

No. 635,089.

Patented Oct. 17, 1899.

B. F. CHILDRESS.  
LOCKING HAT RACK AND ADVERTISING DEVICE.

(Application filed Sept. 25, 1898.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

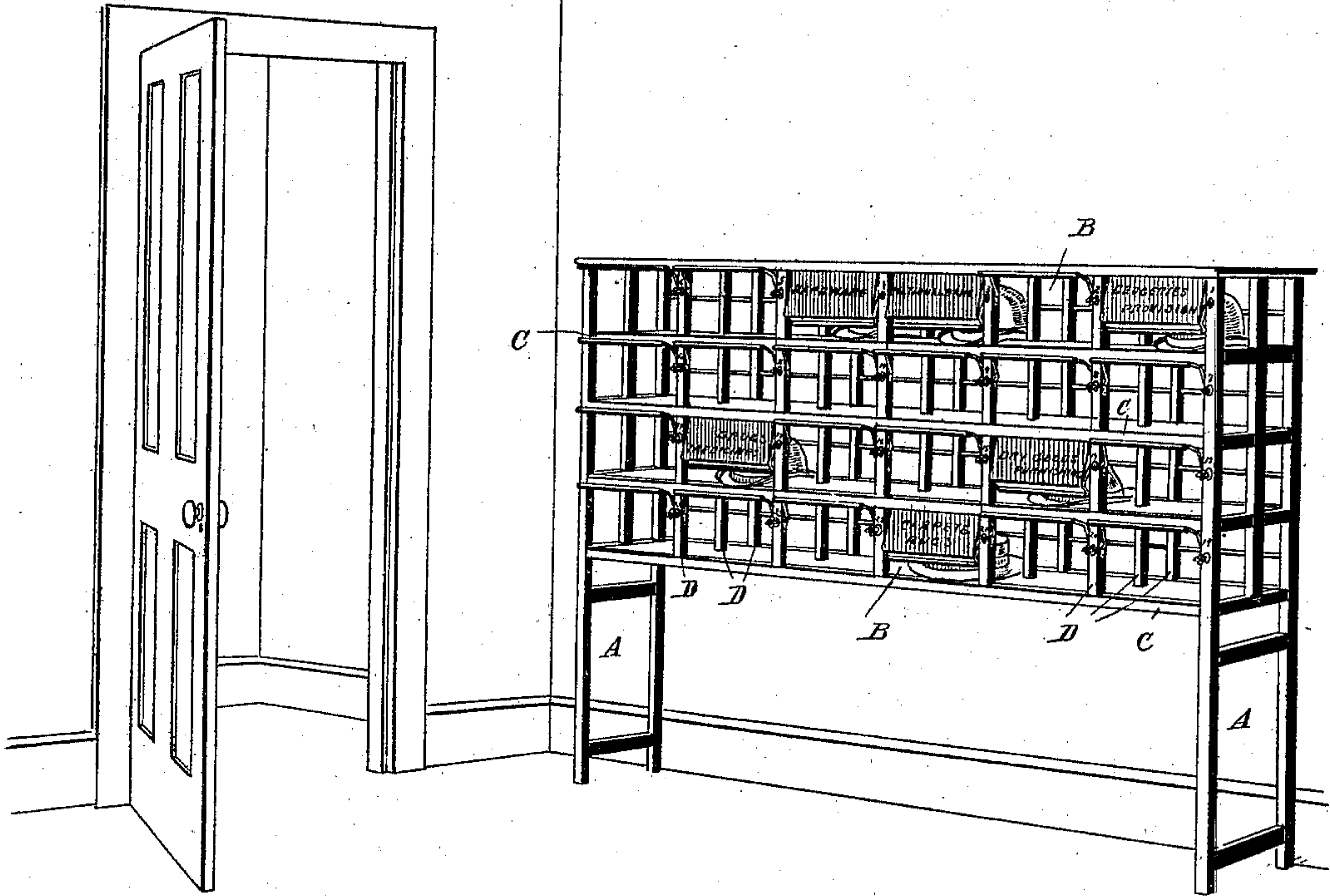


Fig. 2.

