Aug. 30, 1932. J. C. SEYL 1,874,367

FILING CABINET

Filed May 20, 1929 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

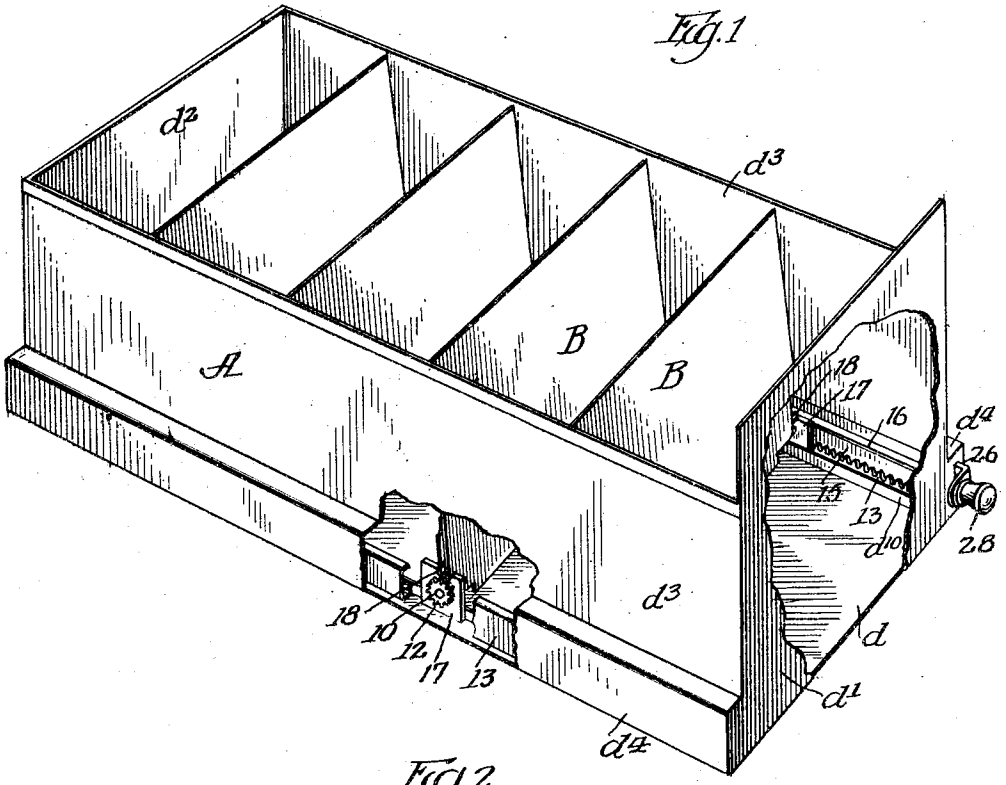
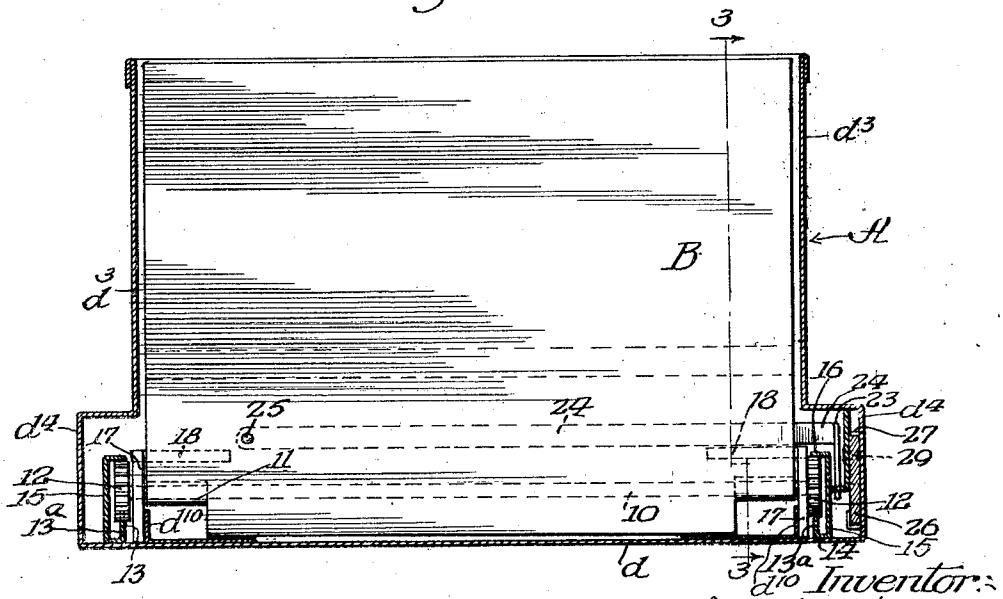


Fig. 2



Inventor:
Joseph C. Seyl
By Fred Gerlach Atty.

