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SHIRT NECKBAND AND BOSOM STAY.
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Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

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Shirt Neckband and Bosom Stay.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, Retlaw Rolker, a citizen of the United States, residing at Berkeley, in the county of Alameda and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Shirt Neckband and Bosom Stays, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a device and means to protect the neckbands and bosoms of shirts from being crushed out of shape when stacked up in quantities, on sale, or returned from the laundry.

It consists of a narrow flexible strip rigid transversely, and adapted to fit within and support the neckband, and to fold so as to form an extension down the bosom front, and having a means to secure it operably in place.

It also comprises details of construction which will be more fully explained by reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the strip applied. Fig. 2 is a rear perspective view of the strip folded. Fig. 3 is an elevation of the strip.

When shirts and like goods, having a neckband, are finished, or laundered and packed up for return or storage, the pressure of the pile tends to crush the neckband and make angular folds and projections which are disfiguring and are disagreeable to the wearer. The starched bosoms of dress shirts are also similarly wrinkled or folded at their junction with the neckband.

It is the object of my invention to overcome this difficulty, and in carrying it out I employ a strip A of sufficiently rigid pasteboard, or equivalent material, having a width substantially equal to the height of the neckband of the shirt. The strip is long enough to pass around the inside of the neckband, and be so folded at the front as to change its direction and cause it to pass over the front of the neckband and thence down the overlapping edges of the bosom opening, either outside or inside, where this extension may be fixed and secured by attachment to the buttons. For this purpose, the ends of the strip A are slit, as at 2, the slits being adapted to pass over and lock with the fastening of the upper shirt button. Eyelet holes 3 are also made at suitable points to fit and be secured to the stud at the front of the neckband.

One end only need be provided with these slits and holes, but in order to make the strips easy to insert and handle, both ends are alike. At points contiguous to the buttonholes 3, and upon each side thereof the strip is scored, as at 4, to enable it to be easily folded transversely, and at 5 is a diagonal scoring, upon which the strip may be folded to change the direction after passing around the neck, so that it will extend down the bosom front. The device is then applied as follows: One end of the stay strip is coiled around the interior of the neckband until the diagonal score 5 is at the front, and the strip is then folded on this line so that it is turned substantially to a right angle. It is then folded on one of the horizontal scores 4 to pass over the top of the neckband, at the front of which the eyelet hole is secured to the neck stud or button, below which the strip is again bent on the other transverse score, and extends thence down the front of the bosom, either between the front edges or outside, and the slit 2 is engaged with a button and thus secured firmly in position. In this manner I form a reinforce lining the neckband which is so stiff that no ordinary force will be sufficient to crush it.

When the shirt is being worn, I insert the fastening under the bosom stay strip, and fasten it at the front, thus holding the bosom stay strip securely in position. By using this material and device, I am enabled to make shirts that are not easily distorted and are well protected from being crushed out of shape.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. A neckband and bosom stay coiled in contact with the inside of the neckband, thence folded over the top of said band, and thence down the center of the bosom front, and having slits and eyelets to engage the buttons and neck stud.

2. A neckband and bosom stay, comprising a longitudinally flexible, transversely rigid strip adapted to coil within and support the neckband, said strip having a di-
agonal fold to brace and change the direction of the strip, a contiguous transverse fold across the upper front edge of the band, and a parallel fold at the bottom exteriorly of the band, said band having an eyelet hole to engage the collar-button, and an end slit to engage a button of the shirt bosom.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

RETLAW ROLKERR.

Witnesses:

JOHN H. HERRING,
W. W. HEALEY.