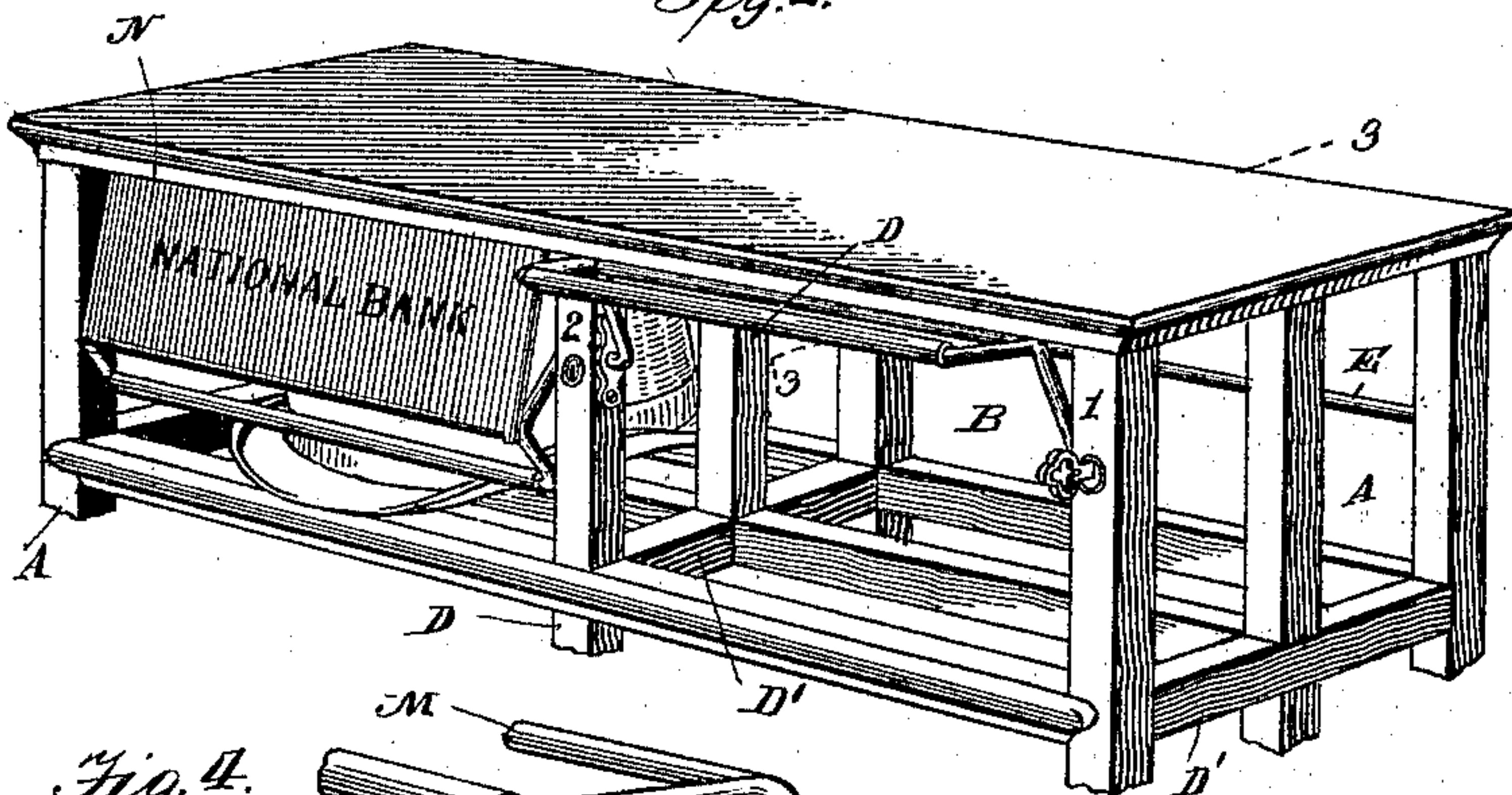


Fig. 3.

