Nov. 15, 1932. P. A. BREDSVOLD 1,887,882

CABINET FILING DRAWER

Filed April 25, 1931 4 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

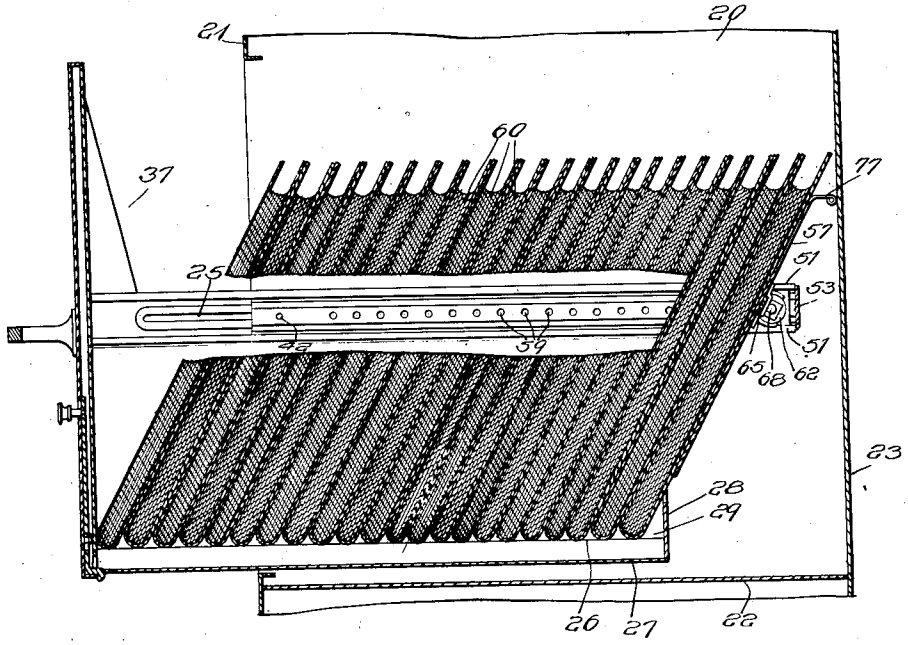
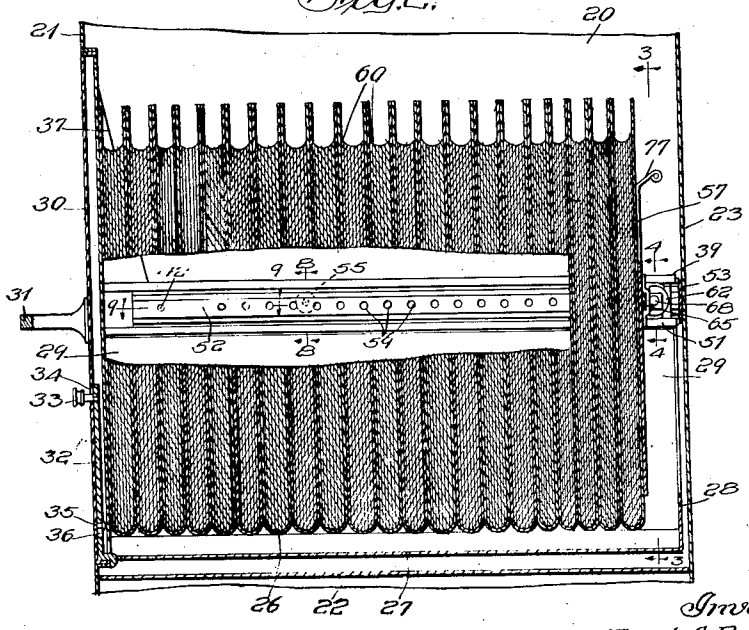


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

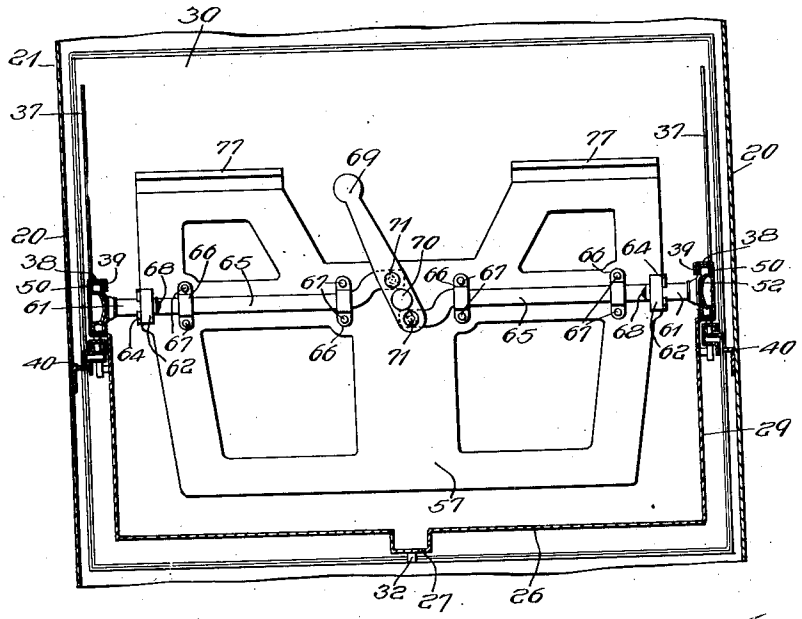


Fig. 4.

