

May 22, 1934.

T. B. TYLER

1,959,938

ROLLER TOWEL CONTROL MECHANISM

Filed July 10, 1926

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

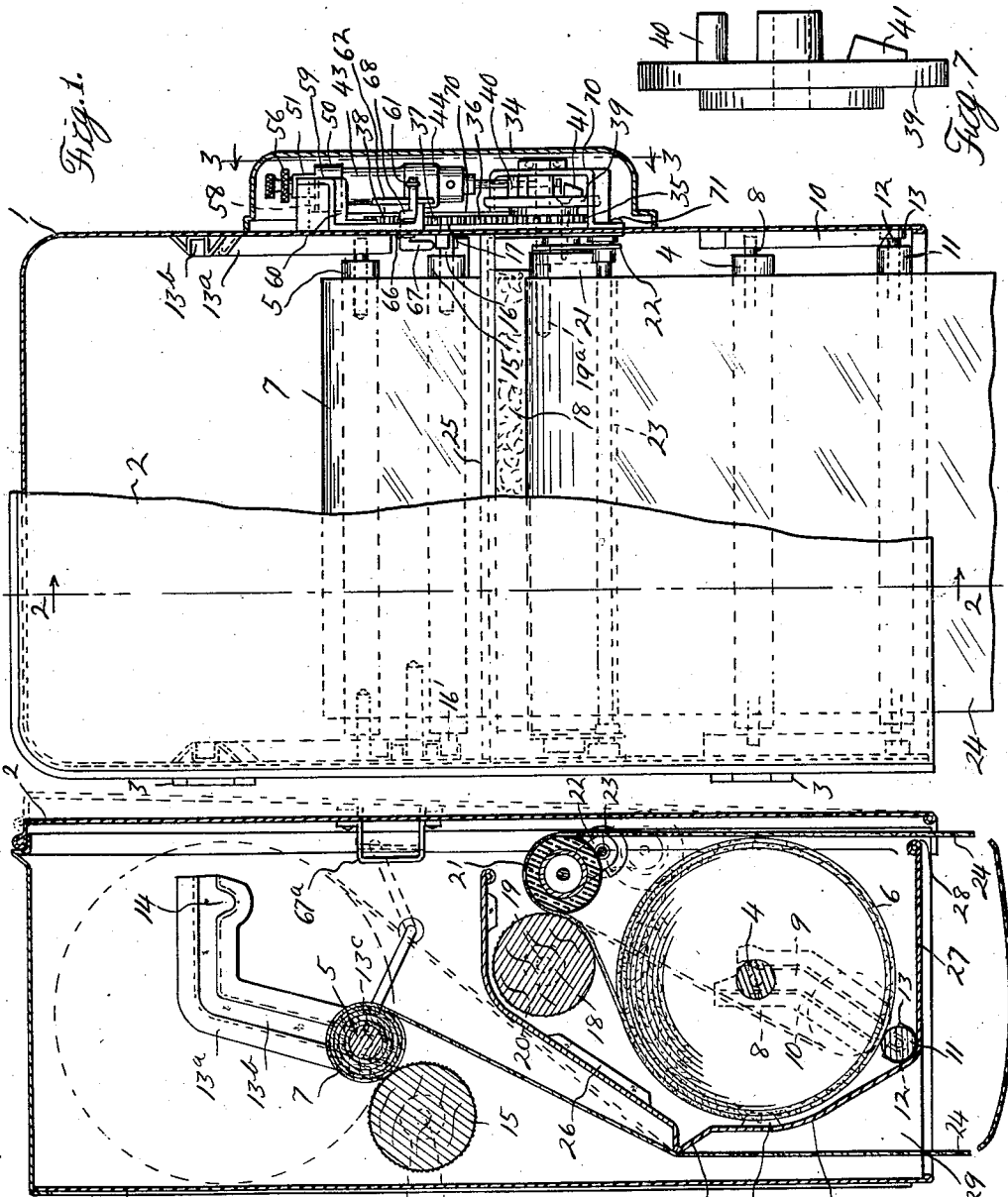


Fig. 2

Fig. 1

Fig. 7

334

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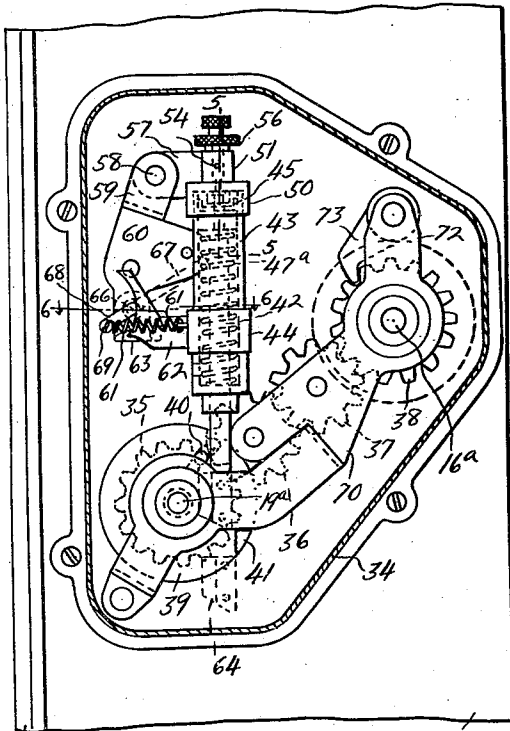