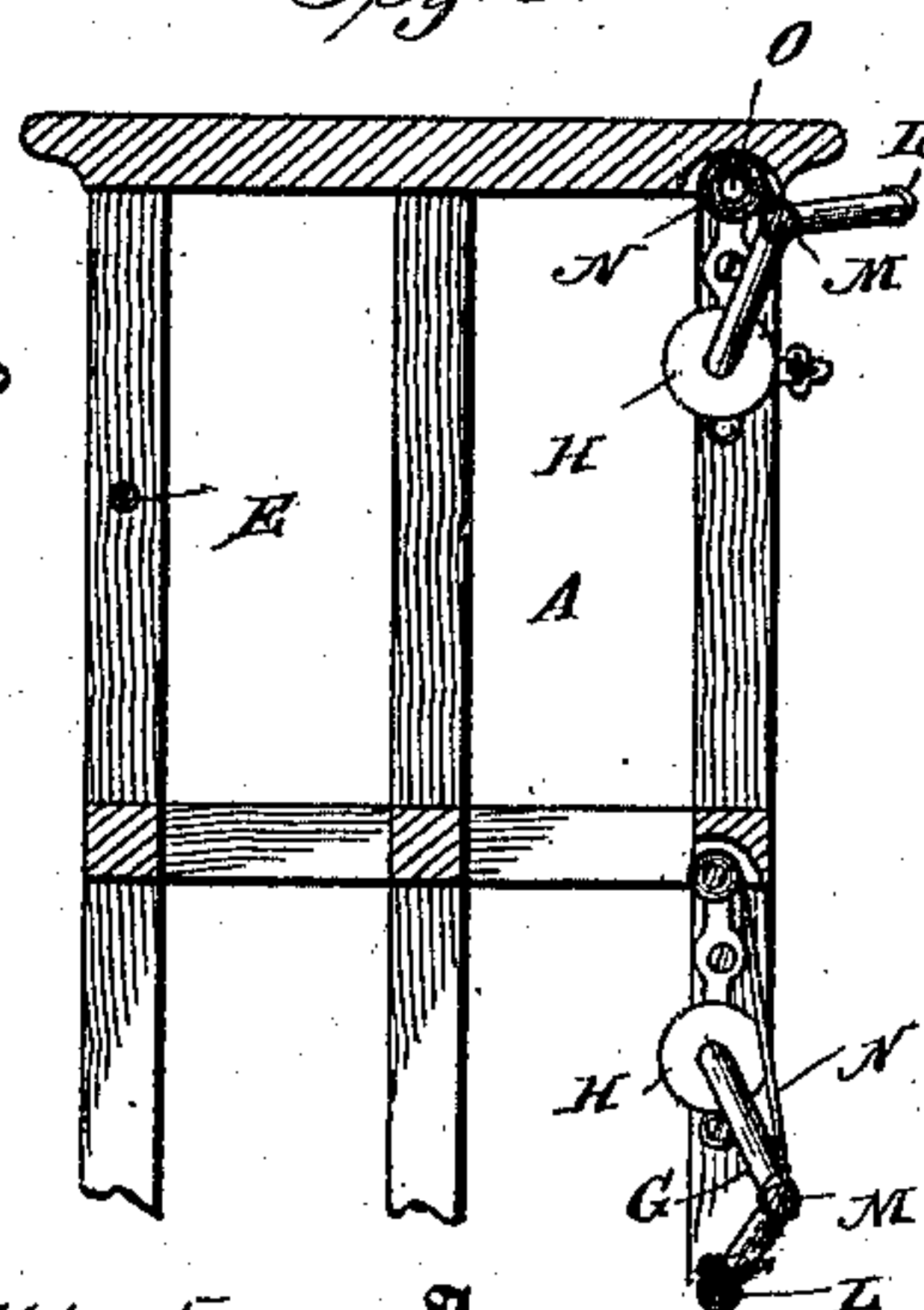
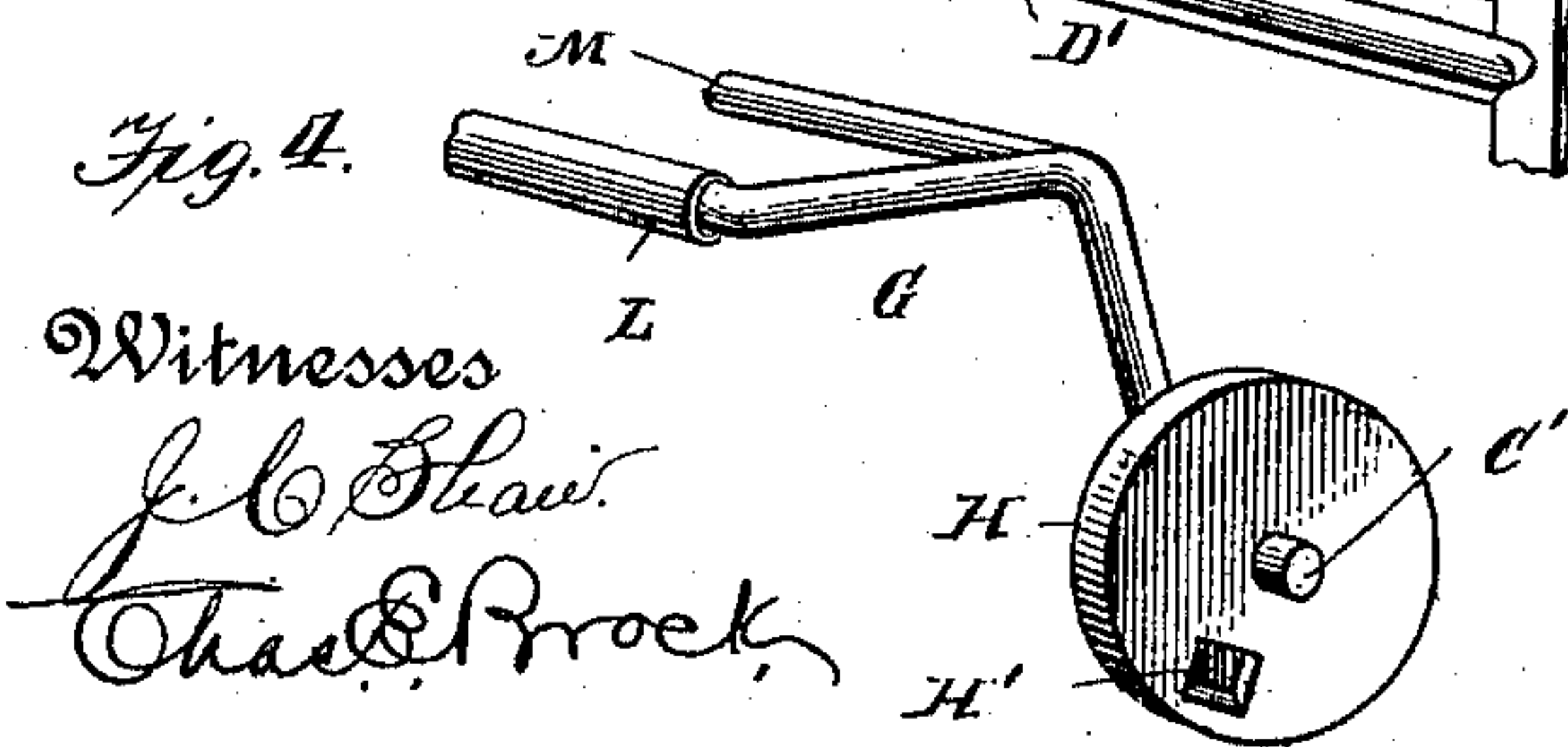


