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MERCHANDISE DISPENSING DEVICE

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Fig.1.

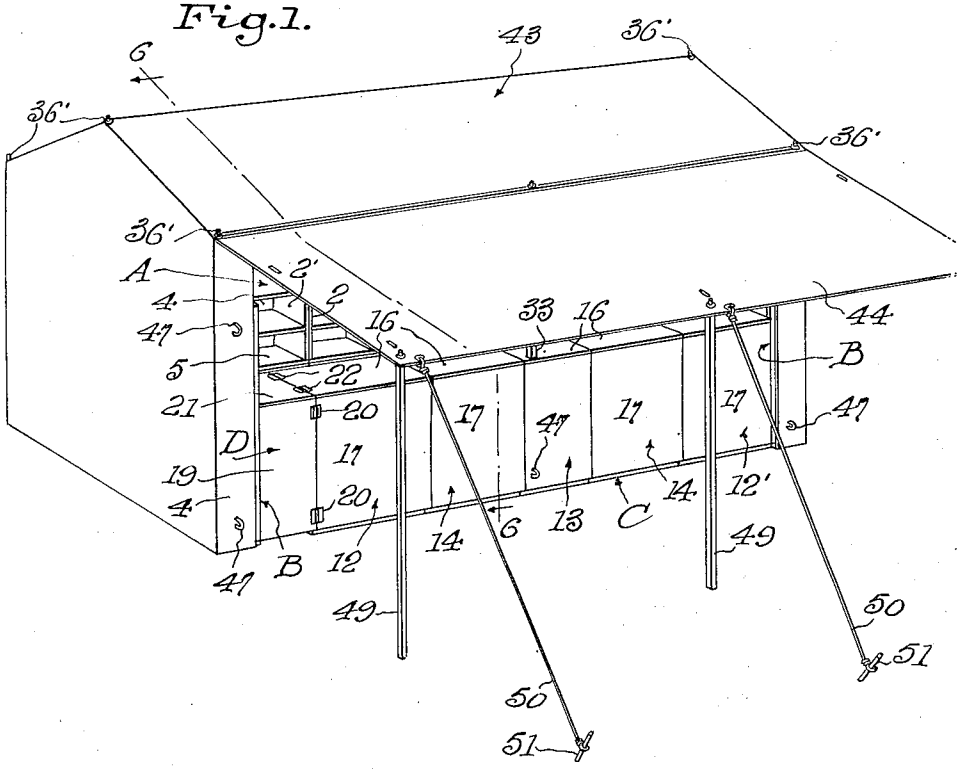
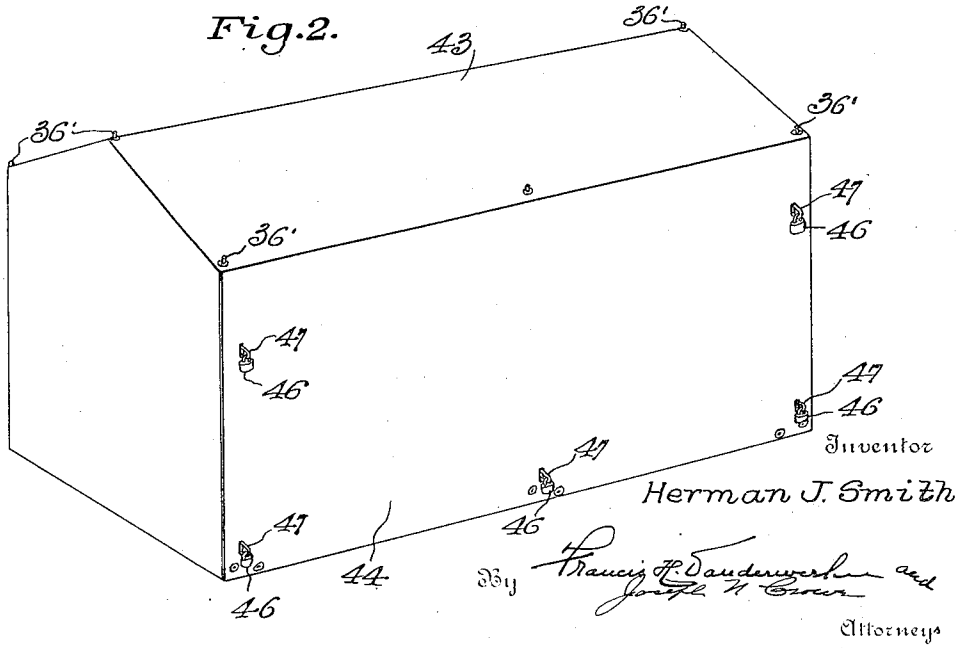


Fig.2.