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Fig. 3

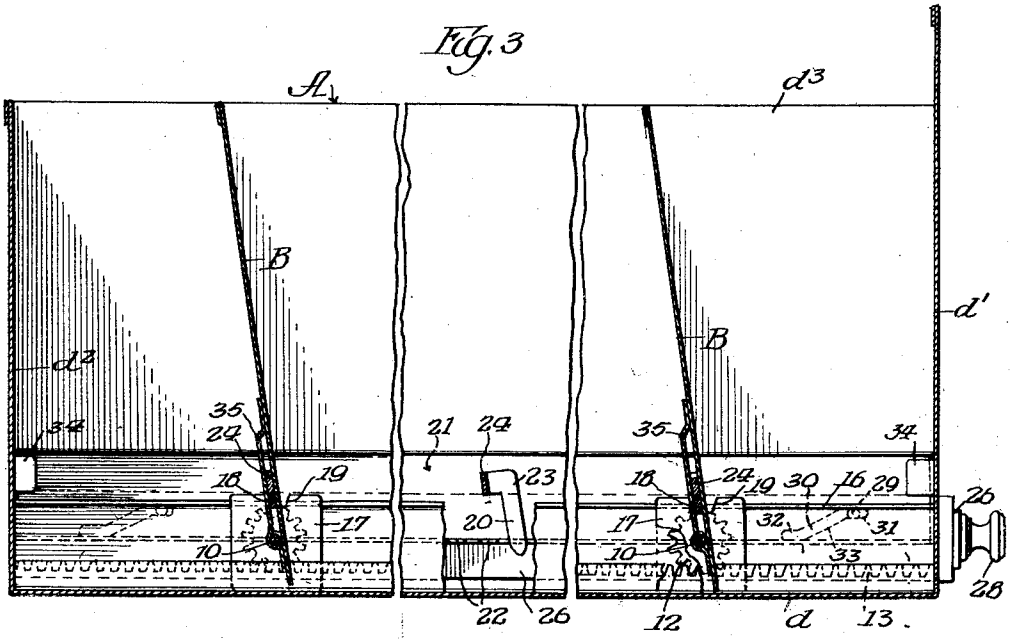


Fig. 4.