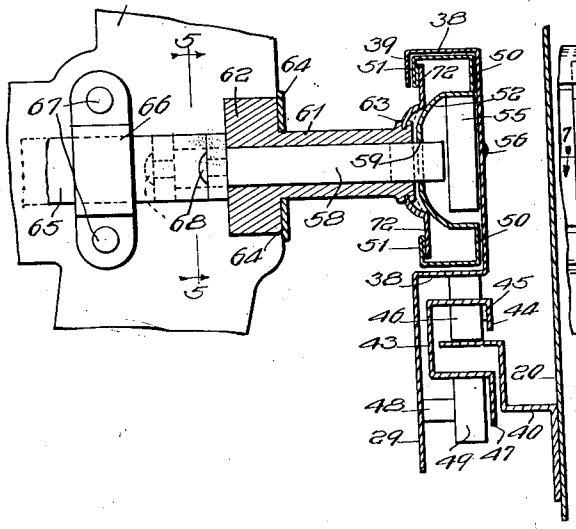
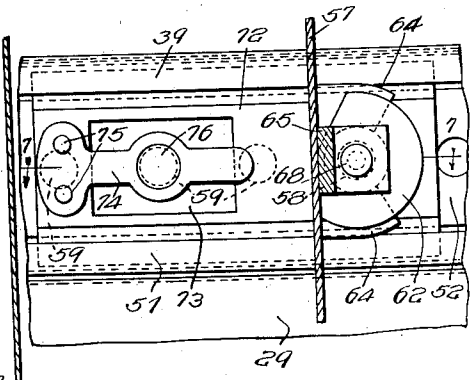


Fig. 5.



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Fig. 6.

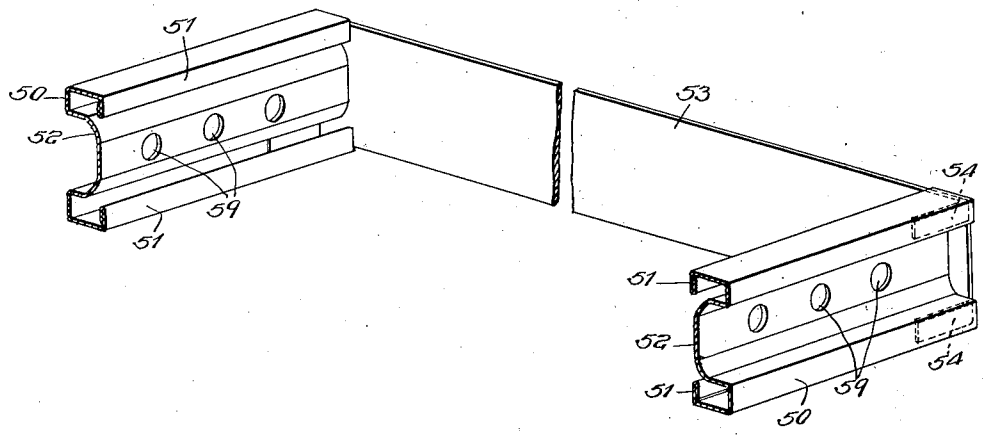


Fig. 7.

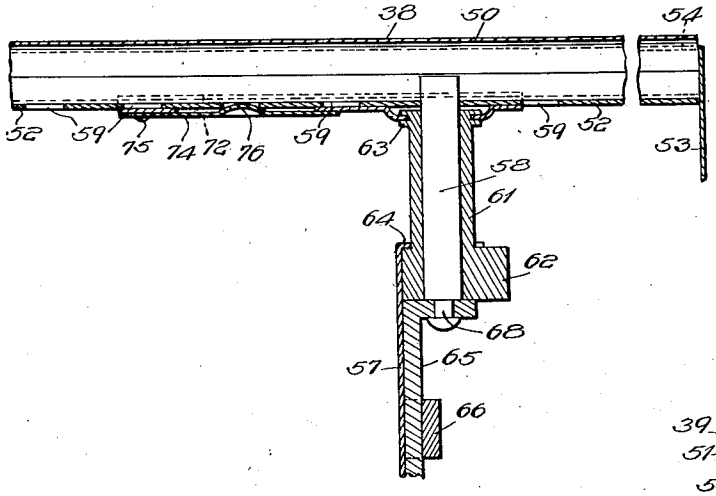


Fig. 8.

