No. 897,845. PATENTED SEPT. 1, 1908.

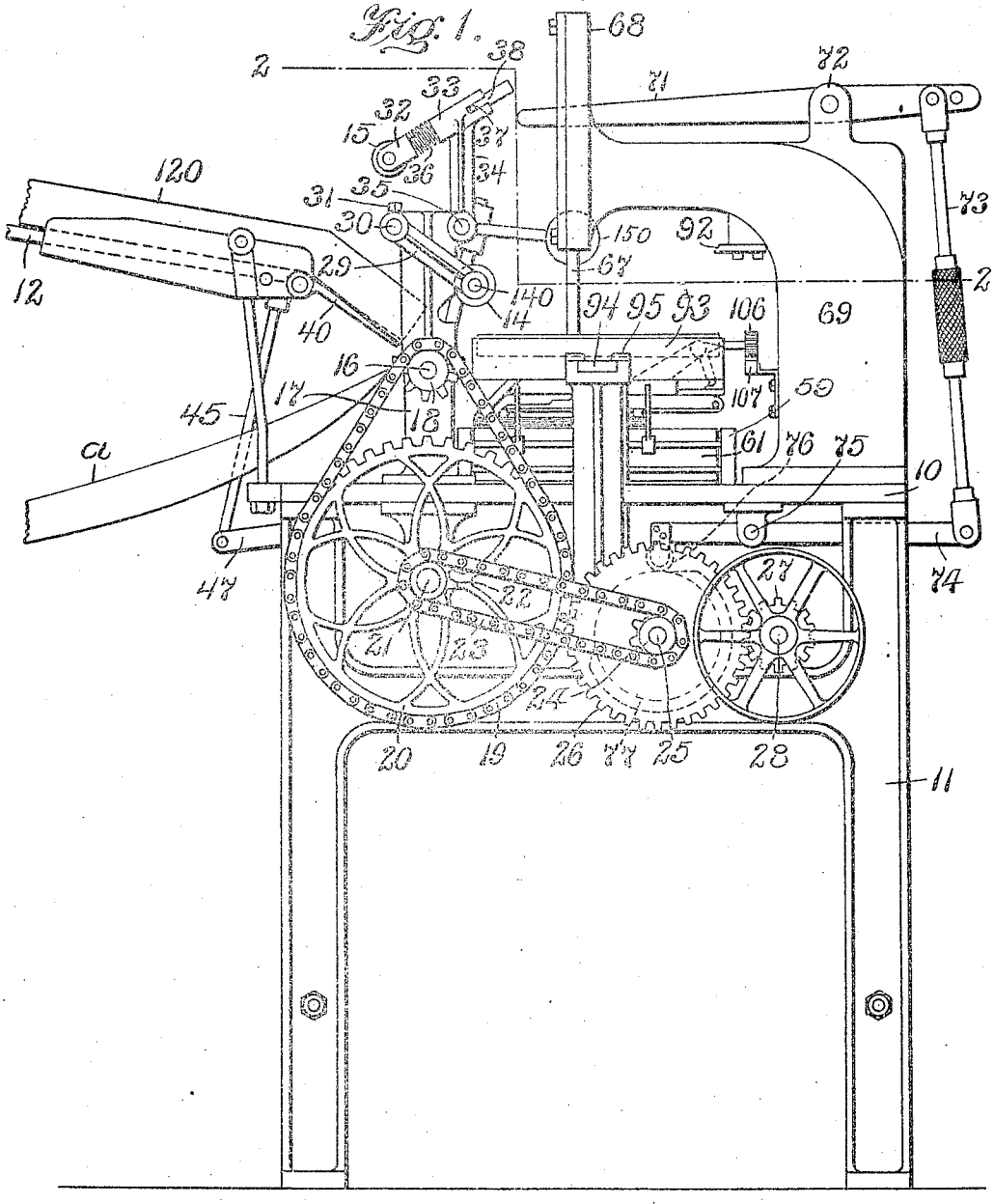
M. E. NOYES.

LABELING MACHINE.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 20, 1904.

7 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.



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No. 897,845. PATENTED SEPT. 1, 1908.

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7 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