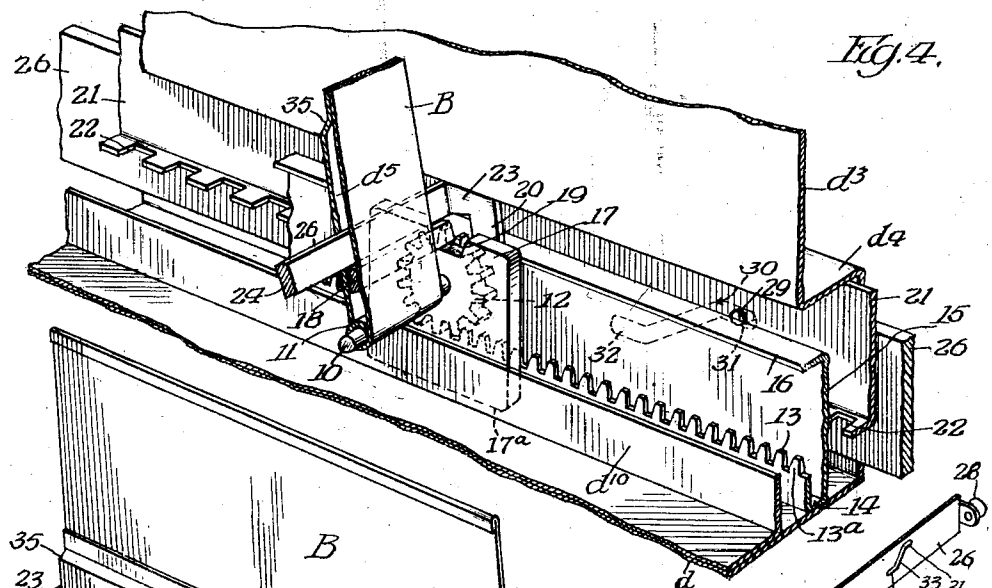


Fig. 5

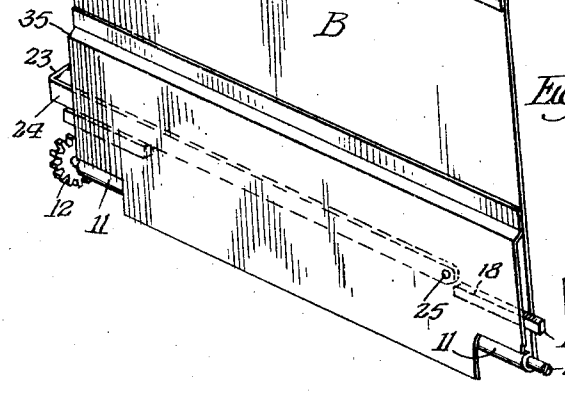
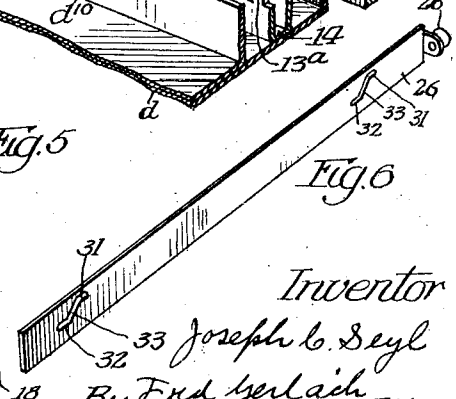


Fig. 6



Inventor

Joseph C. Seyl

By Fred Gerlach Atty.

Patented Aug. 30, 1932 1,874,367

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

JOSEPH C. SEYL, OF EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

FILING CABINET

Application filed May 20, 1929. Serial No. 364,407.

The present invention relates generally to drawers for filing cabinets. More particularly the invention relates to that type of filing cabinet drawer which embodies devices for holding longitudinally adjustable and pivotally movable partition plates in positions for separating groups of papers from one another.

The object of the invention is to provide an improved filing cabinet drawer in which the partition plates are supported so they are free to swing forwardly and backwardly to a limited degree and are longitudinally adjustable.

Another object of the invention is the provision of improved locking means for securing the longitudinally adjustable and pivotally movable partition plates in different positions so the depth of the spaces between the plates may be varied as desired.

Another object of the invention is to provide a filing drawer of the type under consideration which is generally of new and improved construction and may be produced at a comparatively low cost.

Other objects of the invention and the various advantages and characteristics of the present drawer construction will be apparent from a consideration of the following detailed description.

The invention consists in the several novel features hereinafter set forth and more particularly defined by the claims at the conclusion hereof.

In the drawings which accompany and form a part of this specification or disclosure and in which like numerals of reference denote corresponding parts throughout the several views: Fig. 1 is a perspective of a filing cabinet drawer embodying the invention, parts being broken away for illustrative purposes. Fig. 2 is a transverse section through the drawer. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a perspective on an enlarged scale of the partition retaining means. Fig. 5 is a perspective of one of the partitions. Fig. 6 is a perspective of the bar for shifting the locking-bar.

The invention is exemplified in a drawer A of that type which is adapted to slide in a cabinet or analogous supporting structure and serves to retain papers in an approximately vertical position. The drawer comprises a bottom wall d, a front wall d', a back wall d^2 and side walls d^3. The lower portions of the side walls are outwardly channelled, as at d^4, to form runways on which the drawer may slide. A series of partitions B are provided in the drawer to divide it into a series of compartments for holding groups of papers separate from one another. These partitions are pivotally movable to a limited degree to permit them to be swung forwardly to provide access to the papers in the back thereof when desired, and to swing backwardly of the vertical plane at other times. The drawer and partitions are preferably formed of sheet metal.

Each partition is pivotally mounted adjacent its lower end on a cross-shaft 10. The lower corner portions of the partition are bent around the shaft, as at 11, to connect the partition so it may move pivotally on the shaft, and so it will be movable bodily longitudinally with the shaft. To insure the rectilinear movement of the partition and shaft 10, pinions 12 are fixedly secured to the ends of the shaft respectively and mesh with racks 13 which extend longitudinally of the drawer. The pinions, being secured together for conjoint rotation, will cause all portions of the partition to move equidistantly and longitudinally of the drawer when the partition is manually shifted, and prevent the partition from assuming an oblique position across the drawer. Racks 13 are formed of sheet metal strips which extend throughout the length of the drawer and comprise vertical flanges 13^a having the rack teeth cut therein, bottom members 14 welded or otherwise secured to the bottom d of the drawer, vertical walls 15 at the outer side of the pinions 12 to confine the pinions and shaft against movement crosswise of the drawer, and horizontal top flanges 16 extending over the top parts of the pinions to hold them in engagement with the rack. Plates 17, through which the shaft 10 extends, are disposed between the ends of the partition and the contiguous pinions 12 respectively, and their lower edges 17^a slidably engage the bottom d of the drawer so that

