

E. W. HAWLEY.
WARDROBE TRUNK.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 13, 1911.

1,017,755.

Patented Feb. 20, 1912.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

FIG. 1.

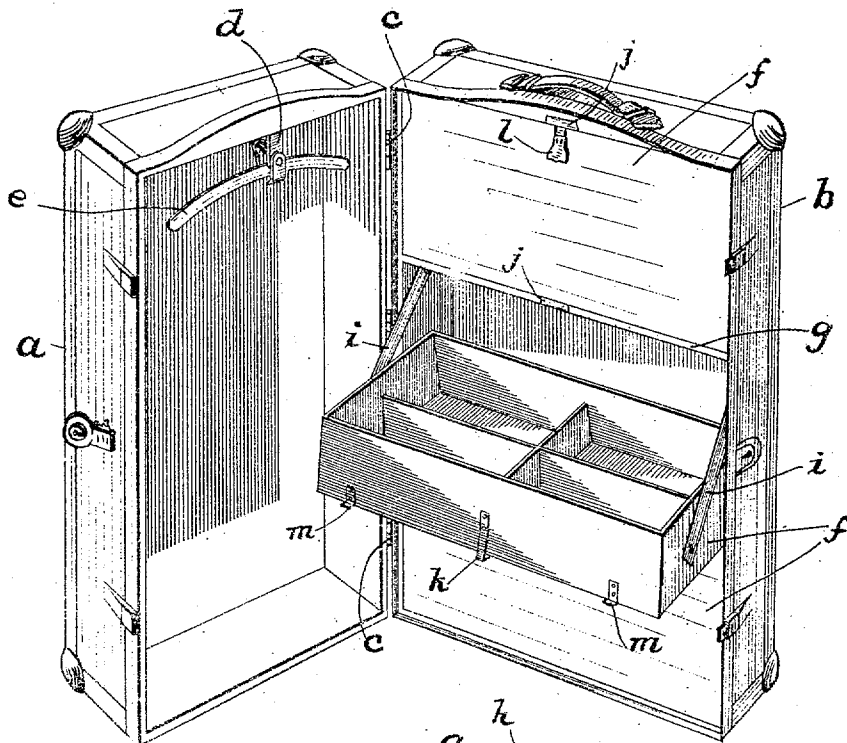
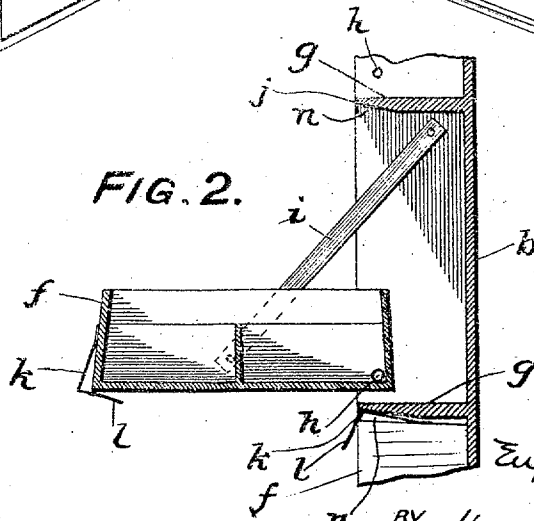


FIG. 2.



WITNESSES:

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

FIG. 3.