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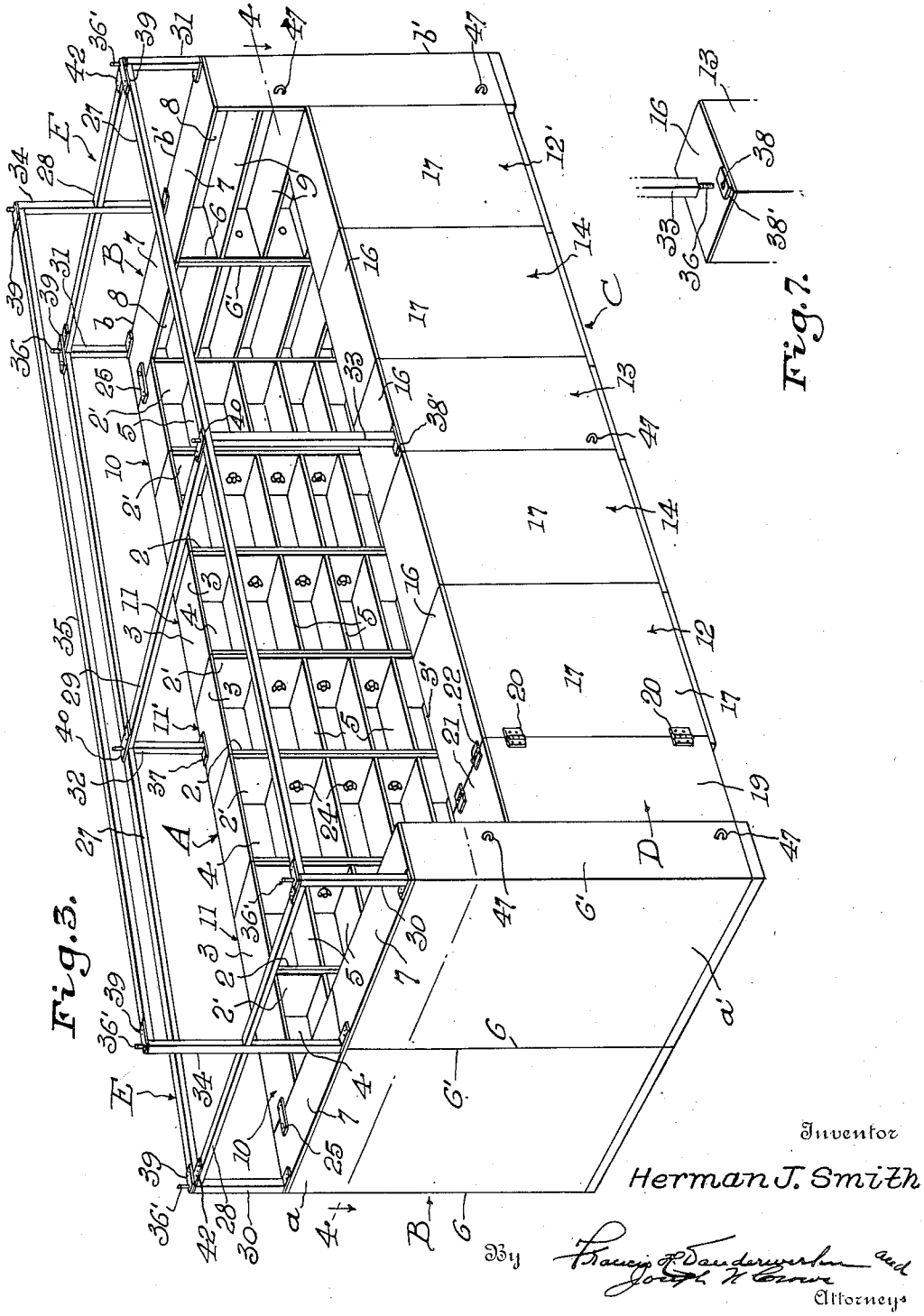


Fig. 3.

Fig. 7.

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MERCHANDISE DISPENSING DEVICE

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Fig. 4.

