No. 882,856. PATENTED MAR. 24, 1908.

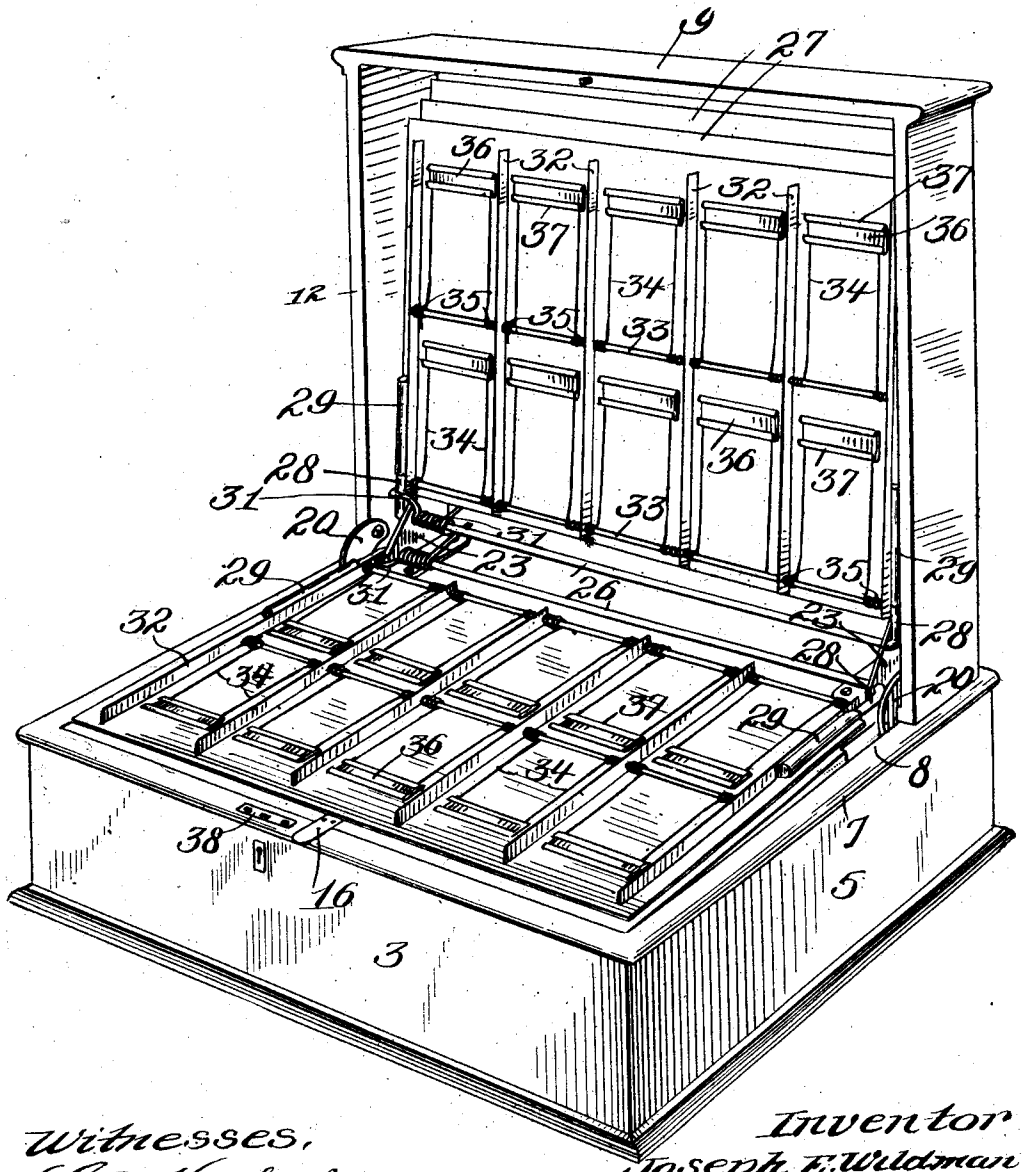
J. E. WILDMAN.

ACCOUNTING APPLIANCE.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 24, 1907.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.




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3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.

