May 29, 1928. 1,671,869

R. I. MEADER ET AL

DESK CLIP FOR MESSAGE BLANKS

Filed June 12, 1925 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

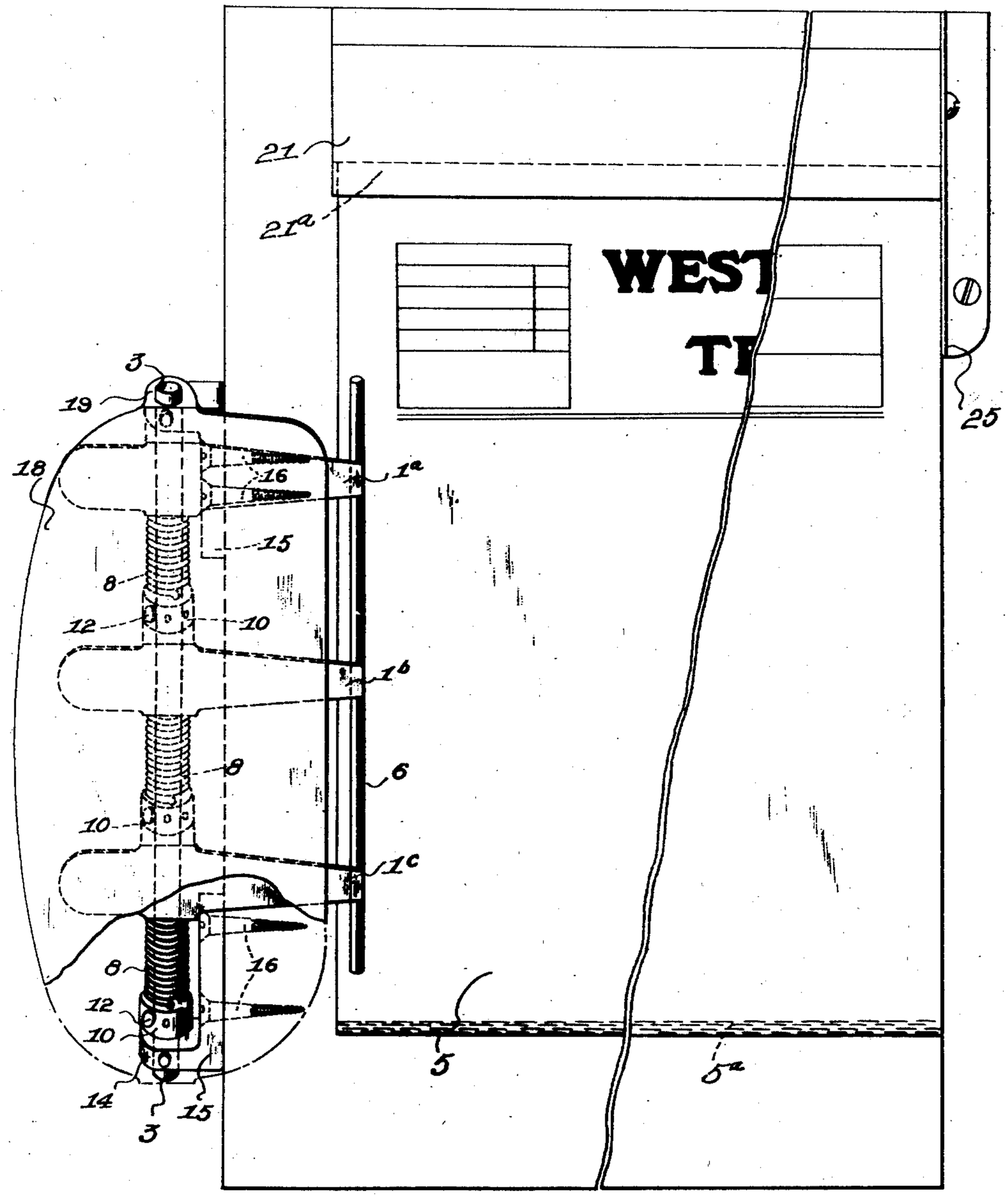

Fig. 1

Inventors
Ralph I. Meader
Ernest W. Hewitt

By

Eugene C. Brown
Attorney

May 29, 1928. 1,671,869

R. I. MEADER ET AL

DESK CLIP FOR MESSAGE BLANKS

Filed June 12, 1925 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

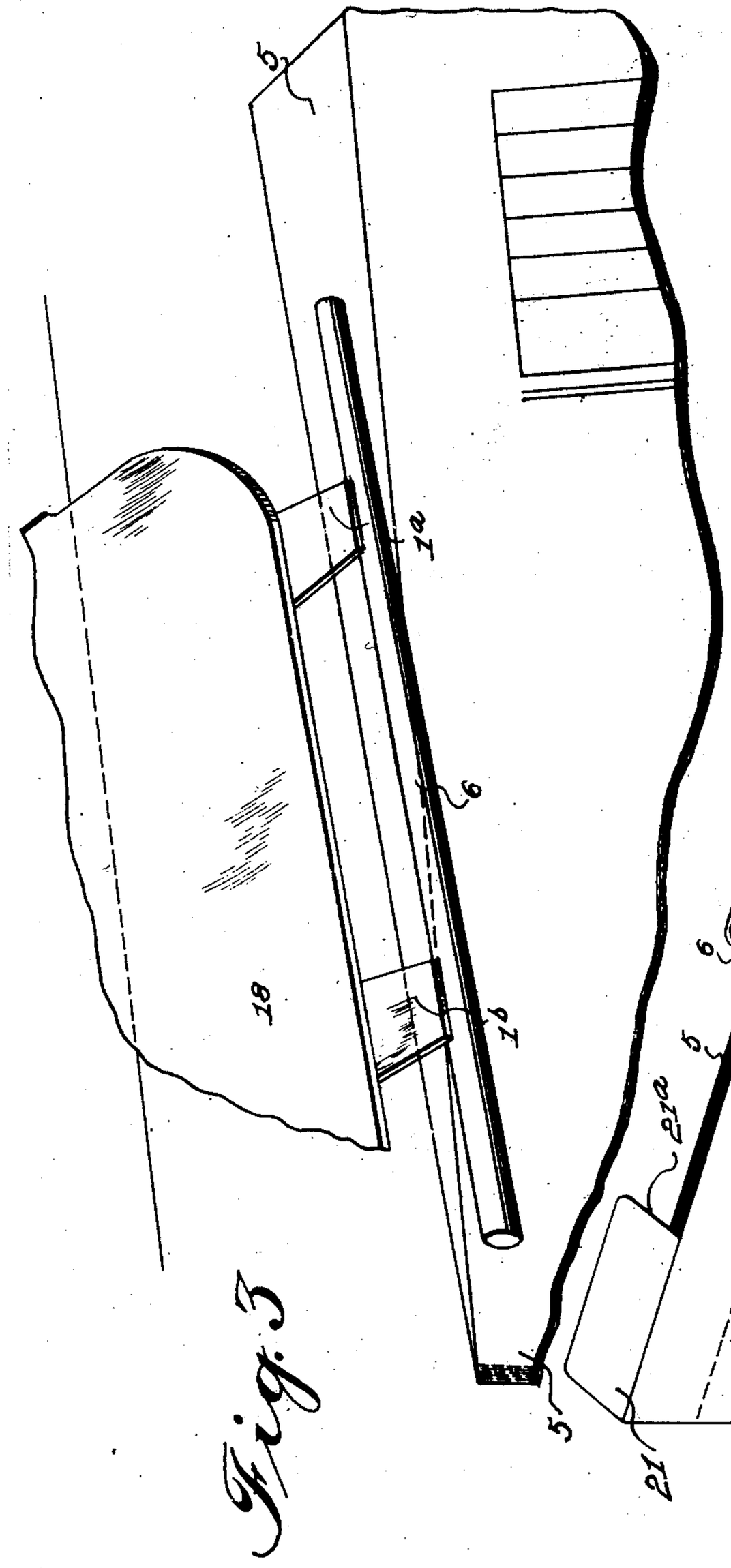

Fig. 3

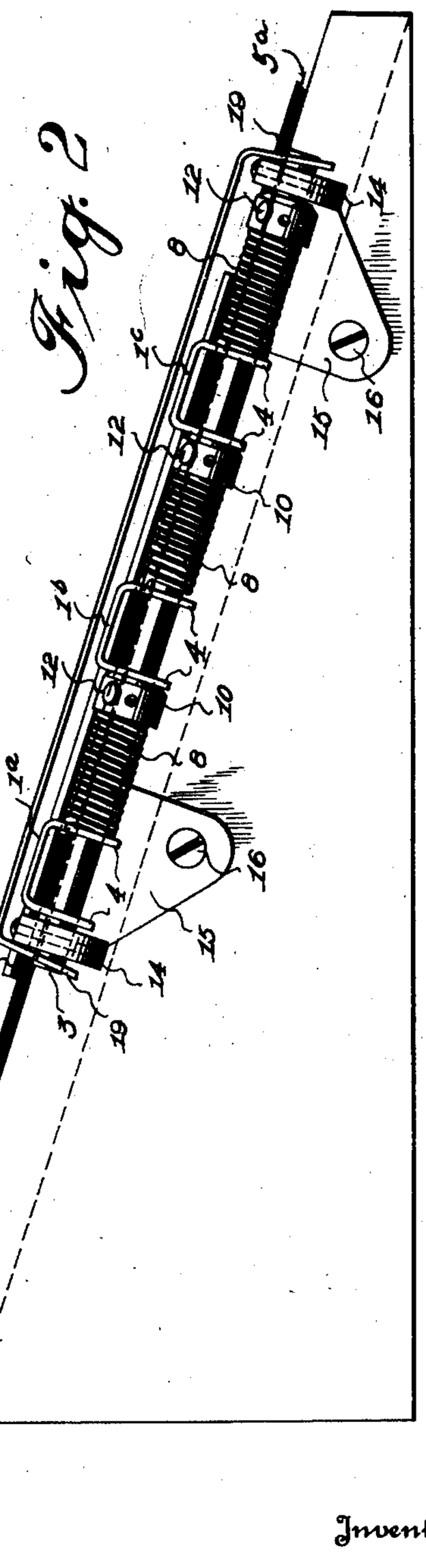

Fig. 2

Inventors
Ralph I. Meader
Ernest W. Hewitt

By
Eugene C. Brown
Attorney

Patented May 29, 1928. 1,671,869

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RALPH I. MEADER, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, AND ERNEST WARDEN HEWITT, OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNORS TO THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