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ROLLER TOWEL CONTROL MECHANISM.

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3 Sheets-Sheet 2



23 Fig. 3.

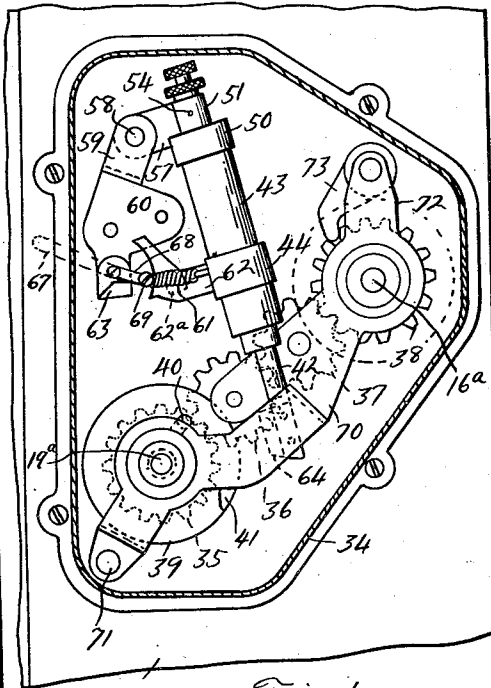


Fig. 4.

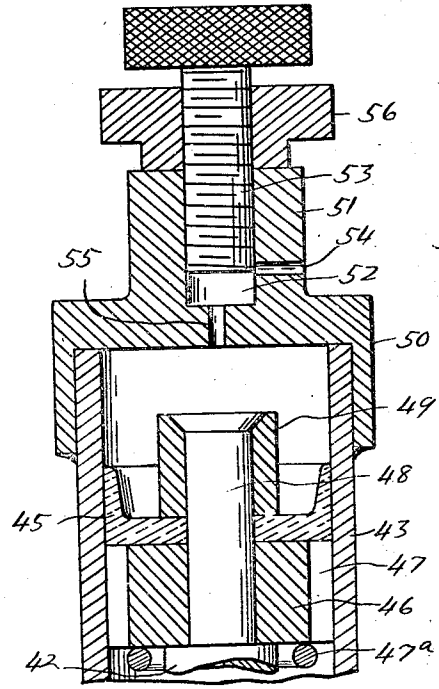


Fig. 5.

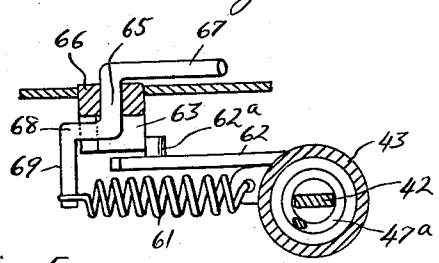


Fig. 6.

