June 14, 1927. 1,631,983

J. T. QUIGLEY

DEVICE FOR FILING CARDS AND THE LIKE

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Fig. 1.

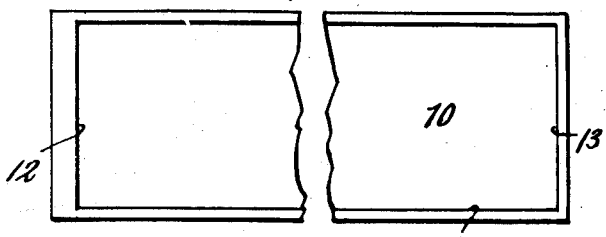


Fig. 3.

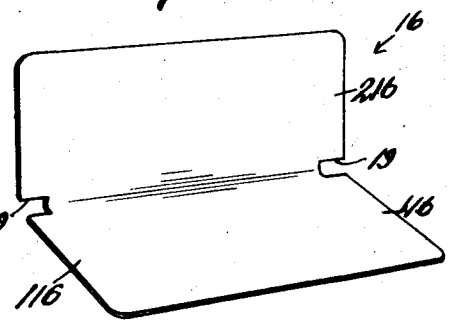


Fig. 2.

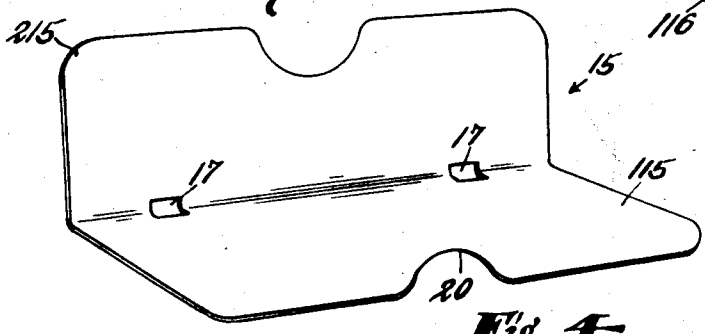


Fig. 4.

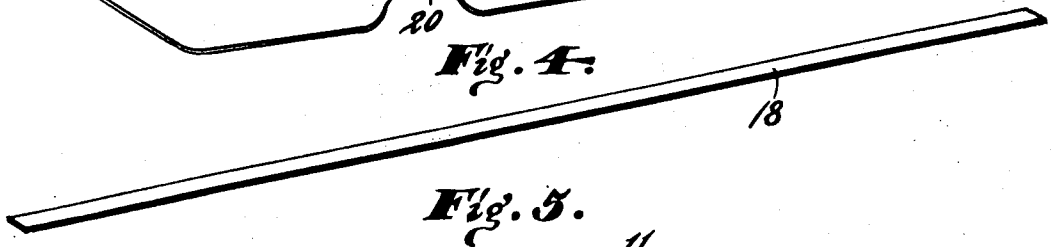


Fig. 5.

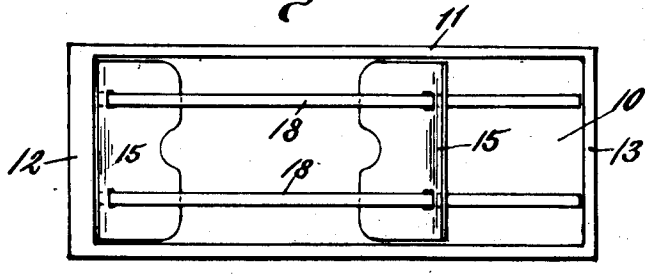
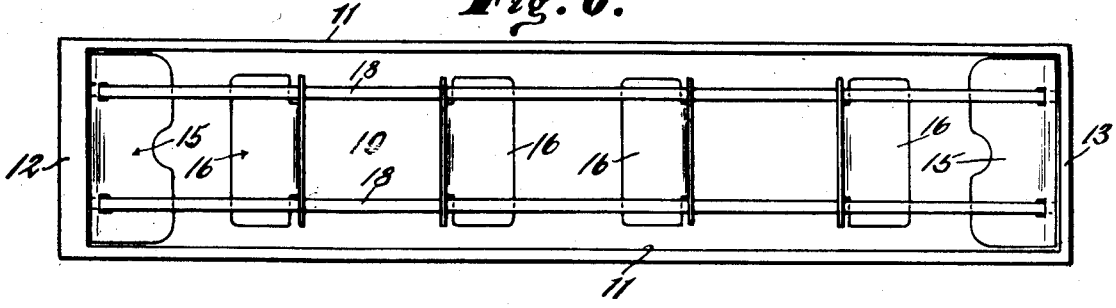


Fig. 6.



