March 19, 1935. O. H. OLSON 1,994,782

HANGER

Filed May 21, 1932 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

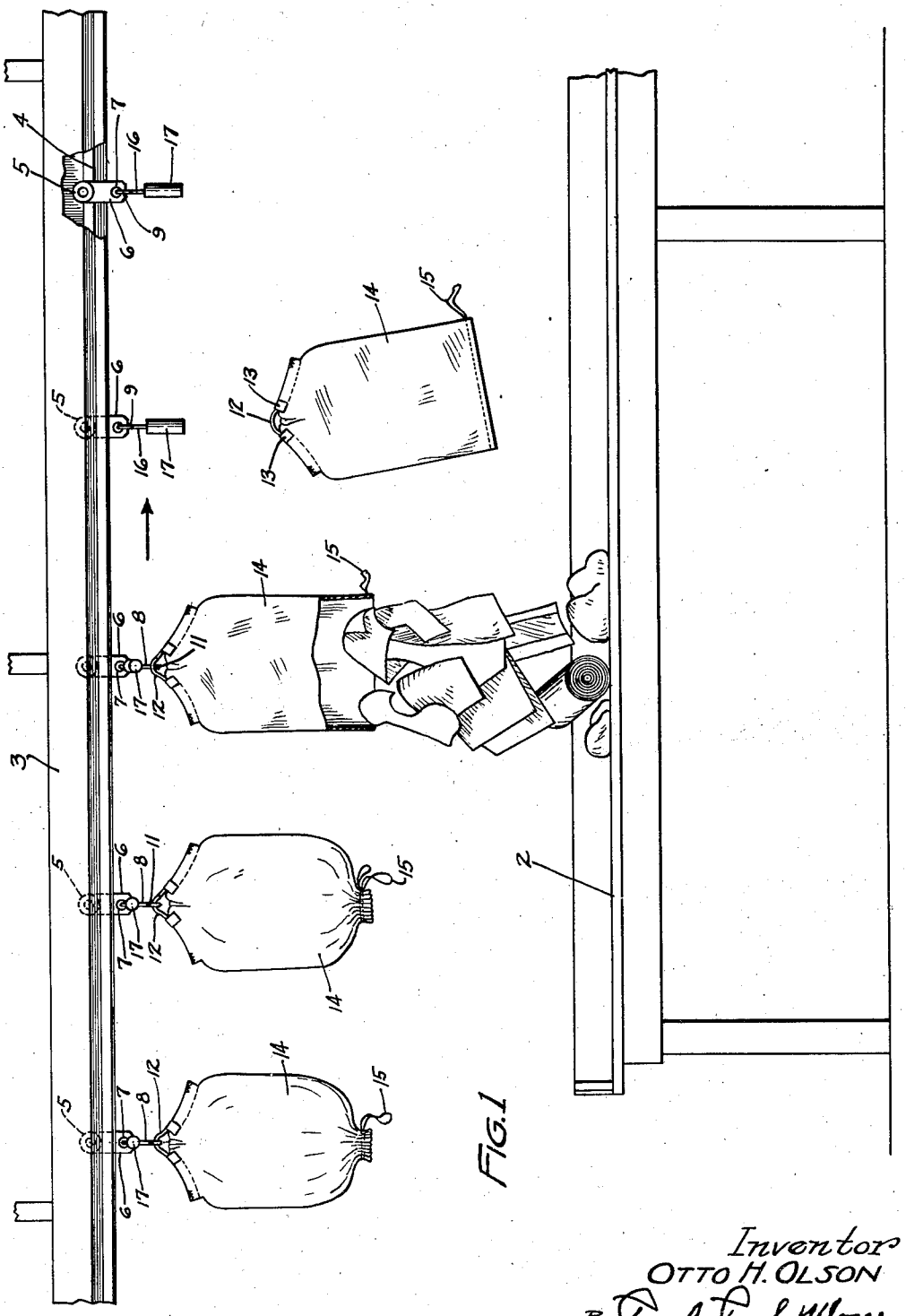


FIG. 1

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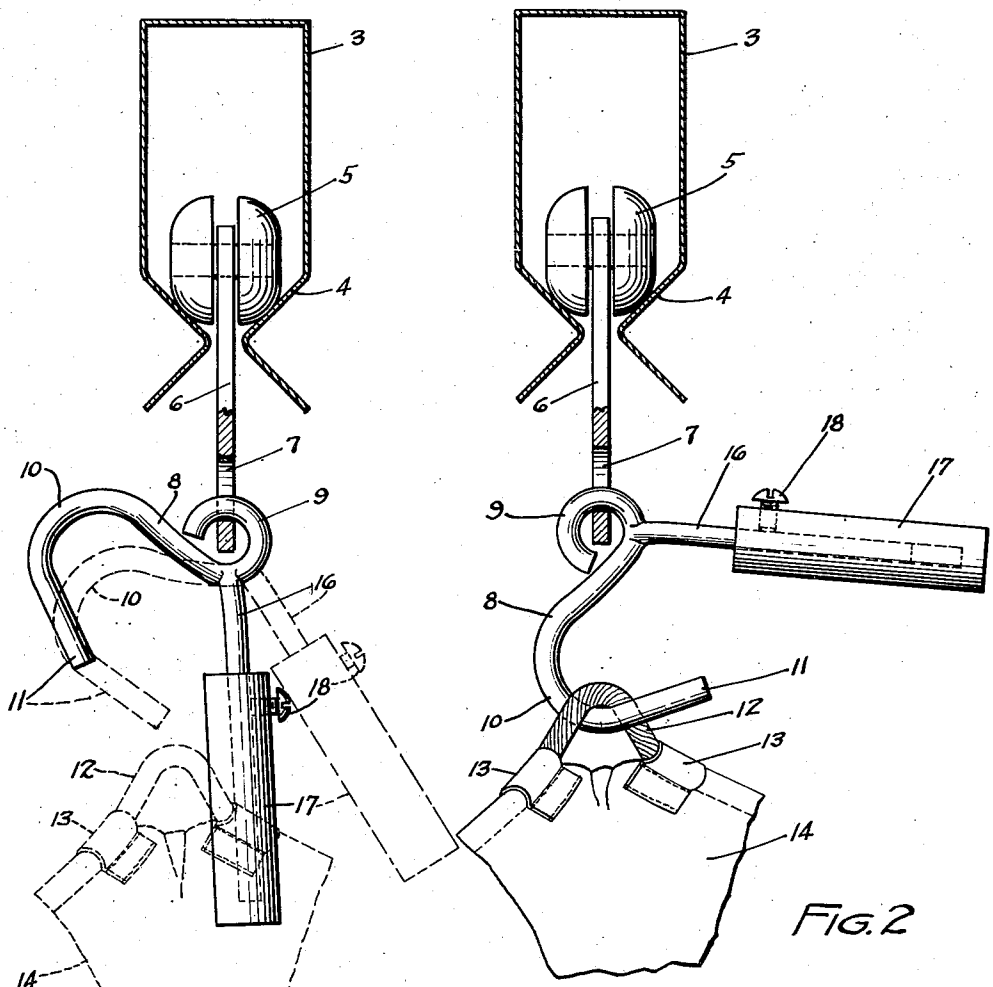


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,994,782

HANGER

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Application May 21, 1932, Serial No. 612,764

1 Claim. (Cl. 104—94)

In the operation of a laundry equipped to furnish towels, table linen and other washable articles to clubs, hotels, or private residences, it is customary for the driver of the wagon or truck collecting such articles when soiled and ready for delivery to the laundry to fill bags or sacks with the soiled articles and deliver them to the laundry to be counted and distributed to suitable receiving bins preparatory to the washing operation.

For convenience in handling these filled bags of soiled articles, elevated or overhead carriers are provided whereon the bags are suspended and transported to any desired point in the laundry, where the sorting and counting of the different articles may be performed. The filled bags during transportation by the elevated carriers are suspended a considerable distance above the floor and as a comparatively large number of bags are in use at the same time, it is desirable to provide some means for easily and expeditiously disengaging or releasing each bag from the carrier when the contents of the bag have been discharged. The object, therefore, of my present invention is to provide means whereby when a loaded bag is relieved of its contents it will be automatically released from the carrier and may then be picked up or received by an attendant and returned to the customer to be refilled.

Other objects of the invention will appear from the following detailed description. The invention consists generally of various constructions and combinations, all as hereinafter described and particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification,

Figure 1 is a view of an elevated carrier with a number of filled bags suspended thereon and showing the sorting table upon which the contents of the bags may be discharged;

Figure 2 is a detail view showing the manner of suspending the filled bag on my improved hanger;

Figure 3 is a similar view illustrating how the hanger when the bag is relieved of its load may may tilt and automatically release the bag.

