B. F. RILEY, JR.

WRAP HOLDER.

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1,246,785.

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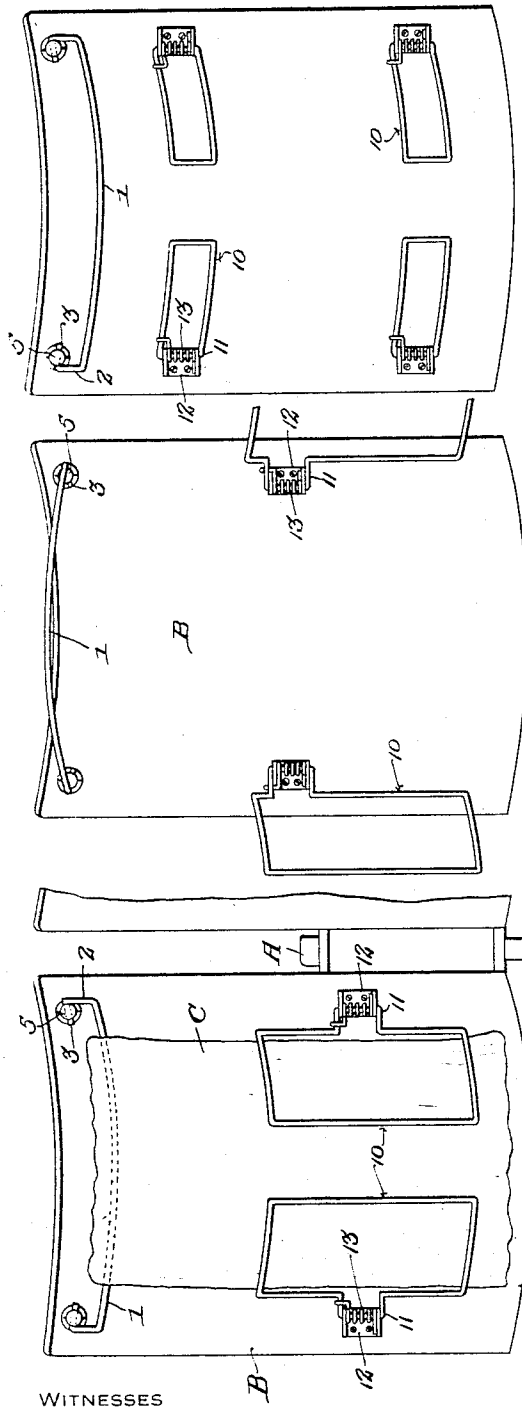


Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 1.

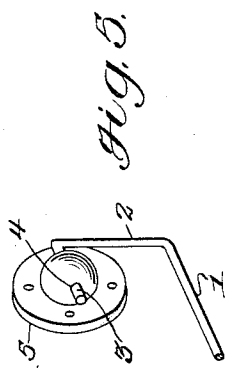


Fig. 5.

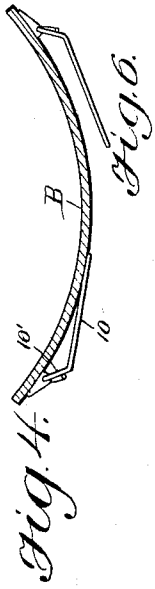


Fig. 6.

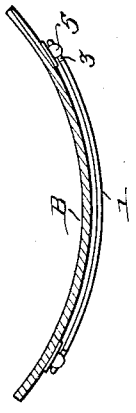


Fig. 4.

WITNESSES

J. H. Crawford.

N. L. Collamer.

INVENTOR

B. F. Riley, Jr.

BY Victor J. Evans

ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN F. RILEY, JR., OF THOMSON, GEORGIA.

WRAP-HOLDER.