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Fig. 7.

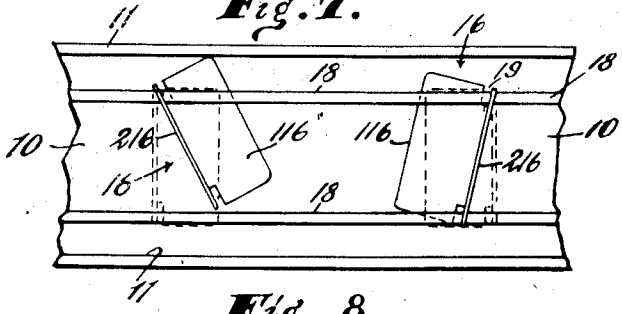


Fig. 8.

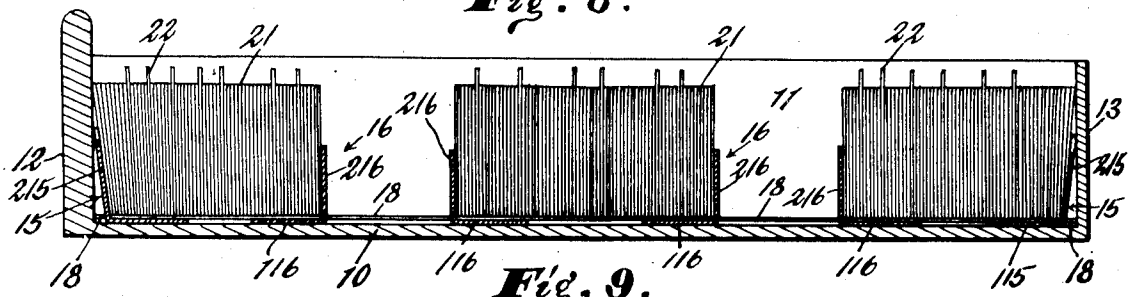


Fig. 9.

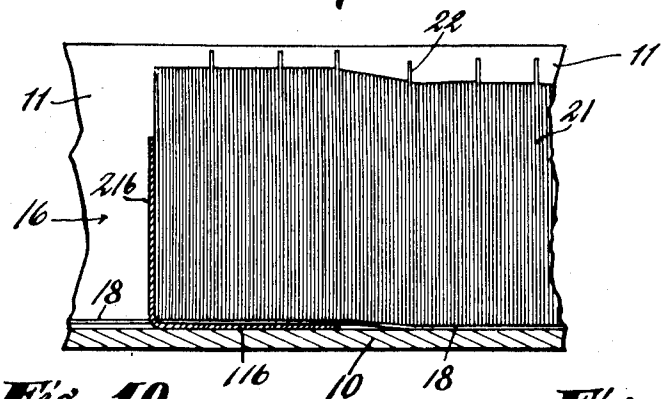


Fig. 10.

Fig. 11.

