

No. 652,510.

T. J. COX.

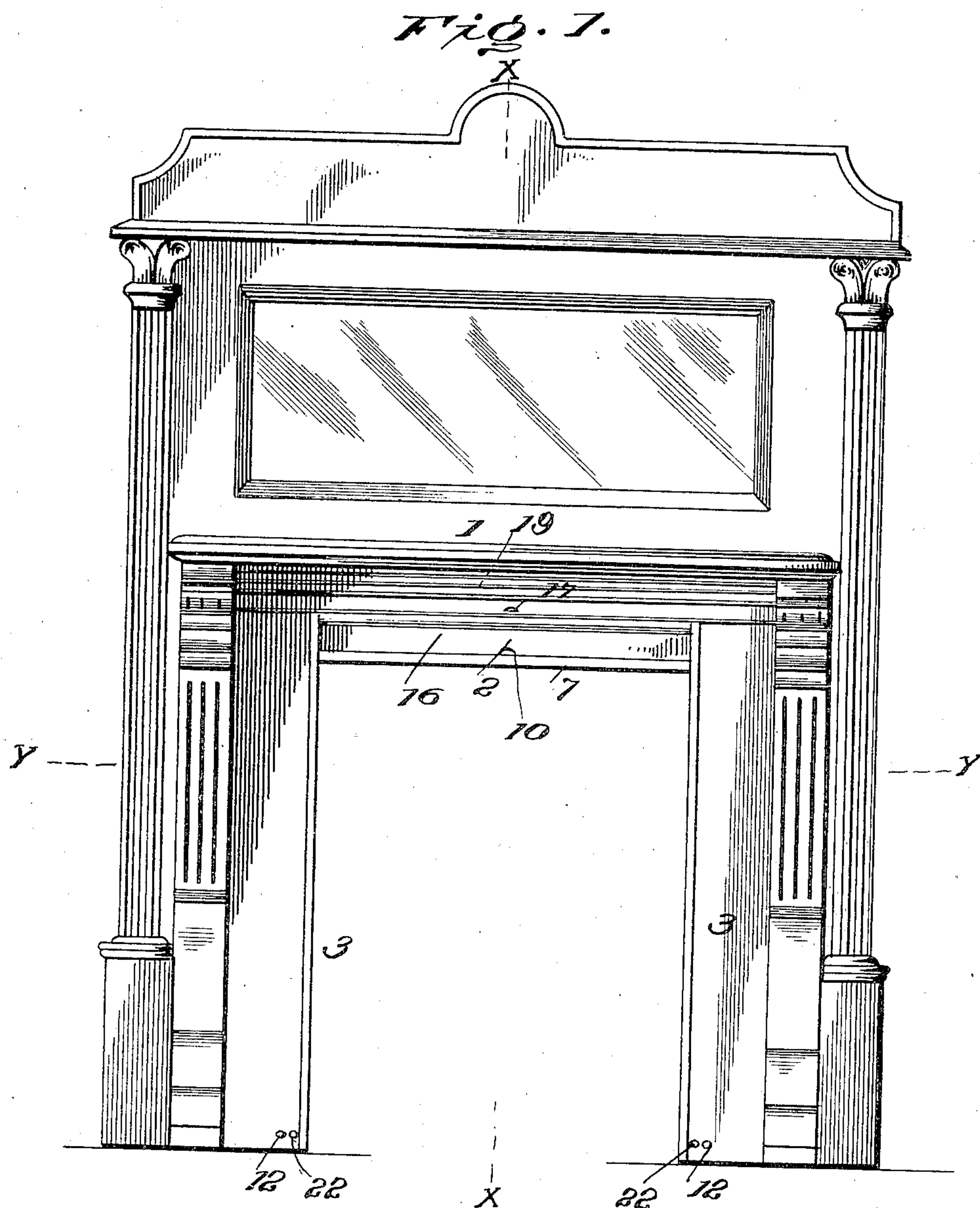
Patented June 26, 1900.

MANTEL.