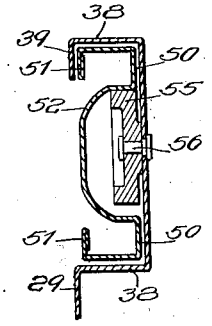


Fig. 10.

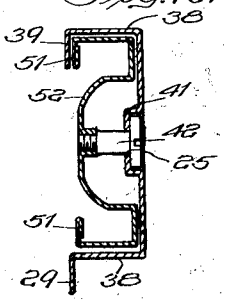
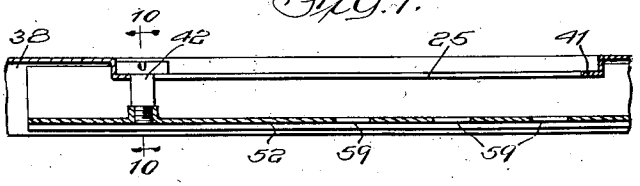


Fig. 9.



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Fig. 11.

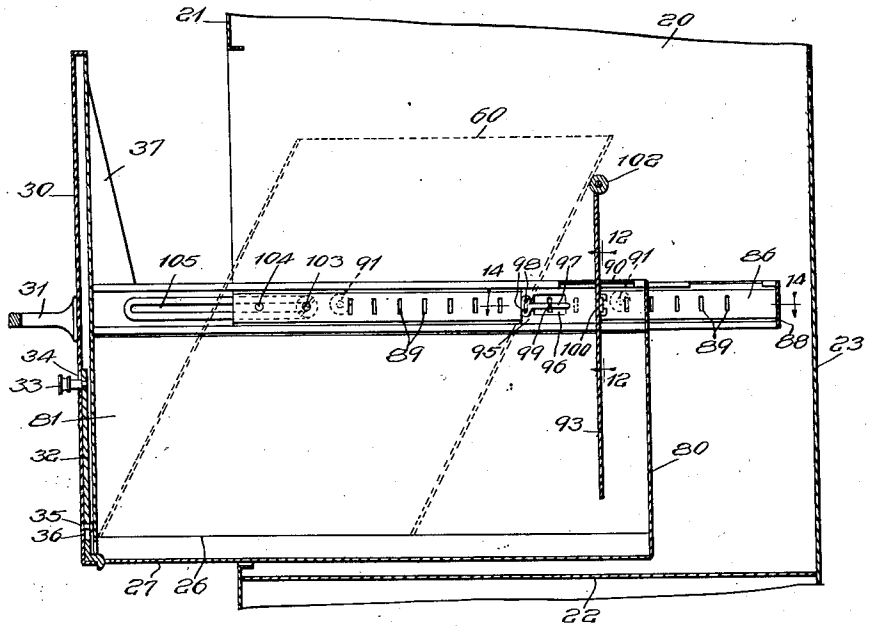


Fig. 12.

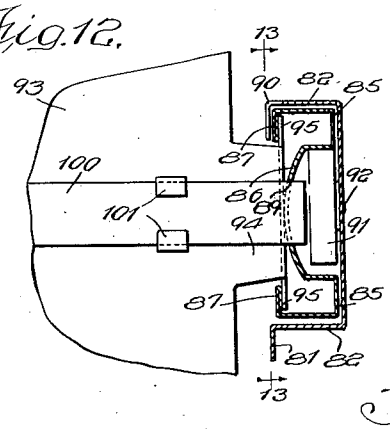


Fig. 13.

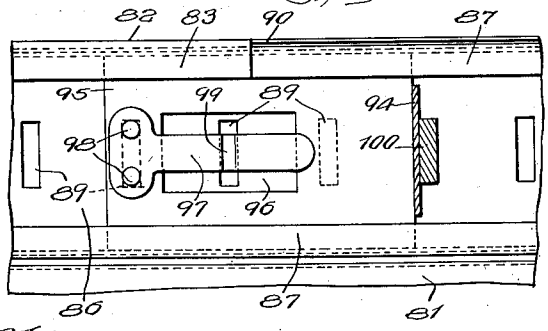
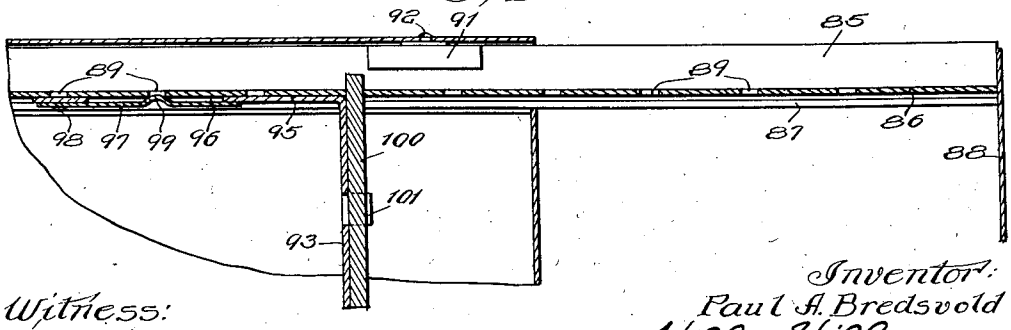


Fig. 14.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CABINET FILING DRAWER

Application filed April 25, 1931. Serial No. 532,789.