they will be held against rotation on shaft 10. Strips 18 are welded or otherwise secured to the back face of the partition, and project beyond the edges thereof into notches 19 formed in plates 17 to limit the pivotal movement of the partition around shaft 10. Fixed angle strips *d*—10 guide plates 17 longitudinally.

The lower end of each partition is locked against longitudinal movement while free for limited pivotal movement by a vertically movable dog 20 which is adapted to engage a locking bar 21. The latter has notches 22 for receiving the lower ends of the dogs 20. Each dog 20 is formed on a longitudinally extending portion 23 of an arm 24 which extends across the back of the partition, and is pivoted adjacent the opposite end thereof, as at 25. Bar 21 is formed of sheet-metal, and the notches 22 are formed in a horizontal flange thereof. This locking bar is vertically movable so that it may be shipped downwardly to clear the dogs 20 and thus permit the partitions to be longitudinally and manually adjusted. The arms 24 are pivoted to permit the dogs to rise in the event that the notches 22 do not register with the lower ends of the dogs when the locking bar is raised into its normal position. Whenever the dogs fail to register with the notches 22, the partitions may be manually shifted to bring the dogs into position to drop into the notches and thus lock the lower portions of the partitions against longitudinal movement. The mechanism for operating the locking bar 21 comprises a flat bar 26 which fits against the inner face of the channelled portion d^4 of one of the drawer sides, and is held so it may slide longitudinally in the drawer by instruck tongues 27 which are integral with the drawer sides. The front of shifter bar 26 extends through the front wall d' of the drawer at one corner thereof, and is provided with a handle 28 so it can be shifted to operate the locking bar. A pair of studs 29 are rigidly secured to the locking bar 21. These studs extend respectively into cam slots 30 which are formed in the shifter bar 26. Each of these cam slots comprises a horizontal portion 31 at the top thereof, a horizontal portion 32 at the bottom thereof, and an oblique connecting portion 33. The portions 31 of the slot are provided so that when the shifter bar 26 is pushed inwardly, and the locking bar 21 is raised, said portions 31 will lock the studs 29 against vertical movement, so that the locking bar 21 cannot be vertically displaced. When the bar 26 is pulled outwardly, the straight portions 32 of the slots will lock the studs 29 therein against vertical movement to hold the locking bar in its lowered position. Lugs 34 project inwardly from the front and back walls of the drawer and serve to hold the locking bar 21 against the shifter bar 26. Each partition has secured to its back, a plate 35, the upper and lower edges of which are welded or otherwise secured to the back of the partition, and the intermediate portion of which is spaced therefrom. These plates serve to reinforce the lower portion of the partitions and also serve to guide the arms 24 which carry the locking dogs 20. When it is desired to adjust the spacing between the partitions B, the operator will pull the handle 28 outwardly which will cause the shifter bar 26, through slots 30 and studs 29, to lower the locking bar sufficiently to release the dogs 20. Thereupon the partitions may be manually shifted longitudinally of the drawer to any desired positions. When the partitions have been shifted, the shifter bar will be pushed inwardly to raise the locking bar 21, whereupon the dogs will pass into the notches 22 to lock the lower portions of the partitions against longitudinal movement. Should any of the dogs 20 be out of registry with the slots 22, they will be lifted, and upon a further longitudinal shift of the partitions, they will fall by gravity into the spaces to lock the lower ends of the partitions. While the lower ends of the partitions are locked against longitudinal movement, by reason of the locking of the shafts 10, they will be free at all times to swing forwardly or backwardly within the limits permitted by the notches 19 in plates 17, and the stop strips 18 on the partitions. The plates 17 serve to space the partitions from the pinions 12 and are longitudinally movable with the partitions and shafts 10.

The invention exemplifies an improved built-in filing drawer that comprises partitions which have a limited pivotal movement to permit the partitions to be swung forwardly and backwardly for convenience in inspection, placement, or removal of the papers between the partitions. The invention also exemplifies a drawer which is provided with partitions that are rectilinearly adjustable longitudinally of the drawer and are associated with mechanism for locking them in their desired positions.