(Application filed Sept. 30, 1899.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



Witnesses

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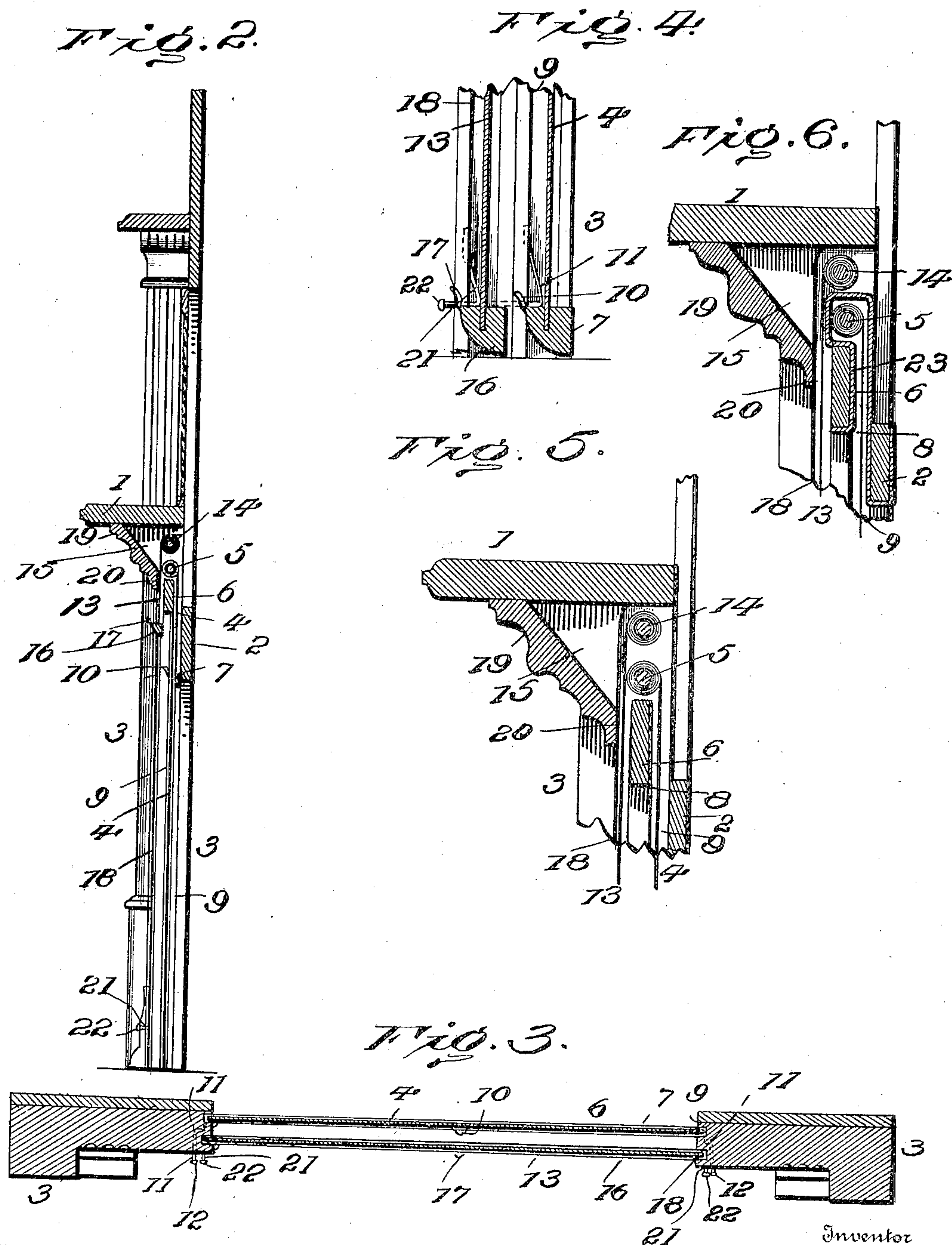
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

THOMAS J. COX, OF GAINESVILLE, TEXAS.

MANTEL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 652,510, dated June 26, 1900.

Application filed September 30, 1899. Serial No. 732,226. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS J. COX, a citizen of the United States, residing at Gainesville, in the county of Cooke and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mantels; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to fireplace or open-grate heaters, the purpose being to combine with this class of heaters means for preventing fire being communicated to the room, furniture, hangings, and the like, to control the effective heat radiation, and to provide a closure for the front of the fireplace when the latter is not in use, as during the summer season or warm spells and at such times when fire is not required.