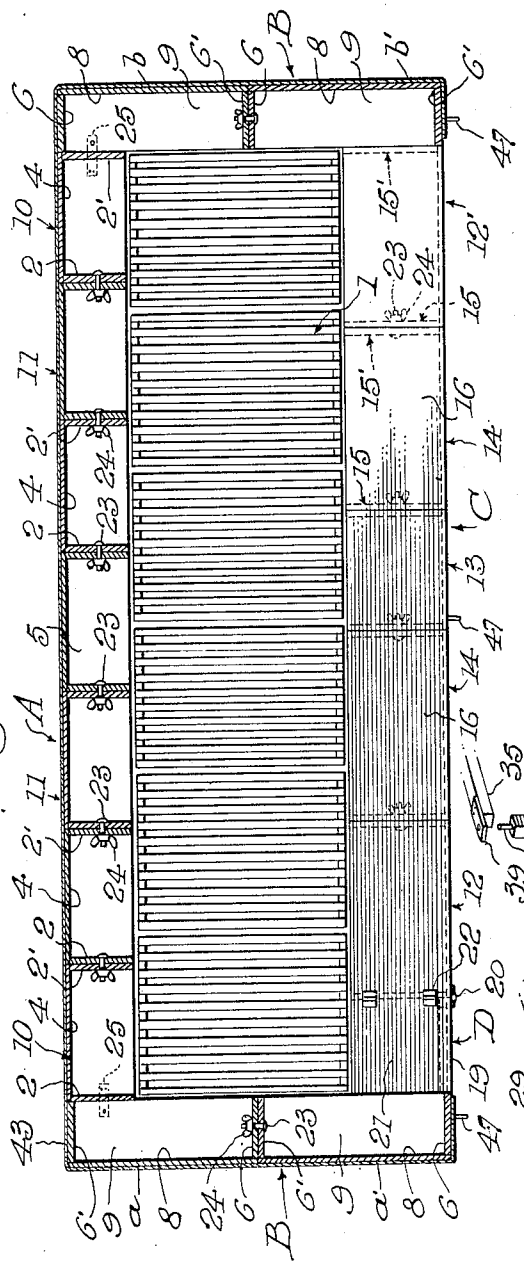
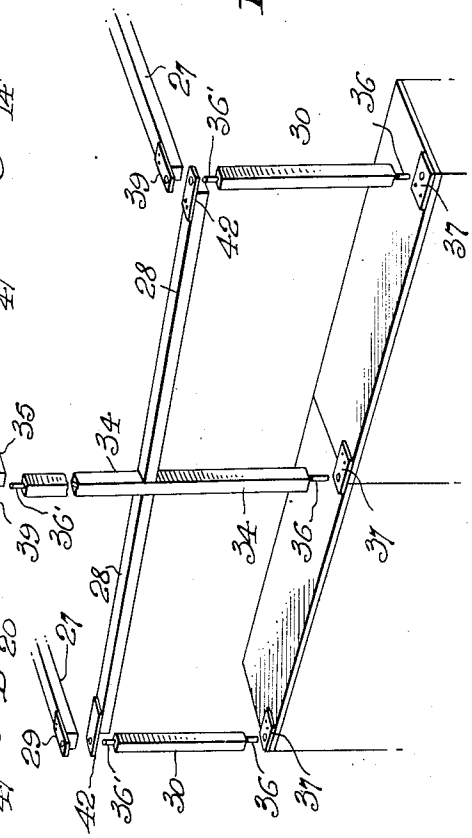


Fig. 5.