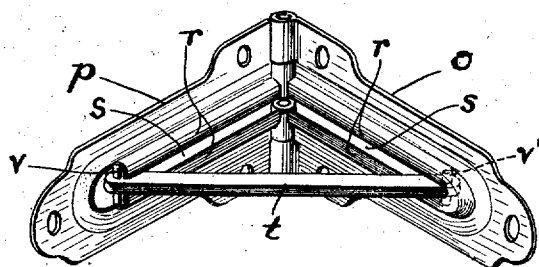
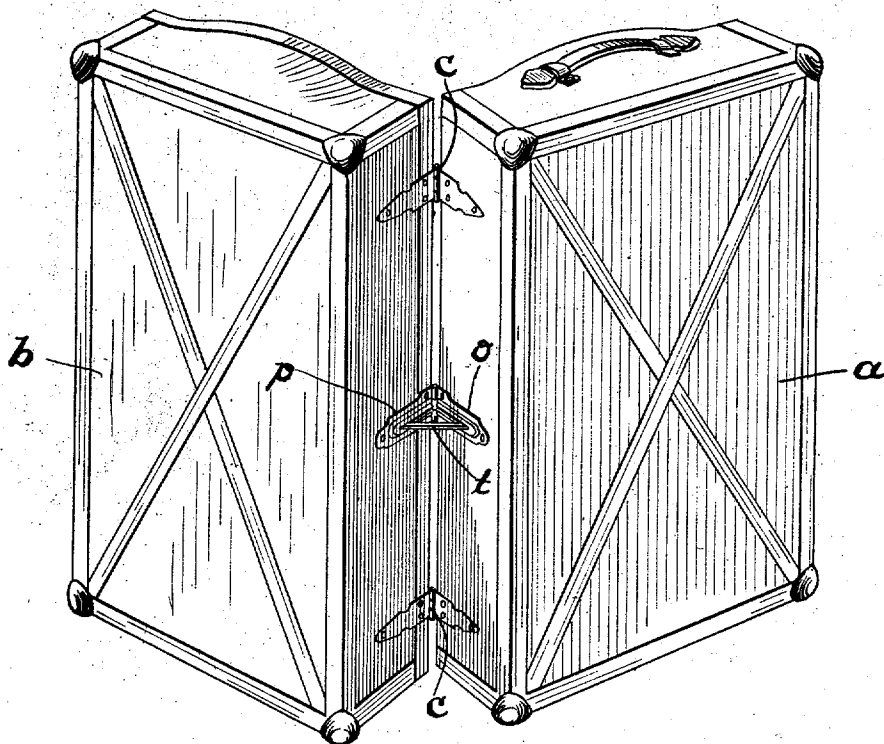


FIG. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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WARDROBE-TRUNK.

1,017,755.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 20, 1912.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EUGENE W. HAWLEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Wardrobe-Trunks, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

The object of applicant's invention is to provide a trunk, capable of being used as a wardrobe trunk, of minimum depth. Such a trunk has been ordinarily considered to be impracticable, because owing to its shallowness it is incapable of holding articles of a size for which trunk compartments of substantially greater depth are usually provided. It is known, however, to provide tumble boxes in place of drawers; that is, receptacles so pivoted that they may be swung from an upright position against the trunk bottom, to a horizontal position; but the advantage of this arrangement has been neutralized by the apparent necessity of so pivoting them, and of making them so short, that when swung out into horizontal position, their centers of gravity will be well within the base of the trunk body. This necessitates the provision of so broad a base for the compartment containing the tumble boxes as to create a waste space of considerable volume in front of the boxes, besides limiting the width of the boxes, thus making impossible the attainment of either the desired minimum depth of trunk body or the desired maximum width of receptacles.

In my invention, I attain the result of capacious receptacles without waste of space and with a minimum depth of trunk body by utilizing the principle of tumble boxes but so arranging them that when folded against the trunk bottom they will occupy substantially the entire compartment and by so pivoting them that when swung out their centers of gravity will be outside the base of the trunk body; and then, to prevent overturning of the trunk, so hinge the two compartments thereof that they cannot be opened into a parallel relation and therefore cannot become top-heavy and fall even when the tumble-boxes are swung out; although they can be opened to a sufficient extent to allow ready access to either compartment of the trunk.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspec-

tive view of the trunk in an open position looking toward the front thereof; Fig. 2 is a partial vertical section through one compartment; Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the trunk in an open position looking toward the rear thereof; and Fig. 4 is a detail in perspective of the device for limiting the extent to which the trunk may be opened.

The trunk is composed of two compartments *a* and *b* hinged together by means of the usual hinges *c*. The compartment *a* is shown as provided with a garment supporting attachment *d*, upon which is suspended a garment hanger *e*. The other compartment is provided with a series of tumble-boxes or trays *f* spaced apart by means of partitions *g*. It will be observed that compartment *b*, like compartment *a*, is quite shallow, and that the width of the boxes *f* (that is their vertical dimensions when closed) is substantially greater than their depth. Each box *f* is pivotally secured to the opposite side walls of compartment *b* by means of rivets *h*. Their extent of outward movement on their pivots is limited by straps *i* secured to the outer sides of the boxes and the inner sides of the compartment.

