W. J. SIMANEK.

TOBACCO CASE OR CABINET.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 3, 1908.

908,344. Patented Dec. 29, 1908.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

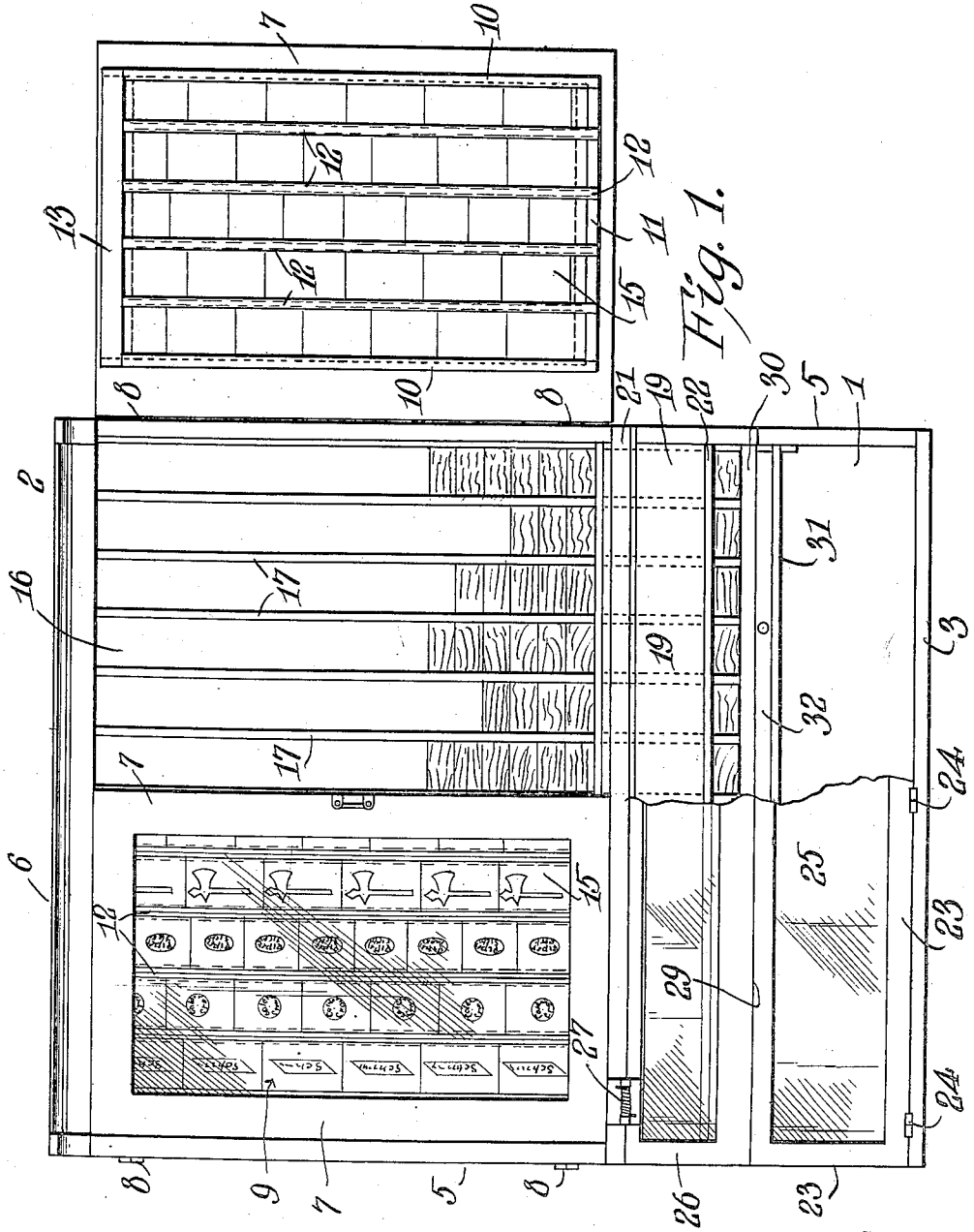

Fig. 1.

