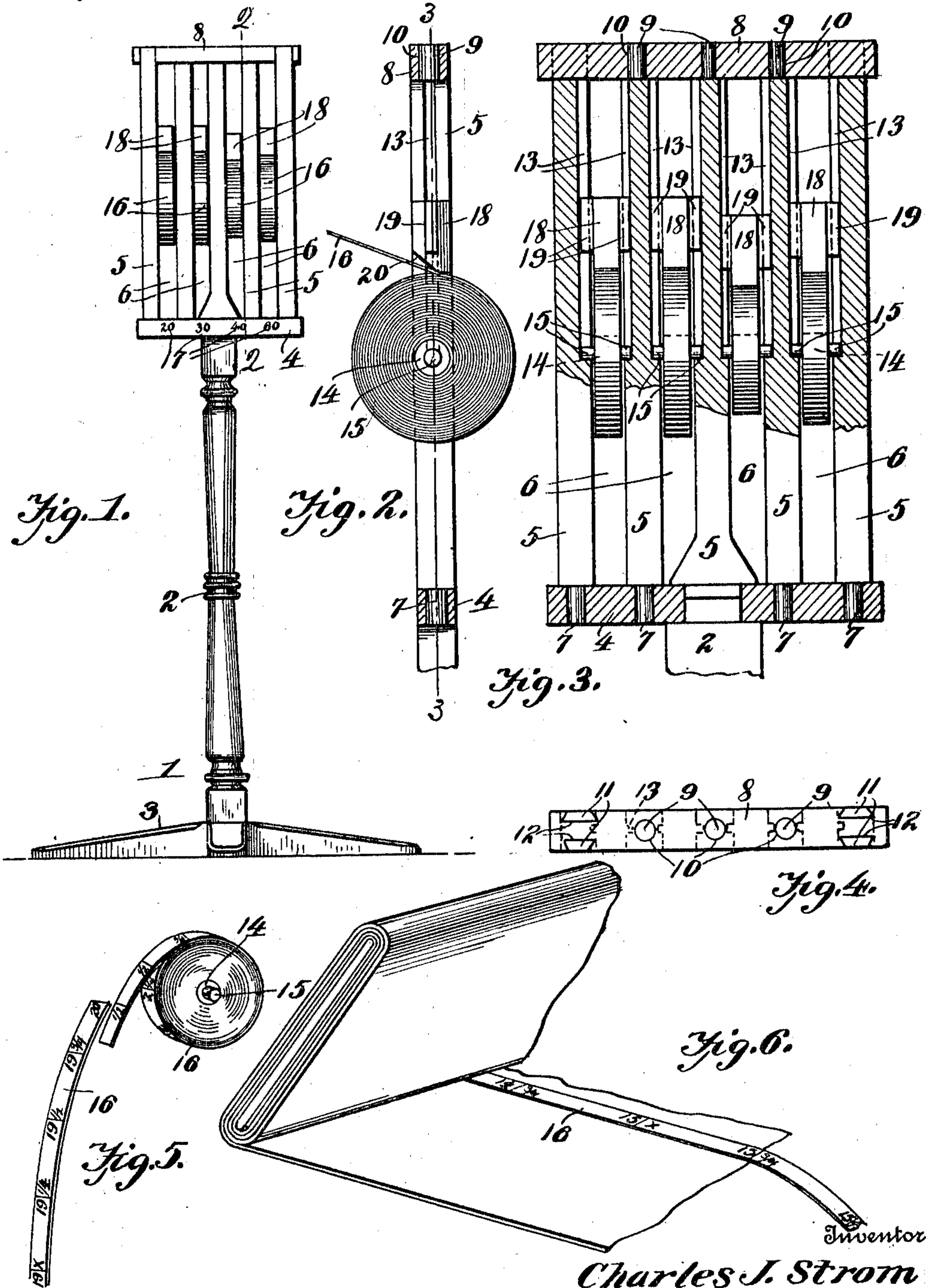


C. J. STROM.  
STOCK TAKING DEVICE.  
APPLICATION FILED MAY 9, 1910.

986,955.

Patented Mar. 14, 1911.



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES J. STROM, OF AUGUSTA, GEORGIA.

STOCK-TAKING DEVICE.

986,955.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 14, 1911.

Application filed May 9, 1910. Serial No. 560,347.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES J. STROM, a citizen of the United States, residing at Augusta, county of Richmond, and State of Georgia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stock-Taking Devices, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in stock taking devices, that is, to devices for facilitating the taking of stock in mercantile houses, particularly dry goods stores.

In mercantile houses stock is taken at least once in every year, and in dry goods houses usually twice a year or more frequently. With the old method of taking stock each bolt of goods was measured by hand which necessitated undoing the goods and then re-winding the same into bolts. A tag bearing the amount of goods in the bolt was then attached thereto. On account of the amount of work required, this portion of the work is commenced some time, that is days or weeks, according to the size of the stock carried, before the record of the stock is made. Consequently, with each sale made after the goods are measured as above stated, the clerk making the sale would have to make a change in the tag. Frequently this change is overlooked or incorrectly made which results in an error when the record of the stock is taken. Also by this method which is in general use, an immense amount of work is thrown upon the employees each time the stock is taken.