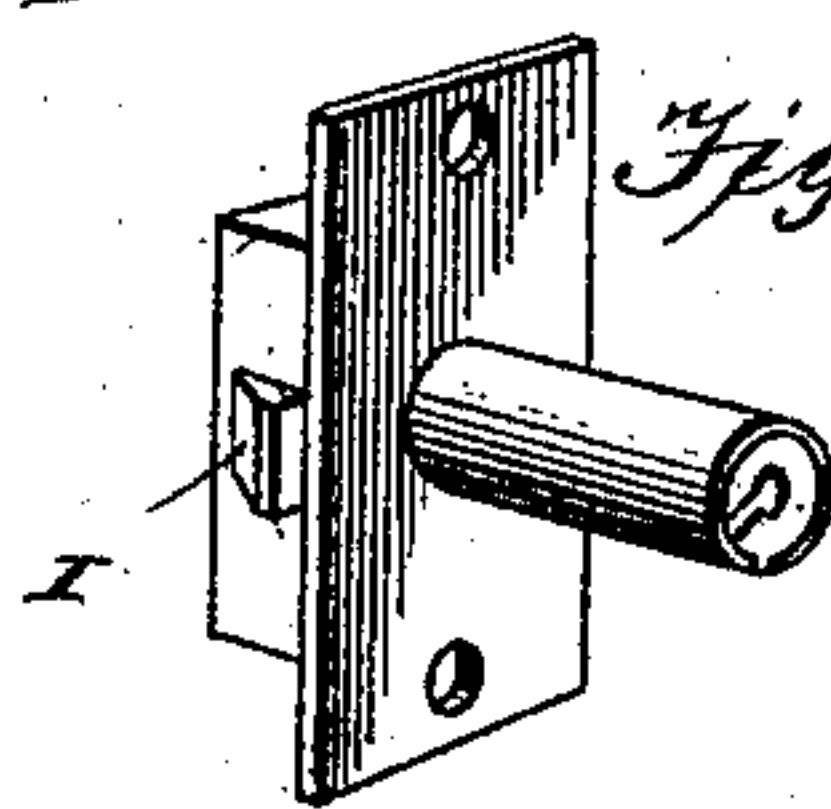
Fig. 4.