Witnesses

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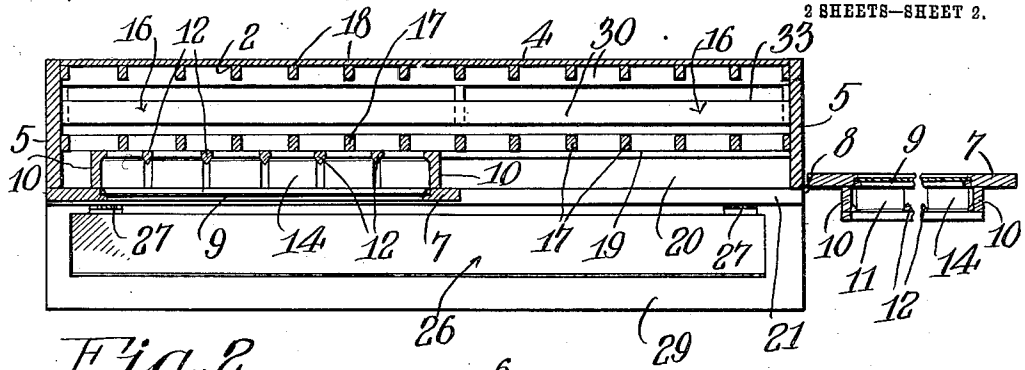

Fig. 2.

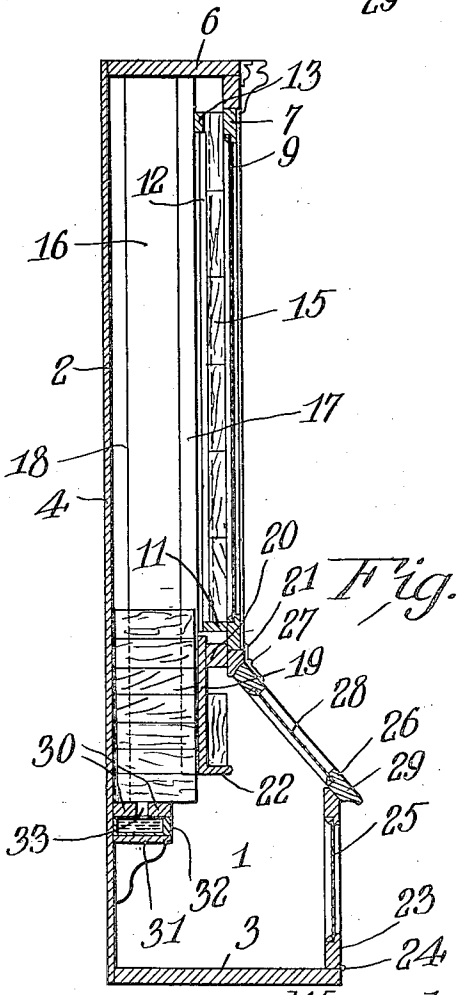

Fig. 3.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WENZEL J. SIMANEK, OF RACINE, WISCONSIN.

TOBACCO CASE OR CABINET.

No. 908,344. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 29, 1908.

Application filed April 3, 1908. Serial No. 424,990.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WENZEL J. SIMANEK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Racine, in the county of Racine and State of Wisconsin, have invented new and useful Improvements in Tobacco Cases or Cabinets, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in cases or cabinets especially designed for the use of tobacconists in storing and displaying tobacco in packages or otherwise for sale, the object of the invention being to provide a construction of cabinet wherein the different brands of tobacco are arranged in tiers or columns for an automatic feed into the base of the cabinet, which is provided with an automatically closing door through which access may be obtained to such portion of the cabinet for removal of the goods, the upper portion of the cabinet being provided as usual with main doors, which are opened only at such times when it becomes necessary to replenish the cabinet with goods, thus obviating the necessity of opening such doors each time a sale is made, and thus exposing the goods to dust, dirt and atmospheric changes.