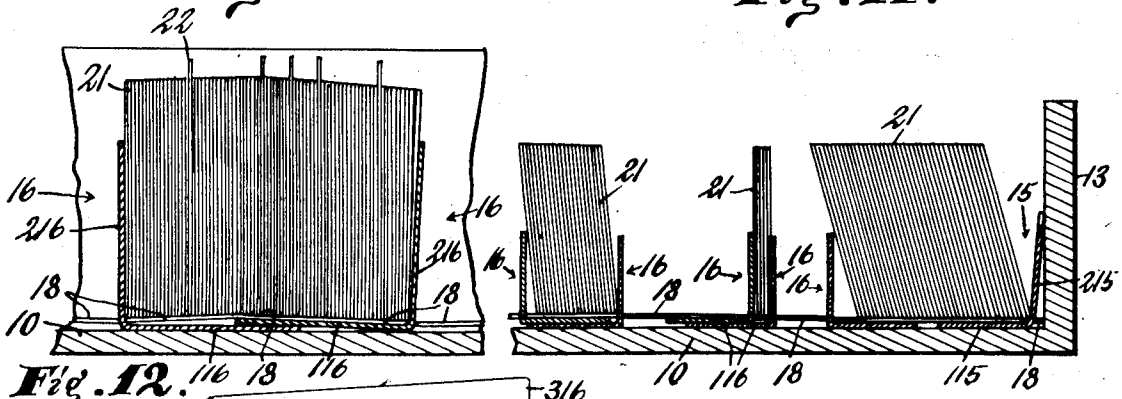
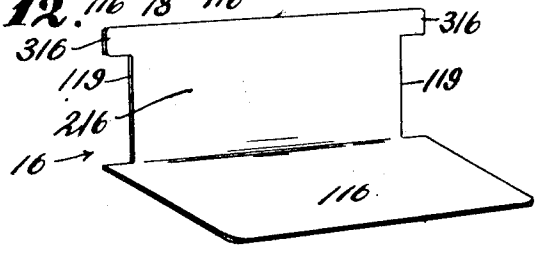


Fig. 12.



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Patented June 14, 1927. 1,631,983

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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DEVICE FOR FILING CARDS AND THE LIKE.

Application filed May 11, 1925. Serial No. 29,413.

This invention relates chiefly to movable partition plates or followers and associated parts for use in card and document filing and in receptacles, racks and shelves for books, magazines, papers, packages and pieces of merchandise, and the like.

The object of the invention is to increase the capacity, usefulness and economy of receptacles for filing and similar uses by providing means for readily making transverse divisions of the cards or contents into a plurality of separate groups of any desired size, which dividing means may be adjusted readily from place to place in the receptacle without removal of any of the other contents thereof; and further to provide in such equipment a dividing means which will occupy no appreciable amount of the storage space in the receptacle and which, with its attachments, may be placed in or entirely removed from a receptacle without fastening it thereto; and which costs less than the filing drawer follower and attachments in common use.

In this invention there is combined, with a base, or a bottom of a plain filing drawer, means for holding and grouping the cards or other contents, which is not fastened to nor held by the base or filing drawer but which is readily insertible in place and removable therefrom. Hence said holding and grouping means is not made as a part of the drawer but can be added as desired to any plain drawer, shelf, table or the like.

One feature of the invention is the combination with one or more elongated guards or strips, adapted to lie loosely on a base or the bottom of a filing drawer, of vertical followers or separating devices having a lower forwardly extending projecting or horizontal portion which the guards overlie, whereby said portion can be thrust under the cards or drawer contents and that will be guarded by the guards from interference by the lower edges of the cards, and the weight of the cards will come upon such lower projection of the follower and the follower be thus held frictionally in place and yet be slidable into the desired position.

Another feature of this invention is the combination with such guard or guards of partition followers having one or more openings or slots in the lower portion thereof arranged so the follower can be readily combined with or removed from the guards without removing them or the cards thereon.

Another feature of the invention consists in making the horizontal and vertical portions of the followers alike so that it is immaterial which portion of the follower is placed under the guards and which extends above; and also in providing relatively high openings in the followers for the guards so that the guards may rise in the apertures if necessary to accommodate the bottom portions of the followers as they are adjusted.

The foregoing and other features of this invention will be understood from the accompanying drawings and the following description and claims.

To illustrate one embodiment of this invention there is shown in the drawings hereof an ordinary plain filing drawer equipped with the improvements constituting this invention.

In the drawings, Fig. 1 is a plan view of a plain filing drawer without any contents and centrally broken away; Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a guard-retaining or follower constituting a part of this invention; Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a partition follower; Fig. 4 is a perspective view of one of the elongated guards; Fig. 5 is a plan view of the plain drawer shown in Fig. 1 provided with the parts shown in Figs. 2 and 4 placed therein; Fig. 6 is a plan view of another card drawer than what is shown in Fig. 5 and with partition followers added; Fig. 7 is a plan view of the central portion of Fig. 6 showing two partition followers in position for being inserted in place in the drawer; Fig. 8 is a central vertical section through Fig. 6 with cards therein; Fig. 9 is a central vertical section through a portion of a card filing drawer with cards therein showing the result of movement of a follower along and under the guards and cards associated therewith for bringing the cards into a compact mass; Fig. 10 is a section similar to that shown in Fig. 9 with two followers supporting cards and so close together that their bottoms overlap; Fig. 11 is a section similar to the right hand portion of Fig. 8 with a

modified arrangement of the followers and cards; Fig. 12 is a perspective view of a modified form of partition follower.