The invention relates to follower plates or compressors for use in cabinet filing drawers. Such filing drawers are usually equipped with a plate or so-called follower for the purpose of maintaining the filing material in a compact vertical position to prevent its buckling down or bending and also to make it easy of access when it is examined or inspected. Such follower devices are usually adjustable to provide the proper pressure in accordance with the amount of material in the drawer and thereby serve equally as well to compress the file contents when the drawer is only partially filled as when it is filled to its maximum capacity. Such devices as heretofore constructed require that the follower plate be positioned at a substantial distance from the rear end of the drawer to provide room for its manipulation and rearward movement. The vacant space between the rear end of the drawer and the follower plate very seriously curtails the maximum available capacity of the drawer and as a result there is a substantial waste of available cabinet and drawer space.

An object of the invention is to provide a novel form of mounting for followers of the kind described, by means of which the drawer may be substantially filled with material under compression and which upon opening of the drawer permits the file contents to spread and project over the rear wall of the drawer whereby the space back of the open drawer is utilized for expansion of the file contents.

Another object of the invention is the provision of an improved follower device which operates as a compressor equally as well when the drawer in which it is positioned is substantially filled as when it is only partially filled and thereby enables practically all of the space in a drawer and a cabinet to be advantageously utilized without waste.

Still another object of the invention is the provision of a cabinet filing drawer adapted when closed to occupy a small compact space with the contents in closely compressed vertical position between a follower plate and the front end of the drawer and when open to permit the contents to loosen and take a position permitting easy inspection.

A further object of the invention is the provision of improved mounting means for a follower which permits the follower to move rearwardly as the drawer is opened and causes the follower to move forwardly as the drawer is closed.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of an improved mounting means for a follower which permits the position of the follower relative to the ends to be adjusted in accordance with the file contents and causes the follower to move longitudinally of the drawer as it is opened and closed.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a novel form of mounting for followers of the character described, of simple and practical construction, and to equip the same with means for releasably securing the follower in any position to which it is moved lengthwise of the drawer.

Many other objects and advantages of the construction herein shown and described will be obvious to those skilled in the art from the disclosure herein given.

To this end my invention consists in the novel construction, arrangement and combination of parts herein shown and described, and more particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, wherein I have illustrated the preferred embodiment of my invention,

Fig. 1 is a longitudinal sectional view through a sliding drawer, equipped with the device of my invention, and showing the drawer in partially open position in a cabinet and with the file contents partly broken away to show parts beyond;

Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1 showing the drawer closed;

Fig. 3 is a view along the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a view along the line 4—4 of Fig. 2 and drawn to a larger scale;

Fig. 5 is a view along the line 5—5 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged perspective view of a

detailed portion of the device embodying my invention;

Fig. 7 is a view along the line 7—7 of Fig. 5;

Fig. 8 is a view along the line 8—8 of Fig. 2 drawn to a larger scale;

Fig. 9 is a view along the line 9—9 of Fig. 2 drawn to a larger scale;

Fig. 10 is a sectional view along the line 10—10 of Fig. 9;

Fig. 11 is a longitudinal sectional view through a cabinet and a sliding drawer equipped with an alternative embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 12 is a view along the line 12—12 of Fig. 11 drawn to a larger scale;

Fig. 13 is a view along the line 13—13 of Fig. 12; and

Fig. 14 is a sectional view along the line 14—14 of Fig. 11.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, the numeral 20 designates the side walls of a cabinet containing file drawers equipped with one embodiment of the invention. The open spaces in the front of the cabinet, through which the drawers slide outwardly and inwardly, are bounded by channel members 21, providing frames for the openings. The cabinet is provided with horizontally extending partitions 22 and a rear wall 23.

The drawer shown in Figs. 1 and 2 comprises a bottom plate 26 having the usual longitudinal central trough portion 27. The walls of the drawer comprise side plates 29, a relatively low rear plate 28 and a two-ply front wall structure 30. Triangular shaped members 37 provide a brace connecting the front wall 30 with the relatively low side wall members 29. The drawer is manually actuated from open to closed position and vice versa by means of a handle 31. The drawer is held in its closed position by a latch member 32. The lower end of the member 32 is suitably beveled to slide over and engage the flange of the underlying channel member 21. The latch member 32 is disengaged by means of a stem 33 projecting from the front wall 30 underneath the handle 31. The latch member 32 is held in position by the stem 33 which projects through a slot 34, and by a pin 35 which projects through a slot 36. The slots 34 and 36 are of sufficient length to permit the latch member 32 to be elevated to disengage the channel member 21 when it is desired to open the drawer.

