H. F. BRUCE.

WARDROBE TRUNK.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 2, 1916.

1,323,246.

Patented Dec. 2, 1919.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

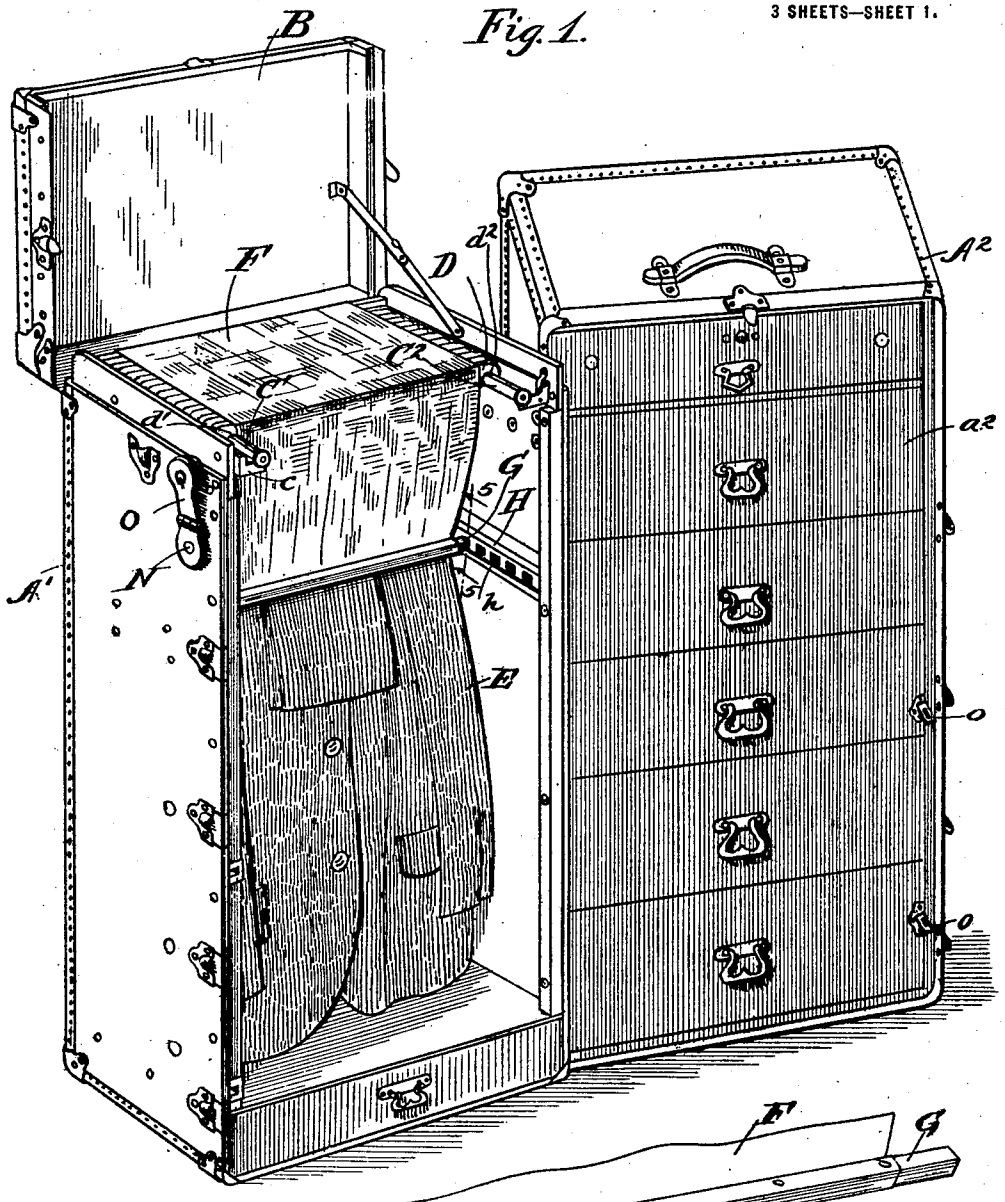
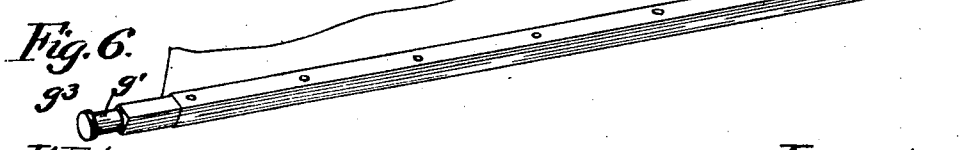


