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A. E. LANDON & W. F. BECK.

FILE.

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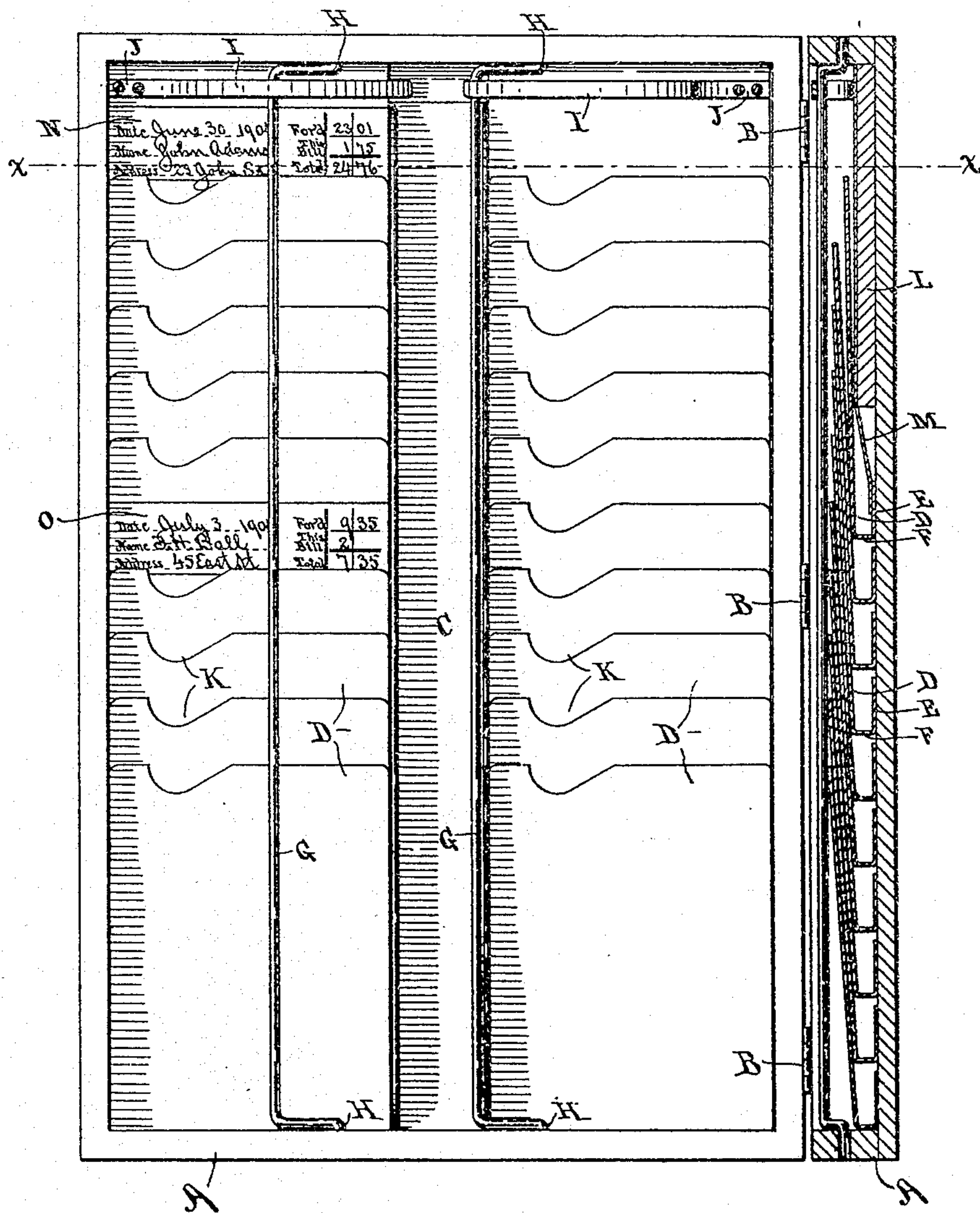


Fig. 1.