Each partition *g* and also the upper wall of the compartment *b*, is cut away, midway between its ends, to form a wedge-shaped recess *n* gradually widening from its inner end to the outer edge of the partition. Secured to the outer edge of each partition, and also to the outer edge of the upper wall of the compartment, is a plate *j* extending in front of the recess *n*. Secured to the front wall of each box *f* is a spring *k*, which normally extends, from its point of attachment, outward at an acute angle to the front wall, and thence bends back toward the bottom of the box. Secured to the free end of the spring *k* is a flexible strap *l*.

The spring *k* is located midway between the ends of the box *f* and therefore in position to automatically engage the plate *j* when the box is swung into its closed position and be depressed by the plate until the box is moved to its ultimate position, whereupon the spring *k* is free to move into and occupy the recess *n*. In this position of the spring, its outer bent end abuts against the plate *j*, thereby preventing the accidental opening of the box. The spring is wholly concealed from view when the box is moved to its closed position. The box may be swung

open by first pulling down the strap *l* to retract the spring and then swinging the box out.

Secured to the front wall of each box *f* are angle plates *m*, whose projecting arms are nearly flush with the bottom walls of the box and abut against the outer edge of the partition *g* when the box is swung into its closed position.

To prevent the trunk being opened to any further extent, I utilize the construction illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4. In these figures *o* and *p* illustrate the two members of a hinge, which is located midway between the hinges *c*, *c*. One hinge-member *o* is secured to compartment *a*, the other, *p*, to compartment *b*. Each hinge member is provided with a raised portion having longitudinally extending flanges *r* forming between them a slot *s*. *t* is a lever the opposite ends of which extend through the respective slots. Pins *v*, *v'*, are attached to the opposite ends of the lever. One pin *v* is preferably held fixed, forming a pivot upon which the lever turns. The other pin *v'* is adapted to slide in the guideway formed by the flanges *r* of the hinge-member *o*. During the closing movement of the trunk, the lever *t* turns on the pin *v* and the pin *v'* slides in its guideway when the trunk is completely closed, the entire lever folds into the slots, the lever extending throughout the length of the slot of hinge member *p* and through a part of the length of hinge member *o*. In opening the trunk, the part of the lever *t* between its ends swings out of the slot, the pin *v'* sliding along its guideway until it abuts against the outer end thereof, the lever *t* and the pin *v'* thus acting as a stop to prevent the trunk from being opened to any further extent.

Having now fully described my invention, what I claim and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

1. In a wardrobe trunk, the combination with the two hinged compartments thereof adapted to stand upright on end, of boxes arranged one above the other within the space inclosed by one compartment and pivoted to its side walls near the front edges thereof and adapted to tilt forward to bring their centers of gravity outside the base of the trunk body, of means connected to said

compartments adapted to permit the compartments to be swung into an open position and limit the extent of said opening movement, whereby in a trunk of relatively shallow depth capacious receptacles may be provided without sacrifice of the stability of the trunk during access thereto.

2. In a wardrobe trunk, the combination with the two hinged compartments thereof adapted to stand upright on end, of boxes arranged one above the other and pivotally supported in one of said compartments with their centers of gravity outside the base of the trunk, said boxes being of a depth approximating that of the compartment in which they are pivoted and being also of great width relatively to their depth, the pivots of the boxes being spaced apart a distance approximating their width thereby permitting the same to fold inwardly and approximately fill the compartment, and means connected to said compartments permitting the compartments to swing into an open position and limiting the extent of said opening movement, whereby capacious receptacles may be adapted to a trunk of relatively shallow depth without sacrifice of the stability of the trunk during access to the boxes.

3. In a wardrobe trunk, the combination with the two hinged compartments thereof adapted to stand upright on end, boxes arranged one above the other and occupying substantially all the space inclosed by one compartment, each of said boxes being pivoted to the side walls of said compartment near the front edges thereof and adapted to tilt forward to bring its center of gravity outside the base of the trunk body, of members connected to the hinged walls of the two compartments comprising a stop and an abutment adapted to engage when the compartments are swung into an open position and limit the extent of said opening movement.

In testimony of which invention, I have hereunto set my hand, at Philadelphia, on this 10th day of June, 1911.

EUGENE W. HAWLEY.

Witnesses:

M. M. HAMILTON,
E. E. WALL.