Fig. 6.



Witness:

C. Burnap

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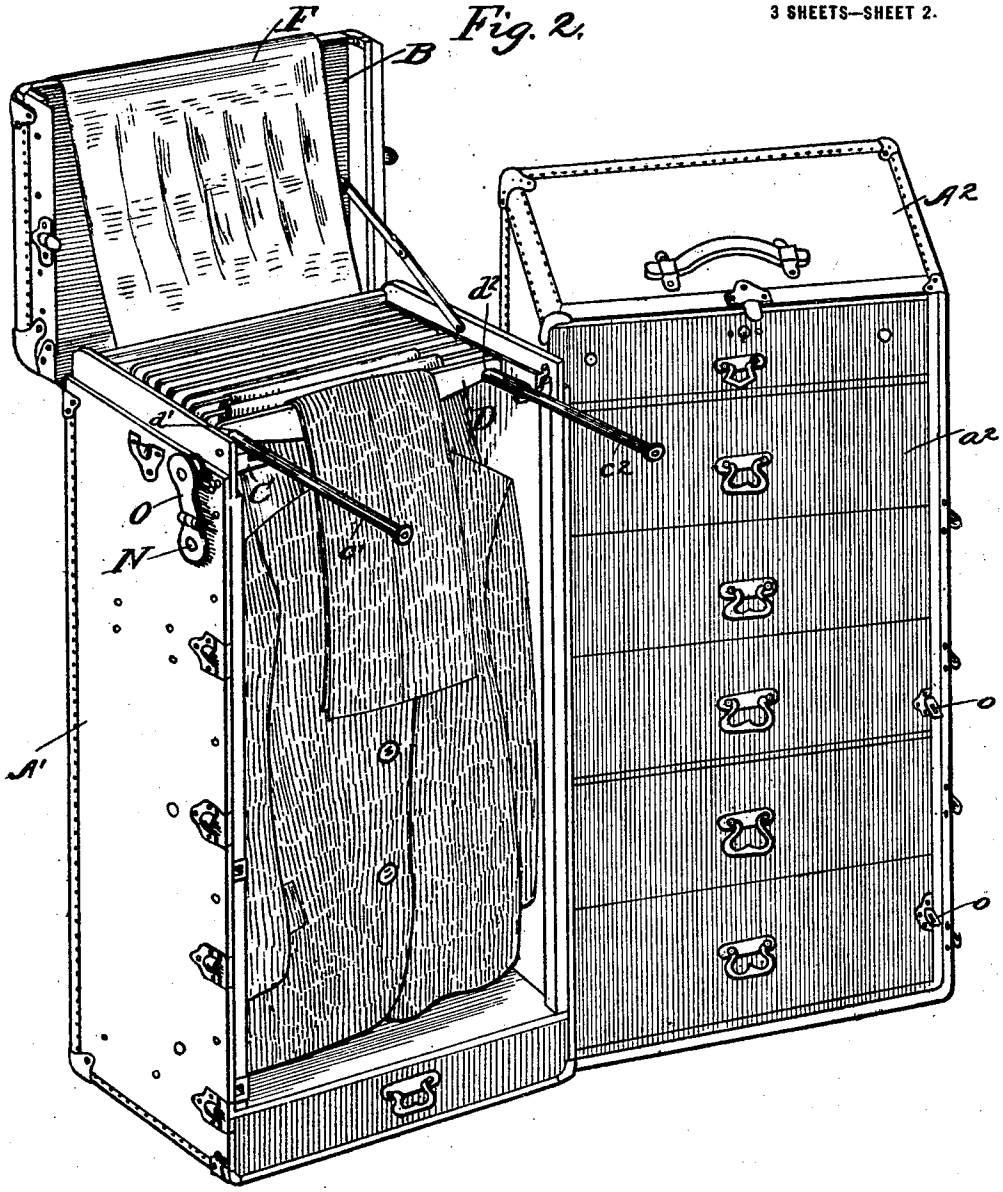
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3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.