The tops of the side wall members 29 form channels 38, the upper edges of which terminate in downwardly extending flanges 39. A pair of members 40 each having a double Z-shaped cross-section, are fastened to the vertical side wall members 20 of the cabinet and extend substantially the full length of the drawer space. A pair of plates 43 are positioned one on each side of the drawer in cooperative relation with the members 40.

Each plate 43, has one edge turned down to form a flange 44 on which are mounted a plurality of stub shafts 45 each carrying a roller 46. The lower horizontal portion of the channels 38 ride upon the rollers 46 so that the members 40 provide tracks carrying the weight of the drawer as it is opened and closed. A plurality of stub shafts 48, secured in the vertical portion of the side walls 29, each provides a mounting for a roller 49. The rollers 49 press upwardly against the horizontal portion of the member 43 to prevent binding and to permit easy movement of the drawer. The lower edge of the member 43 forms a flange 47 limiting lateral movement of the drawer in the cabinet.

The channels 38 each provide a runway for a slidable channel shaped bar 50. The bars 50 have inclined flanged edges 51 folded back upon themselves. The middle portion 52 of each bar 50 is convex inwardly and contains a row of apertures 59 arranged in predetermined spaced-apart relation. The forward ends of the channel bars 50 are each provided with a screw bolt or pin 42 which projects through a longitudinally extending slot 25 formed in the forward end of the channel member 38 forming a portion of the side wall of the drawer as best shown in Fig. 1. The rollers 46 and 49 are so spaced and arranged as to permit the drawers to be opened substantially full length without binding or frictional contact of the pin 42 with the walls of the slot 25.

The rear ends of the channel bars 50 project beyond the rear wall 28 of the drawer and are connected by a member 53. The ends of the member 53 are turned inwardly to form stem members 54 operatively engaging the channel bars 50 as best shown in Fig. 6. The upper horizontal portion of the convex inturned webs 52 of the channel bars 50 are each carried by a plurality of rollers 55. The rollers 55 are journalled on pins 56 projecting through the channel members 38 comprising the top side walls of the drawer and thereby provide a support for the channel bars and a follower plate 57 carried thereby. The follower plate 57 is detachably connected to the channel bars 50 by a pair of oppositely extending rods 58. The rods 58 have their outer ends each normally projecting through a cylindrical member 61 and into one of the apertures 59 of the adjacent channel bar 50. The inner ends of the cylindrical members 61 have a relatively large flange 62 and the outer ends of the cylindrical members comprise annularly grooved flanges 63. The follower plate 57 has a pair of rearwardly extending stem members 64 by means of which the cylindrical members 61 are mounted on the follower plate. A pair of plates 72 positioned one in each of the slid-

ing channel bars 50 provide supports for the cylindrical members 61 and the follower plate 57 as best shown in Fig. 4. One end of the plates 72 operatively engage the grooved flanges 63 on the outer ends of the cylindrical members 61.

The follower plate 57 is adjustably mounted on the channel bars 50 in accordance with the file contents of the drawer by moving the rods 58 into and out of operative engagement with the channel bars as indicated by the full and dotted line positions respectively of Fig. 4. This movement of the rods 58 is accomplished by manually actuating a lever 69 mounted on a pivot 70 positioned in the middle of the follower plate. The lever 69 is operatively connected with the rods 58 by a pair of slidably mounted bars 65. The bars 65 are supported in a plurality of staples or socket members 66. The staples or socket members 66 are fastened to the follower plate 57 by means of rivets 67. The staple members 66 are so arranged that the rods 65 are easily moved or slid therein. The outer ends of the bars 65 are each turned back to connect with a rivet-like stem 68 projecting from the rods 58. The inner ends of the bars 65 are connected with the lever 69 by screw-bolts 71 extending through elongated sockets (not shown) in the lever. In Fig. 3 the lever 69 is shown in a position corresponding to the full line position of the rods 58 wherein the rods operatively engage the channel bars 50 and permit limited rearward tilting of the follower plate from its vertical position. By rotating the levers 69 in clockwise direction it is obvious that the rods 68 will be moved to their dotted line position and be disconnected from the convex inturned middle portions 52 of the channel members 50.

An important feature of the invention is the provision of a follower mechanism which permits the drawer to be substantially filled with material in compressed position and upon expansion to spread back into the space between the rear of the drawer and the cabinet. To illustrate this feature of the invention, the follower plate 57 is shown in Figs. 1 and 2 in its rearmost position in the drawer with the rods 58 inserted in the end apertures 59 of the channel bars 50. In Fig. 1 which shows the drawer in open position, the file contents 60 are inclined rearwardly and have been loosened by the rearward movement and tilting of the follower plate 57 on its pivotal mounting rods 58. The rear wall 28 of the drawer is sufficiently low to permit the follower plate 57 to project rearwardly of the rear wall 28 and to occupy the space between the rear end of the drawer and the back wall 23 of the cabinet. This position of the device corresponds to the condition of maximum capacity of the drawer and it is to be noted that the file contents as shown in Fig. 1 occupy a greater space than that between the front and rear walls of the drawer.