For explaining the general nature of the invention, there is as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings, a plain card filing drawer having a bottom 10, sides 11, front end 12, and rear end 13. There are no followers in the drawer as shown in Fig. 1, nor any means secured thereto for holding the followers. The followers and follower holding means herein shown constitute a complete card holding device which can be placed on a shelf or base or in a drawer according to the desired requirements of use.

There are two kinds of followers, guard-retaining followers 15 and partition followers 16. These are preferably, but not necessarily, made of an oblong piece of thin metal bent lengthwise through its center so as to form two identical or similar halves or portions and when in use one portion of the guard-retaining follower is called a projecting or bottom portion 115 and the other called a vertical or separating portion 215, and one portion of the partition follower is called a bottom portion 116 and the other a vertical portion 216. When said portions are similar it is immaterial which of them is at any time the bottom portion and which is the vertical portion. At the bend of the metal plate between the two portions of the guard-retaining follower 15 there are two openings 17, as seen in Fig. 2, through which the guards 18 may loosely extend when the parts are assembled. The guards protect the lower edges of the cards and the lower portions of the followers from interference when either are moved. In the partition follower 16 it is necessary that at each end thereof a portion of the material intermediate the sides shall be narrower than is its width adjacent to one or both of the side edges, and a part of each end of the partition follower, preferably including the fold, is cut away or it is recessed as shown by the openings or open end notches 19 at the bend between the two portions 116 and 216, the inside wall of which openings are located the same distances apart as are the inside walls of the openings 17 in the guard-retaining follower. The length of the guard-retaining follower is almost as great as the width of the filing drawer 10, while the length of the partition follower may be less.

There are preferably two guards 18, as shown, and they are made of metal, preferably, so that they will be flexible, and their length is substantially the same as the internal length of the filing drawer, and their ends are held in place by the guard-retaining followers. The partition follower plates 16 are bent so that the two portions will be at a right angle to each other, while the guard-retaining followers 15 are bent to an obtuse angle between the portions thereof somewhat exceeding ninety degrees as a means for holding the guards against lateral displacement and for limiting their vertical movement. Also the guard-retaining followers are preferably provided with recesses 20 in the edges thereof to afford a finger hold for grasping and moving them when in the filing drawer.

In this invention, besides the filing drawer, there are only three kinds of parts, the guard-retaining follower 15, the partition follower 16, and the guard 18; and in many uses of this invention only the guard-retaining follower 15 and the guard 18 are required. All guard-retaining followers are alike and likewise all partition followers are alike, and the guards are alike in any particular construction; and although a filing drawer is shown herein, the invention may be combined with merely a base or a shelf or any other support for the followers and guards.

In assembling the equipment constituting this invention two guard-retaining followers 15 having a width adapted to the width of the drawer or other receptacle are placed loosely in the drawer or receptacle, one at each end thereof with the outside face or back of one guard-retaining follower against one end wall of the drawer or receptacle and with the outside face or back of the other guard-retaining follower against the other end wall thereof, as shown in Figs. 5, 6 and 7. Then preferably two guards 18, having a length approximating the inside length of the drawer or receptacle, are placed loosely on the bottom or base thereof with their ends projecting loosely through the apertures 17 of the guard-retaining followers. Since the guard-retaining followers are at an angle exceeding ninety degrees it will be observed that the ends of the guards extend through and appreciably beyond the followers to the end walls of the drawer or receptacle. This is to insure that these parts will retain their respective positions.

The foregoing completes the invention in the form shown in Fig. 5, which is the simplest form thereof, and in that form the device is adapted for receiving one group of cards 21 and index cards 22. The group of cards may be of any size because either guard-retaining follower can be slipped one way or the other to adjust them to a small or large group of cards. If, however, the device is intended for more than one group of cards, or contents, more than two guard-retaining followers may be used, the number used being dependent upon the number of groups.

But preferably when there is more than one group of cards, only one pair of guard-retaining followers 15 is used and partition followers 16 are employed, as shown in Figs.