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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 4.

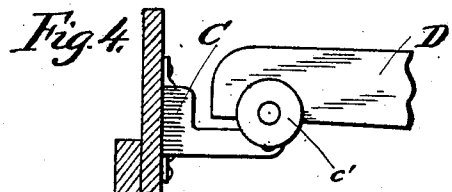


Fig. 3.

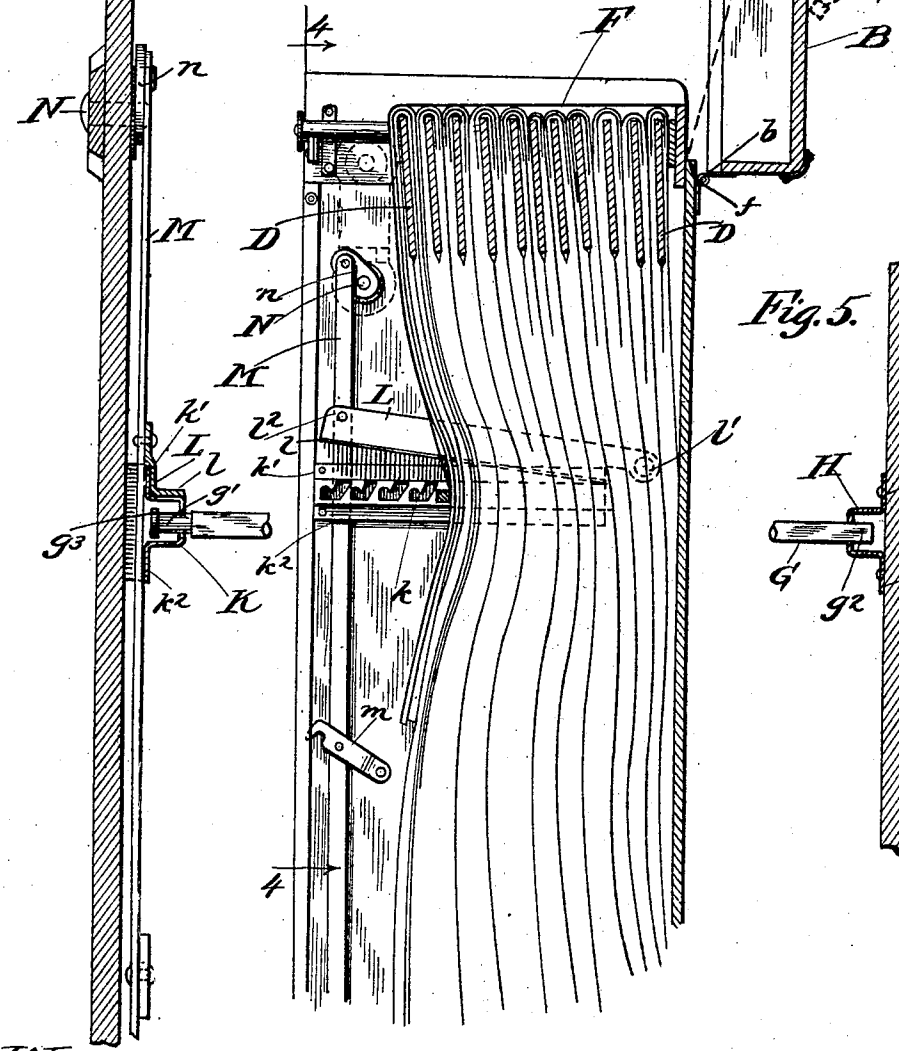


Fig. 5.