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3 Sheets-Sheet 3

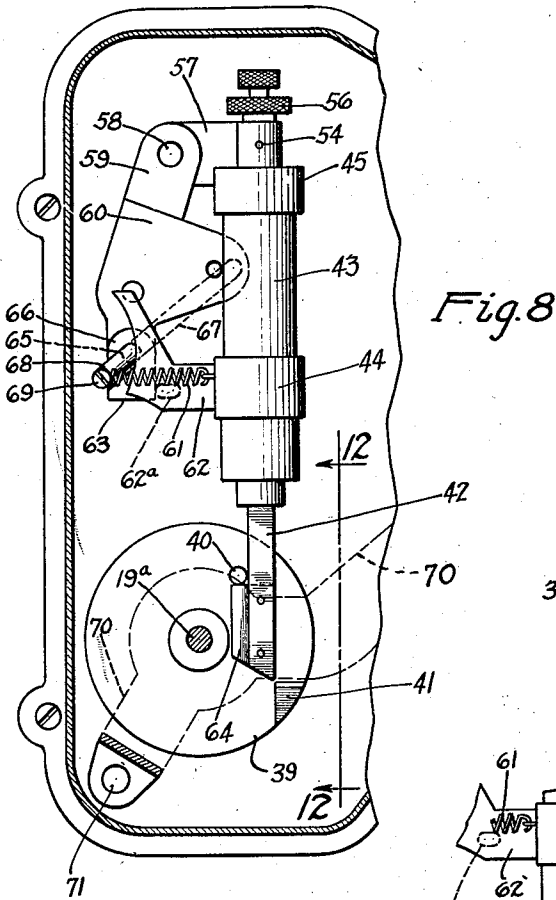


Fig. 8

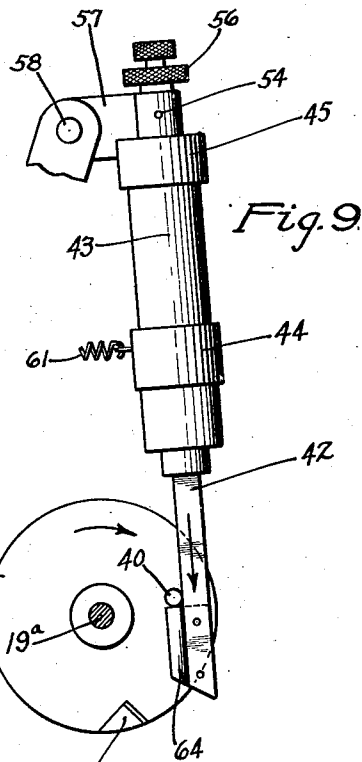


Fig. 9

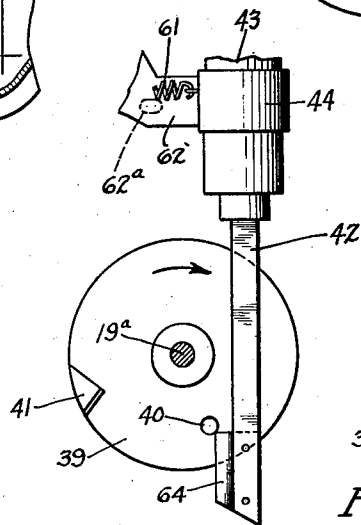


Fig. 10

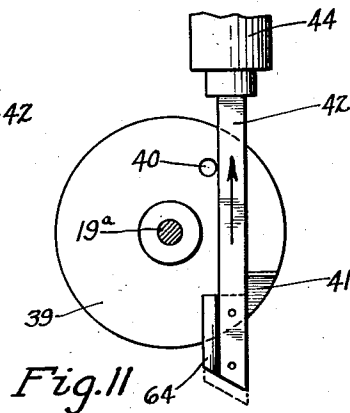


Fig. 11

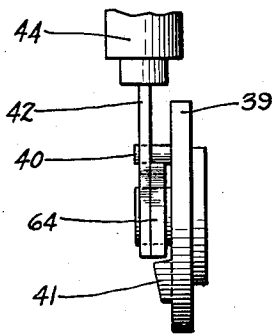


Fig. 12

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1,959,938

ROLLER TOWEL CONTROL MECHANISM

Tracy B. Tyler, Detroit, Mich., assignor, by mesne assignments, to Steiner Sales Company, Chicago, Ill., a corporation of Utah

Application July 10, 1926, Serial No. 121,559

14 Claims. (Cl. 312—38)

This invention relates to towel cabinets, and more particularly to cabinets from which a rolled strip of toweling is adapted to be delivered by uniform advances.

5 It is an objectionable feature of cabinets of this character now in use that the user may be wasteful of the towel, even although an automatic stop may act to limit the portion of toweling delivered responsive to a continuous
10 pull. That is to say, the user may immediately under present conditions repeat as often as he pleases the operation of advancing the towel a definite distance, and the automatic stop is not effective to prevent a wasteful delivery of the
15 toweling through such repetitive operation of the feed mechanism.

An object of the present invention, therefore, is to not only limit the portion of toweling discharged from the cabinet through a complete
20 single operation of the feed mechanism, but to further prevent any repeated feed operation until there has elapsed a predetermined interval of time sufficient for use of the exposed unit portion of clean toweling.

25 More specifically expressed, the invention seeks to prevent wasteful feeding of toweling from a cabinet by associating with an automatic stop, taking effect upon the delivery of a unit length of toweling, of means for so retarding the release movement of the stop member that there
30 can be no immediate repetition of the feeding operation.

Another object is to make an improved provision for preventing any contact within the
35 cabinet between the clean and soiled toweling, and to thus avoid any possibility of contamination of the former by the latter.