A further object of the invention is to provide a construction of case or cabinet of this character whereby the extraction of any particular brand of goods is facilitated and the amount of time and labor in handling the goods and making sales considerably reduced, as well as to provide simple and effective means for keeping the tobacco moist and in good condition.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a cabinet having main doors with display frames or racks upon the inner faces thereof behind the usual glass panels, in which frames or racks brands of tobacco of the character sold by the merchant may be placed for permanent display, so that the case or cabinet will at all times have the appearance from without of being filled with goods and of the latter being stored or arranged therein in an orderly and tasteful manner.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of the features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a tobacco case or cabinet embodying my invention, showing one of the main doors thrown open and a portion of the base of the cabinet broken away to better disclose the interior construction. Fig. 2 is a horizontal section through the upright section of the cabinet, showing one of the main doors closed and the other open, the latter being broken away to confine the illustration to the prescribed space. Fig. 3 is a vertical front to rear section through the cabinet with the doors thereof closed.

In carrying my invention into practice, I preferably make the case or cabinet of conventional form, but the shape of the cabinet and the details of construction thereof may be modified as desired and as circumstances may require within the scope of the invention. As shown, the cabinet comprises a base section 1 and an upright section 2, and is formed in general of a bottom 3, a rear wall 4, side walls 5 and stop wall 6, the back and side walls being common to the base and upright section in the construction herein disclosed.

The side walls are extended at their lower ends to increase the size of the base compartment or to project the same forwardly a desired distance in advance of the front of the upright section 2, which latter is provided with the ordinary framing for a pair of swinging main doors 7 adapted to close the open front thereof. These doors are hinged at their outer edges, as at 8, to the side walls 5 and may be provided at their free or meeting edges with any suitable type of fastening means to hold them closed. Each of these doors is provided with a glass pane or panel 9 in rear of which is disposed a display frame or rack for holding packages or articles of goods of the kind contained within the cabinet for sale. Each display frame consists of a pair of vertical sides pieces 10 secured to the side stiles of the door, a bottom piece 11, and a vertical series of spaced bars or strips 12 secured at their lower ends to the bottom piece 11 and at their upper ends to a cross strip 13 fixed to the inner or rear edges of the side pieces 10, thus forming a series of vertical compartments 14 for the reception of different brands of goods, the packages of which, indicated at 15, rest upon the bottom piece 11 and are introduced into the respective compartments through the inlet space formed between the upper cross piece of the door and the transverse strip 13. The pack-

ages are arranged in the compartments behind the glass panel 9 so that their printed faces will show therethrough, thus indicating the character of the goods contained in the cabinet. The doors 7 are designed in practice to be opened only when it is necessary to replenish the interior compartments in which the goods to be sold are contained, and which are extracted therefrom through the base, so that the goods contained in the frames or racks on the doors will be permanently displayed, thus giving the appearance from the exterior of the cabinet being at all times filled with goods arranged in an orderly and tasteful manner.

The upright section 2 is provided with a series of hoppers or guideways 16 formed by sets of alined front and rear vertical strips or cleats 17 and 18, the former being secured at their upper ends to the top wall 6 and at their lower ends to a transverse vertical partition 19, and the latter to the rear wall 4. The partition 19 consists of a board or plate extending between the side walls 5 and secured at its ends thereto and at its upper edge to a cross-piece 20 arranged in rear of the sill piece 21 of the main door frames, and depending therefrom into the upper portion of the base compartment and provided at its lower edge with a forwardly extending flange 22. The lower portion of the base compartment is closed by a door 23 hinged at its lower edge to the bottom wall 3 as at 24, and provided with a glass panel 25, said door being provided with any suitable means for normally holding it in closed position. The door is located some distance in advance of the front of the upright section and is beveled at its upper edge to form a support for an upwardly swinging door 26 hinged at its upper edge to the sill piece 21, as at 27, and provided with a glass panel 28 and beveled or cut away and at its lower forward edge to adapt it to be conveniently gripped for elevation. The door 23 gives access to the base compartment for the purpose of applying and removing the moisture pan, as hereinafter described, as well as for applying and removing a store of tobacco or any other kinds of goods which the dealer may desire to place therein prior to arranging such goods within his cases for sale. The door 26, on the other hand, forms what may be termed a dispensing door or closure which is opened to admit access to the base compartment from which the goods in the hopper 16 are removed for sale, the door 23 being only opened occasionally for the purpose previously described and the doors 7 opened only when it is necessary to replenish the hoppers. The hinges 27 are in the nature of spring hinges operating to automatically depress and close the door 26 as soon as it is released.