Witness

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HERBERT F. BRUCE, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR, BY MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO OSHKOSH TRUNK COMPANY, OF OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN, A CORPORATION OF WISCONSIN.

WARDROBE-TRUNK.

1,323,246. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 2, 1919.

Application filed December 2, 1916. Serial No. 134,730.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HERBERT F. BRUCE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Wardrobe-Trunks, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates in general to traveling receptacles and more particularly to wardrobe trunks.

It is necessary that traveling receptacles, especially wardrobe trunks, should comprise adjustable means for retaining the articles smoothly and tightly in their packed positions, so that they will not be rumpled, or otherwise injured, by being shifted about during the rough handling to which baggage is subjected. In the usual types of wardrobe trunks in which the garments, or other articles, are draped upon hangers, and the hangers suspended within a compartment, it is desirable that the garments should be prevented from slipping upon the hangers; that the hangers should be prevented from moving within the compartment; and that the garments, regardless of whether they completely fill the compartment or not, should be smoothly retained in a compact space.

The primary object of my invention is to provide a packing receptacle with improved adjustable means for immovably retaining the articles packed therein in a compact space so that they will not slip or shift about during the transportation of the receptacle.

A further object of my invention is to provide in a wardrobe trunk, in which articles may be supported upon hangers within a compartment, improved means not only for retaining the articles and their supporting hangers immovable during the handling of the trunk, but also for compressing the articles tightly within the compartment in compact condition.

A still further object of my invention is to provide an improved traveling receptacle which will be simple in construction, convenient in use, and efficient in operation.

My invention will be more fully disclosed hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings in which the same is illustrated as embodied in a convenient and practical form, and in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a wardrobe trunk in open position, provided with my invention;

Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1 showing the clothes retaining parts in position to give access thereto for removal or packing of the articles;

Fig. 3 is a vertical central sectional view through the compartment in which the clothes are hung;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged vertical sectional view on line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a vertical detail section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1, and

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the lower end of the clothes retaining member, the central portion being broken away.

The same reference characters are used to designate the same parts in the several figures of the drawings.

Reference characters A^1 and A^2 designate the two sections of a wardrobe trunk of the type comprising two vertical parts hinged together so as to be relatively moved into the open position shown in Figs. 1 and 2, or to be swung together to form a complete closed trunk. The section A^2 is shown as provided with a series of drawers a^2, while the section A^1 comprises a large compartment within which clothing, or other articles, may be suspended by suitable hangers. The section A^1 is preferably provided with a hinged upwardly swinging cover B to more readily permit access to the compartment.

C^1 and C^2 designate rods supported at the opposite sides and near the top of the compartment in the section A^1, suitable supporting means being provided, such, for instance, as brackets C. The rods C^1 and C^2 are provided with telescopic extensible portions c^1 and c^2 which may be projected outwardly, as shown in Fig. 2, when the trunk is open. D designates one of the plurality of clothes hangers which are supported upon the rods C^1 and C^2. The ends of the hangers D are shown as provided with notches d^1 and d^2 in their lower surfaces which rest upon the rods C^1 and C^2, so that the hangers may be readily moved from or placed upon,

the supporting rods. E designates the garments, or other articles, which are suspended by means of the hangers within the compartment of the trunk.

F indicates a flexible retaining member, preferably consisting of a strip of fabric of a width substantially corresponding to the distance between the rods C^1 and C^2. One edge of the member F is rigidly secured adjacent the rear of the top of the compartment, as indicated at f in Fig. 3. The free edge of the member F is secured to a rod G, so that when the rod is rotated, the length of the member between the same and the fixed edge f thereof may be varied. Any suitable means may be provided for fastening the free end of the member F to the rod G such as tacks, clamps or the like.