In the drawings, 2 represents a suitable table upon which the articles for the laundry are discharged to be counted and distributed preparatory to the washing operation. This table may, of course, be of any suitable length and width to receive the soiled articles and allow the attendants or operators to pick up and count the different pieces and deposit them upon suitable moving carriers, not shown, for delivery to the distributing bins preparatory to washing. 3 is an overhead carrier of any preferred construction having a track 4 upon which the wheels or truck 5 of a carrier 6 are adapted to roll or slide. The track and carrier are of any suitable or preferred construction suspended the desired distance above the floor and extending around in the laundry for convenience in transporting the filled bags of soiled articles from some receiving point convenient to the delivery wagons for transportation to the sorting table which may be located at some remote point. The carrier has an eye 7 and a hook 8 has a loop 9 that is inserted through this eye for the purpose of permanently attaching the hook to the carrier. The lower portion of the hook has a substantially U-shaped part 10 terminating in an end 11 that is adapted to engage a loop 12 that is secured by suitable means, such as straps 13, to the closed end of the bag 14. This bag is of a suitable size to receive a quantity of towels, table linen or other articles to be washed, and the lower end of the bag is open and has a gathering cord 15 which, when the ends are pulled as usual in cords of this kind, will draw the walls of the mouth of the bag together and effectually close it against the discharge of the contents. The ends of the gathering cord are then tied in a suitable way to prevent premature discharge of the load, but whenever desired the attendant by pulling the end of the gathering cord may release the knot and allow the mouth of the bag to open and discharge its contents by gravity upon the sorting table or at any other desired point.

Evidently to release the bag from the supporting hook for refilling purposes, it would be necessary to reach up from the floor or the table or provide some tool by means of which the bag could be lifted out of engagement with the hook, and to obviate this delay and labor in the handling of the empty bags, I provide a rod 16 projecting from the upper end of the hook 8, preferably at the point where the loop 9 is formed, and on this rod is mounted a weight 17 adjustable back and forth on the rod by means of a clamping screw 18. This weight when the bag of soiled articles is suspended on the hook will assume the position shown in Figure 2, projecting out in a substantially horizontal direction and held in that position by the weight of the contents of the bag. However, as soon as the attendant releases the knot at the lower end of the bag and opens the mouth, the soiled articles

therein will fall by gravity and the weight 17 will then overcome the downward pulling tendency of the bag, swing the hook to the position indicated by dotted lines in Figure 3 and allow the loop 12 to slide off the lower end of the hook and become automatically disengaged therefrom. It may be necessary for the attendant to lift the bag slightly when the load is discharged to make the hook releasing weight effective, but this can easily be done if necessary, and the leverage of the weight on the hook may of course be increased by adjusting it outwardly on the supporting rod.

The filled bags are usually raised to their elevated position by a suitable mechanical means which forms an adjunct of the elevated or overhead carrier and does not need to be illustrated or described as it forms a part of the carrier mechanism in common use and is not claimed herein. As fast as the bags are discharged of their contents the empty bags automatically disengaged from the supporting hooks may be returned to the delivery wagons or trucks to be refilled.

I have shown this invention for use in connection with laundry bags for releasing them automatically from a carrier when the contents of the bag have been discharged, but do not wish to confine myself to such use as the invention may be utilized wherever it is desired to release a suspended container or receptacle when its load has been discharged for the purpose of obviating the necessity of obtaining such release by some manually operated means.

In various ways the details of construction herein shown and described may be modified and still be within the scope of my invention.

I claim as my invention:

In a mechanism for handling laundry and similar articles, an overhead track and a carrier movable on said track, said carrier having a depending member, a hook pivotally supported by said member, said hook being engageable in a loop on the bottom and closed end of an inverted and filled bag to support the same on said carrier, the depending end of said bag being closed by quickly releasable means, said hook having a weighted arm extending therefrom at substantially right angles to the normal vertical axis of the hook and filled bag suspended therefrom, said weighted arm exerting a turning moment of insufficient force to disengage the hook from the loop of the filled bag but serving to swing the hook to releasing position from said loop when the bag is emptied by opening said quickly releasable means.

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