C. M. HOFFMAN AND J. THOMISSER.

AUTOMATIC VESTIBULE CURTAIN HOLDER.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 28, 1918.

1,348,114. Patented July 27, 1920.

Fig. 1.

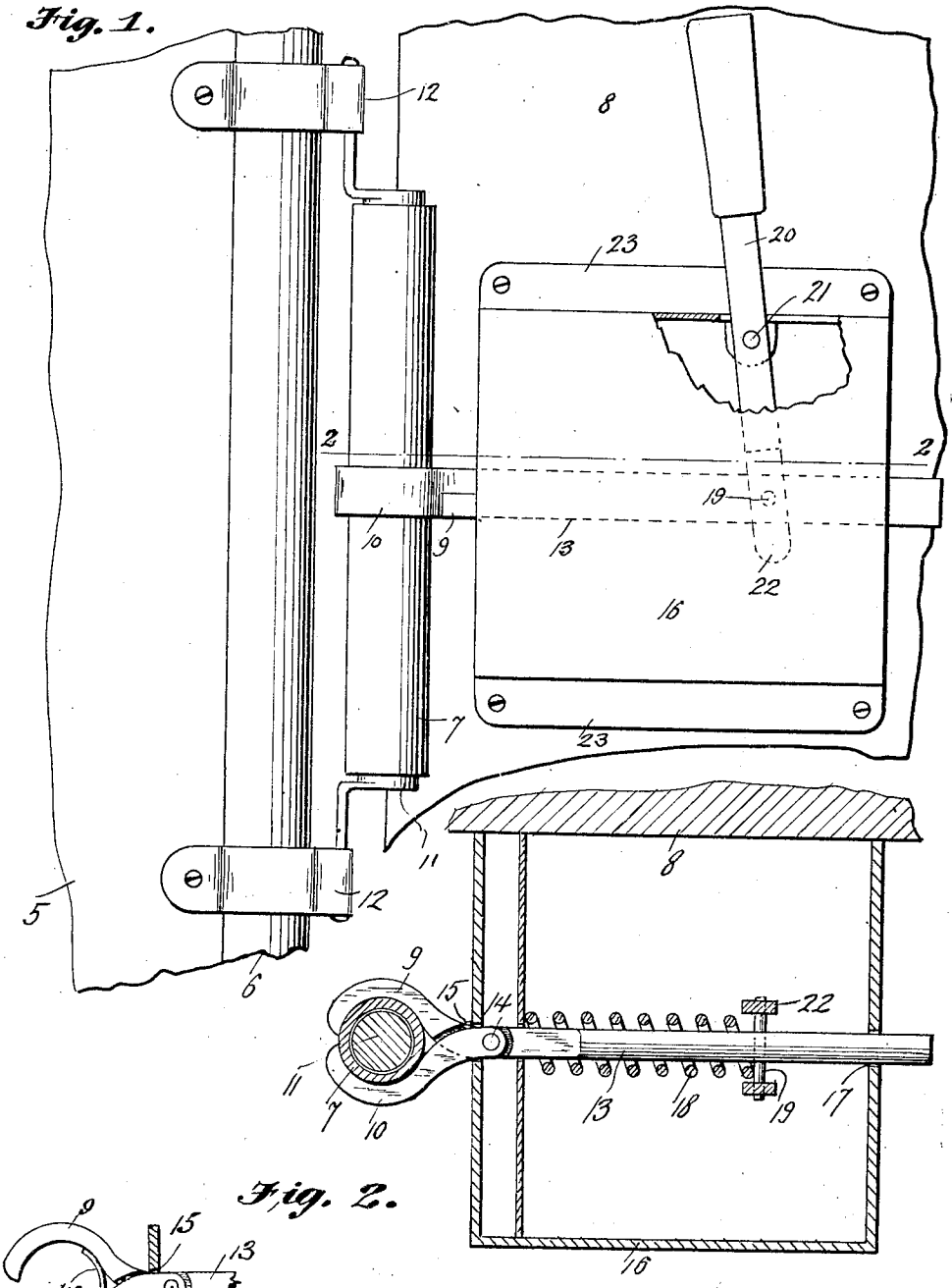


Fig. 2.

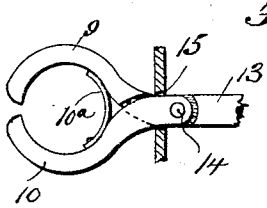


Fig. 3.