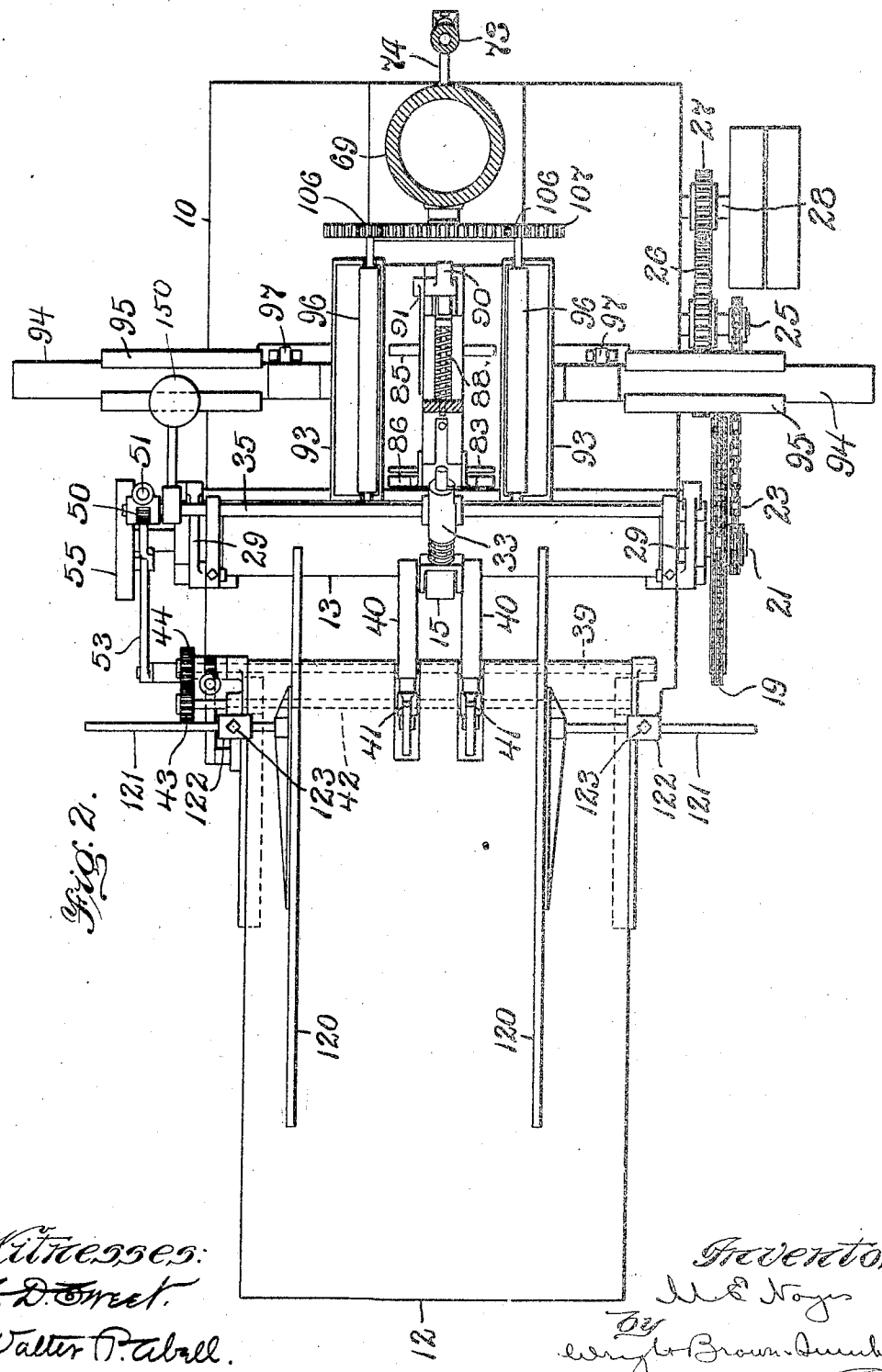


Fig. 2.

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No. 897,845. PATENTED SEPT. 1, 1908.

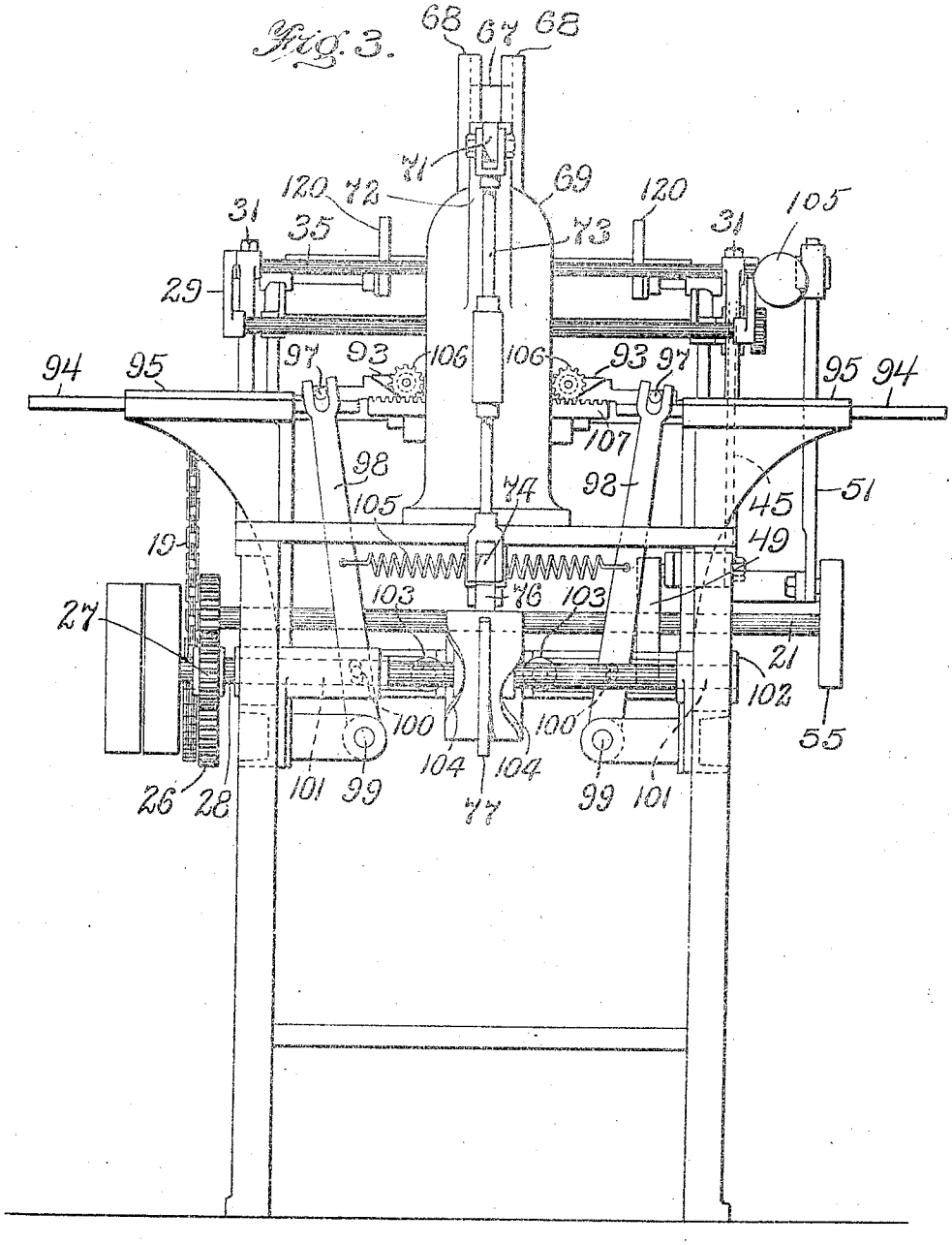
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7 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 3.



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APPLICATION FILED AUG. 20, 1904.