The invention is applied directly to the mantel; and it consists, essentially, of a flexible screen, guard, or shield adapted to wind upon a roller, the latter being housed in the space formed between the shelf of the mantel and the headboard.

The invention also contemplates an ornamental curtain for use when no fire is in the grate or heater, said curtain winding upon a roller housed in the same angular space with the shield.

The invention is to be used in connection with wooden, slate, metal, or any form of mantel, the construction, style, and pattern being subordinate to the nature of the invention.

Some of the many advantages resulting from the invention have been indicated and others will suggest themselves as the nature of the invention is fully comprehended.

With the foregoing objects in view the invention may be said to consist of the novel features, details of construction and combinations of the parts, which hereinafter will be more particularly set forth, illustrated, and finally embodied in the appended clauses of the claim.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a front view of a mantel of ordinary construction, showing the application of the invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical transverse section on the line X X of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section on

the line Y Y of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a detail view of a leg of the mantel, showing the parallel guideways formed therein and the catches for holding the curtain and guard when lowered. Fig. 5 is a transverse section of the head portion of the mantel, showing the relation of the parts when the curtain and guard are wound upon their respective rollers. Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 5, showing the roller for the screen housed.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

The style, construction, and make of mantel is unimportant within the scope and nature of the invention, as it is contemplated to apply the latter to any form of mantel in use or to be constructed. The mantel shown is of the cabinet type and illustrates the general application of the invention and comprises the shelf 1, headboard 2, and legs 3, the latter extending upon opposite sides of the fireplace within which the open grate or heater (not shown) is located in the usual way.

The fire-screen, guard, or shield 4 is constructed so as to wind upon a roller and may be of sheet metal or fireproof textile and is of a width to extend from one leg 3 to the other entirely across the fireplace. A roller 5 is located in the angular space formed between the shelf 1 and the headboard 2 and is mounted in any convenient manner and has the upper end of the fire-screen 4 attached thereto and is adapted to be rotated so as to wind said screen thereon. The roller 5 is designed to be of the spring type, so as to automatically wind the fire-screen in the manner well understood in the art of spring shade-rollers. An apron or division-board 6 is applied to the mantel and located in front of the headboard 2 and spaced a short distance therefrom, said apron extending from one leg 3 to the other. The fire-screen 4 is arranged to operate in the space formed between the apron 6 and the headboard 2 and is provided at its lower end with a cross-bar 7, which is adapted to close the lower end of the space 8 when the fire-screen is wound upon the roller 5, as indicated most clearly in Fig. 5. The lower edge of the apron 6 is in a higher plane

than the lower edge of the headboard 2, and the cross-bar 7 comes in contact with the lower edge of the apron and is adapted to bear against the front side of the headboard 2.

5 The cross-piece 7, besides forming a closure for the space 8, stiffens and strengthens the lower end of the fire-screen and has its terminal portions arranged to operate in vertical grooves or guideways 9, provided in the inner
10 edges of the legs 3. The fire-screen 4 is of a width to have its longitudinal edge portions enter the vertical grooves or guideways 9, thereby completely closing the fireplace when said guard or shield is lowered. A finger-grip
15 10 is applied to the cross-bar 7 and is adapted to be grasped when it is required to operate the fire-screen.

In order to prevent the casual displacement of the fire-screen when lowered, catches 11 are
20 disposed so as to engage with the end portions of the cross-bar 7, and these catches may be of any construction and are preferably located so as to project into the vertical grooves 9 and across the path of the cross-bar 7, so as
25 to be depressed when the fire-screen is lowered and automatically spring outward and engage with the terminal portions of said cross-bar and hold the fire-screen lowered and against accidental displacement. Knobs
30 12 are attached to the projecting stems of the catches 11 and are adapted to be pulled upon to withdraw said catches 11 from the path of the cross-bar 7 when it is required to elevate the fire-screen. These catches 11 are located
35 at the lower ends of the vertical grooves or guideways 9.