Still another object is to facilitate loading and unloading of the cabinet by provision of a simple
40 means for throwing the automatic stop completely out of operation, so that the towel may be fed freely and continuously from either of its carrying rollers to the other.

A further object is to adapt two rollers respectively, having driven engagement with clean and soiled portions of a strip of toweling to engage opposite faces of said strip so as to minimize the resulting wear upon each of said faces.

50 These and various other objects the invention attains by the construction hereinafter described, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

55 Figure 1 is a front view of the cabinet with the door, which forms its front wall, partially broken away.

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view of the same taken upon the line 2—2 of Figure 1, showing primarily the arrangement of the towel-carrying rollers, feed rolls, and guide rolls.

60 Figure 3 is a vertical section on line 3—3 of Figure 1, disclosing the drive mechanism for the take-up roller, the automatic stop member and the retarded release means for said member.

65 Figure 4 is a detail sectional view, taken upon the line 5—5 of Figure 3, of a dash-pot for retarding release of the automatic stop member.

Figure 5 is a view similar to Figure 3 but showing a shifted position of certain parts.

70 Figure 6 is a cross section on line 6—6 of Figure 3 showing stop means for limiting the action of a spring on a swinging dash-pot.

Figure 7 is a view of a disc as it appears in Figure 1 but drawn to an enlarged scale.

75 Figure 8 is an enlarged detailed sectional view, showing the parts in normal position;

Figure 9 is a detailed view, showing the means provided for actuating the dash-pot plunger, as the towel web is withdrawn from the cabinet;

80 Figure 10 is a similar view, showing the plunger at the limit of its downward movement;

Figure 11 is a view corresponding to Figure 10, but showing the parts in towel-locking position; and

85 Figure 12 is a detailed view on the line 12—12 of Figure 8.

In these views, the reference character 1 designates a casing which, as shown, is of sheet metal construction, the front of said casing being formed by a door 2, hinged as indicated
90 at 3. Rollers 4 and 5 for respectively carrying a clean portion 6 and a used portion 7, of a strip of toweling, are mounted respectively in the lower and upper portions of the casing, projecting journal pins 8 being carried by the end
95 portions of said rollers. The clean towel roller has its journal pins engaging in grooves 9 formed in a pair of stamped sheet metal mountings 10 which are welded or otherwise suitably secured in an opposed relation to the end walls
100 of the casing, in the lower portion of the latter. The grooves 9 have vertical upper portions and their lower portions incline downwardly toward the rear of the cabinet. The journal pins 8 are adapted to be inserted in the open upper
105 ends of the grooves, and the roll 6 of clean toweling rests upon a roller 11 mounted just below the mountings 10. Thus as the size of the roll 6 is diminished, the pins 8 are free to descend further in said grooves. The journal 110

pins 12 of the roller 11 engage bearings 13 suitably carried by the casing end walls.

The mountings 13a for the soiled towel roller 7 are also preferably formed of sheet metal, each comprising a horizontal upper portion and a portion extending downwardly at a slight rearward inclination from the rear end of said upper portion. A groove 13b extends continuously in both of said portions of each mounting, and is open at the front end of the mounting to admit the journal pins 13c. Said groove may also be open at the lower end of the mounting. Preferably the lower wall of the groove 13b of each upper mounting is depressed as indicated at 14 adjacent to the front end of said mounting to form a half bearing. The journal pins of the soiled towel roller may temporarily rest in the depressions 14 while the end of a clean towel is being connected to said roller or while an attendant is spinning said roller to complete the winding thereon of a towel preliminary to removal of said towel.

In the position of use of the soiled towel roller, its journal pins 13c engage in the downwardly extending portions of the grooves 13b, said pins and the roller 5 being supported by the roll 7 of soiled toweling which in turn rests upon and is adapted to be driven by a roller 15 formed preferably of wood and having a pair of journal pins 16 and 16a, the former engaging a bearing 17 on one end wall of the casing and the latter passing through the opposite end wall. A drive means for the roll 15 will presently be described. As the roll 7 gradually increases in diameter, said roll is raised through its contact with the roller 15, and the journal pins 13c are correspondingly raised in the grooves 13b. The peripheral face of the roller 15 may be faced with sand paper or otherwise roughened to adapt it for driving engagement with the roll of soiled toweling.