Witnesses

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Fig. 5.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN F. CHILDRESS, OF DUBLIN, VIRGINIA, ASSIGNOR OF THREE-FOURTHS TO WATSON M. HURLBURT, OF WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT.

## LOCKING HAT-RACK AND ADVERTISING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 635,089, dated October 17, 1899.

Application filed September 25, 1896. Serial No. 607,007. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN F. CHILDRESS, residing at Dublin, in the county of Pulaski and State of Virginia, have invented a new and useful Locking Hat-Rack and Advertising Device, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates generally to hat-racks, and more particularly to an improved construction of hat-rack intended for hotels, dining-rooms, and the like.

The object of this invention is to provide a hat-rack in which the hat can be so secured that it will be impossible for any person other than the owner of the hat to remove it from the rack either by mistake or purpose.

Another object of this invention is to provide a hat-rack embodying a locking mechanism capable of preventing the hat from being withdrawn, said locking mechanism being automatic so far as its locking operation is concerned, which lock can be opened only by its own special key, which key cannot be withdrawn from the lock except after the securing-bail has been locked in place.

Another object of the invention is to provide an advertising device in connection with the securing device, which advertising device is brought into operation when the securing-bar is operated.

With these various objects in view my invention consists, essentially, of a hat-rack comprising a series of separate compartments, which compartments have means at the back to prevent the hat being pushed too far inward, and a pivoted locking or securing bail at the front capable of being turned down across the front of the said compartment and locked, whereby it will be impossible to withdraw the hat without first unlocking the bail; and the invention consists also in connecting the spring-actuated curtain to the locking-bail, which curtain has advertising matter printed thereon and will be unrolled when the locking-bail is thrown down to secure the hat.

My invention consists also in certain details of construction and novelties of combination, all of which will be fully described hereinafter and pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a view showing my invention in use in the lobby of a hotel or dining-

room. Fig. 2 is an enlarged detail view of two compartments, showing a hat secured in one, the other compartment being left open. Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view taken on the line 3 3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a detail view of the locking-disk, and Fig. 5 is a detail view of the lock detached from the rack.

In the practical embodiment of my invention I employ an end standard A, between which the rack proper is supported. This rack consists of a series of separate compartments B, and in constructing a hat-rack of this description I prefer to employ light strips of wood; but it will of course be understood that any other material can be used, if so desired.

In forming the series of compartments I employ a series of horizontal strips C, extending from one side standard to the other, said strips being preferably arranged in horizontal series—three in each series—thereby virtually providing a series of horizontal shelves upon which the hats are adapted to rest.

Intersecting the horizontal strips C are the series of vertical strips D, also arranged in series of three, and extending from the top shelf to the bottom shelf, connecting each of the horizontal strips where they meet the vertical strips, are the cross-strips D', thereby subdividing the shelves or providing the series of compartments B.

A wire or rod E is arranged at the back of each shelf and extends along the entire length thereof to prevent the hat being pushed too far inward, and also prevents the hat from being withdrawn from the rack at the rear. It will be understood, however, that I do not limit myself to a rod or wire, as it is obvious that the back of the compartment could be closed by employing thin lumber, or, if desired, wire-gauze fabric may be employed, and, furthermore, it will be understood that instead of using the thin strips C, D, and D' I may employ thin boards of sufficient width to produce the compartment.

Pivoted between the front and side strips of each compartment is a locking-bail G, essentially rectangular in shape and having its ends G' bent downwardly at right angles to provide pivots upon which the bail turns. A locking-disk H is rigidly mounted upon one end of the bail and has a hole or socket H'



near its periphery, which is adapted to receive the locking-bolt I when the bail is turned down to retain the hat in the compartment, as shown in Fig. 2, said bolt being projected  
 5 into the hole or socket by the force of a spring contained within the lock-case preferably arranged upon the rear face of the front strip, the keyhole of said lock, however, being arranged upon the front face of the strip.