The packages or boxes of the different brands of tobacco are arranged in vertical tiers or columns in the compartment 16, and the lower box or package of each column rests upon a shelf in the base compartment formed by a pair of spaced bars or strips 30 suitably fixed to the walls of the base compartment above a horizontal shelf or bracket 31, the space between said shelf 30 and bracket 31 forming a receptacle for a removable moisture pan or drawer 32, adapted to contain a sufficient supply of water to keep the contents of the case or cabinet properly moist for a definite length of time. This pan may be removed for cleansing or to be replenished with water upon swinging the door 23, as will be readily understood. By spacing the bars or strips 30 forming the upper shelf, a slot or opening 33 is provided through which the water contained in the pan is brought into communication with the lower ends of the hoppers 16, so that in the evaporation of the water the vapor will pass upward between the packages of tobacco and keep the same moist and in proper condition for dispensation.

The front strips 17 of the guideways terminate in line with the lower edge of the shelf 19, while the rear strips 18 extend down to the shelf 30, thus leaving an intervening space below the flange 22 for the ready and easy removal of the lower package of the column of goods in each hopper. The shelf 30 is sufficiently wide to effectually support the goods, but is of less width than the length of the packages, so that the forward ends of the latter will project beyond the same and lie close to the flange 22 so that they may be readily and conveniently gripped through the opening closed by the door 26. The partition 19 not only forms a guide and shield at the lower ends of the hoppers, but is also designed to perform the function of a rack to support sample packages of tobacco. These packages are placed upon the flange 22 and rest against the body of the partition immediately in front of the respective hoppers 16 and show through the glass panel of the door 26. By this means the dealer may arrange the sample packages on the shelf 22 so that it may be determined through the door 26 the nature of the brands of packages behind the respective sample packages in the compartments 16, such sample packages thus acting as guides by which the removal of the lower package from a hopper containing any particular brand of goods may be facilitated.

It will be understood from the foregoing description that the main doors are opened and their display frames filled with the desired packages to indicate the nature of the contents of the case, after which the hoppers 16 are filled with the packages of tobacco and the main doors closed, after which the sample or indicating packages are placed upon the flange 22 of the partition rack 19 and the

door 26, which has been opened for that purpose, finally closed, thus placing the cabinet in condition for use, assuming that the water pan has been previously filled and applied in position to keep the contents of the cabinet moist. When a customer desires a package of a particular brand of tobacco, the dealer then simply opens the door 26, places his hand beneath the flange 22 in the base compartment and grasps and pulls outward the bottom package of the column holding the packages of that brand of goods, and then withdraws the package, whereupon the door 26 will automatically close and the remaining packages of the column in question fall by gravity until the next succeeding bottom package rests upon the shelf 30. This operation is repeated in the making of successive sales, the doors 7 being kept closed until it is necessary to again replenish the hoppers so that the access of dirt and dust and the admission of flies to the cabinet will be avoided and the goods prevented from being affected by rapid climatic changes through the repeated exposure of the goods upon the opening of the main doors, as in cases or cabinets of ordinary construction.

The advantages of the improved case or cabinet will, it is thought, be fully understood from the foregoing description, and in addition it may be stated that the simple process of removing a package for sale before stated results in the saving of a great deal of time and labor over the customary practice of opening and closing a main door and removing a single package from a pile, and at the same time the goods are stored and kept in better condition and prevented from drying out, while the cabinet always presents a neat and attractive appearance.