7 SHEETS—SHEET 4.

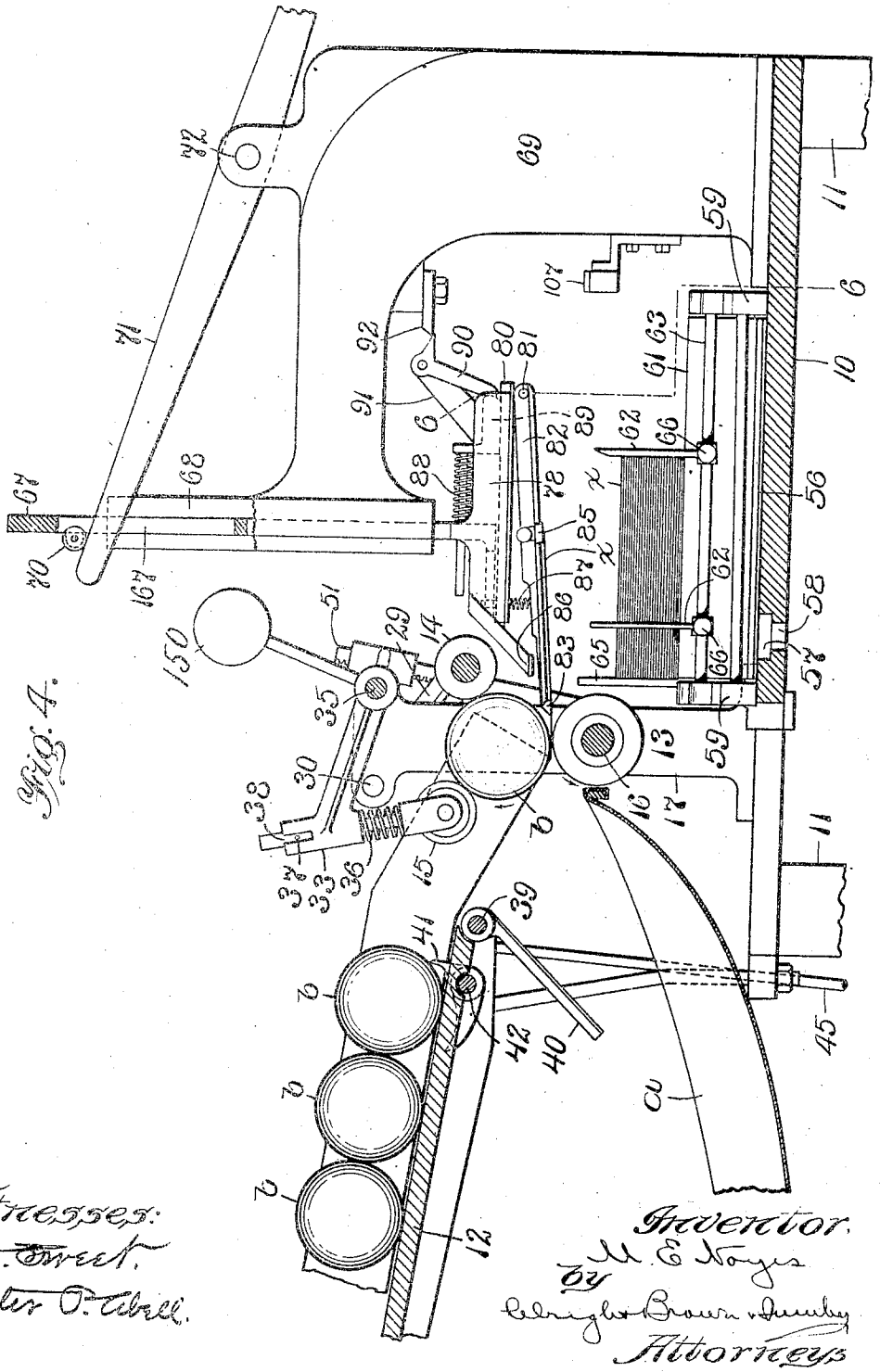


Fig. 4.

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APPLICATION FILED AUG. 20, 1904.