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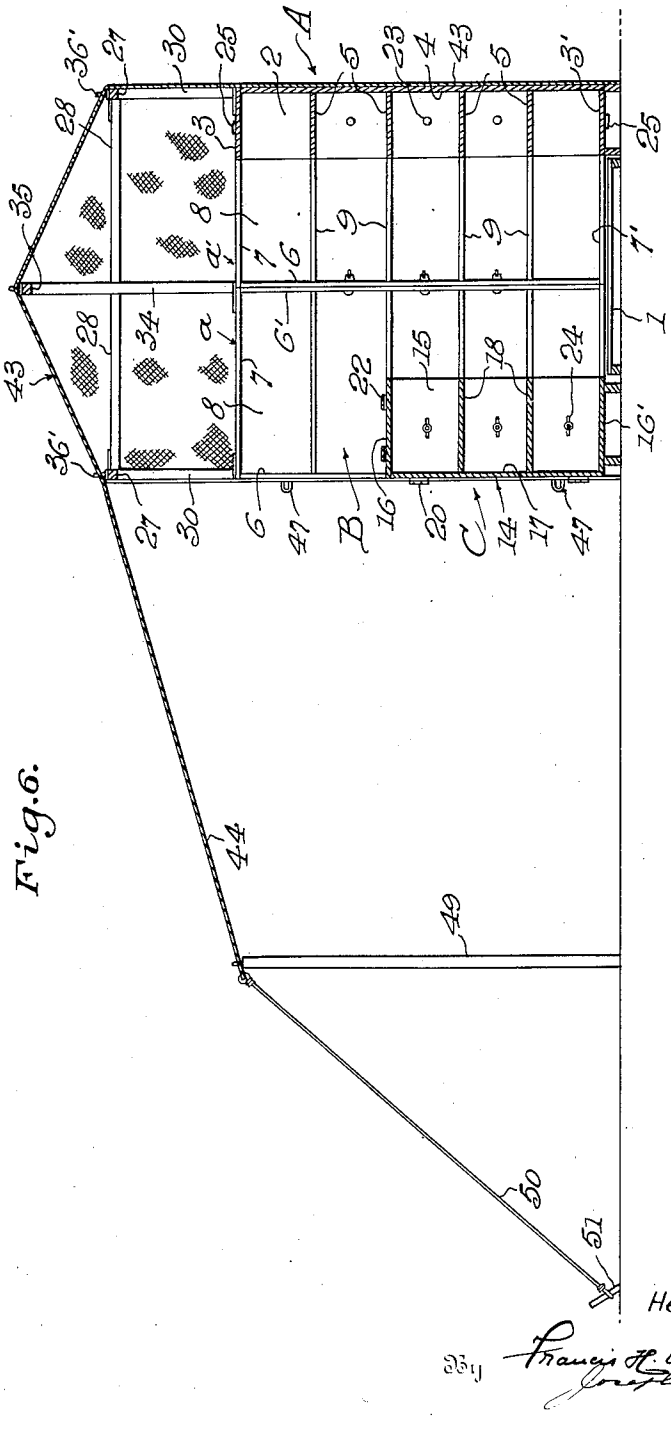


Fig. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,492,198

MERCHANDISE DISPENSING DEVICE

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Application August 22, 1945, Serial No. 612,118

3 Claims. (Cl. 20—1.6)

(Granted under the act of March 3, 1883, as amended April 30, 1928; 370 O. G. 757)

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The invention described herein may be manufactured and used by or for the Government for governmental purposes, without payment to me of any royalty thereon.

This invention relates to a portable store or merchandising dispensing unit and the primary object thereof is to provide a knock-down portable structure adapted to be disassembled, crated and aerially transported to a newly occupied or advanced area and there reassembled to provide a temporary post-exchange service adapted to be used in connection with troop operations or newly activated fields and other points where a post-exchange service is needed before a permanent structure has been erected for this purpose.

Another object of the invention is to provide a knock-down temporary exchange service structure composed of a floor with individual units fastened together in adjoining relation around the edges of the floor and comprising rear shelving units, side shelving units, counter units including a cash drawer unit and a gate carrying unit and means mounted on certain of said units for supporting a tent, the units being interchangeable except for the tent supporting units and gate carrying unit, whereby the units of the temporary exchange service may be readily assembled by anyone without practically any experience for displaying merchandise to be sold.

Another object of the invention is to provide a knock-down temporary exchange service including interchangeable units, which are simple in construction, efficient and durable in use, easily assembled and disassembled, economically manufactured and transported.

With the above and other objects and advantages in view, the invention consists of certain features of construction and operation of parts which will hereinafter be described and shown in the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a front perspective view of the improved knock-down temporary exchange service having the units thereof assembled in adjoining relation, with the flap of the tent being held in a raised position to provide a canopy in front of the structure;

Fig. 2 is a similar view with the flap of the tent being lowered and locked in a closed position;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the temporary exchange service structure with the tent therefor being omitted;

Fig. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary sectional view showing

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the elements of the tent supporting structure in separated relation from each other and the manner of mounting the uprights of the structure to the end shelving units;

Fig. 6 is a cross sectional view taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary detail perspective view showing the manner of connecting an upright to a metal cash drawer counter unit.

