of bracket 93. If bar 94 is now allowed to assume a vertical position, the pin 98 will move out of alignment with slot 97, and bar 92 will be retained in position with its lower portion pressing on the bags (see Figs. 1 and 7.)

With two groups of bags, each separately supported, the lower ends of the bags in each group are spaced apart by an appreciable horizontal distance as indicated in Fig. 1. Since it is desirable that the upper end of pole 26 should be as nearly as possible directly under the bag which is to be pulled downwardly over the supported garment, provision is made for moving carriage 33 carrying pole 26 toward and away from the wall 40. Thus, referring to Figs. 13, 14 and 16 it will be seen that carriage 33 is slidably supported on bar 31 and is guided for longitudinal movement thereon by depending lugs 100, 101.

To retain the carriage 33 in adjusted position,

a spring pressed detent 102 is mounted on bar 42 of the carriage. This detent optionally engages either of notches or holes 103 or 104 in bar 31. When detent 102 is in engagement with notch 103, the pole 26 is aligned for use with the outer group of bags 20, as shown. If it is desired to align the pole with the inner group of bags 21, detent 102 is raised manually out of engagement with the notch 103, and carriage 33 shifted inwardly until the detent engages notch 104.

To permit access to the cabinet 66 for withdrawing the bags 20, 21 as needed, the lower part of the cabinet is provided with a closure member 107 (Figs. 1, 2, 11 and 12) which includes a portion 108 cooperating with the front 69 of the cabinet as well as a portion 109 cooperating with the floor or bottom 110 of the cabinet, entirely to close the cabinet when member 107 is in closed position.

When closure 107 is in the open position of Figs. 2, 11 and 12, the lower end of a bag may be readily grasped and the bag pulled down out of the cabinet and over the garment. Or if it is desired to place a new supply of bags in the cabinet, this may be readily accomplished by lowering carriage 70 to the bottom of the cabinet.

In order to protect the bags in the cabinet from dust, moisture, etc., it is desirable that closure member 107 be in the closed position except at such times as bags are being withdrawn. For this purpose, means are provided urging the closure 107 to closed position at all times; for example the member 107 may be mounted on spring hinges 112. Further, some type of catch, such as commonly used on cupboard doors may be provided as indicated at 113 to hold member 107 releasably closed.

To retain member 107 in open position while a bag is being withdrawn, latch mechanism is provided, and means are included to release the latch after the pole 26 has been lowered to remove the bagged garment therefrom. As shown in Figs. 11 and 12, a latch bar 115 has its outer end pivoted at 116 to the under side of floor 109 near the point where member 107 is hinged. Near the inner end of latch bar 115, a slot 117 is provided through which a supporting screw 118 passes, serving to slidably support bar 115 from the bottom 110 of the cabinet. The innermost extremity of bar 115 is turned up to form a tooth 119; and a cooperating tooth 120 is carried by one arm 121 of a bell crank 122 pivotally supported on floor 110. Arm 121, as shown most clearly in Fig. 11, is disposed at such an angle with respect to its axis as to conform to the direction of latch bar 115. The tooth 120 may project through one aperture 148 in the floor of the cabinet. The other arm 123 of the bell crank engages a cam 125 carried by a shaft 126, supported at one end by a bearing 127. The cam 125 serves to limit the downward movement of tooth 120 due to the weight of arm 121.

When closure member 107 is swung to open position (Fig. 11), tooth 119 on bar 115 passes under tooth 120, which has a sloping inner surface. The arm 121 is thus raised, together with the tooth 120 until tooth 119 has passed beneath arm 121, when tooth 120 drops behind tooth 119 as shown in Fig. 12. This prevents member 107 from closing in response to the urge of spring hinges 112.

When it is desired for closure 107 to close, latch 121 is raised to bring tooth 120 out of engagement with tooth 119, thus permitting the

closure to swing shut in response to the urge of hinges 112. Means are provided whereby latch 121 is so released by the return of pole 26 to its vertical position. Thus, shaft 126 extends to about the center of cabinet 66 (Figs. 11 and 12) where it is supported in a bearing bracket 128 and carries crank arm 129 (Figs. 11, 12 and 13). A tension spring 130 connected between the bearing bracket 128 and crank 129 resiliently maintains crank 129 and cam 125 in the positions shown, that is, to allow latch 121 to engage tooth 119. By pulling downwardly on the crank 129, cam 125 will be rotated so as to lift latch 120 out of engagement with tooth 119. The manner in which this is accomplished will now be described.