The drawer herein disclosed is simple in construction and may be produced at a low cost.

The invention is not to be understood as restricted to the details set forth, since these may be modified within the scope of the appended claims, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

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

1. The combination with a filing drawer, of a partition extending substantially vertically in the drawer, means for pivotally supporting the lower end of the partition, said means being adjustable longitudinally in the drawer by horizontal shift movement only, and stop-means for limiting the pivotal

movement of the partition while the supporting means is in any of its adjusted positions.

2. The combination with a filing drawer, of a partition extending substantially vertically in the drawer, means for pivotally supporting the lower end of the partition, said means being adjustable longitudinally in the drawer to permit the partition to be shifted bodily either forwardly or backwardly, and means for limiting the pivotal movement of the partition while said partition is in any of its shifted positions, said limiting means including a stop element associated with the supporting means.

3. The combination with a filing drawer, of a partition extending substantially vertically in the drawer, means for pivotally supporting the lower end of the partition, said means being adjustable longitudinally in the drawer in order to permit the partition to be shifted bodily either forwardly or backwardly, and coacting stop elements for limiting the pivotal movement of the partition while said partition is in any of its shifted positions, one of the elements being mounted on the partition and the other being connected to the supporting means.

4. The combination with a filing drawer, of a plurality of partitions extending substantially vertically in the drawer, means for pivotally supporting the lower ends of the partitions, said means being adjustable longitudinally in the drawer by horizontal shift movement only in order to permit the partitions to be shifted either backwardly or forwardly in the drawer, and stop devices for individually limiting the pivotal movement of the partitions while said partitions are in any of their shifted positions.

5. The combination with a filing drawer, of a plurality of partitions extending substantially vertically in the drawer, pivotal supporting means for the lower ends of the partitions adjustable longitudinally in the drawer, and stop devices for individually limiting the pivotal movement of the partitions respectively, said devices including elements connected to the partitions and shiftable with said partitions during adjustment of the supporting means.

6. The combination with a filing drawer, of a partition extending substantially vertically in the drawer, pivotal supporting means for the lower end of the partition adjustable longitudinally in the drawer by horizontal shift movement only in order to permit the partition to be moved either backwardly or forwardly, and means for locking the supporting means in its various adjusted positions, and at the same time permitting limited pivotal movement of the partition.

7. The combination with a filing drawer, of a partition extending substantially vertically in the drawer, pivotal supporting means for the lower end of the partition adjustable longitudinally in the drawer by horizontal shift movement only in order to permit the partition to be shifted either backwardly or forwardly, stop means for limiting the pivotal movement of the partition while it is in any of its shifted positions, and means for retaining the supporting means in its various adjusted positions.

8. The combination with a filing drawer, of a plurality of partitions extending substantially vertically in the drawer, individual pivotal supporting means for the lower ends of the partitions adjustable longitudinally in the drawer by horizontal shift movement only in order to permit the partitions to be shifted either backwardly or forwardly, stop means for limiting the pivotal movement of the partitions while they are in any of their shifted positions, and conjointly releasable devices for retaining the supporting means in their various adjusted positions.

9. The combination with a filing drawer, of a partition extending substantially vertically in the drawer, pivotal supporting means for the lower end of the partition movable longitudinally in the drawer, means for confining the supporting means so that it is movable only in a rectilinear path, stop-means for limiting the pivotal movement of the partition, and means for retaining said supporting means in its different positions in the drawer.

10. The combination with a filing drawer, of a plurality of partitions extending substantially vertically in the drawer, individual pivotal supporting means for the lower ends of the partitions longitudinally movable in the drawer, means for confining the supporting means so they are movable only in a rectilinear path, stop-means for individually limiting the pivotal movements of the partitions, and conjointly releasable devices for retaining the supporting means for the several partitions in their different positions in the drawer.

11. The combination with a filing drawer, of a partition extending substantially vertically in the drawer, pivotal supporting means for the lower end of the partition longitudinally adjustable in the drawer, stop-means to limit the pivotal movement of the partition, and means for retaining said supporting means in different longitudinal positions in the drawer, comprising an element on the partition and a longitudinally extending locking bar engageable with said element.

12. In combination, a filing drawer having a longitudinal channel formed in one of its walls, a partition extending substantially vertically in the drawer, supporting means for the lower end of the partition longitudinally adjustable in the drawer, and means for retaining said supporting means in different longitudinal positions in the drawer, com-

prising an element on the partition and a longitudinally extending locking bar in the channel engageable with said element.