DESK CLIP FOR MESSAGE BLANKS.

Application filed June 12, 1925. Serial No. 36,687.

This invention relates to a spring clip device for attachment to a desk for holding loose leaf blank forms and while especially intended for holding telegraph message blanks, it may be used for holding letter heads, bill heads or other unpadded or loose leaves or blanks upon a desk.

The purpose of our invention is to provide a clip attachment for removably holding a pile or stack of loose blanks, such as message blanks, upon a desk in orderly arrangement while permitting the blanks to be withdrawn one by one without disturbing the remaining blanks.

In the following description we shall refer to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a top plan view, partly broken away to better show the construction of a clip embodving our invention and showing the manner of attaching it to a desk.

Figure 2 is a side elevation, and

Figure 3 is a fragmentary perspective view of the same.

In order to maintain the loose blanks in an orderly pile while the top blank is being withdrawn, we have found it desirable to provide means for holding the blanks yieldingly along one side edge with a pressure which increases progressively along said edge. In this manner the upper blank may be slid from under the end of the clip which bears more lightly upon the blanks while the bulk of blanks is firmly held in position by the greater pressure of the remaining portions of the clip. As this upper blank is now pulled laterally, it moves progressively from the other portions of the clip and as it is slid from under the successive portions thereof, said portions in turn bear upon the next lower blank.