Secured to the inner surface of one of the side walls of the compartment in the section A^1 of the trunk is a bracket H having flanges h^1 and h^2 suitably secured to the wall of the trunk. The portion of the bracket intermediate of the flanges projects inwardly within the compartment and is provided with a series of spaced rectangular openings h substantially corresponding to the cross-section of the rod G which, as shown in Fig. 6, is square. Secured to the inner surface of the opposite wall of the compartment, in the section A^1 of the trunk, is a bracket K preferably of a cross-section corresponding to that of the bracket H. Flanges k^1 and k^2 are provided on the bracket K by means of which it is secured to the inner surface of the wall of the trunk, preferably in parallel relation to the bracket H. The central portion of the bracket K, which projects inwardly, is provided with a series of spaced bayonet slots k, which extend from the upper horizontal part of the bracket downwardly into the vertical part thereof, and thence forwardly to form seats within which is adapted to rest the reduced end g^1 of the rod G. The portion of each of the slots k, formed in the horizontal part of the bracket K, is of a length to permit the downward insertion therethrough of the collar g^3, adjacent the reduced portion g^1 of the rod G.

L designates a keeper bar overlying the bracket K and pivotally supported by l^1, adjacent the rear wall of the section A^1 of the trunk. The front end of the keeper bar L is pivotally connected at l^2 to a vertically reciprocating bar M supported upon the inner surface of the adjacent wall of the trunk near the front edge of the section A^1. The upper end of the bar M is pivotally connected to a crank-arm n fixed to the inner end of a stub shaft N, extending through the wall of the trunk. The end of the stub shaft, which projects through the outside of the wall of the trunk, has fixed thereto the hasp O of the trunk lock. Pivotally connected to the bar M are latches, such as m, adapted, when the two sections of the trunk are closed, to engage staples o projecting from the section A^2 of the trunk into the paths of the latches m when the two sections of the trunk are closed together.

The keeper bar L is provided with a projecting flange l along its lower edge which closely overlies the horizontal portion of the bracket K when the bar M has been moved downwardly in locking the trunk. The flange l thereby prevents any accidental disengagement of the end g^1 of the rod G from the bracket K.

The manner of using and operation of my invention are as follows: When the parts are in the positions shown in Fig. 2, the hangers D may be moved along the rods C^1 and C^2, and their extensions c^1 and c^2, to permit the various hangers D to be readily removed so that articles may be removed from, or placed thereon. When it is desired to pack the trunk, the articles which are to be placed within the compartment in the section A^1 are placed upon the hangers, and the hangers are then placed upon the supporting rods. When all of the articles which it is desired to pack in the compartment have been placed upon hangers, the hangers are forced backwardly within the compartment and the extension of the rods moved inwardly, so as to be co-extensive with the main portions of the rods. The flexible retaining member F is then placed around the portions of the articles which are draped over the hangers, or over the hangers themselves when articles do not extend around their upper edges. The lower edge of the said member F is rolled upon the rod G until the plane of the rod alines with the brackets H and K. The end g^2 of the rod is then forced backwardly so as to compress the articles and engage in one of the rectangular openings h in the bracket H. The opposite end of the rod G is then forced inwardly above the bracket K and below the keeper bar L, and engaged with one of the openings k approximately opposite the opening h which has been engaged by the end g^2 of the rod, see Fig. 5. The reduced end g^1 of the rod is engaged within the seat at the lower forward end of such opening k, and the outward pressure of the articles tends to retain the end g^2 of the rod securely in engagement with the bracket K. The cover B is then closed and the two sections of the trunk swung together so that when the hasp O is rotated outwardly to engage its keeper, or approximately 90°, the latches m are swung downwardly into engagement with the staples o through the downward movement imparted to the bar M by the oscillation of the stub shaft N and crank arm n. This downward movement of

the bar M swings downwardly the outer end of the keeper bar L, so that the flange l thereof overlies the upper ends of the various openings k in the bar K and positively prevents the disengagement of the end g^1 of the rod G from the bracket K.