The object of my invention is to provide an improved means or device for facilitating the taking of stock whereby each bolt or piece of goods in the house will maintain its own record so that when it is desired to take stock all that is necessary is to take the final record.

A further and particular object of my invention is to provide an improved device for facilitating the application of the recording device to the goods.

Other objects will appear hereinafter.

With these objects in view my invention consists generally in a graduated tape formed of thin paper and coiled in the bolt with the goods so that the exposed end of the tape will at all times give a correct record of the amount of goods remaining in the bolt, the tape also serving as a measure for the goods when being sold.

My invention further consists in an im-

proved reel rack for holding the tapes whereby the same may be easily applied to the goods.

My invention further consists in an improved reel and tapes as will appear hereinafter.

My invention further consists in various details of construction and arrangements of parts all as will be fully described hereinafter and particularly pointed out in the claim.

My invention will be more readily understood by reference to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification and in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a reel rack embodying my invention in its preferred form, Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the same on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1 and illustrated upon an enlarged scale, Fig. 3 is a vertical section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2, Fig. 4 is a plan view of the device, Fig. 5 is a perspective view of one of the reels illustrating one of the tapes just removed therefrom and the next successive tape beginning to unwind, and Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a portion of a bolt of cloth equipped with one of the tapes.

Referring now to the drawings 1 indicates a stand which comprises a vertical standard 2 and a base 3. Secured to the upper end of the standard 2 is a cross member 4 to which are secured a plurality of vertical upwardly extending bars or members 5. I have illustrated five of the bars which are arranged parallel with each other and spaced apart forming vertical recesses 6 between them for the reels. The lower ends of the bars 5 are preferably mortised into the horizontal cross member 4 as at 7. The upper ends of the members 5 are connected by a cross bar or member 8 which is preferably removably mounted in place. To this end the upper ends of the intermediate bars 5 are reduced as at 9 to extend into apertures 10 formed in the bar 8, and the outer members 5 are bifurcated at their upper ends as at 11 and the edges of the member 8 are correspondingly recessed as at 12 to receive the ends 11 as shown clearly in Fig. 4. The ends 11 are preferably dove-tailed into the member 8 as illustrated.

The inner adjacent faces of the strips 5 are provided with vertical grooves 13 which extend from the upper ends of said strips to points somewhat below the center thereof to



receive the ends of the reel spindles. By this construction the exhausted reels may be readily removed and new reels inserted after having removed the top cross bar 8.

5 14 indicates the reels and 15 the spindles thereof. Wound upon each of the reels 14 are a plurality of tapes 16 which are formed of narrow thin strips of paper each graduated into yards and fractions of yards. Dry  
10 goods come in various standard lengths of twenty, thirty, forty and sixty yards to the bolt, and it is for this reason that I provide the reel rack with four reels, each reel containing a plurality of tapes of one of the  
15 lengths mentioned. That is one reel will contain a plurality of twenty yard tapes, another a plurality of thirty yard tapes, another a plurality of forty yard tapes and the fourth a plurality of sixty yard tapes. To  
20 avoid mistake when using the device the strip 4 is provided with numerals at the bottom of each of the channels 6 indicative of the length of the strips on the respective reels. Blocks or weights 18 are slidably  
25 mounted in the channels 6 and rest upon the reels of tape to give proper tension to the same when being unwound. These are provided with laterally extending tongues 19 which project into the grooves 13 and in  
30 which they freely slide. The lower end of the blocks 18 are beveled with an upward and forward incline 20 to permit free vertical movement of the tape 16 when being wound in the bolt without danger of tearing  
35 the same.

40 In using the device the top strip 8 is removed and reels bearing strips or tapes of the several lengths are arranged in the respective channels as before mentioned and the tension block 18 placed in position above the same and strip replaced. The device is then ready for service. When new bolts of goods are received, which are of known

lengths, the goods are rewound upon the bolt and a strip or tape of corresponding length 45 coiled therewith. That is, if the bolt contain a piece of goods thirty yards in length, a tape is used from the reel containing the thirty yard tapes. The bolts are then ready 50 for the shelves and it is obvious that the strips afford ready means for measuring the goods as sold thereby dispensing with the use of the usual yard stick or tacks placed in the edge of the counter. Further when it is 55 desired to take stock the amount of goods remaining in the bolt may be read directly from the tape and unwinding, measuring and rewinding the goods is dispensed with, and furthermore the liability to error as 60 hereinbefore mentioned is obviated.

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

In a device of the class described, a reel rack comprising a horizontal bottom mem- 65 ber and a plurality of parallel vertical members extending upwardly therefrom forming reel channels between them, the inner edges of said vertical members being grooved for a portion of their length, the grooves ex- 70 tending to the upper ends thereof, reels, spindles for said reels having their ends arranged in said grooves, blocks arranged above said reels, tongues on said blocks extending into said grooves, and a removable 75 top member connecting the upper ends of said vertical members, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of 80 two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES J. STROM.

Witnesses:

J. G. BELDING,  
W. D. STONE.