7 SHEETS -SHEET 5.

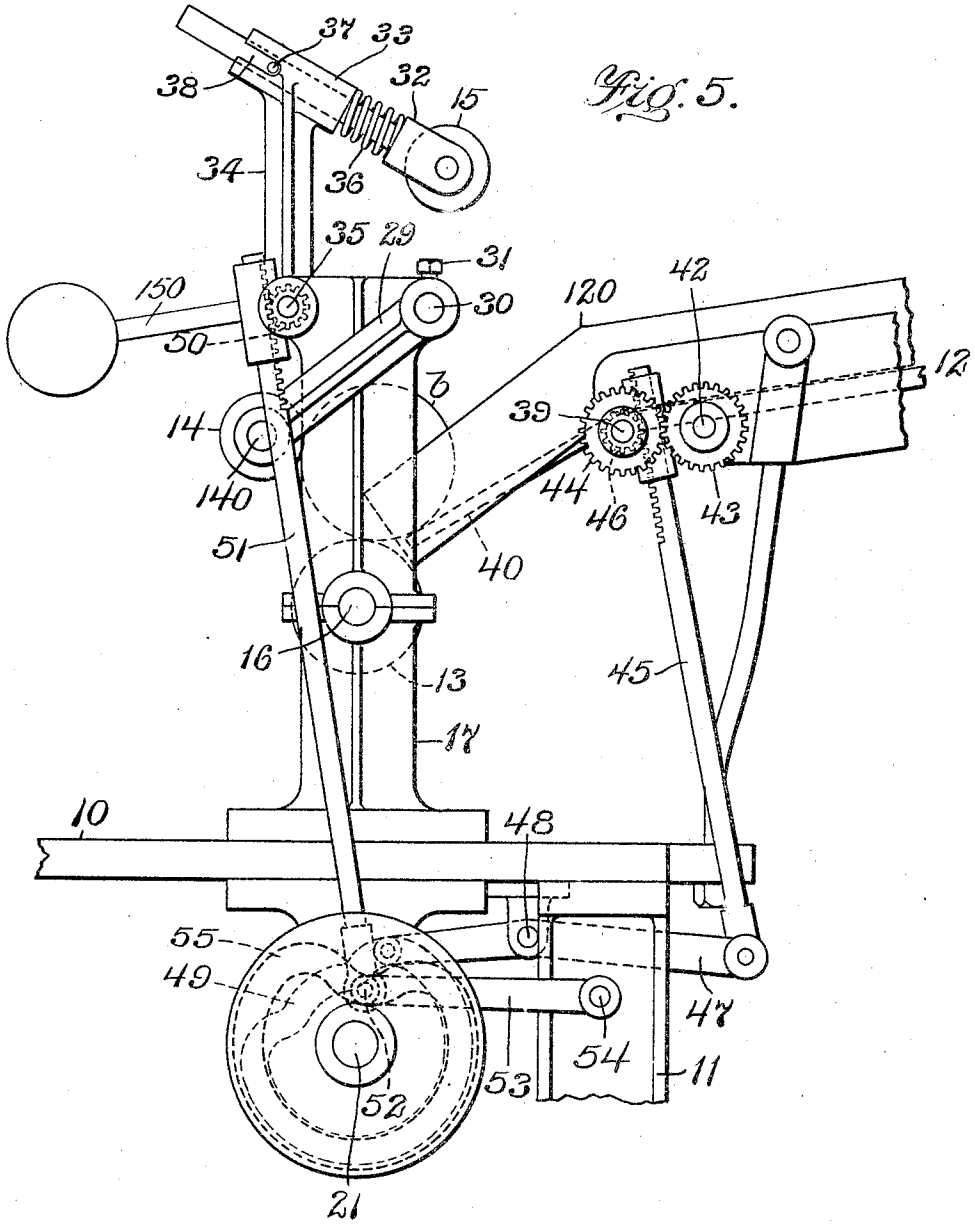


Fig. 5.

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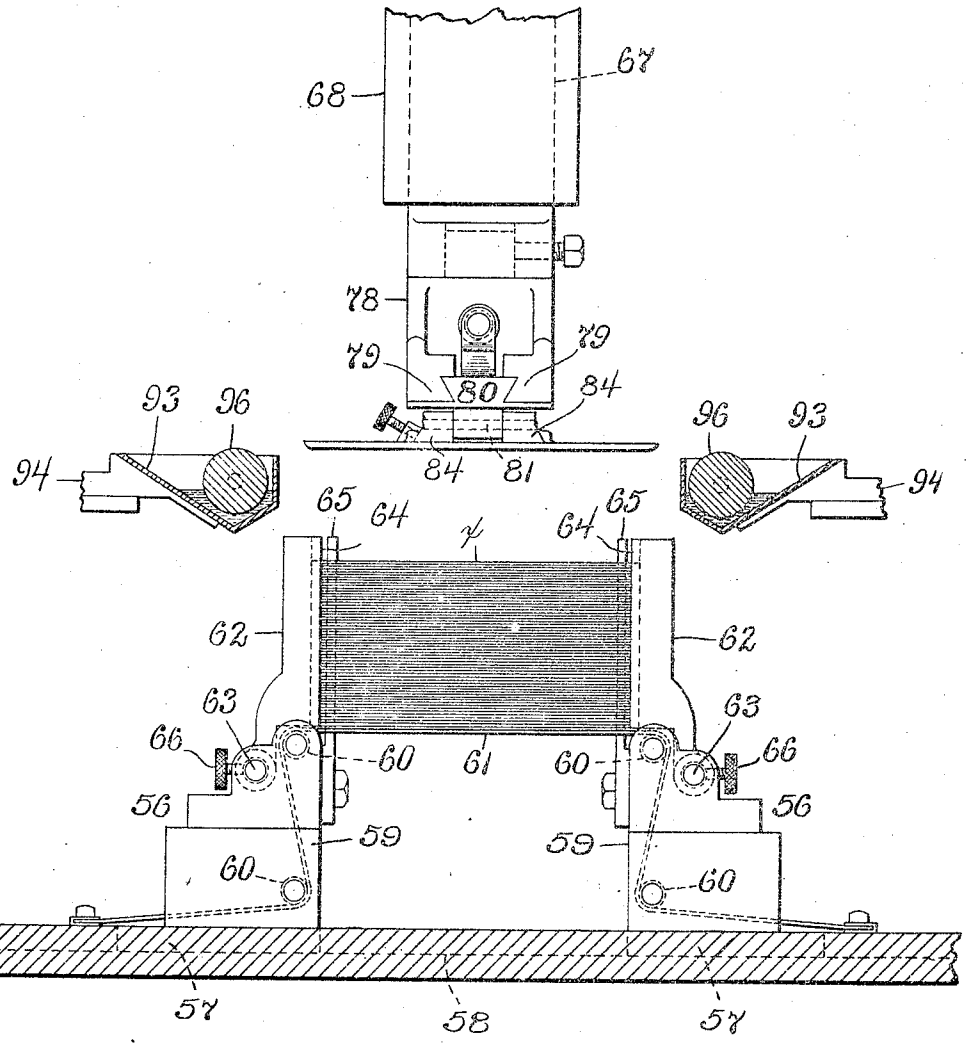
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7 SHEETS—SHEET 6.

Fig. 6.



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APPLICATION FILED AUG. 20, 1904.