When the trunk is again opened, and it is desired to remove the articles which are supported upon the hangers the end g^1 of the rod G is first disengaged from the bracket K, which may be readily done by forcing the said end of the rod backwardly and upwardly, this disengagement from the bracket being permitted, owing to the previous lifting of the keeper bar L during the unlocking of the trunk. The opposite end g^2 of the rod is then disengaged from the bracket H and the flexible retaining member F is thrown upwardly over the open top B, thereby giving free access to the hangers and the articles supported upon them.

From the foregoing description it will be observed that my invention enables articles to be securely retained within a traveling receptacle without danger of slipping or being shifted during the handling of the receptacle. The retaining member accomplishes this inasmuch as it overlies and presses downwardly upon the portions of the articles which overlie the upper edges of the hangers, thereby not only preventing the articles from slipping upwardly and downwardly, but also laterally, upon the hangers. It will further be seen that the flexible retaining member holds the articles within a compact space within the compartment through the engagement of the ends of the rods with the brackets, thereby not only enabling the full capacity of the compartment to be utilized when needed, but also retaining in compact relation whatever articles may be placed within the compartment whether they completely or only partially fill the same.

While I have illustrated and described my invention as applied to a wardrobe trunk, it will be understood that it is capable of application generally to traveling receptacles, or to cases in which articles are to be tightly and immovably packed for storage or shipment, and while I have described more or less precisely the details of construction, I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself thereto, as I contemplate changes in form and the proportion of parts and the substitution of equivalents as circumstances may suggest or render expedient without departing from the spirit of my invention.

What I claim is:

1. The combination with a packing receptacle, of a flexible cover and retaining member secured at one end adjacent one side of the receptacle and adapted to cover the articles packed therein, a rod to which the other end of said member is secured, and means for adjustably supporting said rod and positively holding it in different positions within the receptacle to retain said member tightly around the articles packed in the receptacle.

2. The combination with a packing receptacle, of a flexible cover and retaining member secured at one end adjacent one side of the receptacle, a rod to which the other end of said member is secured and around which it is adapted to be rolled, and means for non-rotatably supporting said rod and positively holding it in different positions within the receptacle to retain said member tightly around the articles packed in the receptacle.

3. The combination with a packing receptacle, of a flexible cover and retaining member secured at one end adjacent one side of the receptacle, a rod to which the other end of said member is secured and around which it is adapted to be rolled, and means for non-rotatably supporting said rod at predetermined positions within said receptacle to retain said member tightly around any predetermined quantity of articles packed in the receptacle.

4. The combination with a packing receptacle, of a flexible retaining member secured at one end adjacent one side of the receptacle, a rod to which the other end of said member is secured, and brackets secured to the opposite inner surfaces of the sides of said receptacle having openings to be removably engaged by the ends of said rod.

5. In combination with a packing receptacle, of a flexible retaining member secured at one end adjacent one side of the receptacle, a rod to which the other end of said member is secured and around which it is adapted to be rolled, and brackets secured to the inner surfaces of the opposite walls of said receptacle having openings to receive and non-rotatably support the ends of said rod.

6. The combination with a packing receptacle, of a flexible retaining member secured at one end adjacent one side of the receptacle, a rod to which the other end of said member is secured and around which it is adapted to be rolled, a bracket secured to the inner surface of one side wall of the receptacle having spaced angular holes to non-rotatably receive one end of said rod, a second bracket secured to the inner surface of the opposite side wall having spaced slots to receive the opposite end of said rod, and means for preventing the disengagement of the end of said rod from the slots in said second bracket.

7. The combination with a wardrobe trunk comprising a vertical section having an upper open end and a cover hinged to

the trunk body for closing said upper end, of garment hanger rails mounted in the upper portion adjacent the open end of said section, garment hangers slidably mounted on said rails, a flexible retaining member secured at one end adjacent the rear of the open upper end of said section and adapted to be extended forwardly over the tops of said hangers and to depend from the front one of said hangers, and means for adjustably securing the depending end of said member between the side walls of said section.