6 and 8. The advantage of the partition followers 16 is that they are readily insertible and removable without disturbing the guard-retaining followers or the guards 18 or the card contents of the device, and they can be inserted or removed therefrom at any point in the drawer. The partition follower 16 is inserted by making an opening at the proper point in the file by pushing the cards aside and exposing a sufficient length of the underlying guards 18. The guards, if desired, may then be raised somewhat from the bottom by moving the closest guard-retaining follower 15 forward and tilting it slightly, whereby the guard and the card contents of the file resting thereon will be lifted. Then one portion of the partition follower 16 may be placed on the bottom of the drawer or receptacle between the guards and the ends thereof easily slipped under the guards by turning the partition in either direction, as shown in Fig. 7, until the partition followers extend transversely of the drawer as shown in Fig. 6. When the partition follower is in its transverse position the guards will rest in the notches 19 in the follower, as shown, and will overlie the ends of the bottom portion of the partition follower.

After the partition follower has been inserted it can be thrust under the cards to any desired position, and in such movement the guards will prevent interference between the lower edges of the cards and the advancing edge of the follower. If desired a large number of these partition followers may be employed, so as to enable one drawer to accommodate several groups of cards and each group separate from the others. However, the groups of cards may be brought up solidly against each other, for the followers are made of thin metal plates and therefore each of them takes up no more room than a card. Likewise the followers may be separated from each other, so that the cards between them may be loose or inclined, for the guards 18 bearing on the bottom portion of each follower hold the follower in position. This is due to the friction between the bottom portion of the follower and the drawer bottom or the base below it and the guards 18 above it. The weight of the cards greatly aids in increasing such friction for holding the followers in place. An efficient guard 18 is made of steel strips from seven to ten one-thousandths of an inch thick. In the use of a guard 18 of such thin material the natural subsidence of all kinds of paper articles under such conditions distributes substantially over the entire surface of the follower (115 or 116) the weight and consequent friction of the cards above it, and this weight also increases greatly the friction between the bottom of the followers and the bottom of the receptacle and the guards as they are superincumbent. But the followers thus frictionally held in place may be forcibly moved readily on the bottom of the receptacle to any desired position and will remain where located. The partition follower may be readily removed from the receptacle separating the file contents a sufficient distance to allow one end of the partition to be turned under the guard 18 and out of engagement therewith as indicated in Fig. 7. Likewise the partition follower may be reversed in the same manner by turning it in its place without raising it from the bottom of the receptacle or disengaging it from the guide strips, or removing the cards or contents or anything else. The bottom of the partition follower preferably projects under the cards, but it may be used in the reversed position; and the lower portions of two followers may overlap as in Fig. 10. A number of followers may be nested and left in the receptacle when not in use.

In Fig. 9 there is illustrated the operation when a partition follower is being moved against the cards to shift or solidify them and it shows that the cards are all supported by the guard strips and that the latter bend so as to permit the bottom portion of the follower to move under them.

In Fig. 10 there are shown two partition followers with their bottom portions overlapping and the guard strips lying upon them and supporting the cards out of interference with the bottom portions of the followers.

In Fig. 11 there are shown followers in position to hold cards in inclined position for easy reading and the group of cards lies against one portion, but it is effectively held in position regardless of the pressure against it. In the middle of Fig. 11 two partition followers face the same way and hold a group of cards vertically between them. These figures show wide adaptability of the invention in actual use.

In Fig. 12 there is shown a modified form of partition follower 16 but instead of the openings or notches 19 at the juncture of the two portions they are in the ends of one of the portions at 119. When such follower is in the position shown, the guard strips overlie the portion 116, but when portion 216 is the bottom, the guard strips extend under the edge of portion 116 and through the openings 119 and over the projections 316.

Obviously the guard-retaining followers 15 may be used independently of the partition followers 16. If desired the entire contents of a drawer may be lifted up and removed, including the cards, by pressing the two end guard-retaining followers towards each other against the cards between them at the time the whole is being lifted.

The guard-retaining followers will thus lift the guards and they will lift the cards held between the followers. This gives the device a wide range of usefulness and adjustment and selectivity at relatively slight expense. However, the invention is not limited to the details of construction shown herein to explain the same.