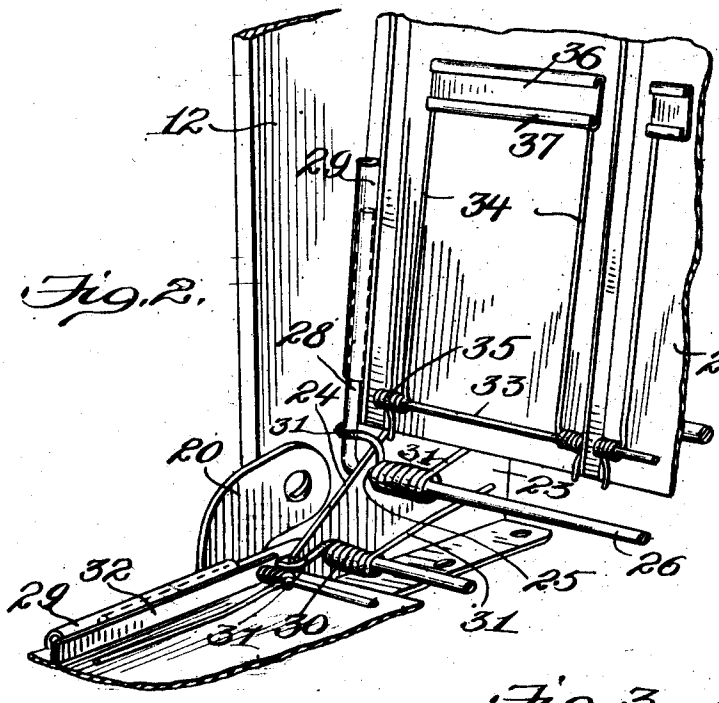



Fig. 3.




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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 4.

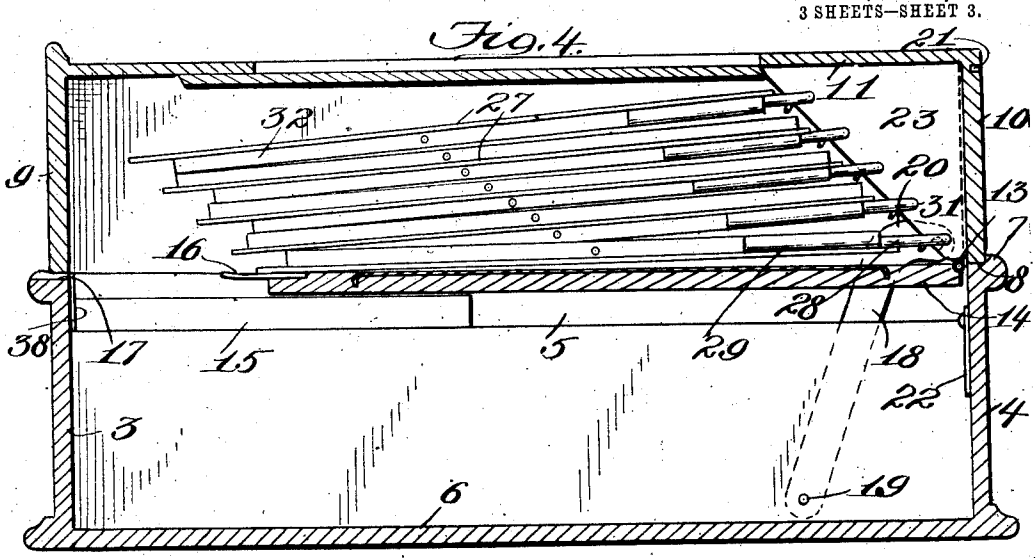



Fig. 5.