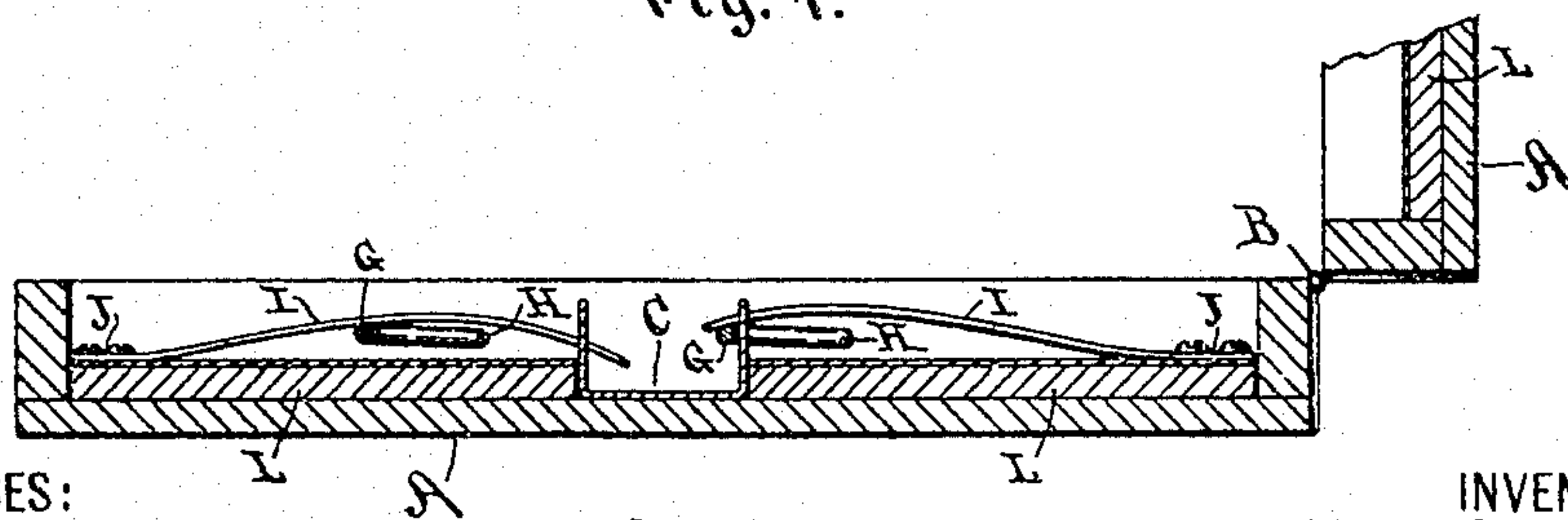


Fig. 2.

WITNESSES:

Martha E. Verbeck

*[Signature]*

INVENTORS

A. Elton Landon  
W. Warren Beck

BY

Eugene Diven  
ATTORNEY



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ASA ELTON LANDON, OF CANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AND WARREN F. BECK,  
OF ELMIRA, NEW YORK.

## FILE.

No. 800,858.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 3, 1905.

Application filed September 6, 1904. Serial No. 223,338.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, ASA ELTON LANDON, residing at Canton, in the county of Bradford and State of Pennsylvania, and WARREN F. BECK, residing at Elmira, in the county of Chemung and State of New York, citizens of the United States, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Files, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates more particularly to improvements in files such as are adapted to receive and preserve the sales-slips used by merchants in transacting business with their customers; and the principal object of our improvements is to provide a file of this nature which shall be especially adapted to be used in combination with sales-slips printed with a form such as is described in the Letters Patent to Warren F. Beck for forms for sales-slips, No. 788,346, dated April 25, 1905, and in which said slips may be arranged with each customer's slips in a compartment by themselves in alphabetical order and with a certain portion of the outermost slip in each compartment displayed so as to show certain data thereon, which at a glance will give to the merchant a complete statement of the condition of each customer's account.

A further object is to so arrange the file that the compartments will be of a flexible nature in order that each compartment may receive a number of the slips and to provide means for retaining the slips within the compartment so that they may not become disarranged no matter in what position the file may be placed while handling it, and our final object is to provide a simple and cheaply-constructed file for this purpose of a form and shape suitable for convenient handling and for placing away within a safe, vault, or other place of safe-keeping.

We attain our objects by means of a filing-case arranged and constructed in the manner illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a plan view of one leaf of a filing-case embodying our improvements with a second leaf hinged thereto at the right-hand side and shown in longitudinal section, and Fig. 2 represents a transverse section of the same on line *xx* of Fig. 1.

For the purpose of illustrating our invention we have shown a filing-case composed of two leaves A A, hinged together, each leaf

being in the form of a rectangular tray and containing two rows of ten compartments each, so that the sales-slips for forty customers may be received and filed therein. It will be evident, however, that each leaf may be made of a size to contain a larger number of compartments and that the compartments may be made of different sizes to conform with the size and shape of the sales-slips in use by any given merchant; also, that the capacity of the file may be increased by employing a larger number of leaves, which may be hinged or fastened together in any desirable manner.

The leaves A A are shallow rectangular trays formed of wood or other material of suitable lightness and strength and are hinged together at points B, so as to form in, effect, a book from which may be read when the sales-slips are in place the whole history of the customer's accounts as represented by the slips. Running longitudinally through the center of each leaf is a channel-piece C, composed of sheet metal or other suitable material bent into the desired shape, and in the longitudinal divisions formed thereby are arranged a series of overlapping flexible flaps D, each flap projecting a short distance beyond the next overlapping flap and forming a compartment in which may be placed the sales-slips of any given customer as they are made out from time to time in the course of business transactions. These flaps are preferably cut from cartridge-paper, although any other material of suitable flexibility may be used, and they are bent into the shape shown in the longitudinal section of the right-hand leaf in Fig. 1—that is, each flap will have a short back strip E, by which it is fastened to the back of the leaf, and an outwardly-projecting bend F, which constitutes the bottom of each compartment and provides for the necessary capacity of the compartments to receive a package of the sales-slips. By giving to the compartments a flat bottom each slip as it is placed in a compartment will fall into line with the underlying slips and will not be forced up as the compartments fill so as to obstruct the view of the slips in the compartment next above. As the flaps are flexible, a considerable number of sales-slips may be placed in each compartment and the flaps will bend over and lie down closely upon said slips, so that it will be evident that the compart-



ments may contain some more and some less of the slips, and yet all will be pressed closely together to hold the slips in place when our securing-rods G are turned down over the face of the flaps.