8. The combination with a wardrobe trunk comprising a vertical section open at its front, of garment hanger rails mounted in the upper portion of said section, garment hangers slidably mounted on said rails, a flexible retaining member secured at one end adjacent the rear of the upper end of said section and adapted to be extended forwardly over the tops of said hangers and to depend in front of said hangers, a rod to which the depending end of said member is secured, and means for adjustably supporting said rod within said section to retain said member tightly around the articles packed therein.

9. The combination with a wardrobe trunk comprising a vertical section open at its front, of garment hanger rails mounted in the upper portion of said section, garment hangers slidably mounted on said rails, a flexible retaining member secured at one end adjacent the rear of the upper end of said section and adapted to be extended forwardly over the tops of said hangers and to depend in front of said hangers, a rod to which the depending end of said member is secured, and brackets secured to the opposite inner surfaces of the sides of said section having openings to be non-rotatably engaged by the ends of said rod.

10. The combination with a wardrobe trunk divided vertically to form two trunk sections adapted to stand on end and hinge together along adjoining vertical edges to adapt the trunk sections to open outwardly away from each other when the trunk is standing on end, a lock for retaining said sections in closed position, clothes hanging elements supported within one of said trunk sections, a flexible retaining member secured at one edge adjacent the rear of the upper end of said section and adapted to extend forwardly and around said hanger elements, means within said section for adjustably holding the lower end of said member in position to retain the same tightly around said hanger elements, and means actuated by said lock for preventing the disengagement of said member from said means.

11. The combination with a wardrobe trunk divided vertically to form two trunk sections adapted to stand on end and hinge together along adjacent vertical edges to adapt the trunk sections to be opened outwardly away from each other when the trunk is standing on end, the top of one of said sections being hinged to swing upwardly when the trunk is open, clothes hanger elements removably supported within said latter section, a flexible retaining member secured at one edge adjacent the rear of the upper open end of said section and adapted to extend over and around said hanger elements, and means for adjustably securing the depending end of said member between the side walls of said section to tightly retain said member around said elements.

12. A wardrobe trunk comprising a trunk body divided vertically into two sections which are hinged together, one of said sections having an upper open end, a cover hinged to the trunk body for closing said upper end, garment hanger rails mounted in the upper portion of said open end section, garment hangers slidably mounted on said rails, a lock for securing said sections in closed position, a flexible retaining member secured at one edge adjacent the rear of the open upper end of said section and adapted to extend forwardly over the tops of said hangers and to depend in front of said hangers, a rod to which the depending end of said member is secured, brackets secured to the opposite inner surfaces of said section having openings to be removably engaged by the ends of said rod, and means actuated by said lock for preventing the disengagement of said rod from said brackets.

13. The combination of a wardrobe trunk comprising a vertical section having an upper open end, and a cover hinged to the trunk adapted for closing said upper end, garment hangers slidably mounted in the upper portion of said open end of said section, a flexible retaining member secured at one end adjacent the rear open end of said section and adapted to be extended forwardly over the tops of said hangers, and means for adjustably securing the depending end of said member between the side walls of said section, substantially as described.

14. The combination with a trunk provided with two point suspension garment hangers having upper horizontal portions over which garments are draped and tracks upon which said hangers are slidably supported, of a garment retainer therefor comprising flexible means connected to the trunk and extending over the horizontal portions and the garments thereon and downwardly in front of the hangers in direct engagement therewith, and means for adjustably connecting the lower portion of

the flexible means to the trunk for maintaining the garments and hangers in compact position.

15. The combination with a trunk provided with two point suspension garment hangers and tracks upon which said hangers are slidably mounted, of a garment retainer therefor, connected to the trunk, said retainer extending over the hangers and downwardly between the tracks in front of the hangers, and means for causing the retainer to bear downwardly on top of the hangers or clothing suspended over the hangers in direct engagement therewith, and inwardly against the front of the suspended clothing for maintaining the hangers and garments in compact position.

In testimony whereof, I have subscribed my name.

HERBERT F. BRUCE.