The upper end of the follower plate 57 has a rearwardly extending flange 77 which is adjacent to or in contact with the vertical wall 23 of the cabinet for the position of the drawer and mechanism shown in Fig. 1. In closing the drawer from this position, the file contents are tilted forwardly by pressure of the flange 77 against the wall 23. Before the file contents reach their vertical position, the rear ends of the channel bars 50 and their connecting member 53 contact with the cabinet wall 23 and this contact moves the bars 50 forwardly in the channel members 38. The movement of the sliding bars 50 forwardly, relative to the drawer, completes the movement of the file contents to vertical position and then compresses the same, since the follower plate 57 is thereby moved to vertical and is advanced in the drawer. Movement of the drawer from the position shown in Fig. 1 to the position shown in Fig. 2 locks the drawer in its closed position by means of the latch member 32 with the contents compressed.

It is obvious that the device will operate equally as well to compress the file contents when the drawer is only partially filled as when it is completely filled as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 by shifting the mounting of the follower plate 57 from one pair of apertures 59 to another as is found necessary and in the manner already described.

The rods 58 by means of which the follower plate 57 is adjusted are normally out of sight of the operator and difficult of access. Since the rods 58 must be in alignment with the apertures 59 before inserting the ends of the rods therein it is desirable to provide means whereby the operator can easily detect when the follower plate 57 has been shifted to a point where the rods will enter the apertures. The upper middle portion of the follower plate 57 is cut away to enable the operator to reach the lever 69 to disengage the rods 58 when it is desired to adjust the position of the follower plate 57 relative to the front and rear walls of the drawer. The desired exact alignment of the rods 58 with the apertures 59 is secured by providing a device which takes the form of a spring member 74 fastened to the mounting plate 72 by means of rivets 75 as best shown in Fig. 5. The spring member 74 comprises a rearwardly extending stem having an expanded middle portion providing an outwardly extending spherical protuberance 76. The spring member 74 extends the full length of and overlies an opening 73 in the plate 72. The protuberance 76 projects through the opening 73 and is positioned in alignment with the apertures 59. In shifting the follower plate 57, its mounting plate 72 and the spring member 74 are also shifted longitudinally and the pressure of the mem-

ber 74 forces the protuberance 76 into the apertures 59.

In operation assuming that the space between the follower plate 57 and the front end of the drawer has become overcrowded the rods 58 are disengaged as already described and the follower plate is pushed rearwardly relative to the drawer. The rearward movement of the plate 57 carries with it the mounting plate 72 and the spring member 74. The spherical protuberance 76 slides over the channel bars 50 and into the next adjacent aperture 59. The operator can detect when the protuberances 76 have engaged an aperture 59 by the increased pressure required to advance the follower plate. The position of the protuberances 76 relative to the rods 58 is such that when the protuberances engage the adjacent apertures 59, the rods 58 are in exact alignment with corresponding apertures 59. This process of adjustment can be repeated as often as necessary and the follower plate repeatedly shifted rearwardly until the rods 58 engage the rearmost apertures 59 which position corresponds with the maximum capacity of the drawer.

The operation of this embodiment of the invention has been described for a drawer filled with compressed material. The compressing of the file contents is accomplished entirely by contact of the rearwardly projecting channel members 50 with the cabinet wall 23 both when the drawer is entirely filled and when only partially filled. In case the drawer is only partially filled the device provides the same advantages of compression of the contents when the drawer is closed and of expansion and resulting loosening of the contents in tilted rearward position as when it is filled.

In Figs. 11 to 14 inclusive I have illustrated an alternative embodiment of the invention, mounted in a drawer having a front wall 30, bottom wall 26, and latch member 32 similar to those shown for the preferred embodiment already described. The drawer also comprises a rear wall 80 of substantially the same height as the side walls 81. The upper edges of the side walls 81 form channels 82 having an inturned flange 83. The channels 82 provide runways for channel bars 85 which are similar in construction to the channel bars 50 of the preferred embodiment. The channel bars 85 have an inturned middle portion 86 containing a plurality of spaced-apart longitudinally aligned slotted apertures 89. The channel bars 85 have inturned flanges 87 as best shown in Fig. 12. The channel bars 85 project rearwardly from the drawer and are connected by a cross member 88. A vertical follower plate 93 is operatively connected with the channel bars 85 so as to be moved forwardly and rearwardly in the drawer with the corresponding movement of the channel bars 85. The follower plate 93 has oppositely projecting stems 94 on each end terminating in forwardly projecting lateral extensions 95 of greater width than the stems. The lateral extensions 95 fit within the flanges 86 of the channels 82 as best shown in Fig. 12. The positioning of the extensions 95 in the channels 82 as described serves to hold the follower plate 93 vertical. In order that the follower plate 93 may be mounted in the channels 82 as described each flange 83 is cut away for a substantial length to provide a slot 90. The slots 90 are provided so that the extensions 95 of the follower plate 93 may be inserted in the channels 82, following which the channel bars 85 are inserted in the channels 82 from the rear.