1,246,785. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 13, 1917.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN F. RILEY, Jr., a citizen of the United States, residing at Thomson, in the county of McDuffie and State of Georgia, have invented new and useful Improvements in Wrap-Holders, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to chairs, and more especially to attachments to the back of theater and opera chairs; and the purpose of the same is to produce a wrap holder which will comprise a hanger pivotally mounted near the upper end of the chair-back and a pair of presser wings pivotally mounted below the hanger and at about the center of the height of the back of the chair, so that a spectator sitting in a chair in the row behind may dispose his or her wraps over the device to hold them securely in place and out of the way of others who may pass to and fro as sometimes occurs.

The invention consists primarily in the specific construction of the hanger and its pivots, so that when not in use it lies close against the curve of the chair back, but it is capable of being raised to receive the wrap and thereafter it falls or springs downward to hold the wraps closely against said back. The invention also contemplates the use of a variety of wings mounted on spring-hinges, all as hereinafter more fully described and claimed and as shown in the drawings wherein:—

Figure 1 is a rear elevation of an opera seat equipped with my invention, the wrap holder being here shown in use; and Fig. 2 is a similar elevation with the wrap removed and the parts of the wrap holder opened out ready for its reception, the wings in this instance being of a slightly modified form.

Fig. 3 is a similar rear elevation with a yet further modified form of the wings, and in this view the hanger lies close against the seat-back.

Fig. 4 is a horizontal section through the back, showing the hanger hugging the same on account of its shape and the peculiar disposition of its pivots; and Fig. 5 is a perspective detail of one of the pivots.

Fig. 6 is a cross section of a slightly amplified form of wing, the view being a section through the back and a plan of the two wings in different positions.

The back B of an ordinary theater or opera chair usually curves somewhat, and this curvature is shown rather exaggerated in Fig. 4. The arms are indicated at A and the supports at S as between the chairs, and the edges of the back curve forward toward the arm and support structures which unite them with the next-adjacent chair back—therefore there is more space between the next row of seats in the rear and that portion of the chair back B adjacent the next chair, than there is immediately behind the transverse center of the chair back. The space I propose to occupy with the pivots of the elements of my improved wrap holder, so that said pivots or hinges will be entirely out of the way of persons passing to and fro between the rows of seats. The backs of opera chairs when in use usually incline somewhat to the rear at their upper ends, and the result is that when wraps are hung on hangers disposed near said upper ends, they hang vertically therefrom practically or nearly against the knees of the owner and are often brushed aside and sometimes dislodged by persons passing to and fro. One purpose of the present invention is to hold said wraps close against the back B both at the upper and lower ends of the back, in order to reduce the size of the storage space needed and to amplify the space between seats for the passage of persons to and fro as suggested. This purpose is mainly accomplished by utilizing two elements, one being a hanger near the top of the seat and the other being a pair of presser wings farther down, all as described below. These several elements are connected or hinged to the seat back in the channels near the adjacent seats, and their hinges or supports are such that when the wrap holder is not in use its several parts lie close against the seat back and entirely out of the way. The parts of this device are by preference entirely of metal, and the rods or heavy wires may be japanned or nickled so that they shall present a neat appearance. Details further than as set forth below are not essential.

One element of my device is the hanger. This is a rod or heavy wire 1 lying across the back B near its upper end and bent to the rear as best seen in Fig. 4 to conform with the curvature of said back. Each end of its bent body is bent upward as at 2 and then inward into a trunnion 3, and the trunnions are mounted in eyes or bearings 4 in knobs or studs 5 which are secured to

the back B by appropriate means. Careful inspection of Fig. 3 will show that the bearings through these studs are not in direct alinement with each other, but rather inclined downward and inward slightly as shown, and therefore when the center of the hanger 1 is raised from the position there shown to the position shown in Fig. 2, it is put under some tension as the trunnions revolve in their bearings on axes which are out of alinement. When the wire body 1 is released it not only drops by its weight, but it springs as it were against the back B and lies close in contact therewith when not in use. If, however, a garment such as a coat C has been hung over the wire when it was raised, when it is released it both supports the garment and holds it close against the back. Therefore the particular disposition of the supports for this hanger wire serves a useful function whether the hanger is idle or in use.