A pair of spaced arms 133, 134 mounted on bar 31 provide bearings for a rock shaft 135 (see Figs. 13, 15, 17 and 18). The end of shaft 135 adjacent wall 40 carries a cross arm 136, one end of which is attached to crank 129 by means of a light flexible cable or wire 137. A bar 138 spaced from shaft 135 and parallel therewith extends from the other ends of the cross arm 136 and is shown in this instance as integrally joined to shaft 135 as by a bend 139.

Pivotaly supported on the rear end of carriage 33 is a trigger 141 having an upstanding arm 142 normally maintained in the path of lug 39 by a torsion spring 143. Trigger 142 also has a right angle extension 144 which is adapted to engage the under side of a bar 145, one end of which may be conveniently pivoted on the shaft 146 which carries trigger 141. The other end of bar 145 is pivotaly and slidably connected to bar 138 by a link 147 (Fig. 17). Link 147 may be secured to the end of bar 145 in any convenient manner as by a screw 149.

When pole 26 is swung downwardly, as for example to remove a garment and hanger after they have been placed in a bag, socket member 36 is swung upwardly in a clockwise direction from the position of Fig. 13. This causes lug 39 to encounter arm 142 of the trigger 141 and swing the trigger in a counterclockwise direction out of the path of the lug against the force of spring 143. The spring 143 returns the trigger 141 to its initial position as soon as lug 39 has passed. When pole 26 is released, allowing socket member 36 to return to its initial position, lug 39 again strikes arm 142, this time swinging trigger 141 in a clockwise direction and causing extension 144 to swing bar 145 upwardly about its support on shaft 146. By means of connection 147 and bar 138, this in turn rotates shaft 135 so as to pull cable 137 downwardly. The downward movement of cable 137 by means of crank 129 rotates shaft 126 together with cam 125, raising latch 120 out of engagement with tooth 119. The sliding connection provided between link 147 and bar 138 permits the carriage 33 to be moved to align the pole 26 with either group of bags 20 or 21, without disturbing the operation of the cable release 137.

The mode of operation of the apparatus may now be set forth. When it is desired to load either of the supports 24 with garment bags, the door 107 is open and is held in the position by tooth 120; the drum 79 or 91 as the case may be is operated to lower the carriage, carrying the support, to the bottom of the cabinet 66. In this position, the bags are placed by the aid of tabs 22, on the support 24, after which cotter pin 25 is inserted in the support to prevent their accidental displacement. The drum is then operated to raise the carriage so that

the bottoms of the bags are just above the bottom of the cabinet. For convenience in use, it is preferable that the bags in the front group be raised so that their bottoms are a short distance, say about an inch, higher than the bottoms of the bags in the rear group, as shown in Fig. 1. A sufficient number of bags to provide a supply for a considerable period may thus be supported. The door 107 may now be allowed to close, as by a manual downward pull on cable 137.

With a supply of garment bags disposed on their supports within cabinet 66, the door 107 is normally closed. When it is desired to place a garment within a bag, the door or closure 107 is first manually opened by the operator and swung to its fully opened position in which it is retained by the described latch mechanism.

A garment 29 on a hanger 27 is then supported on hook 28 of the pole 26 which is positioned under the proper group of bags by appropriately shifting carriage 33. As shown, a relatively short garment is to be placed in a bag, hence pole 26 is positioned beneath the short bags 20. Then one of the bags 20 is pulled downwardly off the support 24, tab 22 of the bag being torn, and the bag finally telescoping over the pole 26 and garment 29. Pole 26 can now be swung outwardly and downwardly, as indicated by the dotted lines of Fig. 1 to a convenient position for removing the garment hanger 27 and the garment 29 together with the enclosing bag from the pole. Upon releasing the pole 26, it will return to its vertical position. Just before it reaches the vertical, it operates the trigger mechanism and releases the latch holding door 107 open. The door will thus close, remaining closed until it is desired to enclose another garment in a bag when the cycle just described may be repeated.

