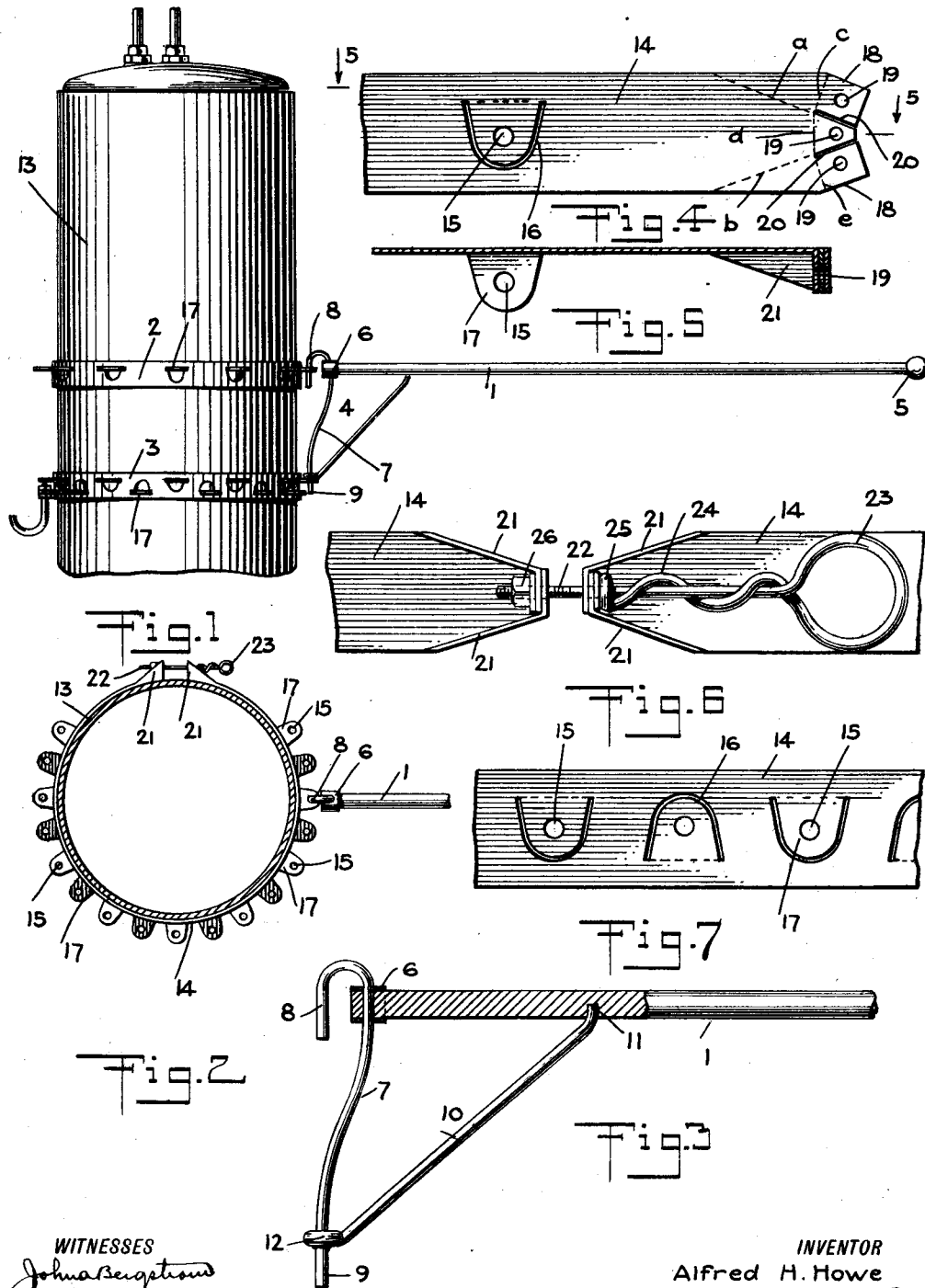


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TOWEL RACK.
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TOWEL-RACK.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALFRED H. HOWE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of New York, borough of the Bronx, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Towel-Rack, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates generally to towel racks and is particularly directed to an improved construction, especially intended for use with hot water boilers used with kitchen ranges, the arrangement of parts being such that an article of this class may be produced at a low cost and sold at a corresponding price.

The principal design of the invention is a supporting means for a towel rack characterized by the fact that the arms of the rack are supported by a plurality of bands, the structure thereof being integral in formation and fashioned to take care of a number of such arms.