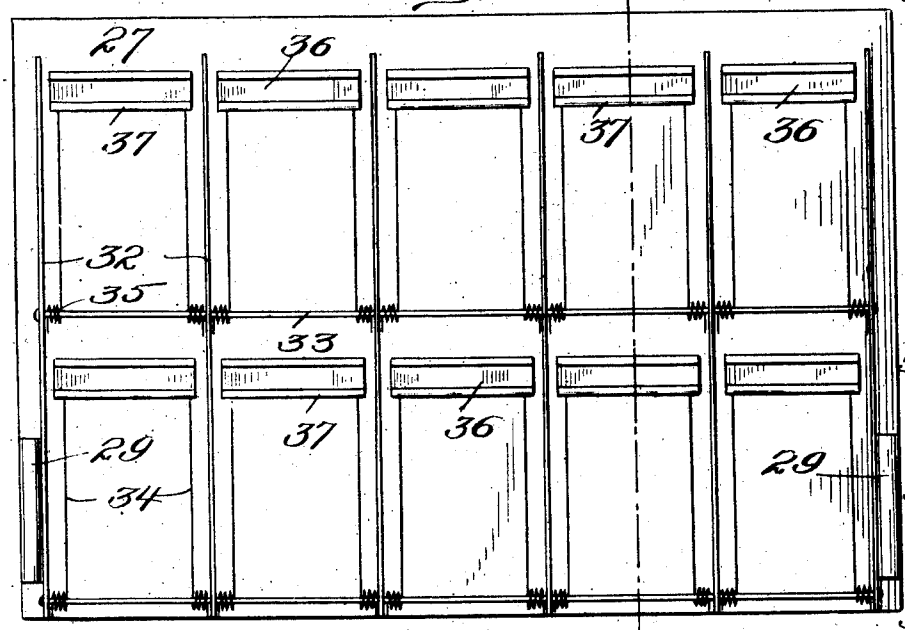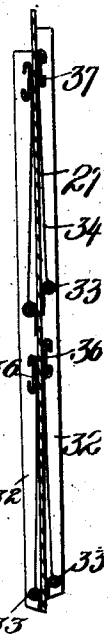



Fig. 6.



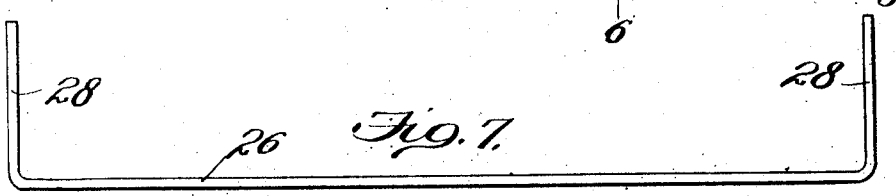




Fig. 7.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH E. WILDMAN, OF LANDOVER, MARYLAND, ASSIGNOR, BY MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO ALBERT F. STAPLES, OF ALLIANCE, OHIO, AND CHARLES W. POTTER, OF WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS.

## ACCOUNTING APPLIANCE.

No. 882,856. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented March 24, 1908.

Application filed July 24, 1907. Serial No. 385,331.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOSEPH E. WILDMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Landover, in the county of Prince George and State of Maryland, have invented new and useful Improvements in Accounting Appliances, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to accounting appliances; and the object thereof is to provide means in a manner as hereinafter set forth for facilitating the keeping of credit and debit accounts in an accurate manner and in the least possible time without requiring other entries than substantially those that are already made when making up and filling orders for goods.

A further object of the invention is to provide an accounting appliance with bill-holding leaves so set up as to increase the rigidity thereof, and, furthermore, to enable the removing of each leaf independently when occasion so requires.

A further object of the invention is to provide an accounting appliance with a plurality of bill-holding leaves so set up and arranged in a manner as hereinafter set forth that when moved to an upright position they will be retained in such position and when moved to a horizontal position they will be retained in such latter position without the application of pressure or of a weight.

Further objects of the invention are to provide an accounting appliance which shall be simple in its construction and arrangement, strong, durable, efficient in its use, readily set up, conveniently handled and comparatively inexpensive to manufacture with respect to the forms of accounting appliances now in general use.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention consists in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more specifically described and illustrated in the accompanying drawings wherein is shown the preferred embodiment of the invention, but it is to be understood that changes, variations and modifications can be resorted to which come within the scope of the claims hereunto appended.

In describing the invention in detail reference is had to the accompanying drawings wherein like characters denote corresponding parts throughout the several views and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a credit accounting appliance in accordance with this invention, showing one of the bill-holding leaves in its lowermost position and further showing the appliance opened; Fig. 2 is a sectional detail of a pair of bill-holding leaves; Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of the appliance when opened; Fig. 4 is a like view of the appliance closed; Fig. 5 is a front view of one of the bill-holding leaves; Fig. 6 is a vertical sectional view of one of the bill-holding leaves; Fig. 7 is a detail showing the pivot rod employed for each of the leaves.