What is claimed is:

1. In apparatus of the character described, a cabinet having an opening adjacent its lower end, means for suspending one or more garment bags at their upper ends within the cabinet, a closure member for said opening, a pole adapted to support a garment hanger and having an extremity that may be positioned below said bags as an initial position, said pole being pivotaly supported whereby the pole may be swung from said initial position, and means cooperating with the pole and the closure member and operable upon the return of the pole to its initial position for actuating the closure member to closed position.

2. In apparatus of the character described, a cabinet having an opening adjacent its lower end, means for suspending one or more garment bags at their upper ends within the cabinet, a closure member for said opening, means resiliently urging said member to closed position, latch means adapted to hold said member open, a pivotally mounted pole adapted to support a garment hanger and having an extremity that may be positioned below the bags as an initial position, and means cooperating with the pole and the latch means and operable upon a movement of the pole about its pivot for releasing said latch means.

3. In apparatus of the character described, a cabinet having an opening adjacent its lower end, means for suspending one or more garment bags at their upper ends within the cabinet, a closure member for said opening, means resiliently urging said member to closed position, latch means adapted to hold said member open,

a pivotally mounted pole adapted to support a garment hanger, said pole being so arranged that when it is in a substantially vertical position an extremity of the pole will be positioned below the bags, means tending to maintain said pole in said vertical position, and trigger mechanism cooperating with the pole and the latch means for releasing said latch means and operable only by return of the pole to the vertical position.

4. In apparatus of the character described, means for supporting one or more garment bags at their upper ends, a pole adapted to support a garment hanger, a carriage providing a pivotal support for said pole, means opposing movement of the pole about said pivot, and a support for said carriage, said carriage being slidable on said support whereby the pole may be positioned optionally beneath different bags.

5. In apparatus of the character described, a plurality of carriages, means for moving the carriages independently in a vertical direction, means supported by each carriage for suspending one or more garment bags at their upper ends, a pole adapted to support a garment hanger, a carriage providing a pivotal support for said pole, means opposing movement of the pole about said pivot, and a support for said pole carriage, said pole carriage being slidable on said support whereby the pole may be positioned optionally beneath different bags.

6. In apparatus of the character described, a cabinet having an opening adjacent its lower end, means for suspending one or more garment bags at their upper ends within the cabinet, a closure member for said opening, means resiliently urging said member to closed position, latch means adapted to hold said member open, a pivotally mounted pole adapted to support a garment hanger, said pole being so arranged that when it is in a substantially vertical position an extremity of the pole will be positioned below the bags, means resiliently urging said pole to said vertical position, catch mechanism to maintain the pole in the vertical position, means to release said catch, and means cooperating with the pole and the latch means and operable upon a return of the pole to said vertical position for releasing the latch means.

7. In apparatus of the character described, a cabinet having an opening adjacent its lower end, means for suspending one or more garment bags at their upper ends within the cabinet, a closure member for said opening, means resiliently urging said member to closed position, a pair of latch members respectively supported by the cabinet and the closure member adapted to cooperate to maintain the closure in open position, cam mechanism for disengaging the latch members, a pole adapted to support a garment hanger below the bags, means forming a pivotal support for the pole, means resiliently opposing movement of the pole to swing the garment hanger away from the bags, trigger mechanism operable by the return of the pole to its position below the bags, and means forming a connection between the cam mechanism and the trigger mechanism whereby actuation of the trigger mechanism will disengage the latch members and allow the resilient means to close the closure member.

8. In apparatus of the character described, a fixed support, a carriage slidable on said support, a shaft rotatably mounted on said support and extending in the direction of movement of said carriage, a bar pivotally supported on the carriage, means to swing said bar about its pivot, a second shaft parallel to the rotatably supported shaft and spaced radially therefrom, means forming a crank arm connecting the shafts, and a connection between the bar and said second shaft, whereby swing of the bar will rotate the first shaft, said connection being so arranged as to permit relative axial adjustment between the bar and the second shaft.

9. In apparatus of the character described, a cabinet having a door, a stock of garment bags supported by the cabinet, means whereby a garment may be supported in position to permit a bag to be placed over the garment when the door is opened, said means being movable to a garment discharging position, and means cooperating with the garment supporting means and the door and responsive to movement of said garment supporting means, for causing said door to close.

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