The clean towel strip extends from the roll 6 into driving engagement with a roller 18 mounted above said roll, and provided with journal pins 19 and 19a, the former engaging a bearing 20 on one of the casing end walls and the other projecting through the opposite wall. For a purpose hereinafter explained, it is preferred to let the diameter of the roller 18 slightly exceed that of the roller 15. The roller 18 is formed preferably of wood and has its peripheral face sanded or otherwise roughened to adapt it to be driven by the strip of towel. Just in front of said roller is arranged a somewhat smaller roller 21 preferably thickly faced with rubber or like yielding material, and journaled in a pair of short arms or links 22 which are pivoted to swing upon a rod 23 extending between the casing end walls. The strip of clean toweling, after extending partially around the roller 18, passes between the latter and the roller 21, and is then extended over the latter roller. Leaving the latter roller at the front thereof, said strip extends downwardly between the roll 6 and the door 2 and passes out of the casing through the bottom thereof. Below the casing the towel hangs, in the form of a loop 24, exposing sufficient clean toweling to serve for an ordinary single use. Extending from the rear portion of said loop (which portion is generally damp and soiled) the towel strip returns into the casing through the bottom thereof passing upwardly to the soiled towel roll 7 between the roll 6 and the rear casing wall.

It is desirable to so protect the clean towel roll

and that portion of the strip unwinding therefrom as to prevent any possible contamination of said roll and unwinding strip by the returning soiled length of toweling. It is further desirable to prevent any dirt or the like that may be carried by the soiled toweling from falling upon the clean towel roll or the strip leaving said roll. These results are accomplished by the provision of a guard member or partition 25, formed preferably of sheet metal, extending from the lower end of the casing upwardly at the rear of the roll 6 and having a forwardly projecting upper portion which lies above both the clean towel roll and the roller 18. Said partition is fixedly mounted in any suitable manner, as by forming it at its lateral edges with flanges 26 which are welded or otherwise secured to the casing end walls. Preferably a member 27 partially closing the bottom of the casing is formed integrally with said partition, and is sufficiently spaced, as indicated at 28, from the door 2 (in the closed position of the latter) to allow for the downward passage of the clean toweling, being spaced to a greater extent from the rear casing wall as indicated at 29 so that, in loading the cabinet, a free end of the toweling may be readily passed upwardly through the opening 29, between said partition and the rear casing wall. By reference to Figure 2, it will be seen that the partition 25 together with the bottom member 27 forms substantially a separate compartment within the casing to receive the clean towel roll and the roller 18 driven by the clean towel strip.

To subject the soiled portion of the towel strip to a drag such as will tend to avoid its winding to loosely in forming the roll 7, it is preferred to maintain contact between said portion and the partition 25. As is best seen in Figure 2, the strip makes such a contact with a rib 33 formed by said partition approximately midway of its height. Thus the strip is spaced from the partition except where it contacts with said rib, and drying of the strip is not appreciably retarded by the partition.

To an end wall of the casing 1, there is secured exteriorly a relatively small housing or cover member 34, formed preferably of sheet metal, within which a gear train 35, 36, 37, 38, establishes a drive from the roller 18 to the roller 15. Said housing further receives a means for establishing a unit delivery length of clean toweling and for automatically limiting delivery to said unit length, responsive to a pull on the exposed portion of toweling 24. Also there is arranged in said housing a means for effecting a retarded release of the limiting means, so that repeated pulls on the exposed loop are ineffective until a definite time has elapsed. Thus the journal pin 19a of the roller 18 projects into said housing and rigidly carries therein a disc 39 having on its outer face a pin 40 and a lug 41 circumferentially spaced and differentially spaced from the disc center, the outward extent of the pin 40 exceeding that of the lug 41.

Associated with this disc is a plunger 42 which projects downwardly from a dash-pot cylinder 43 arranged substantially above said disc and normally occupying the vertical position shown in Figure 3. Said plunger is slidable in the lower head 44 of said cylinder and its portion engaging said head is of rectangular cross-section, as shown in Figure 6, thus restraining the plunger from rotation about its longitudinal axis. Within the cylinder a piston is fast upon the upper end of said rod, said piston, as best seen

in Figure 5, comprising a cup leather 45 having an upwardly flanged margin and a follower disc 46, which is marginally grooved as indicated at 47 to provide for an upflow of air (or other fluid). A coiled spring 47a is compressed within the cylinder 43 between said piston and the lower cylinder head whereby the piston is urged to its uppermost limiting position. The end portion of the plunger carrying said piston is reduced as indicated at 48, and extends sufficiently above the cup leather to carry a collar 49 preventing any contact of the cup leather with the upper cylinder head 50. Said head has a central upward projection 51 formed with a tapped bore 52 receiving an adjusting screw 53, which controls the exit of air from said bore through a restricted port 54 opening in the side of said projection and which thereby controls the escape of such air from the cylinder through a passage 55 downwardly extending from said base. 56 designates a lock nut carried by the screw 53 and bearing upon the projection 51 to maintain adjustment of the screw.