10 I do not wish to limit myself to any special construction of lock, but may employ any construction of spring-lock by means of which the bolt will be projected into the hole or socket of the locking-disk when the said disk  
 15 is brought around opposite to said locking-bolt, and as the disk rests close to the inner face of the strip the flat face thereof will bear constantly upon the end of the bolt, and thereby hold such bolt in such position that the  
 20 key cannot be withdrawn from the lock. After the bolt has been turned, however, to lock the bail the key can be readily removed. The bail is preferably provided with a surrounding sleeve L for the purpose of affording a conven-  
 25 ient hand-grip; but it will of course be understood that this construction is not at all necessary, and parallel to the front member of the bail is a cross-bar M, to which is attached the lower end of a curtain N, the upper end of  
 30 said curtain being attached to a spring-roller O, journaled between the side strips of the compartment. Upon the front face of this curtain is printed any desired advertising matter, and this advertising matter, besides  
 35 serving its legitimate purpose as an advertisement, also aids the owner of the hat in identifying his compartment, as he will bear in mind that his hat is locked in a compartment bearing the advertisement of a particu-  
 40 lar firm or institution. It will thus be seen that in order to lock a hat in this rack it is only necessary to pull down the bail in front of the compartment and the spring-bolt will engage the disk and lock the bail. The bolt  
 45 in springing to a locked position moves the bit of the key to such a position that it can be withdrawn, and such key will then of course be removed and carried in the pocket of the owner of the hat.

50 Each compartment is numbered, and its respective key bears the same number.

It will also be noticed that in pulling down the bail to secure the hat the advertising-card is brought into view, and when it is de-  
 55 sired to remove the hat the key is inserted and the bolt thrown back, thus releasing the locking-disk, and the spring-roller of the curtain immediately causes said curtain to be rolled up, which rolling action immediately  
 60 elevates the locking-bail and opens the entrance to the compartment. It will be borne in mind, however, that the key cannot be removed from the lock until after the locking-bail has been thrown down, so as to bring the  
 65 disk into engagement with the locking-bolt.

It will thus be seen that I provide an exceedingly cheap and simple device which can

be arranged in a series of any desired number and in the most convenient form for hotels, dining-rooms, and the like. It will also  
 70 be noticed that it will be impossible to withdraw the hat from the rack after the locking-bail has been set in place, and it will also be noticed that at the same time the hat is secured the advertising-card immediately is  
 75 brought into view, which advertising-card being spring-actuated will open, unlocking the disk and serving to elevate the locking-bail, and thereby open the entrance to the  
 80 compartment.

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

1. An improved hat-rack comprising a compartment adapted to receive a hat, a locking-  
 85 bail hinged to the front of the compartment adapted to be turned down across the front of said compartment and engage a locking device and the spring-actuated curtain for normally holding the locking-bail in an elevated  
 90 position, substantially as shown and described.

2. In a hat-rack, the combination with a compartment of a locking-bail pivoted in the front thereof, the locking-disk having a hole  
 95 or socket, the spring-actuated locking-bolt and the spring-actuated curtain for returning the bail to its normal position, substantially as shown and described.

3. In a hat-rack, the combination with the  
 100 compartment of a locking-bail pivoted in the front thereof, and means for securing the said bail in a lowered position, a display-curtain attached to the said bail and the spring-actuated roller to which the said curtain is at-  
 105 tached, substantially as shown and described.

4. In a hat-rack, the combination with a compartment, of a locking-bail pivoted in the front of said compartment and provided with a display-curtain adapted to be exposed when  
 110 the bail is locked and concealed from view when the bail is unlocked, substantially as shown and described.

5. In a hat-rack of the kind described, the combination with a compartment of the lock-  
 115 ing-bail pivoted in the front thereof, the locking-disk having a socket or hole, the spring-actuated locking-bolt, the display-curtain attached at its outer end to the bail, and the spring-roller to which the inner end of said  
 120 curtain is attached, substantially as and for the purpose described.

6. An improved hat-rack, comprising a compartment adapted to receive a hat, a locking-  
 125 bail hinged to the front of the compartment at the top thereof, said bail being adapted to turn down to close the entrance of the compartment, and a locking device arranged adjacent to the pivot of the bail and adapted to lock the same in a closed position, substan-  
 130 tially as shown and described.

7. In a hat-rack, the combination with a compartment, of a locking-bail essentially rectangular in shape and pivoted to the front



of said compartment and adapted to swing  
across the entrance of the compartment for  
the purpose of closing the same, a disk rig-  
idly attached to one of the pivotal ends of the  
5 bail having a notch or recess therein, and the  
locking-bolt arranged upon the side of the  
compartment adjacent to the disk and adapt-  
ed to be projected into the notch or recess of

said disk, holding the bail in an unprojected  
position when the bail is raised, substantially as  
as set forth.

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Witnesses:

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