Referring to the drawings, an accounting appliance in accordance with this invention embodies a receptacle formed of a shiftable and a stationary section. The former is indicated by the reference character 1 and the latter by the reference character 2. The stationary section 1 comprises front and rear walls 3, 4, respectively, side walls 5 and a bottom 6. The walls of the stationary section at the top are each provided with a beading 7 which extends entirely around the stationary section and projects above the top edge 8 of the walls of the said stationary section. The edge 8 at the rear thereof constitutes a seat for the shiftable section when the latter is moved to an upright position as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

The shiftable section (describing it when it is in its lowered position) comprises a front wall 9, rear wall 10, top 11 and side walls 12. When the shiftable section 2 is moved to an upright position the rear wall 10 constitutes the bottom wall of the section, the top 11, the rear wall of the section and the front wall 9, the top of said section. Hinged as at 13 to the front edge of the wall 10 is a lid or cover 14 which constitutes the top for the stationary section 1 when the shiftable section is in an upright position. The supports 15 for the lid or cover 14 are secured to the inner face of the walls 5 of the stationary section. To enable the convenient raising of the lid or cover 14 it is provided with a finger piece 16, which, when the lid or cover 14 is positioned to close the stationary section 1, is seated in the groove 17 formed in the top edge of the wall 3. The length of the finger piece 16 is such as to project past

the wall 3. The shiftable section 2 is connected to the stationary section through the medium of the strap hinges 18, each of which is pivoted at its lower end as at 19 to the side wall 5 and at its upper end is curved rearwardly as at 20 and pivotally connected to a side wall 12. By such construction a hinge, as well as a slidable connection is had between the shiftable section 2 and stationary section 1.

The wall 10 of the shiftable section is formed with a recess or pocket 21 which is adapted to receive a latch 22 when said section is in an upright position, thereby retaining it in position. The latch 22 is carried by the wall 4 of the stationary section and may be of known construction. When the shiftable section is in an upright position it is adapted to abut against the bead 7 of the wall 4 which acts as a stop to prevent the rearward movement of the section 2 whether it be in an upright or lowered position.

Secured in the shiftable section and positioned against the side walls 12 is a pair of supports 23. These supports are arranged in such position with respect to the walls 12 that a clearance is formed to enable the operation of the pivots for the bill-holding leaves to be hereinafter referred to. The supports 23 are secured to the walls 10 and 11 and each of which is formed with an inclined top edge, as at 24, the inclination of said edge being downward and towards the front of the cabinet. Each of the supports 23 is formed with a series of openings 25, arranged in close proximity to the edge 24 and through the alining openings 25 of these supports extend the combined pivot and supporting rods 26 for the bill-holding leaves 27. Each of the rods 26 is substantially U-shaped in contour, the angular ends 28 thereof being somewhat elongated and disposed between the supports 23 and the walls 12. Each of the leaves 27 at the sides thereof is provided with hollow cylindrical portions 29 constituting sockets for the angular ends 28 of the rods 26, the cylindrical portions 29 snugly fitting the angular ends 28, but at the same time allowing of the leaves 27 to be removed from the rods 26 when occasion so requires.

The leaves 27 are formed preferably of sheet metal and owing to the fact that they are compelled to be light in weight the material is somewhat flexible. The rods 26 are formed of rigid material, and owing to the manner in which the angular ends 28 of the rods extend into the cylindrical portions 29 of the leaves, they impart rigidity to the leaves, overcoming to a great extent, their flexibility. Owing to the manner in which the supports 23 are constructed and further owing to the manner in which the openings 25 for the rods 26 are disposed in the supports 23, the rods are arranged at an inclination so that a like disposition will be had of the leaves 27. Mounted upon each of the rods 26 is a coiled spring 30. One end 31 of each of the springs engages around one angular end 28 of its respective rod, while the other end of the spring bears on the under surface of an adjacent rod 26. The weight of the leaves 27 is such as to overcome the pulling action of the springs, and in this connection it will be stated that when the leaves 27 are moved to a horizontal position they will remain in such position. The springs 30, when the leaves are moved from horizontal position, tend to restore the leaves to an upright position. The strength of the springs is such as not to shift the leaves 27 to an upright position from horizontal position unless the leaves 27 have been manually started from horizontal towards vertical. Owing to the disposition of the springs it is only necessary to provide one at each side of a rod 26. The springs 30 are arranged in close proximity to one of the supports 23.