The cylinder 43 is pivotally mounted to swing about its upper end between the positions indicated respectively in Figures 3 and 4. This mounting is established in the illustrated embodiment of the invention by extending a lug 57 laterally from the head and pivoting said lug, as at 58, upon an ear 59 projecting from a bracket 60 secured to the casing end wall. A coiled spring 61, one end of which engages the lower cylinder head 44 normally maintains the vertical position of the cylinder, this position being established by the engagement of a projection 62a from an arm 62 upon the head 44 with a lug 63 projecting outwardly from the lower end of the bracket 60.

The lower portion of the plunger 42 is spaced from the outer face of the disc 39 and terminally rigidly carries a head 64 upon its side adjacent to said face. The manner in which the plunger co-acts with the disc 39 and its projections 40 and 41 will be hereinafter explained.

When the plunger 42 and the dash-pot carrying said plunger are swung to one side of the disc, as Figure 4 illustrates, no restraint is exercised upon travel of the towel strip. As a provision for establishing and maintaining this ineffective position, a small rock-shaft 65 is journaled in a bearing 66 passing through the casing end wall, as shown in Figure 6. As shown, this bearing is an integral portion of the bracket 60. Within the casing said shaft rigidly carries an actuating lever 67, and within the housing 34 a short arm 68, fast upon said shaft, has upon its free end a crank pin 69 projecting outwardly from the casing end wall and functioning as an anchorage for the forward end of the spring 61. The shaft 65, lever 67, arm 68, and crank-pin 69 may all be formed from a single length of material, as shown. When the dash-pot is in its working position, (see Figure 3) the lever 67 projects rearwardly and the spring 61 extends below the extended axis of the rock-shaft 65, tending consequently to maintain the arm 68 downwardly inclined, and bearing against the lug 63. To shift the dash-pot to its ineffective position, the attendant swings the lever 67 downwardly and forwardly through approximately one hundred and eighty degrees, whereby the crank pin 69 acts through the arm 62 upon the dash-pot to swing the latter rearwardly to the position shown in Figure 4, in which position, as will presently

appear, it has no effect on travel of the towel strip. It is to be noted that when the plunger 42 and the dash-pot carrying the same are thus swung to an ineffective position the lever 67 projects far enough forwardly to interfere with closing of the cabinet door by engagement with a bracket 67a on said door. This eliminates the possibility of the cabinet being closed after loading without a return of the plunger and dash-pot to their position of use. A plate 70, secured to the casing end wall by rivets 71 or other suitable means, journals the outer ends of the various journal pins and stub shafts which lie within the housing 34 and maintains the proper proximity of the lower portion of the plunger 42 to the disc 39. Also a lug 72 upstanding from a said plate pivotally mounts a pawl 73 which engages the teeth of the gear 38 and thus opposes any effort exerted to unwind the soiled toweling from the roll 7. (See Figures 3 and 4.)

In the use of the described towel mechanism, a rolled strip of clean toweling is first mounted upon the roller 4 and the free end of said strip is passed upwardly between the rollers 18 and 21, the latter at this time being preferably swung to the dash line position indicated in Figure 2 so as to provide ample space between the rollers 18 and 21 for a free passage of the towel strip. Said strip is then extended downwardly in front of the clean towel roll, and the roller 21 is swung back to its normal position of use. A quantity of toweling is now drawn from the roll 6 sufficient to form a suitable loop below the cabinet and permit the strip to be returned into the cabinet between the back thereof and the partition 25. It will be noted that the attendant may reach down into the cabinet between the upper portion of the partition 25 and the rollers 15 and 5 to grasp the free end of the strip as the latter is extended upwardly rearwardly of said partition. Finally the free end portion of the strip is attached in any suitable manner to the soiled towel roller 5. Any suitable provision (not shown) may be made for locking the door 2 of the cabinet after loading the same, as described.

Users of the towel will grasp the front portion of the depending loop 24 and exert a downward pull thereupon to deliver from the cabinet a clean portion of the toweling and such pull, acting downwardly upon the roller 21, will tend to swing said roller about the pivotal axis established by the rod 23 causing said roller to press the towel strip firmly against the roller 18. The latter consequently is driven by the towel strip as the latter is withdrawn from the cabinet, and the rotative advance of said roller 18 has a substantially definite relation to the length of towel withdrawn.