7 SHEETS—SHEET 7.

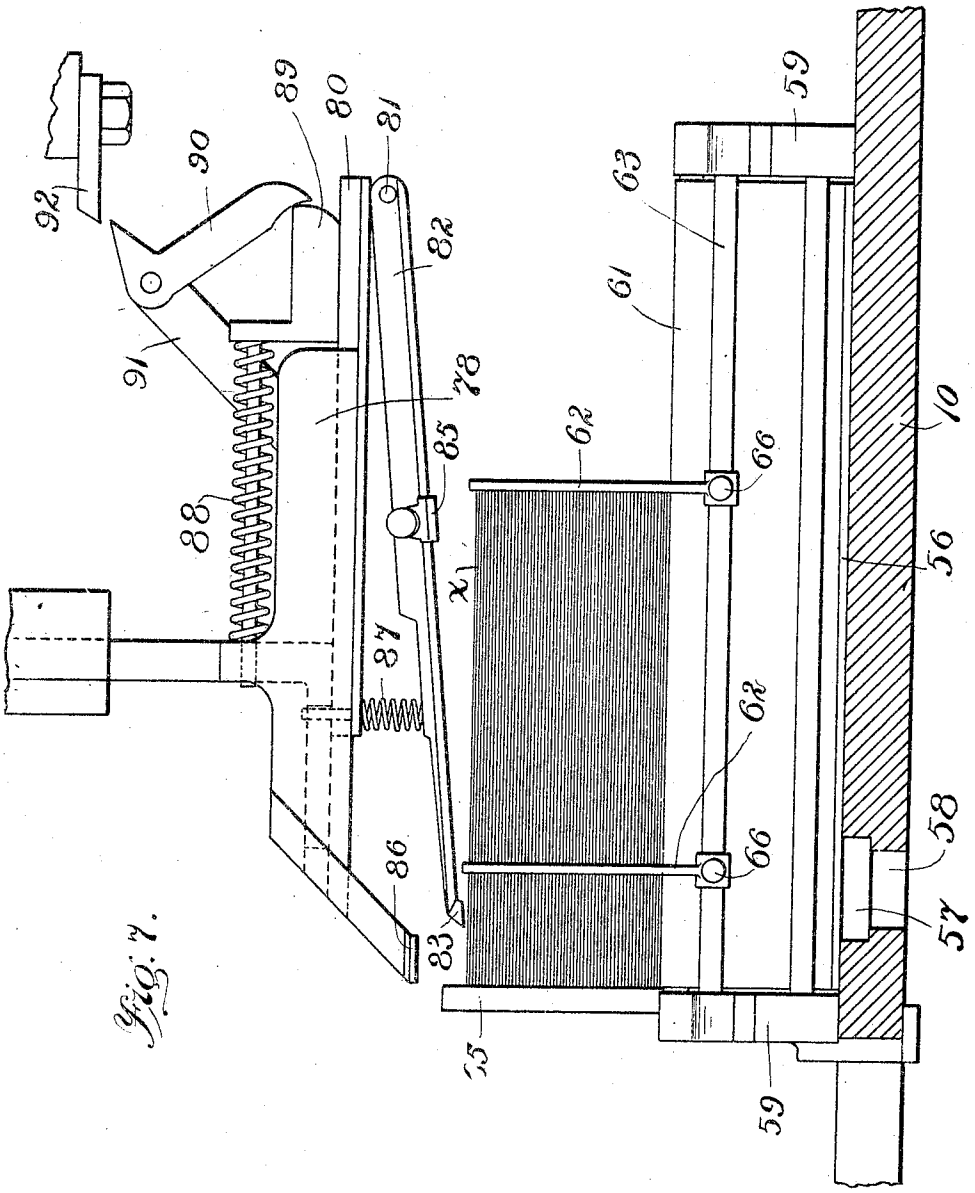


Fig. 7.

Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MAYHEW E. NOYES, OF HYDE PARK, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR, BY DIRECT AND MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO WILLIAM F. PINKHAM, OF WOLFBORO, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

LABELING-MACHINE.

No. 897,845. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 1, 1908.

Application filed August 20, 1904. Serial No. 221,561.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MAYHEW E. NOYES, of Hyde Park, in the county of Norfolk and State of Massachusetts, have inverted certain new and useful Improvements in Labeling-Machines, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to labeling machines which automatically administer a coat of glue or paste to a stack of paper labels, one by one, and position them successively on bottles or cans fed thereinto.

Heretofore labels have been positioned on bottles by means of wipers or similar means, in consequence of which numerous difficulties have arisen. Chief among these are,—the difficulty of handling embossed labels;—the inability to attach a label extending entirely around the bottle;—and the necessity of changing the placing mechanism for different sizes of labels.

The object of this invention is to overcome all these difficulties, in addition to providing a machine capable of labeling cans and jars, as well as bottles, and capable of affixing labels whose ends either overlap, or are in close proximity.

The invention consists, broadly, in a machine having means for rotating the article, such as a bottle or can, and winding the label thereon. By thus rolling or winding the labels onto the bottles in the manner described, they are attached without wrinkling, with a further advantage in that a label of any length is as readily secured in place, inasmuch as the bottle, being rotated several times, to smooth out the label, may take on a label which extends more than once around it, or with its ends overlapping.

Another important feature is the label-paster which may be readily set to apply the paste to the edges of any size of label as well as to convey the same from the label-holder which itself is readily adjustable to accommodate any size of label.

Of the accompanying drawings, illustrating one form of machine, embodying the invention,—Figure 1 is a right side elevation thereof. Fig. 2 is a section plan on line 2—2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a rear elevation. Fig. 4 is an enlarged side elevation of the labeling mechanism only. Fig. 5 is a left side elevation of a portion of the operating mechanism. Fig. 6 is a section on line 6—6 of Fig. 4. Fig. 7 is a side elevation of the label-holder and conveyer, on a larger scale.

The machine illustrated upon the drawings is one form of the invention, and it may well be changed in various details without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

The machine is illustrated as having the bed or table 10 which is supported by suitable uprights 11 and which itself supports the lower end of an inclined chute or raceway 12 on which the bottles *b* are laid to roll and gravitate toward the rotating mechanism. Said mechanism consists of two stationary rolls 13 and 14 and a locking or retaining roll 15, all of which are preferably shod with resilient or frictional material. The roll 13 is the driving-roll and is affixed to a continuously rotating shaft 16 journaled in fixed uprights 17 17 mounted upon the table. To one end of the shaft 16 is attached a sprocket 18 which is driven by a chain 19 which passes over it and a sprocket 20. The sprocket 20 is mounted on a stud-shaft 21 suitably mounted in the frame 11 and carries a smaller sprocket 22 which is connected by a chain 23 to a sprocket 24 affixed to a cam-shaft 25. The shaft 25 carries a gear 26 which is driven by a gear 27 affixed to the main power shaft 28. Power is thus transmitted from the power shaft 28 to the driving roll 13 to which the bottles are guided one by one as will be hereinafter described.