During the summer season and at such periods when the heater is not in use it is desirable to have the fireplace present a pleasing
40 and ornamental appearance, and to this end a fancy or ornamental curtain 13 is provided and is adapted to wind upon a roller 14, located in the angular space 15, in which is placed the roller 5. This curtain 13 may be
45 embellished, ornamented, or finished according to the caprice and design of the user and is disposed to operate in front of the apron or division-board 6. The rollers 5 and 14 may have any relative disposition, according to the
50 capacity of the space 15, and by preference the roller 14 is placed above and in vertical line with the roller 5. In order that there may be no interference between the fire-screen and fancy curtain and their respective roll-
55 ers, the fire-screen and fancy curtain are adapted to wind in reverse directions upon their respective rollers, as most clearly indicated in Figs. 2 and 5. The roller 14 is intended to be of the spring type, so as to ad-
60 mit of the curtain 13 winding automatically thereon. A cross-bar 16, having a finger-piece 17, is applied to the lower end of the fancy curtain 13, and its end portions are adapted to operate in vertical grooves or
65 guideways 18 in the edges of the legs 3, parallel with and adjacent to the guideways 9. The curtain 13 is of a width to have its edge

portions enter the grooves 18, so as to completely close the fireplace. The rollers 5 and 14 are housed in the space 15 and concealed
70 from view by means of the breast or spanner 19, which extends from the shelf 1 to a point adjacent to the apron or division-board 6, a space 20 intervening between the lower edge of the breast 19 and the upper portion of the
75 apron to provide a passage for the curtain 13. This space 20 is closed by the cross-bar 16 when the curtain 13 is wound upon its roller. The breast 19, in addition to housing the rollers and shutting them off from view, forms a
80 support and brace for the shelf 1 and may be molded, reeded, or carved to add materially to the finish and ornamentation of the mantel.

To prevent vertical movement of the cur-
85 tain 13 when drawn down, catches 21, similar in construction and disposition to the catches 11, are provided and applied to the legs of the mantel and normally project across the path of the end portions of the cross-bar 16
90 and into the vertical grooves or guideways 18. These catches yield to admit of the passage of the cross-bar 16 and automatically move outward and engage with the cross-bar 16 and hold it and the curtain 13 in a lowered
95 position. Knobs 22 are applied to the projecting ends or stems of the catches 21 and provide finger-grips to enable said catches to be moved outward from the path of the cross-bar 16 when it is required to elevate it and
100 the curtain connected therewith.

When the fire-screen and the curtain are not in service, they are wound upon their respective rollers, and the cross-bars applied thereto close the spaces through which the
105 said fire-screen and curtain operate, thereby excluding dust and preventing sparks or fire entering the space 15. When the fire-screen is lowered, sparks and fire are prevented from entering the room or apartment in which the
110 fireplace is located, and by drawing the fire-screen down to a greater or less extent the effective heat radiated into the room may be controlled. When the heater is not in operation, as in warm weather or at other times
115 when fire is dispensed with, the fancy curtain 13 is drawn so as to conceal the fireplace and ornament the same and present a neat appearance.

It is contemplated to house the roller 5 to
120 reduce the chances of fire to the smallest possible degree. This housing is shown at 23 in Fig. 6 and incloses the roller 5 and has its end portions lining the walls of the passage 8 and is of metal or like fireproof sheet
125 material. When the screen is drawn down, sparks entering the space 8 cannot cause fire because of the fireproof housing 23, into which they are received. This is of especial advantage when the invention is applied to wooden
130 mantels, as the parts 2 and 6 are protected. The curtain 13 being combustible is protected by the housing from fire. Hence the housing is of benefit when applied to slate,

marble, or metal mantels. The shelf 1 is movable to admit of access to the rollers and housing when desired for any purpose.

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

1. In combination, a mantel having an inclosed space immediately below the shelf, a headboard, an apron spaced from the headboard and lower edge of the housing, rollers 10 located in the said housed space and in vertical line with the apron, screens adapted to wind upon the rollers in reverse directions from opposite sides of the apron, and bars applied to the lower ends of the screens and 15 adapted to close the lower ends of the space formed in the front and in the rear of the said apron, substantially as specified.

2. In a mantel, the combination with the shelf, breast, headboard and apron spaced from and located intermediate of the breast 20 and headboard, of rollers located in the space inclosed by the shelf, headboard, breast and apron, guards adapted to wind on the rollers, and a fireproof housing inclosing the lower roller and lining the opposing sides of the 25 apron and headboard, substantially as described.

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

THOMAS J. COX. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

J. L. PENTECOST,
J. T. ADAMS.