Inventor

Chas. M. Hoffman

Jos. Thomisser

By Milo B. Stevens & Co.

Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES M. HOFFMAN AND JOSEPH THOMISSER, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

AUTOMATIC VESTIBULE-CURTAIN HOLDER.

1,348,114. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 27, 1920.

Application filed September 28, 1918. Serial No. 256,107.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CHARLES M. HOFFMAN and JOSEPH THOMISSER, citizens of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in Automatic Vestibule-Curtain Holders, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to devices for holding the curtains connecting the bellows of adjacent vestibuled railway cars, and its object is to provide a novel and improved fastening which becomes automatically disengaged when the cars separate. Ordinarily, the trainmen must unfasten the curtains before the cars are ordered uncoupled and separated, and if this is overlooked the curtains are torn apart. The invention therefore effectually overcomes this difficulty, and all danger of damage to the curtains is eliminated.

With the object stated in view, the invention consists in a combination and arrangement of parts to be hereinafter described and claimed, and in order that the same may be better understood, reference is had to the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification.

In the drawing,

Figure 1 is an elevation of the invention, and

Fig. 2 is a horizontal section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, and

Fig. 3 is a fragment of the device showing a slight modification.

Referring specifically to the drawing, 5 denotes a fragment of the curtain, reinforced at its free edge by a rod 6, and here carrying an elongated handle rod 7. On the wall 8 of the car toward which the curtain is to be stretched is mounted a device for holding the curtain in this position. This device comprises a pair of jaw members 9 and 10, respectively, having their opposite faces shaped to fit around the rod 7 when closed up. The rod 7 is tubular and fits loosely on a rod 11 secured to the free edge of the curtain 5 by clamps 12. The jaw member 9 is on the outer end of a slidably supported shank 13, and the jaw member 10 is pivoted to said shank, as shown at 14.

The major portions of the two jaw members 9 and 10 project through a rectangular slot 15 in one of the end walls of a housing 16 and the inner end of the shank 13 seats loosely in an aperture 17 in the opposite end wall of the housing. The jaw members project from the housing wall a sufficient distance so that they may be slipped over the rod 7.

A spring 18 is coiled around the shank 13 and expands against an abutment 19 thereon, the latter being a cross pin. This spring has a normal tendency to draw the shank inward. To advance the shank, a hand lever 20 is provided, the same being pivoted at 21 to the top of the housing 16 and forked at 22 to straddle the shank, to which latter it is connected by passing the cross pin 19 through the fork branches. This lever projects from the top of the housing.

The housing 16 has outstanding base flanges 23 for attachment to the wall 8 or other support.

It will be noted that the outer side edge of the jaw member 10 is not parallel to the longitudinal axis of the shank 13 but has an outward curve, and hence when the shank is drawn inward, the edge of the slot 15 engaging this curved surface tends to force the jaw member over toward the fixed jaw member 9. The parts are so designed that the hinge or pivot connection 14 is inside the housing 16 when the jaws are closed, and hence the jaw member 10 now cannot accidentally swing away from the jaw member 9 to release the rod 7, and before the rod can be released, the shank 13 must be advanced to locate the jaw pivot 14 outside the housing, this being done by the hand lever 20. If the attendant should forget to release the curtain, no damage will be done to the latter when the two cars separate, as the pull on the curtain or on the holding device will draw the jaw members 9 and 10 forward, and when the pivot 14 comes outside the housing 16, the jaw member 10 is freed and swings back and allows the rod 7 to slip out of the jaws. The jaw members may be provided with the leaf spring 10^a shown in Fig. 3, for automatically spreading the same when projected, so that it will not be necessary to pry them apart to insert the curtain rod when they stiffen from rust.

We claim:

A holding device comprising a support having an opening, a slidable shank carried by the support and seating in the opening, a fixed jaw on the outer end of the shank, a jaw pivoted to the shank and positioned op-

posite the fixed jaw, the outer side edge of the pivoted jaw engaging the edge of the opening and being non-parallel to the axis of the shank, whereby said jaw is forced by said edge toward the fixed jaw when the shank is slid in one direction, and a hand lever pivoted to the support and connected to the shank for sliding the same in the opposite direction.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures.

CHARLES M. HOFFMAN.
JOSEPH THOMISSER.