It is of some consequence in the production of devices of this class that an article be produced which will appeal to users by simplicity of construction, and this has been kept in mind in the devising thereof.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference denote corresponding parts in all the views, and in which—

Figure 1 is a partial side view of the rack in position on a boiler; Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional view; Fig. 3 is a view of the arm and supporting means, partly sectional; Fig. 4 is a partial plan view of the supporting band; Fig. 5 is a sectional view on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4 after the parts are bent; Fig. 6 is a side view of the method of attaching the meeting ends of the band; while Fig. 7 sets forth the blank from which the supporting band is made after the part has been suitably stamped.

The rack comprises arms 1 and supporting bands 2, 3, suitable brackets 4 secured to the arms and engaging the bands providing the supporting means for the arms.

Referring particularly to Figs. 1 and 3, the arm 1 is preferably made of wood, the outer end thereof being enlarged as at 5 in order to present a finished appearance, and, at the same time prevent towels from easily sliding off the arm. The other end of the

arm is preferably provided with a ferrule 6, there being an opening extending transversely of the arm and the ferrule and receiving one element of the supporting means, this element preferably comprising a bent piece of wire 7 having the hooked upper end 8 and the vertically extending lower end 9 which ends are in line with each other. The arm is suitably braced with respect to the element 7 by means of a diagonally extending element 10 having its upper end extending into a recess 11 in the side of the arm, the lower end of this element being bent around and soldered or brazed, or otherwise secured to the element 7, as at 11, the elements 7 and 10 constituting a bracket; it is to be noted that the bent portion 12 of the brace 10 is removed from the free lower end 9 of the element 7, whereby its end may enter a portion of the supporting band and be held in position therein.

The bands 2, 3, are adapted to be extended around and held in position on any form of hot water boiler 13, the parts being especially designed for such use in view of the fact that heat radiated from the water within the boiler will assist in drying the towels suspended nearby. Each band preferably comprises the body member 14 having a number of circular openings 15 properly spaced therealong, these openings being surrounded by slots 16 curved in outline, somewhat resembling a parabola, so that, when the portion of the material included within the slots or between the sides thereof are bent at right angles to the body member 14, suitable bearings 17 will be provided, the openings 15 of which receive the end of the hooked portion 8 and the lower end portion 9 of the said curved element 7. It is obvious that in order to form the band a continuous strip of material may be used and that punching or stamping may be effected at given distances, whereby the structure described is produced.

In order to provide a simple means for effectively holding each band on the boiler against displacement, each end of the body member or band 14 at opposite sides is cut away in order to form inclined edge portions 18, as shown particularly in Fig. 4, the said ends of the band being provided with spaced openings 19, preferably circular in outline, the ends being also provided with inwardly extending recesses 20 which are divergent, the one recess 20 and the edge

portion 18, however, being so related that a substantially rectangular portion is included between this recess and edge portion, the same being also true of the other recess 20 and the other edge portion 18, the construction being especially apparent from Fig. 4.

In order to arrive at what is shown in Figs. 5 and 6, the material is bent along the lines *a*, *b*, in order to form the angularly extending portions 21, which are, in effect, braces, the said rectangular portions of material being then bent along the broken lines *c*, *d*, and *e*, of Fig. 4, the openings 19 registering, the final structure appearing in Fig. 5, whereby a suitable fastening device may be passed through the parts in order to securely hold the band on the boiler. This fastening device may be anything suited to the purpose and along the lines of a bolt and nut, the construction shown in Fig. 6, however, being preferred because of its simplicity and ease of operation; a piece of wire of uncertain length has one end portion threaded, as at 22, the other end portion being formed into a ring 23 with the intermediate end portion 24 of the material bent or wrapped around the intermediate portion of the wire, thereby forming a shoulder 25 to engage with the upturned part at one end of the band, the threaded end entering the upturned part of the other end of the band, there being a nut 26 engaging the said threaded end and lying closely adjacent to the upturned part of the said other end. The band may be easily brought to proper position on the boiler and secured in such position by merely turning the end of the

threaded member through the medium of the ring 23, the shoulder 25 and the nut 26 serving to hold the parts rigidly in position because of their engagement with the upturned end parts.

From a consideration of what has been said, it will appear that a towel rack of substantial construction, and yet one which is easily made, is devised, the material of which the different parts are made, however, being largely matters of choice and expediency, such matters also including the relative size and shape of the different parts.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent:—

A band adapted to be extended around and held in position on a hot water boiler, the ends of the band being provided with a number of openings, the said ends being also provided with inwardly extending diverging slots, each end portion being adapted to be bent on lines substantially coincident with the said slots, the ends of the band provided with the openings being also bent, whereby they extend substantially normal from the said band with the openings therein in register, and a fastening device passing through all of the said registering openings, whereby the band is held in position.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ALFRED H. HOWE.

Witnesses:

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