Referring more specifically to the drawings, the improved knock-down temporary exchange service, when assembled, comprises a plurality of units detachably fastened together in adjoining relation around the edges of a sectional slatted floor 1 having a greater length than width, said units including rear shelving units, side shelving units and front counter units indicated generally by A, B and C, respectively. The rear shelving units A are constructed of side panels 2 and 2', top and bottom panels 3 and 3' respectively and back panels 4, with shelves 5 which may be adjustably mounted in spaced relation between the side panels 2 and 2'. The side shelving units B are formed into pairs *a*, *a'*, and *b*, *b'*, one pair of each being at one of each of the ends of the slatted floor 1 and constructed of side panels 6 and 6', top and bottom panels 7 and 7', respectively, and rear panels 8, with shelves 9 which may be adjustably mounted in spaced relation between the side panels 6 and 6'. The side shelving units B are greater in width than the rear shelving units A but are of the same height, with the top panels 7 thereof being flush with the top panels 3 of the rear shelving units. The rear shelving units A include end units 10 and intermediate units 11, with the side panels 2 and 2' of the end units 10 abutting against the shelves 9 of the units *a* and *b* of the side shelving units B and with the back panels 4 of the rear end units 10 flush with outer side panels 6 of the side shelving units *a* and *b*. By constructing the top panels 3 of the rear shelving units A flush with the top panels 7 of the side panel units B, a flat top shelf for displaying additional merchandise is provided on the exchange structure.

The counter units C are shorter in height than the rear and side shelving units A and B and include end units 12 and 12', a metal cash drawer middle unit 13, with intermediate units 14 interposed between the end units 12 and 12' and the middle cash drawer unit 13. The end units 12 and 12' and the intermediate units 14 of the counter units C are each formed of knock-down panels including side panels 15 and 15', top and

bottom panels 16 and 16' respectively, front panels 17 and shelves 18, with the side panel 15' of the end shelving counter unit 12' abutting against the inner portions of the side shelving unit b'. The end shelving unit 12 of the counter units C has an entrance gate mounted thereon which is indicated generally by D. The entrance gate D consists of a vertically extending gate panel 19 connected by hinges 20 to the outer edge of the front panel 17 of the end shelving counter unit 12 and a longitudinally extending top flap gate panel 21 connected at one end by hinges 22 to the outer edge of the top panel 16, of the end counter unit 12 whereby the top gate panel 21 may be swung upwardly and the vertical panel 19 swung outwardly. The free ends of the gate panels 19 and 21 are adapted to abut against the inner portions of the side shelving unit a'.

The rear and side shelving units A and B are each detachably fastened together in adjoining relation by means of bolts 23 and wing nuts 24, with the bolts 23 fitted into holes formed in the side panels of the respective units, and the end units 10 of the rear shelving units A are detachably connected to the units a and b of the side shelving units B by means of strap irons 25 mounted on the rear shelving units A.

A tent supporting knock-down frame is mounted on the top of the rear and side shelving units A and B and counter unit C, which frame comprises a rectangular shaped frame portion indicated generally by E and composed of longitudinally extending side members or pieces 27, transversely extending cross end members or pieces 28 and a transversely extending middle cross member or piece 29. This rectangular shaped frame portion E is removably mounted on a plurality of posts or uprights including pairs of short posts 30 and 31. One pair 30 of the short posts is removably mounted on the units a and a' of the side shelving units B and another pair 31 of the short posts is removably mounted on the side shelving units b and b' of the shelving units B. A rear short middle post 32 is mounted on a middle rear shelving unit 11' and a middle front post 33 is mounted on the middle metal cash drawer counter unit 13. The front middle post 33 is longer than the rear middle post 32 and extends up to the same height as the rear middle post. Two middle posts or uprights 34 are removably mounted on the side shelving units B, one of each of the posts 34 being positioned between one of each of the pairs of short posts 30 and 31 at the middle thereof. The middle posts 34 are greater in height than the pairs of short posts 30 and 31 and are provided for supporting a middle longitudinally extending ridge member or beam 35 in a higher plane than the frame portion E. Both ends of the posts or uprights are provided with lower and upper pins 36 and 36' respectively, with the pins 36 on the lower ends of the posts being adapted to fit into holes in plates 37 mounted on the top panel 3 of the rear central shelving unit 11' and on the top panels 7 of the side shelving units B. The pin 36 on the lower end of the middle counter front post 33 is threaded for engaging in a threaded aperture 38 provided in a plate 38' mounted on the upper panel 16 of the metal cash drawer counter unit 13, as more particularly illustrated in Fig. 7.