The roll 14, which acts as a lateral support or abutment for a bottle, supported on the roll 13, is mounted on a shaft 140 whose ends are secured in the free ends of adjusting arms 29 affixed to stems 30 extending into the uprights 17 and secured therein by set-screws 31. The set-screws 31 are adapted to hold the arms 29 at any position relatively to the roll 13 so as to position the roll 14 to accommodate any size of bottle or other article to be labeled. The roll 15 which acts as a retainer or lock for the bottle when in position, is journaled in a fork 32 whose stem extends through a boss 33 formed on an arm 34. Said arm is affixed to a rock-shaft 35 journaled in the uprights 17 and when rocked as hereinafter described, swings the roll 15 toward the rolls 13 and 14 to form a three-point contact for a bottle held between said

rolls. A spring 36 interposed between the crown of the fork 32 and the boss 33 causes the roll 15 to offer a yielding pressure on a bottle when in contact therewith, and so to compensate for slight variations in its adjustment and in the size or diameter of the bottles. Although the roll 15 is capable of yielding bodily, it is kept substantially parallel to the rolls 13 and 14 by a pin 37, carried by the stem of the fork 32 and whose ends project into and play loosely in a slot 38 formed in the boss 33.

Referring now to the chute or raceway 12 which constitutes a feeding device, it will be seen that said chute stops short of the rolling mechanism. To complete the chute to said mechanism, it is provided with a rock-shaft 39 to which is affixed a pair of skids 40 which are caused to form first an extension of the chute and then to swing underneath the chute for a purpose hereinafter described. Suitable guides 120 are provided to guide the bottles in the chute to the rolling mechanism. Said guides are affixed to laterally extending arms 121, (see Fig. 2) which are held in fixed bosses 122 by set-screws 123. The guides 120 may be shifted and set relatively to the chute so as to correctly guide bottles of different sizes from the chute to the bottle-rotating and label-rolling mechanism. The chute is also provided with a pair of stops or detents 41 adapted to release the bottles or cans *b* contained in the chute one at a time, as previously stated. Said stops or detents are affixed to a rock-shaft 42 parallel to and connected by gears 43 and 44 to the shaft 39. The shafts 39 and 42 are caused to rock simultaneously by reciprocation of a rack 45 which intermeshes with a pinion 46 secured to the rock-shaft 39. The lower end of said rack is pivoted to one end of a lever 47 fulcrumed at 48 to the table 10 and actuated by a cam 49 on the shaft 21.

The rock-shaft 39, when actuated by the cam 49, causes the skids 40 to swing up and form an extension of the chute 12, and at the same time rocks the shaft 42 so that the projecting ends of the stops or detents 41 are rocked away from the foremost bottle, thus allowing it to roll down the skids 40 and onto the driving roll 13, as previously stated. The rear ends of the detents 41 are thus projected into the path of the succeeding bottle which they detain until the stops are rocked back to their initial position.

As soon as a bottle rolls on to the driving roll 13, the retaining roll 15 is caused to swing down onto it as previously stated. To effect this, a pinion 50 is provided on one end of the rock-shaft 35, and actuated by a rack 51, whose lower end is pivoted by a stud 52 to an arm 53, pivoted at 54 to the frame 11. One end of the stud 52 projects into the groove of a cam 55 secured on the shaft 21 so that the rod 51 is reciprocated by the cam and guided by the arm 53. A weighted arm 150 attached to the shaft 35 counterbalances the weight of the roll and its supporting arm.

It has now been shown how the bottles or cans are fed one by one to the rolling mechanism where they are held by the retaining roll and rotated by the driving roll, and I will now describe the means for feeding the label. It is while the bottle is rotated between the three rolls 13, 14 and 15 that the label is introduced, as will be hereinafter described, and wound onto the bottle by the rotation of the latter and pressed smoothly thereon by said rolls. After delivering each bottle to the rolling mechanism the skids 40 swing back as previously stated so that when the retaining roll 15 is swung away from the bottle, the latter may roll by gravity off of the roll 13 and drop into an apron *a* to be removed as convenient.

The adjustable label-holder is best illustrated in Figs. 4 and 6. It is composed of two carriages 56, 56 which are mounted on the table 10 to the rear of the rolling mechanism. Said carriages are arranged side by side and parallel to each other and extend longitudinally of the table. The forward end of each carriage has a foot 57 which sets into a transverse groove 58 in the table. The carriages are adapted to be moved toward and from each other, guided by the feet 57 and groove 58, according to the width of the labels which they are to hold, as will be hereinafter described. 59 59 are the upturned ends of each carriage and constitute uprights in which are journaled elongated rolls 60. 61 is an apron of canvas or other suitable material which is stretched over the rolls 60 and fastened at each end to the table, as shown in Fig. 6. The expanse of apron between the upper rolls 60 is the part on which the labels *x* rest, and it will be seen that the carriages 56 may be moved toward or from each other independently or together to vary said expanse without varying the tension of the apron. It has been previously stated that the carriages 56 are guided on the table by one end only. The result of so guiding the carriages is that the tension of the apron, although comparatively slight, is enough to force together the free ends of the carriages, and cause the feet 57 to so bind in the groove 58 that the carriages cannot become accidentally displaced. Each carriage is adapted to be moved manually by first moving the free end so as to position the foot squarely in the groove, and then move the carriage bodily to the desired position. The labels *x* piled upon the apron 61 are held against sidewise movement by a receptacle consisting of upright posts 62 mounted on rods 63 whose ends are secured in the ends 59 of the carriages 56. The posts 62 nearest

he free end of the carriages have lips 64 which are turned inwardly to prevent endwise displacement of the labels, while posts 65 in proximity to the rolling mechanism prevent displacement at the opposite end. The posts 65 are affixed to the carriages, but the posts 62 are adapted to be moved along their rods to suit the length of the labels and are provided with thumb-screws 66 by which they may be set.

In setting the label-holder or receptacle for operation, the carriages are first located in relation to the line of travel on which the bottles approach the rolling mechanism. The pile of labels is placed upon the apron 61 so that they face downwardly, and so that the edge which is to set perpendicularly to the bottle is toward the rolling mechanism. In the majority of cases this edge would be one of the short ones. The carriages are then moved toward each other so that the posts 62 are caused to engage loosely the long edges of the labels. The posts 62 having the lips 64 are moved toward the posts 65 so that the short edges of the labels are loosely engaged by said lips and posts 65.

The labels when arranged as just described are ready to be picked off, one by one, and tranfserred to the rolling mechanism, by the paster and carrier which, being previously coated with paste or glue, descends upon the uppermost label, and then ascends, carrying with it the label which adheres thereto.