Having thus fully described the invention, what is claimed as new is:—

1. A tobacco case or cabinet, comprising an upright portion and a base portion extending in advance of the upright portion, said upright portion being provided with a series of hoppers for holding columns of packages and extending at their lower ends into the upper part of the base portion, means within the base portion for supporting the columns of packages in the hoppers and permitting projection of the lower packages to adapt them to be grasped for removal, an outwardly opening main door for closing the front part of the base portion, a forwardly swinging self-closing dispensing door for closing the upper front part of the base portion and adapted to rest in closed position upon said main door, and a shield arranged in the base portion in line with said dispensing door and adapted to conceal the lower ends of the hoppers and to support corresponding display packages of goods, said dispensing door being provided with a transparent panel through which said display packages may be viewed.

2. A tobacco case or cabinet having an upright portion and a base portion extending in advance of the upright portion, said upright portion being provided with a series of hoppers extending down into the base portion and provided at their lower ends with means for supporting columns or tiers of goods therein above the bottom of the base portion, said supporting means being of a size relatively to the packages of goods to permit the lower package of each column to project forwardly beyond the same to be grasped for removal, an automatically closing dispensing door at the front of the base portion, and a shield arranged in the base portion in line with the door and arranged to conceal the lower ends of the hoppers and adapted to support corresponding display packages of goods, said door being provided with a glass panel through which said display packages may be viewed.

3. A tobacco case or cabinet comprising an upright portion and a base portion extending in advance of the upright portion, said upright portion being provided with a series of hoppers for holding columns of packages and extending at their lower ends into the upper part of the base portion, means within the base portion for supporting the columns of packages in the hoppers and permitting projection of the lower packages to permit them to be grasped for removal, an automatically closing door at the front of the base portion provided with a transparent panel, and means within the base portion for supporting display packages so as to be viewed through said panel and arranged to cover and conceal all except the lowermost packages in the hoppers.

4. A tobacco case or cabinet having a base compartment and an upper compartment, said upper compartment being provided with a series of hoppers extending at their lower ends into the base compartment, supporting means in the base compartment at the lower ends of the hoppers for supporting the packages of goods and exposing the bottom package of the column of packages in each hopper for removal, a self-closing door for the bottom compartment having a transparent panel through which the interior thereof may be viewed, a shield within said compartment between the door and lower ends of the hoppers for concealing all except the bottom packages, said shield having means for supporting a series of sample packages indicating the character of goods within the hoppers, and main doors for the upper compartment having transparent panels and goods holding racks in rear thereof.

5. A tobacco case or cabinet comprising an upright portion and a base portion extending in advance of the upright portion, said upright portion being provided with a series of hoppers extending at their lower

ends into the base portion, supporting means within the base portion for the columns of goods disposed in said hoppers, said supporting means being arranged to permit projection of the lower packages of the columns so that they may be readily grasped for removal, a dispensing door closing the upper front part of the base portion, said door being adapted to swing upwardly and to automatically close and provided with a glass panel, and a transverse partition forming a shield disposed between the door and lower ends of the hoppers to conceal all except the lowermost packages in the latter, said shield being provided with means for supporting sample packages for display through said door.

6. A tobacco case or cabinet provided with an upright portion and a base portion, an automatically closing door affording access to the base portion, goods-holding hoppers within the upright portion and extending at their lower ends into the base portion, a shelf within the base portion, a support above said shelf forming therewith a receiving chamber open at the front, said support being arranged to form a seat for the columns of goods in the hoppers and perforated for communication between said chamber and the hoppers, a moisture pan removably mounted in said chamber, and a shield concealing the lower portions of the hoppers and terminating above said support and provided with means for holding display packages, the said door being provided with a transparent panel through which said packages are displayed.

7. A tobacco case or cabinet comprising an upright portion and a base portion, hoppers within the upright portion and extending at their lower ends into the base portion, the latter having means therein for supporting packages of goods in said hoppers and exposing the bottom packages of the columns of goods for removal, an automatically closing dispensing door at the upper front part of the base portion, said door being provided with a transparent panel, a shield in the base portion covering the lower front portions of the hoppers and provided with means for supporting display packages for exposure through said panel, and main doors for the upright portion, each having a glass panel and a stationary rack upon the inner side thereof, said rack providing compartments for columns of packages adapted to be displayed through said panel.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WENZEL J. SIMANEK.

Witnesses:
JOSEPH C. HAMATA,
BENJ. OLSEN.