The rods G are of stiff wire bent into the form of bails, hinged to the leaves A at the points H by means of outturned projections from the ends of the bails, being slipped into corresponding holes formed in the top and bottom sides of the leaves. In order to hold these bails from turning and to press them upon the flaps, we provide flat springs at I, fastened at one end J to the back of the leaf and left free at the other end. These springs are of sufficient length to allow the bails to be thrown over into the channel C and to hold the bails in that position. When the bails are thrown over into the central channel, the filing-compartments are left open and free for the insertion or removal of the sales-slips. To facilitate the removal of the slips, we provide notches at K at the top of each flap in order that a finger may be more readily inserted beneath the slips to draw them from between the flaps.

At L is a filling-in piece which throws out the back of the upper compartments into line with the other compartments, and this piece will be preferably covered with cartridge-paper, which is brought down at M to overlap the back strip E of the next lower flap.

At N and O are shown sales-slips as they will appear when in place in the file, and it will be seen that the portions of the slips which appear above the overlying flaps disclose not only the names of the customers, but also the dates when the slips were made out, the amount of a customer's account brought forward from his next previous slip, the footing of the items of the slip, and the total of the said two items, which total is the amount then due and payable from the customer. In case the customer makes a payment on account his slip for that transaction will show a credit, and the amount entered on the slip will be deducted from the amount brought forward, as shown on the slip O. By this arrangement of the file in conjunction with the above-described form of sales-slips it will be seen that we provide not only an effective and compact file for the slips, but also a file by means of which the merchant can utilize his sales-slips for the purpose of conducting his bookkeeping. Each customer's account will be shown on the portion of the slip which is exposed in the files and can be read in the same manner as if it were entered upon a separate book. It is our intention that only a few of the slips shall be retained for each customer in the compartments of this file, the slips of earlier date being removed from time to time and either destroyed or put away by themselves in suitable receptacles for future reference.

While we have described a bail as constituting the securing device for holding the flaps and slips in place within the files, we do not confine ourselves to the use of the bails nor to any particular means of accomplishing this result, nor do we wish to be limited to the form of spring which we have illustrated for holding the bail in place, as it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that other devices and arrangements of springs may be utilized to accomplish the same purpose. Neither do we restrict ourselves to the use of this file in connection with sales-slips only, as it may be used to advantage in filing away other papers.

Having thus described our improvements, what we claim as our invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A file comprising a receptacle containing a plurality of expansible filing-compartments arranged in series, said compartments being of equal depth and formed by flaps fastened to the back of the receptacle, bent forward at right angles to provide a flat bottom for the compartments and then bent over to lie loosely one upon another, each flap in a series projecting beyond the next overlying flap.

2. A file comprising a shallow receptacle containing a plurality of filing-compartments arranged in series, said compartments being of equal depth and formed by flaps fastened to the back of the receptacle and turned over to lie loosely one upon another, each flap in a series projecting beyond the next overlying flap, and partition-strips between the flaps of adjacent series, which, together with the sides of the receptacle, form the sides of the compartments.

3. A file comprising a receptacle containing a plurality of expansible filing-compartments arranged in series, said compartments being of equal depth and formed by flaps fastened at one end to the back of the receptacle and turned over to lie loosely one upon another, each flap in a series projecting beyond the next overlying flap, and means for pressing the flaps in each series upon the contents of the compartments without obstructing the view of that portion of said contents which projects beyond the flaps.

4. A file comprising a receptacle containing a plurality of expansible overlying compartments arranged in series with each compartment in a series projecting beyond the next, and a retaining-bar adapted to be laid over and press upon each series of compartments to hold the contents therein without obstruction to the view thereof.

5. A file comprising a receptacle containing a plurality of expansible overlying compartments arranged in series with each compartment in a series projecting beyond the next, a hinged bail adapted to be thrown over or away from a series of the compartments,



and a spring whereby the bail is held in either of said positions.

6. A file comprising a receptacle containing a plurality of compartments formed by a series of overlying flexible flaps projecting one beyond another, a narrow retaining-bar adapted to be held across the series of flaps, and means for pressing said bar against the flaps.

7. A file comprising a receptacle containing a plurality of expansible overlying compartments arranged in series with a space between adjacent series, a retaining-bar for each series adapted to be swung over into said space, and a spring whereby said bar is held in either open or closed position.

8. A file comprising a receptacle contain-

ing a plurality of overlying compartments arranged in series with each compartment in a series projecting beyond the next, retaining-bars each adapted to be laid over all the compartments in a series, and a spring to exert pressure upon each bar when in closed position.

In testimony whereof we have affixed our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

A. ELTON LANDON.

WARREN F. BECK.

Witnesses to signature of A. Elton Landon:

PETER A. HART,

WM. H. STOKER.

Witnesses to signature of Warren F. Beck:

A. M. BOVIER,

A. H. MARKS.