As one means of accomplishing the purpose above described, we provide a plurality of fingers 1^a, 1^b, 1^c, projecting over one edge of the blanks 5 and provided with intermediate downwardly bent perforated ears 4 pivoted on the rod 3. The inner ends of the fingers may be connected by a flexible wire or rod 6, although this is not absolutely necessary. The pressure fingers are maintained under tension by springs 8, the free end of each spring being secured to an ear 4 of one of the fingers, the opposite end being fastened to a collar 10 which is rotatable on the rod 3 and may be locked in any adjusted position by means of a pin 12 passing through the collar and into an aperture in the rod. In this manner the tension of the springs may be adjusted as desired. The ends of the rod 3 are carried by apertured lugs 14 on the supporting brackets 15 which may be fastened to the side of a desk by screws 16.

A cover plate 18 rests on top of the pressure fingers and is pivotally secured to the rod by apertured ears 19 bent down from the ends of the plate. The fingers and pressure bar 6 may be lifted to insert a fresh lot of blanks by bearing upon the outer margin of the plate 18, the pressure being transmitted directly to the outer ends of the fingers which are thereby rocked upon the rod 3 against the tension of the springs 8.

We provide a stop member, preferably in the form of an angle plate 25, which is screwed to the desk in position to align the right hand edges of the blanks. We also provide a headblock 21 which is undercut along its lower edge 21^a so that as a pile of blanks 5 is inserted under the pressure bar and slid upwardly against the headblock, the blanks will slide upon each other until their edges conform to the inclination of the undercut block and the bottom edges 5^a will form an overhanging ledge. Hence the top blank will always project over the edges of those below and may be readily lifted and grasped between the fingers and thumb.

This loose leaf clip is especially useful for holding telegraph message blanks upon a so-called "gumming table". The messages are received in printed form upon a continuous strip of paper which is gummed upon the underside. The strip is guided through a moistening tool which is grasped in the right hand of the operator. The free end of the strip is positioned on the message blank and held with the left hand while the moistener is pulled along the strip and simultaneously presses the latter upon the blank. As a length sufficient for a line is pasted on the message blank, the strip is severed and the operation is repeated until the complete message has been fixed to the blank.

The construction of the clip causes it to function in a manner to permit this operation to be performed rapidly and without any interruption. When a message blank has been filled with the strips or a message

has been completed, the top blank is lifted at the lower right hand corner by the thumb and finger of the left hand and is raised until it clears the stop-plate 25. It is then slid from the pile or stack by pulling to the right, the upper portion sliding readily from under the flexible bar 6 because of the light pressure of the finger 1^a and then sliding diagonally from under the fingers 1^b and 1^c without disturbing the pile of blanks beneath. Thus the right hand of the operator is free to manipulate the tape moistening and pressing tool.

We claim:—

1. A desk clip for holding loose leaf blanks, comprising a supporting member, a plurality of spring-pressed fingers pivotally mounted thereon and positioned to bear upon a margin of the blanks, means carried by the supporting member for adjusting said springs to different degrees of tension to thereby cause said fingers to bear upon the blanks with differing pressures.

2. In a desk clip as set forth in claim 1, said means being adapted to adjust the pressure of each finger individually.

3. A clip for holding loose leaf blanks upon a desk, comprising a supporting member provided with means to secure the same to a desk, a plurality of fingers pivotally mounted thereon and positioned to bear upon a margin of the blanks, separate springs carried by said supporting member and having adjustable tensioning means connected respectively to said fingers, and a stop member secured to the desk to bear against the edge of the blanks opposite said margin.

4. A desk clip as set forth in claim 3, and a head block extending across the top edges of the blanks.

5. In a desk clip as set forth in claim 3, the head block being undercut to thereby cause the lower edge of each loose leaf or sheet to project over the edge of the next lower leaf or sheet.

6. A desk clip for holding the loose leaf blanks, as set forth in claim 1, and a flexible pressure member connected to said fingers.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures.

RALPH I. MEADER.
ERNEST WARDEN HEWITT.