Each of the bill-holding leaves 27 is provided on each of its faces with a series of outwardly-extending division bars 32 adapted to support transversely-extending rods 33. Mounted between the division bars 32 and secured to the rod 33 are the bill retainers, each of which consists of a pair of spring wires 34 having the lower ends coiled around a rod 33, as at 35. The upper ends of the wires 34 are connected together by an indicator carrying plate 36, the latter being bent upon itself at its top and bottom as at 37, between which is removably secured the indicator, which may be a card provided with a number, or the customer's name, or a letter of the alphabet. The manner of setting up the spring wires 34 in connection with the indicator plate 36 and also the rods 33 forms a clamp for fixedly retaining the bills against a leaf 27.

The cabinet is provided with a lock 38 for connecting the shiftable section to the stationary section when the former is in the position shown in Fig. 4, *i. e.* lowered. The hinge connection between the two sections allows of the section 2 sliding upon the section 1 when it is desired to move the section 2 to an upright position. It will be assumed that the sections are in the position shown in Fig. 4 and it is desired to open the cabinet. The shiftable section is unlocked from the stationary section and is then drawn slightly forward, the hinge connection providing for such movement. The shiftable section is then elevated and when it is positioned in an upright manner it is slid to the rear until it abuts against the bead on the wall 4. In the meantime the lid or cover 14 is mounted upon the supports 15 so that the finger piece 16 will engage in the groove 17. Before, however, the lid or cover 14 is moved to the posi-

tion just stated the latch 22 engages in the pocket 21 and locks the shiftable section to the stationary section. If desired the upper face of the lid or cover 14 can be provided with an index with which will associate the indications carried by the plate 36, but as this is obvious it is thought unnecessary to show such index.

The bill-retaining devices constitute means for clamping the bills to the bill-holding leaves, the bill-holding devices being resilient so that the upper portions thereof can be readily pulled away from the leaf which carries the devices and new bills inserted or old ones removed when occasion so requires.

In a practical use of the appliance bill-heads of the ordinary oblong form are employed and when filled out are placed under the retaining devices. As the retaining device is provided with an indication (for example the name of the customer) it is evident that the bills can readily be positioned under the proper retaining devices. When a bill becomes full, the amounts are summed up and the total carried to a second blank, which is placed back of the retaining device so that the customer's account is instantly accessible without waiting for the posting of books and when the account is settled the bill is receipted and delivered to the customer or may be destroyed, thus closing the account. This means is valuable to the dealer who sells for cash as a rule, but gives occasional credit to a limited number when extra book-keeping would be a great inconvenience.

Each of the bill-holding leaves carries, preferably, on each face ten or more bill-retaining devices so each leaf provides for ten or more accounts, although this number can be increased or diminished as desired, and owing to such arrangement it is evident that it is not necessary to employ a large number of bill-holding leaves for the reason that one-half dozen leaves can carry sixty or more accounts.

Owing to the manner of forming the cabinet of two sections, one of which is shiftable and carries the bill-holding leaves, it is evident that the cabinet can be closed so as to form a neat and compact receptacle and when closed can be locked to prevent access thereto by unauthorized parties. Furthermore the lower or stationary section of the cabinet can be used for the storage of bill-heads or other matter desired.

What I claim is—

1. An accounting appliance comprising a plurality of bill-holding leaves carrying bill-retaining devices and having a socket at each side, a pivot rod for each of said leaves, each of said rods having angular ends adapted to extend in said sockets for detachably connecting the leaves to the rod, said rods constituting supports for the leaves and imparting rigidity thereto, and a spring mounted upon each of the rods and having one end abutting against an angular end of the rod and its other end abutting against an adjacent rod.

2. In an accounting appliance, the combination with a plurality of independently-detachable bill-holding leaves, each provided at each side with a vertically-extending socket, of a pivoted support for each of said leaves, said support comprising a U-shaped rod, having the vertical arms thereof detachably engaging in said sockets.

3. The combination with a plurality of independently detachable bill-holding leaves each provided with a pair of sockets, of a pivotal support for each of said leaves, said support consisting of a U-shaped rod having the vertical portions thereof detachably secured in said sockets.

4. The combination with a plurality of independently detachable bill-holding leaves each provided with a pair of sockets, of a pivotal support for each of said leaves, said support consisting of a U-shaped rod having the vertical portions thereof detachably secured in said sockets, combined with means for supporting said rod at an inclination thereby maintaining one leaf above the other when said leaves are in an upright position.