The other element of my invention is a pair of wings, so called, broadly designated by the numeral 10. Each is of wire bent into a substantially rectangular or frame-like shape, and the extremities of the wire are turned inward at 11 and made to serve as the pintles of spring hinges 12 which are secured to the chair-back B by appropriate means. The spring designated at 13 is coiled around the pintle and bears on the arms of the wing, so that the body of the latter is thrown normally against the seat back in a manner which will be clear. I do not wish to be limited to the type of spring hinge employed, but it is obvious that the hinge lies in the channel adjacent the next chair and is out of the way for that reason, while the body of the wing lies over the curved portion of the back B and occupies very little space. When not in use it lies strictly in contact with said back. When in use, it is sprung outward and the garment C laid behind it and then the wing is released so that it presses the garment close against the chair back as seen in Fig. 1. Two of these wings are employed in any event, and they may be of considerable size as seen in Fig. 1, the hinges may connect the outer sides of the frames at low points of the frame or high points thereon as seen at the right of Fig. 2, or there might, in fact, be two pair of wings as illustrated in Fig. 3, and in that case each frame would of course be smaller. The principal purpose of this element of my invention is to press the lower portion of the garment inward against the seat back, rather than permit it to hang vertically from the hanger wire 1.

A wrap holder of this character can be manufactured and sold at an extremely low cost, and applied to any ordinary opera chair by a mechanic who need not necessarily be skilled. The wire of which the hanger is made will be to an extent resilient, but doubtless will not be highly tempered, and therefore also it will be to an extent pliable. In that case it should be given an appropriate curvature at the time it is applied, so that it will lie close against the back B when there is no garment upon it as seen in Fig. 4. In attaching the studs 5 to the seat back, care should be taken that their bearings 4 are strictly in alinement with the inturned trunnions 3 at a time when the center 1 of the hanger lies against the back; and if so attached, the hanger will take care of itself later.

In Fig. 6 is shown a cross section through the chair-back, and a plan of a slightly amplified or modified form of the presser element or wing 10, that at the left being closed against the back and that at the right moved slightly away from the same to receive a hanging article of clothing. The wire of which this element or wing is here composed is given a slight angle or bend at 10′, with the result that when in closed position its tip lies close against a rounded back B, and when opened out to receive a garment its outer portion beyond said angle lies close upon the garment, so that in either position it does not project into the passage way in rear of the seat and would not therefore interfere with passing to and fro as above-described.

What is claimed as new is:—

1. The combination with a chair whose back is transversely curved; of a garment hanger comprising a wire having its ends bent upward and then inward into trunnions directed toward each other but deflected slightly toward the center of said wire, and bearings secured to the chair-back and whose axes incline slightly downward to correspond with the position of said trunnions.

2. The combination with a chair whose back is transversely curved; of a garment hanger comprising a wire bent to conform with the curvature of the chair-back and having its ends bent upward and then inward into trunnions directed toward each other but deflected slightly toward the center of said wire, and studs secured to the chair-back and having bearings for the trunnions whose axes incline slightly to correspond with the position of said trunnions.

3. In a wrap holder for opera chairs whose backs are transversely curved, the combination with a pair of studs attached to the rear face of said back near its side edges and having bearings through them, and a hanger having trunnions at its extremities rotatably mounted in said bearings; of a pair of wings disposed below said hanger, and spring-hinges connecting the

wings with the rear face of said back near its edges, all as and for the purpose set forth.

4. In a wrap holder for opera chairs whose backs are transversely curved, the combination with a hanger near the top of the back, and supports for its extremities secured to the rear face of such back at the sides of the same; of a presser element at the lower portion of said back, and supports therefor attached to the rear face of back near the sides of the same, the supports holding the tip of said element in contact with said back when the device is not in use.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

BENJAMIN F. RILEY, JR.