The channel bars 85 are supported on a plurality of rollers 91 suitably journalled on stub shafts 92 mounted on the channel member 82. The forward end of the channel bars 85 have a pair of screw bolts 103 and 104 respectively projecting through a slot 105 formed in the vertical portion of the side wall channels 82. The length of the slot 105 and the position of the bolt 103 are such as to provide for the ordinary expansion and compression requirements. In the case of drawers of ordinary capacity this expansion is preferably about three inches. By removal of the screw bolt 103 the expansion can be increased if desired by the distance represented by the spacing between the bolts 103 and 104. In practice it is found that for drawers of ordinary size the maximum desired expansion will be about four inches and the position of the bolts 103 and 104 and the length of the slots 105 will be predetermined accordingly. If the drawer is filled to capacity the follower plate 93 may if desired be disconnected from the channel bars 85.

In the open position of the drawer as shown in Fig. 11, the file contents 60 will take the inclined position shown by dotted lines. In closing the drawer from the position of Fig. 11 the ends of the channel bars 85 and the connecting bar 88 contact with the rear cabinet wall 23 so as to advance the channel bars 85 and the follower plate 93 forwardly relative to the drawer, as the drawer moves rearwardly.

The follower plate 93 operatively engages the channel bars 85 by means of transversely movable rods 100. The rods 100 are supported and guided by a plurality of fingers 101 which permit the outer ends of the rods 100 to be inserted in and removed from the slotted apertures 89 in the channel bars 85. The bars 100 are moved longitudinally by a lever 69 not shown but similar to that shown in Fig. 3.

The upper edge of the follower plate 93 has a pair of rollers 102 suitably mounted thereon so that as the follower plate is advanced in the drawer by the contact of the

channel bars 85 with the cabinet wall 83, the file contents 60 will be moved to vertical position and as the follower plate continues to advance the file contents 60 will be compressed.

The adjustment of the follower plate 93 relative to the channel bars 85 is accomplished in a similar manner to that already described for the follower plate 57. For this purpose the lateral extension members 95 are each provided with an aperture 96 over which a detector or spring member 97 is positioned. The spring members 97 are fastened to the extension members 95 by a plurality of rivets 98. The middle portion of the spring members 97 provides a corrugation 99 which presses into the adjacent slotted apertures 89 as the follower plate is shifted. The position of the rods 100 relative to the spring member 97 is such that when the corrugation 99 engages a slotted aperture 89 the rods 100 will be in exact alignment with an adjacent slotted aperture 89. The engagement of the corrugations 99 with an aperture 89 is easily detected by the operator by reason of the increased pressure necessary to shift the follower plate 93.

The rods 100 are then moved to insert their outer ends in the adjacent slots 89. The device thereby enables the follower plate 93 to be mounted in any one of the slotted apertures 89 and be thereby suitably positioned to compress the file contents of the drawer in accordance with the thickness thereof.

Thus it will be seen that I have provided a novel form of mounting for followers of the character described, which is movable back and forth relative to the drawer to compress the file contents as the drawer is being closed and to permit the expansion of the contents as the drawer is opened. The device further provides means for adjusting the position of the follower plate in accordance with the file contents of the drawer and still further is adapted for use with drawers filled with file contents to maximum capacity with material under pressure when the drawer is closed, and which when the drawer is opened permits the contents to spread and project rearwardly over the rear wall of the drawer thereby utilizing the space between the rear end of the open drawer and the adjoining rear cabinet wall.

Having thus described my invention, it is obvious that various immaterial modifications may be made in the same without departing from the spirit of my invention; hence, I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the exact form, construction, arrangement and combination of parts herein shown and described or uses mentioned.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a cabinet drawer, a pair of longitudinally movable bars slidably mounted one in each side wall of the drawer and projecting rearwardly therefrom into position to contact with the cabinet, a follower plate pivotally mounted on and movable with said bars, said contact operable to advance the follower plate into compressive engagement with the file contents as the drawer is moved from open to closed position.

2. In a cabinet drawer, a member slidably mounted in each side wall and projecting rearwardly from the drawer into position to contact with the cabinet, a transversely extending follower plate mounted on said members and movable longitudinally of the drawer in accordance with the movement of said members resulting from their contact with the cabinet.

3. In a cabinet drawer, a longitudinally extending member slidably mounted in each side wall and projecting rearwardly from the drawer into position for cooperative contact with the cabinet wall, a transversely extending, vertical, rearwardly tiltable follower plate, and adjustable fastening means operable to connect said plate with said members at any one of a plurality of predetermined points, said cooperative contact of said members with the rear wall of the cabinet causing said members to advance relative to the drawer and to carry therewith said follower plate.