The mechanism for transferring the labels one by one is affixed to the lower end of a bar 67 which is adapted to be reciprocated vertically in guides 68 formed on a horn 69. A lever 71, pivoted at 72 to the horn 69 projects through a slot 167 formed in the bar 67 and supports said bar by means of a roller 70 carried by the bar. The two ends of a link 73 are pivoted to the rear ends of the lever 71 and a lever 74 respectively. The lever 74 is pivoted as indicated at 75 to the under side of the table, and carries on its forward end a roller 76 which coöperates with a cam 77 affixed to the shaft 25, (see Figs. 1 and 3). The forward end of the lever 71 is thereby caused to rise and fall, allowing the bar 67 which carries the paster (hereinafter described) to descend by its own gravity onto the uppermost label of the pile. The movement of the lever 71, however, is such that the end which supports the bar 67 descends each stroke to a point sufficiently low to allow the paster, hereinbefore referred to, to engage the last remaining label of the pile. But when the descent of the paster and bar 67 is arrested by a pile of labels, the further motion of the lever 71 is lost by reason of the slot 167 in which it is adapted to play. Thus the bar 67 and paster compensate by gravity for the variation in the pile of labels and therefore all the labels are subject to the same degree of contact with the paster. The paster referred to comprises a head 78, on the under side of which are dovetailed guides 79 to support a sliding carriage 80. To the rear end of said carriage is pivoted, as indicated at 81, a paster-arm 82 which has a label stripper 83 and dovetail-guides 84 on which is mounted an adjustable paste-bar 85.

86 is a stationary paste-bar affixed to the forward end of the head 78, and is adapted to engage and administer paste to the forward short edge of the label, while the bar 85 is adapted to do likewise to the rear short edge thereof.

Fig. 7 shows the paster-head in its normal position, about to descend to pick up a label. The paste-bars 85 and 86 and the stripper 83 having their under surfaces coated with paste (the operation of which is hereinafter described) descend so that the stripper 83 engages the label first. It will be seen that the free end of the arm 82 is supported by a compressible spring 87 so that the paste-bars 85 and 86 may descend to engage the label after the stripper has done so. It is while the paste-bars are in this position that the slot 167 in the bar 67 takes up the lost motion of the lever 71, to which reference has been previously made. The lever 71 on its upward movement carries with it the paste-bars to which the label has been caused to adhere on account of the paste thereon. The upward movement of the head 78, however, allows the spring 87 to expand, thereby causing the stripper 83 to detain one end of the label for an instant after the paste-bars and the other end of the label begin to ascend. This causes the stripper to force the label away from the paste-bar 86 so that the label is in adherence with the paste-bar 85 and the stripper 83. By lifting one end of the label before the other end, no vacuum is created between the labels, and so no more than one label can be lifted at one time. The label carrying device is adapted to be raised to a horizontal plane slightly above the axis of the driving-roll 13, and then to be projected forward so that that edge of the label previously stripped from the paste-bar 86 enters between said roll and the bottle supported and rotated thereby. The carriage 80 by which the pasters are supported, is adapted to slide in the guides 79 as previously stated, so that the label may be projected toward the bottle. Said carriage is normally held rearwardly by a spring 88 compressed between the head 78 and a block 89 on the carriage, but is adapted to be projected forwardly by a bell-crank lever 90 pivoted to an arm 91 on the head. Said bell-crank is so hung that its long arm sets against the rear face of the block 89, and its short arm projects rearwardly. So when the head 78 rises, the short arm of the bell-crank 90 engages a fixed stop 92 bolted

to the horn 69, thus causing said bell-crank to project the carriage 80 as described, (see Fig. 4). Continued upward movement of the head 78 causes the bell-crank to escape past the stop 92, thus allowing the spring 88 to return the carriage 80 to its former position.

The mechanism to which reference has been previously made for coating the under side of the paste-bars 85, 86 and 83 is shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 6. 93 93 are two paste or glue pans which are mounted on sliding bars 94 94 held in guides 95 95 secured to the frame of the machine. 96 96 are paste-rolls journaled in the pans 93 93, so as to be partially immersed in the paste, and adapted to wipe the under face of the paste-bars 85, 86 and 83 and so coat them with paste. A stud 97 projects from each bar 94 into the forked end of one of two levers 98 pivoted at 99 to the frame. Said levers are connected by studs 100 to plungers 101 supported in bosses 102 on the frame. The plungers 101 have at their inner ends rollers 103 which are adapted to be engaged by cams 104 formed integrally with the cam 77. A spring 105 connecting the levers 98 normally draws them together and holds the rollers 103 in contact with the cams 104. After each label is drawn from the paste-bars by the bottle, the pans 93 are adapted to be drawn together by the spring 105 so as to wipe a fresh coat of paste onto said bars. The cams 104 are adapted to allow each paste-pan 93 to approach the paste-bars and to travel slightly past the median line of said bars, and to return it immediately to its initial position. It will be seen in Fig. 3 that one of the cams 104 is slightly in advance of the other. This is so that the retrograde movement of the first pan shall begin before the approach of the other and so allow the paste-rolls 96 to coat the entire breadth of the paste-bars without interfering with each other. 106 106 are pinions affixed to the projecting axles of the paste-rolls 96. Said pinions are adapted to intermesh with a stationary rack 107 affixed to the horn 69. When the paste-pans 93 are reciprocated to coat the paste-bars, the pinions 106 roll on the rack 107 and cause the rolls 96 to rotate in the direction opposite to a rolling contact between the rolls and the paste-bars. This produces a wiping motion of said rolls and insures an even coating of paste on the paste-bars.

Operation:—The operation of the machine, after having been adjusted, and supplied with bottles and labels, is as follows:—The paste-pans 93, being in the position shown in Figs. 2, 3 and 6, approach each other as described to coat the under surface of the bars 83, 85 and 86. Upon the completion of their retrograde movement the head 78 descends onto the pile of labels of which the uppermost one adheres to said bars. Meanwhile the skids 40, forming an extension of the chute 12, rise as shown in Fig. 1. The stops 41 are then rocked so as to release one bottle *b* and allow it to descend to the rolls 13 and 14, whereupon the roll 15 rocks downwardly so as to hold the bottle in place, (see Fig. 4), the rolls immediately effecting a continuous rotation of the bottle. The skids 40 then swing away from the roll 13 and the head 78 ascends, allowing the stripper 83 to free the forward end of the label from the bar 86. Continued upward movement of the head causes the bell-crank 90 to project the carriage 80 so that the freed end of the label is inserted between the revolving roll 13 and the rotating bottle thereon. The roll and bottle coöperate in drawing the label from the paste-bar 85 and stripper 83, and the paste left thereby on the upper or blank side of the label causes the latter to adhere to the bottle around which it is smoothly rolled and pressed. The carriage 80 recedes from the bottle as soon as the bell-crank 90 escapes past the stop 92. After two or three revolutions of the bottle, the roll 15 is rocked upwardly, thereby allowing the bottle to roll back by gravity and drop into the apron *a*, completing the operation.