The ends of the ridge member 35 and side pieces 27 are provided with outwardly extending apertured metal tongues 39 for engaging the pins 36' on the upper ends of the middle posts 34 and the short posts 30 and 31 respectively. The ends of the middle cross piece 29 are also provided with outwardly extending apertured metal tongues 40, with the pins 36' on the upper ends of the rear and front middle posts 32 and 33 extending up through the apertures in the metal tongues 40. One end of each of the cross end pieces 28 is provided with an apertured metal tongue 42 whereby one end of the cross end pieces 28 may be removably mounted on the pins 36' on the upper ends of the pairs of short posts 30 and 31 and the other ends of the cross end pieces 28 are suitably attached to the middle ridge supporting posts 34.

A tent 43 made of any suitable material such as canvas including a free front flap portion 44 is adapted to fit over the entire temporary exchange structure as illustrated in Fig. 2, with the flap portion 44 removably fastened to certain of the units by any suitable means such as by the padlocks 46 engaging staples 47 mounted on the units whereby the tent may be held in place on the structure. Upon removing the padlocks 46 from the staples 47 the flap portion 44 of the tent may be raised and suitably supported by poles 49 and ropes 50 connected to stakes 51 driven in the ground to provide a canopy in front of the temporary exchange structure as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 6. Upon removing the ridge member 35 from the pins 36' on the upper ends of the middle posts 34, the side, cross end and middle pieces 27, 28 and 29 from the pins 36' on the upper ends of the remaining posts, and finally the upright posts from the units and by unscrewing the nuts 24 from the bolts 23, the units may be disassembled.

After the various elements of the temporary exchange structure have been disassembled, the metal cash drawer unit 13; the top panels, bottom panels, shelves, gate and flap gate of the counter units; tent poles, stakes and all hardware, tent and the sectional slatted floor may be separately crated for transport by air or in any other manner if desired. The units may be provided with removable front panels (not shown) for transporting the merchandise without removing it from the units if desired.

It will thus be seen that there has herein been provided a novel and efficient form of a temporary exchange structure which is well adapted for the purpose intended. Even though there has herein been shown and described certain features of construction and operation of parts, it is nevertheless to be understood that various changes may be made therein, if the changes do not depart from the spirit or scope of the claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and wish to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A portable building structure comprising front, rear and end walls formed of detachable interconnected box-like units arranged side by side and provided with shelves which are accessible from the interior of the structure, the front wall of said structure being of less height than the rear and side walls and the top of said front wall being adapted to serve as a service counter, uprights connected to the structure at the outer corners of the rear and side walls, a central upright attached to the top of said side walls, and a cross member connected to said central upright and detachably connected to said uprights located at the corners of said side walls, a ridge member detachably connected to the upper ex-

tremity of the central uprights, and a canvas cover supported by said ridge member.

2. A portable building structure comprising front, rear, and end walls arranged in rectangular formation about a centrally located slatted floor, said walls being formed of detachably interconnected box-like units arranged side by side and provided with shelves which are accessible from the interior of the structure, the front wall of the structure being of less height than the rear and side walls, and the top of said front wall being adapted to serve as a counter, corner uprights connected to the structure at the outer corners of the rear and side walls, end cross piece assemblies mounted on the end walls, each of which assemblies comprises a central upright mounted on the top of an end wall and a horizontal cross member connected to the corner uprights and to the central upright, a ridge member detachably connected to the central upright at each end of the structure and a flexible cover supported by said central ridge member to form a tent covering.

3. A portable building structure comprising front, rear, and end walls arranged in rectangular formation about a centrally located slatted floor, said walls being formed of detachably interconnected box-like units arranged side by side and provided with shelves which are accessible from the interior of the structure, the front wall of the structure being of less height than the rear and side walls, and the top of said front wall being adapted to serve as a counter, corner uprights detachably connected to the structure at the outer corners of the rear and side walls, end assemblies mounted on the end walls, each of which assemblies comprises a central upright mounted on the top of an end wall and a horizontal cross member connected to the corner uprights, and to the central upright, a ridge member detachably connected to the central upright at each end of the structure, additional uprights connected to the central portion of the rear and front walls and longitudinal frame members extending from between the said additional uprights parallel to the upper surfaces of the rear and front walls forming a rectangular frame with the horizontal cross members at each end of the structure, a canvas covering supported by the ridge member and projecting in front of the counter, poles for supporting the canvas cover, and tie cords for holding the canvas cover in extended position.

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