5. An accounting appliance comprising a cabinet consisting of a stationary section and a shiftable section, means for hinging and slidably connecting the shiftable section to the stationary section, a lid or cover carried by the shiftable section and adapted to close the stationary section when the shiftable section is moved to an upright position, and a plurality of bill-holding leaves carried by the shiftable section.

6. An accounting appliance comprising a cabinet consisting of a stationary section and a shiftable section, means for hinging and slidably connecting the shiftable section to the stationary section, a lid or cover carried by the shiftable section and adapted to close the stationary section when the shiftable section is moved to an upright position, a plurality of bill-holding leaves carried by the shiftable section, and means carried by the stationary section and adapted to engage the shiftable section for maintaining it in an upright position.

7. An accounting appliance comprising a cabinet consisting of a stationary section and a shiftable section, means for hinging and slidably connecting the shiftable section to the stationary section, a lid or cover carried by the shiftable section and adapted to close the stationary section when the shiftable section is moved to an upright position, a plurality of U-shaped pivot rods carried by said shiftable section, and bill-holding leaves detachably connected to the vertical portions of said rods.

8. An accounting appliance comprising a cabinet consisting of a stationary section and a shiftable section, means for hinging and slidably connecting the shiftable section to the stationary section, a lid or cover carried by the shiftable section and adapted to close the stationary section when the shiftable section is moved to an upright position, a plurality of U-shaped pivot rods carried by said shiftable section, bill-holding leaves detachably connected to the vertical portions of said rods, and a spring mounted near one end of each rod, each of said springs having one end abutting against an angular end of the rod and its other end abutting against an adjacent rod.

9. An accounting appliance comprising a cabinet consisting of a stationary section and a shiftable section, means for hinging and slidably connecting the shiftable section to the stationary section, a lid or cover carried by the shiftable section and adapted to close the stationary section when the shiftable section is moved to an upright position, a plurality of U-shaped pivot rods carried by said shiftable section, bill-holding leaves detachably connected to the vertical portions of said rods, a spring mounted near one end of each rod, each of said springs having one end abutting against an angular end of the rod and its other end abutting against an adjacent rod, and means carried by the stationary section and adapted to engage the shiftable section for maintaining it in an upright position.

10. An accounting appliance comprising a cabinet consisting of a stationary section and a shiftable section, means for hinging and slidably connecting the shiftable section to the stationary section, a lid or cover carried by the shiftable section and adapted to close the stationary section when the shiftable section is moved to an upright position, a plurality of U-shaped pivot rods carried by said shiftable section, bill-holding leaves detachably connected to the vertical portions of said rods, a spring mounted near one end of each rod, each of said springs having one end abutting against an angular end of the rod and its other end abutting against an adjacent rod, means carried by the stationary section and adapted to engage the shiftable section for maintaining it in an upright position, and means for locking the sections together when the shiftable section is in its lowered position.

11. In an accounting appliance, the combination with a plurality of independently detachable bill-holding leaves, of a pivoted support for each of said leaves, said support comprising a U-shaped rod, having the vertical portions thereof detachably secured to the sides of the leaf, combined with means for supporting the rods at an inclination.

12. An accounting appliance having, in combination, a plurality of bill-holding leaves independently movable into upright or horizontal position, and a cabinet inclosing the leaves and comprising a base section and a section mounted thereon and movable to upright position to form a back for the leaves when they are in upright position, or to a horizontal position, with the leaves, when the appliance is not in use, to form a cover for the leaves.

13. An accounting appliance having, in combination, a cabinet comprising a base section and a section mounted thereon and movable into either upright or horizontal position, and a plurality of bill-holding leaves pivotally mounted in the movable section.

14. An accounting appliance having, in combination, bill-holding devices, and a cabinet inclosing said devices and comprising a base section and a movable section mounted on the base section and connected therewith by means permitting the movable section to be moved into either upright or horizontal position and substantially into alinement, in each position, with the rear of the base section.

15. An accounting appliance having, in combination, bill-holding devices, and a cabinet inclosing said devices and comprising a base section having an open top and a movable section having an open front when in upright position, the movable section being mounted on the base section and connected therewith by means permitting it to be moved into either upright or horizontal position on the base, and substantially into alinement, in either position, with the rear wall of the base.

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

JOSEPH E. WILDMAN.

Witnesses:
JAMES L. NORRIS, Jr.,
CHAS. S. HYER.