The foregoing description deals only with labels which are rectangular in shape, and which are wound squarely on the bottle, but it is apparent that by installing the posts 62 of the label-holder in different positions, labels of irregular shapes may be attached as readily as square ones. This would in some cases necessitate a change in the shape of the paste-bars but the operation would remain the same in all cases. Then by sluing the label-holding and label-carrying mechanisms, the labels may be delivered to the bottles so that they may be wound spirally thereon.

Having thus explained the nature of the invention, and described a way of constructing and using the same, though without attempting to set forth all of the forms in which it may be made, or all of the modes of its use, I declare that what I claim is:—

1. A machine for labeling bottles, cans, or other objects, comprising label-affixing means, a chute for said objects, a movable extension for conducting said objects from said chute to said means, and for permitting the discharge of said objects, and means for actuating said extension.

2. A machine for labeling bottles, cans, or other objects, comprising label-affixing means, a chute for said objects, detents for said objects, means for actuating said detents to release said objects one at a time, a movable extension of said chute adapted to conduct the objects so released to said label-affixing means, and means for actuating said extension for the purpose specified.

3. A machine for labeling cylindrical objects, such as bottles, cans, etc., comprising means adapted to support and rotate an object, means for conducting to said supporting and rotating means an object impelled by its own gravity, means for holding an object in juxtaposition to said supporting and rotating means, said holding means being adapted to recede to admit an object to said supporting and rotating means, and to recede to release said object from the same point at which it is admitted, and means permitting gravitation of an object released from said supporting and rotating means for conducting said object to a resting place.

4. A machine for labeling cylindrical objects such as bottles, cans, etc., comprising means adapted to support an object, means for fixing the axis of said object in juxtarelation to said supporting means, means for conducting said object to said supporting means, means for causing said supporting means to rotate said object while maintained in juxtarelation to said supporting means, means for applying paste across one end of a label, and means for inserting said end of the label between said object and said supporting means.

5. A machine for labeling bottles, cans or other cylindrical objects, comprising a rotating object-supporting roll, mounted on a fixed axis, means for rotating said roll, a non-yielding but adjustably mounted idle roll at a suitable distance from said supporting roll, a yielding idle roll movable toward and from said first two rolls, means for introducing an object between said rolls, and means for introducing one edge of an adhesive label between said supporting roll and said object.

6. In a machine for pasting labels on bottles, cans, or other objects, movable paste-coated carrying members to which a label is adapted to adhere, movable paste-pans or tanks having paste-rolls adapted to engage the surface of said carrying-members, means for moving said paste-pans, and means whereby the movement of said paste-pans causes said rolls to rotate backward with relation to their said contact with said carrying members.

7. A labeling machine comprising means adapted to support and rotate a bottle, can, or other cylindrical object between them, said means comprising a continuously rotating driving roll and a plurality of supplemental or retaining rolls, means by which one of said rolls is adapted to swing away to admit and release said object, and means for introducing one edge of an adhesive label between said object and one of said rolls.

8. In a labeling machine for bottles, cans, or other cylindrical objects, a support for a pile of labels, means for attaching said labels to said objects one at a time, means adapted to apply paste to, and convey to said attaching means said labels one at a time, and means having a motion-losing connection with said applying and conveying means whereby the latter means compensates for increase or decrease in the pile of labels.

9. In a machine for pasting labels on bottles, cans, or other objects, variable label-holding means comprising an apron of which a portion is adapted to constitute a support for the labels, and frame-pieces over which said apron is stretched, said frame-pieces being movable independently of said apron to vary the location and size of the supporting portion of said apron.

10. In a machine for pasting labels on bottles, cans, or other objects, label-attaching means, and means for conveying a label to said attaching means, said conveying means comprising members adapted to support a label by adhesion, and a stripper for freeing one end of said label from its supporting member.

11. In a machine for attaching adhesive labels to bottles, cans, or other cylindrical objects one at a time, a support for a pile of labels, means for attaching the labels to the objects, and means for applying paste to said labels and delivering them to said attaching means, said paste-applying means comprising two paste-coated bars adapted to engage opposite ends of the surface of the uppermost label and move toward said attaching mechanism, and a stripper adapted to free the label from the bar nearest said attaching mechanism.

12. In a machine for pasting labels on bottles, cans, or other objects, a chute for said objects, label-attaching means apart from the delivery end of said chute, movable skids at the delivery end of said chute adapted to form an extension of said chute to said means, and means for moving said skids to said extended position and away from said position.

13. In a machine for pasting labels to bottles, cans or other cylindrical objects one at a time, a plurality of rolls between and by which an object is adapted to be rotated, of which rolls one is adapted to be moved toward and from the others to permit the entrance of, to retain or release said object, and means for moving said roll as described.

14. In a machine for pasting labels to bottles, cans, or other cylindrical objects, one at a time, a plurality of rolls between and by which an object is adapted to be rotated, of which rolls one is adapted to swing bodily toward and from the others to permit the entrance of, to confine or release said object, a counterweight for said roll, and means for swinging said roll, as described.

15. In a machine of the character described, a supporting roll adapted to support and rotate a bottle, means for rotating said roll, a loosely revoluble retaining roll adapted to be adjusted in a fixed position, and a loosely revoluble roll adapted to coact with said rolls in retaining a bottle in place during its rotation, and means for moving said last-mentioned roll into and out of operative position to permit the reception of and discharge of a bottle.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

MAYHEW E. NOYES.

Witnesses:
JOHN D. MCKAY,
MARCUS B. MAY.