By "forwardly extending" horizontal or bottom portion of a follower is meant in the claims herein, a portion which may be thrust under the cards or the like, as distinguished from a portion extending rearwardly or from the cards or contents. In the former the weight of the cards and the like acts to hold the follower upright and in adjusted position, while in the latter form the cards and the like tend to overthrow the follower. But, as stated, the follower can be reversed in use if desired, or one follower may have its lower projection forward and the adjacent follower its lower projection rearward.

By "guard" as used herein, is meant broadly means for preventing interference between the advancing edges of the horizontal portion of the follower and the lower edges of the cards and the like during such movement of the follower. Preferably the guard is elongated and thin and resilient and overlies the horizontal portion of the follower for the reasons above stated.

The invention claimed is:

1. A device for holding cards and the like including an elongated resilient guard strip adapted to lie loosely upon a support, and upon which the cards and the like may be placed, and a follower having a vertical portion and a horizontal forwardly extending portion insertible and removable from beneath the guard strip at any point without its removal.

2. A device for holding cards and the like, including a pair of parallel elongated resilient guard strips adapted to lie loosely upon a support and upon which cards and the like may be placed, and followers, each having a vertical portion and a horizontal portion, said horizontal portion of the follower being transversely longer and a connection between the vertical and horizontal portions of the follower being transversely shorter than the distance between the guard strips, whereby each follower may be turned end for end while lying beneath the guard strips and be removed without displacing the guard strips.

3. A device for holding cards and the like including a box having a bottom and ends, an elongated resilient guard strip adapted to lie loosely upon the bottom of the box and as long as the inside of the box and upon which cards and the like may be placed, and end followers having a vertical portion and a horizontal portion with openings between said portions through which the end of the guard strip extends, the angle between the horizontal and vertical portions of the end followers being greater than 90°, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

4. A device for holding cards and the like including an elongated resilient guard adapted to lie loosely on a support and upon which the cards and the like may be placed, and a follower having horizontal and vertical portions with an opening therein at the junction of said portions through which the guard loosely extends and so as to overlie the horizontal portion of the followers, said opening in the follower extending sufficiently high in the portions thereof to permit vertical movement of said guard therein, and the followers having the same angle between the two portions thereof whereby they are reversible and may be nested.

5. A device for holding cards and the like including an elongated resilient guard adapted to lie loosely on a board or the like and upon which the cards and the like may be placed, and a follower having horizontal and vertical portions with a slotted opening therein at the angle between said portions and extending into both portions which enables the follower to slidably interengage with the guard while in place on said base and be removable therefrom without removing the guard strip or the cards and the like.

6. A device for holding cards and the like including a plurality of parallel resilient guards adapted to lie loosely on a base and upon which the cards and the like may be placed, and a follower having horizontal and vertical portions with a slotted opening in each end thereof at the angle between said portions which enables the horizontal portion of the follower to be slipped under and removed from and to interengage with the guards at any point while in place and without removal from the base.

7. A device for holding cards and the like, including a bottom support, a follower having a forwardly projecting portion adapted to be thrust between the cards and the like and the bottom support of the follower, and a resilient guard strip adapted to rest loosely on said support and lie between the cards and the like and the projecting portion of said follower, whereby the lower edges of the cards will not interfere with said movement of the follower.

8. A device for holding cards and the like including a plurality of parallel resilient guards adapted to lie loosely upon the support, means for holding said resilient guards from lateral displacement, and partition followers having horizontal and vertical portions with a notch in each end of each follower, whereby the horizontal portion of the follower can be slipped under the guards

while in place and the guards extend loosely through said notches and rest on the horizontal portions thereof, and the followers can be removed without removing the guards or contents.

9. A device for holding cards and the like including a plurality of parallel resilient guards adapted to lie loosely on a support, guard-holding followers having horizontal and vertical portions with apertures through the same at the juncture of said portions and extending into both portions through which the guards loosely extend, and partition followers having horizontal and vertical portions with a notch in each end of each follower, so the distance between said notches will equal the distance between the apertures in the guard holding followers, whereby the horizontal portion of each partition follower can be slipped under or removed from the guards and the guards extend loosely through said notches and rest on the horizontal portions of the partition followers.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature.

JOHN T. QUIGLEY.