Since the roller 17 rotatively drives the roll 7 of soiled toweling and is itself driven through the gearing 35, 36, 37, 38 from the roller 18, it follows that the soiled toweling will be taken up upon the roll 7 at substantially the same rate that it is delivered from the roll 6. The fact, however, that the roll 15 is of a diameter slightly less than that of the roller 18 causes the taking up of the soiled toweling to lag very slightly the delivery of the clean toweling, this being a compensation for the gradual bodily upward travel of the soiled towel roll as its diameter increases and for the tendency thus exerted to draw the depending loop 24 to some extent into the cabinet.

Discussing now the provision for establishing a substantially definite limit as to the amount of toweling which may be withdrawn at a single operation, it is to be understood that the disc 39 will be rotatively advanced by the roller 18 proportionately to the length of toweling withdrawn. As the withdrawal operation begins, the pin 40 lies against the plunger 42 just above the plunger head 64, as shown in Figure 8; and as the disc 39 is driven, said pin bears upon said head to effect a downward stroke of the plunger, incidentally swinging the latter at the same time slightly about the pivot 58 against the tension of spring 61, as shown in Figure 9. Said stroke terminates when the plunger reaches the dash position shown in Figure 10, and effects compression of the coiled spring 47a. When the plunger reaches this limiting position the pin 40 rides clear of the head 64 leaving the plunger free for retraction by the action of the plunger spring 47a. The disc 39 continues to rotate, responsive to the pull on the towel, until it has returned to its initial position in which the pin 40 again encounters the front edge of the plunger 42, as shown in Figure 11.

During movement of the pin 40 from the position shown in Figure 10 to that shown in Figure 11, the plunger head 64 will be moved upwardly into the path of the lug 41, which will cause the lug to engage the head 64 at about the time that the pin 40 engages the front edge of the plunger, as shown in Figure 11. Such engagement of the pin 40 and lug 41 with the plunger 42 and head 64, respectively, will positively interrupt further rotation of the disk 39, and the latter will be retained in such locked position until the plunger head 64 reaches its normal starting position, shown in Figure 8. By reference to Figure 12, it will be noted that the spacing of the plunger from the outer face of the disk 39, permits passage of the lug 41 therebetween, so that the lug 41 will not engage the plunger 42, but will engage the head 64, secured to the lower end thereof. Thus, it will be seen that when the lug 41 is engaged with the back of the head 64, as shown in Figure 11, it co-acts with the pin 40 to prohibit continued rotation of the disk 39 and, consequently, reacts through the roller 18 upon the towel strip, to prohibit further withdrawal of the towel from the cabinet. Thus it is evident that no further withdrawal of the clean toweling may occur until the plunger 42 has been returned to the normal raised position in which the head 64 is clear of the lug 41. Such a retraction of the plunger is as hereinbefore stated, accomplished by the coiled spring 47a, but the dash-pot, comprised by the cylinder 43 and the piston 45-46, produces a predetermined retardation of the retractive travel. That is to say, the air which during the downward actuation of the plunger flowed upwardly past the piston 45, 46 to fill the space above said piston must be displaced from said cylinder to permit the piston and plunger to assume their raised positions. The port 54 through which such air is required to escape is so restricted by the adjustable screw 53 that a predetermined time is required for such escape. This regulation is such that ample time is afforded for use of a length of toweling just ejected before the piston and plunger reach their raised positions. As this position is established, the plunger head 64 rises clear of the lug 41 and a repetition of the described operation may occur.

The pawl 73 circumvents any attempt that may be made to withdrawing soiled toweling from the cabinet through a pull exerted upon the rear portion of the loop 24.

As compared to cabinets now in use, the described construction accomplishes an important saving through its positive prevention of several feed operations immediately following one another.

Furthermore, the described construction effects a desirable saving of the attendant's time by permitting a loading or unloading operation without hindrance by the automatic detent mechanism comprised by the disc 39 and plunger 42. That is to say, the attendant, by manipulation of the lever 67 may shift the dash-pot and said plunger to the dash line position illustrated in Figure 4 in which said parts have no co-action with or retarding effect upon the disc 39.

What I claim is:

1. A towel delivery mechanism comprising means for mounting a strip of toweling operatively for delivery to the user, a dash pot having detent means normally effective to oppose further delivery of toweling upon withdrawal of a predetermined length thereof, and means for moving the dash-pot detent to provide for a free travel of the toweling unlimited by said detent means.

2. A towel delivery mechanism comprising means for mounting a strip of toweling operatively for delivery to the user, a detent member effective to oppose further delivery of toweling upon withdrawal of a predetermined length thereof, release means for said detent member, means for retarding the action of said release means, and manually operative means for shifting said detent member, its release means, and said retarding means as a unit to render said detent member ineffective.