13. In combination, a filing drawer having a longitudinal channel formed in one of its walls, a partition extending substantially vertically in the drawer, supporting means for the lower end of the partition, longitudinally adjustable in the drawer, means for retaining said supporting means in different longitudinal positions in the drawer, comprising a longitudinally extending locking bar, and an element on the partition, and a shifter bar for the locking bar disposed in the channel.

14. The combination with a filing drawer, of a partition adapted to extend substantially vertically in the drawer, means for supporting the partition so that it is longitudinally adjustable in the drawer, comprising pinions and rack bars, and means for retaining said partition in different longitudinal positions in the drawer.

15. In combination, a filing drawer having longitudinal channels in the side walls thereof, a partition extending substantially vertically in the drawer, means for supporting the partition so that it is longitudinally adjustable in the drawer, comprising pinions and rack bars disposed at the sides of the partition and in said channels, and means for retaining said partition in different longitudinal positions in the drawer.

16. The combination with a filing drawer, of a partition extending substantially vertically in the drawer, supporting means for the partition, longitudinally adjustable in the drawer, and means for retaining said supporting means in different longitudinal positions in the drawer, comprising a vertically movable element on the partition, and a rack-bar engaged by said element.

17. The combination with a filing drawer, of a partition extending substantially vertically in the drawer, supporting means for the partition, longitudinally adjustable in the drawer, means for retaining said supporting means in different longitudinal positions in the drawer, comprising an element on the partition having limited vertical movement, and a rack-bar extending lengthwise of the drawer and arranged so that the element may drop into engagement therewith, and a shifter bar slidable longitudinally in the drawer and operative to shift the rack-bar past the range of movement of the element in order to effect release of the retaining means.

18. The combination with a filing drawer, of a partition extending substantially vertically in the drawer, supporting means for the partition longitudinally adjustable in the drawer, and means for retaining said supporting means in different longitudinal positions in the drawer, comprising a rack bar extending lengthwise of the drawer, and an element mounted on the partition to overlie the rack-bar and movable vertically to a limited extent so that it is free to drop into engagement with the rack-bar, said rack-bar being movable vertically past the range of movement of the element so that it may be shifted out of engagement with the element in order to effect release of the retaining means.

19. The combination with a filing drawer, of a partition extending substantially vertically in the drawer, supporting means for the partition adjustable longitudinally in the drawer and comprising a cross-shaft, pinions at the ends of the shaft, and longitudinal rack bars secured in the drawer and meshing with the pinions, means for retaining the pinions in engagement with the racks, and means for retaining the pinions and shaft in different longitudinal positions in the drawer.

20. The combination with a filing drawer, of a partition extending substantially vertically in the drawer, supporting means for the partition adjustable longitudinally in the drawer and comprising a cross-shaft, pinions at the end of the shaft, and longitudinal rack bars secured in the drawer and meshing with the pinions, flanges and walls for retaining the pinions in engagement with the racks, and means for retaining the pinions and shaft in different longitudinal positions in the drawer.

21. The combination with a filing drawer, of a partition extending substantially vertically in the drawer, supporting means for the partition, adjustable longitudinally in the drawer, means for retaining said supporting means in different longitudinal positions in the drawer, comprising an element on the partition, and a vertically movable locking bar engageable by said element, and releasing means for said retaining means comprising a longitudinally slidable bar, and stud and cam slot connections between said slidable bar and the locking bar.

22. In combination, a drawer, an upstanding partition in the drawer, a mount whereby the partition is held in connected relation with respect to the drawer and supported so that it is free to be swung forwardly and backwardly and shifted bodily throughout substantially the entire length of the drawer, and means for locking the partition in its various shifted positions, and at the same time permitting limited swinging movement of the partition at any one of said positions.

23. In combination, a drawer, an upstanding partition in the drawer, a mount whereby the partition is held in connected relation with respect to the drawer and supported so that it is free to be swung forwardly and backwardly and shifted bodily throughout substantially the entire length of the drawer,

and means independent of said mount for locking the partition in its shifted adjusted positions.

24. In combination, a drawer, an upstanding partition disposed in the drawer and mounted so that it is free to be swung forwardly and backwardly and shifted bodily longitudinally in the drawer, and means for locking the partition in its various shifted positions comprising a locking member on the partition and a bar having a longitudinal series of openings therein through which openings an end of the locking member is insertable, said openings being sufficiently large to permit movement of the locking member when the partition is swung forwardly and backwardly.

Signed at Chicago, Illinois, this 29th day of April, 1929.

JOSEPH C. SEYL.