4. In a cabinet drawer, a longitudinally extending member slidably mounted in each side wall and projecting rearwardly from the drawer into position for cooperative contact with the cabinet wall, a transversely extending, vertical, rearwardly tiltable follower plate, and adjustable fastening means operable to connect said plate with said members at any one of a plurality of predetermined points, said cooperative contact of said members with the rear wall of the cabinet causing said members to advance in the drawer and to carry therewith said follower plate when the drawer is moved from open to closed position and permitting rearward movement of the follower plate relative to the drawer as the drawer is moved from closed to open position.

5. In cabinet drawer construction, the combination with a filing drawer so constructed that when closed its rear wall is in closely spaced parallel relation to a wall of a cabinet in which the drawer is mounted, of longitudinally extending members slidably mounted one in each side wall of the drawer and projecting rearwardly into cooperative contact with a cabinet wall, said contact operating to advance the members in the drawer as the drawer is moved to closed position, and a follower plate mounted on and movable with said members.

6. In cabinet drawer construction comprising a cabinet and a filing drawer mounted therein, said drawer when closed having its

rear wall in closely spaced parallel relation to a wall of the cabinet, mechanism operable to compress the file contents when the drawer is closed, said mechanism comprising a pair of longitudinally extending members slidably mounted one in each side wall of the drawer, each of said members projecting rearwardly into position for cooperative contact with said wall of the cabinet and operable thereby to be advanced in the drawer as the drawer is moved to closed position, and a follower plate tiltably mounted on and movable with said members.

7. In cabinet drawer construction, the combination with a filing drawer having its rear wall in closely spaced relation to the rear wall of the cabinet when the drawer is closed, of means operable to compress the file contents when the drawer is closed, said means comprising a pair of longitudinally extending members slidably mounted one in each side wall of the drawer, each of said members projecting rearwardly into position for contact with the rear wall of the cabinet and operable thereby to be advanced in the drawer as the drawer is moved to closed position, a transversely extending, vertical, rearwardly tiltable follower plate, and fastening means operatively connecting said plate to said members in close proximity to the rear wall of the drawer when the drawer is closed, the rear wall of the drawer being relatively low and permitting the follower plate to move rearwardly and tilt back over the rear wall a substantial amount when the drawer is opened.

8. In cabinet drawer construction, the combination with a filing drawer having its rear wall in closely spaced relation to the rear wall of the cabinet when the drawer is closed, of means operable to compress the file contents when the drawer is closed, said means comprising a pair of longitudinally extending members slidably mounted one in each side wall of the drawer, each of said members projecting rearwardly into position for contact with the rear wall of the cabinet and operatable thereby to be advanced in the drawer as the drawer is moved to closed position and to permit relative rearward movement of the members upon opening the drawer, a transversely extending vertical rearwardly tiltable follower plate, and fastening means operatively connecting said plate to said members in close proximity to the rear wall of the drawer when the drawer is closed, the rear wall of the drawer being relatively low and permitting the follower plate to move rearwardly and tilt back over the rear wall a substantial amount when the drawer is opened.

9. In a cabinet drawer, a pair of channel-shaped members slidably mounted one on each side wall of the drawer, the web portions of said channel members being vertical and convex inwardly, the upper and lower horizontal flanges of said channel members having their edges respectively turned downwardly and upwardly in substantial alignment with the innermost portion of the convex web portions, said web portions having a plurality of apertures arranged in aligned spaced-apart relation, a plate cooperating with each of said channel members, the edges of the plate having sliding contact with said turned edges of the flanges and the middle portion of the plate being in contact with said convex web portion, a follower plate mounted on the rear end of said plates, a pair of laterally projecting rods mounted on said follower plate, means operable to move the outer ends of said rods into and out of the adjacent apertures of said channel members, said slidable plates having an opening therethrough, a spring plate mounted on each slidable plate and extending over said opening, said spring plate having a protuberance projecting through said opening into sliding contact with said convex web along the line of said apertures, said protuberance partially entering said apertures as the sliding plate is moved, said protuberances and said rods being so positioned that the rods are in alignment with an adjacent aperture when said protuberances are overlying adjacent apertures.

10. In a cabinet drawer, a transversely extending follower plate tiltable from vertical to rearwardly inclined position and vice versa, means actuated by the closing of the drawer operable to move said plate from inclined to vertical position and to advance the plate in the drawer in said vertical position thereby compressing the file contents of the drawer, the pressure of said file contents against said plate operating, upon opening of the drawer, to move said plate and means rearwardly of the drawer and to tilt said plate from vertical to rearwardly inclined position.

In witness whereof I hereunto subscribe my name this 21st day of April A. D., 1931.

PAUL A. BREDSVOLD.