3. The combination with a rotatable member, of two co-acting stops upon said rotatable member differentially spaced from the axis of said member, a detent member movable by the inner of said stops through rotation of the rotatable member into the orbit of the outer stop and co-acting with the outer stop to limit rotation of the rotatable member, means for retracting said detent member, and means for retarding retractive movement of the detent member.

4. The combination with a rotatable member, of a plunger detent extending adjacent to said rotatable member, and having a shoulder, a projection upon the rotatable member engageable through rotation of said member with said shoulder to effect a projection of the plunger and releasable from said shoulder jointly through such projection and through continued rotation of the rotatable member, a second projection upon the rotatable member engageable with the plunger in its projected position to stop rotation of the rotatable member, and means for effecting a retarded retraction of the plunger.

5. A towel delivery mechanism comprising a cabinet having a door, means for mounting a towel in said cabinet operatively for withdrawal from the cabinet, detent means automatically effective to oppose further delivery of toweling upon withdrawal of a predetermined length thereof, automatic release means for said detent means and manually operative means for shifting said detent member from its operative position establishing an obstacle to closing of

the cabinet door when the detent member is so shifted.

6. A towel delivery mechanism comprising a cabinet having a door, means for mounting a strip of toweling operatively within the cabinet for delivery to the user, a detent member effective to oppose further delivery of toweling upon withdrawal of a predetermined length thereof, a device for shifting said detent from its operative position to provide for a free travel of the toweling independently of said detent member, and a lever within the cabinet so connected to said device as to assume a position obstructing the door of the cabinet from fully closing when the detent member is in said shifted position.

7. A towel delivery mechanism comprising a cabinet having a door, means for mounting a strip of toweling in said cabinet, operatively for withdrawal from the cabinet, a member carried by the cabinet means cooperative with said member and normally positioned to cause a restraint upon withdrawal of the towel, and movable to a secondary position relieving the towel of such restraint and means connected with said member for obstructing closing of the door when the member is in its secondary position.

8. The combination with a rotatable member, of a plunger detent extending adjacent to said rotatable member, means carried by said rotatable member adapted to engage and project said detent, upon rotation of said member, and means carried by said rotatable member engageable, upon rotation thereof with the projected detent to temporarily restrain the rotatable member from a further rotation.

9. A towel cabinet, means for mounting a towel in said cabinet operatively for withdrawal from the cabinet, a roller operable on withdrawal of the towel and means comprising a dash-pot and connections to said roller for establishing a predetermined minimum time interval between consecutive operations of the roller and towel withdrawal operations.

10. A towel cabinet having therein an element rotatable by pull on the towel web to withdraw the web from the cabinet a dash-pot having a plunger, and means on said element cooperative with the plunger to move the plunger during partial rotation of the element, and then pre-

vent further rotation of the element until the plunger is returned to normal position and means for returning the plunger to normal position.

11. A towel cabinet having an element normally free to rotate by the pull of the user on the towel web to allow a predetermined amount of toweling to be withdrawn from said cabinet, a dash pot having a piston rod with means thereon to stop the rotation of said element after a predetermined amount of toweling has been withdrawn until a predetermined time limit has elapsed after the last rotation of said element.

12. A towel cabinet having a feed roll therein and a dash pot with connections to the feed roll to stop the rotation thereof after a predetermined amount of toweling has been withdrawn and means for moving the dash pot to a position to disconnect it from the roller to allow unrestrained operation of the roller during the loading of the cabinet.

13. A towel delivery mechanism comprising a casing having a support therein adapted to receive a supply of clean towel, a feed roll in said casing above said support and the towel supply and adjacent the front of said casing in position for its surface to contact with a towel web which may be stretched upwardly from said supply, a pinch roll and means supporting it near said feed roll, the relative position of said feed roll and pinch roll being such that a web of towel may be stretched only from under said feed roll and over said pinch roll to depend at the front of the cabinet in position for use, said supporting means being adapted to direct said pinch roll toward said feed roll when a user of the towel applies a downward pull thereto whereby the web of towel will be pressed against the surface of said feed roll and slippage thereon prevented.

14. A towel holder and a delivery feed roll mounted therein over which the supply of clean towel may be delivered to the user, said feed roll normally having an intermittent rotary movement and means for locking it against movement at the completion of each stroke, and shiftable means for holding said locking means in its release position to allow unlimited rotation of said feed roll.

TRACY B. TYLER.

DISCLAIMER

1,959,938.—Tracy B. Tyler, Detroit, Mich. ROLLER TOWEL CONTROL MECHANISM. Patent dated May 22, 1934. Disclaimer filed December 23, 1938, by the assignee, Steiner Sales Company.

Hereby enters this disclaimer to claim 13 of said Letters Patent.
[Official Gazette January 31, 1939.]

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