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F. L. MILLS
FRAUD PREVENTING DEVICE

Filed Jan. 29, 1925

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

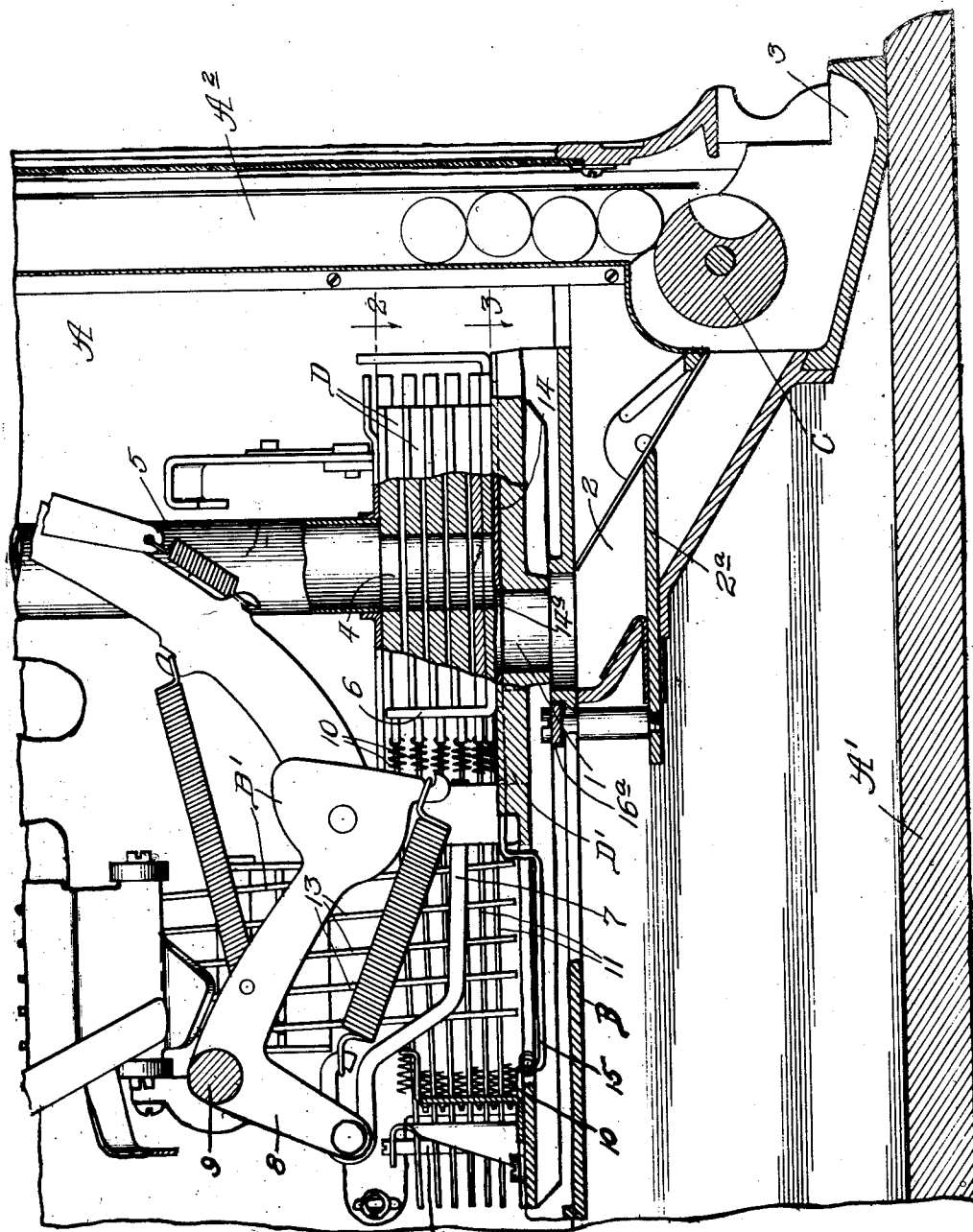


Fig. 1.

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Fig. 2.

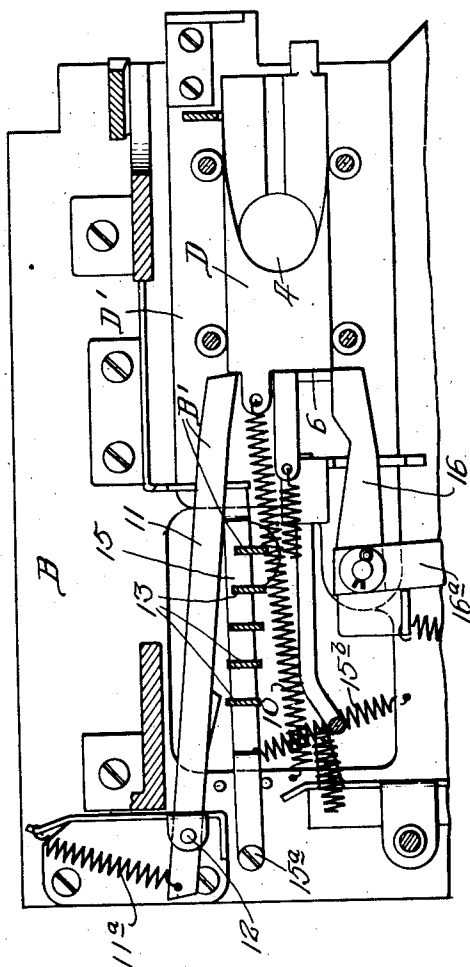
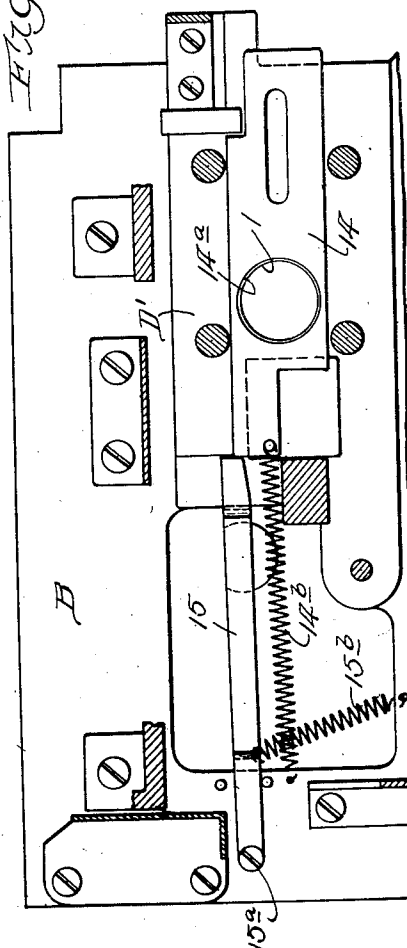


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRED L. MILLS, OF OAK PARK, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO MILLS NOVELTY COMPANY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS.

FRAUD-PREVENTING DEVICE.

Application filed January 29, 1925. Serial No. 5,506.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRED L. MILLS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Oak Park, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fraud-Preventing Devices, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates particularly to a fraud-preventing device for use in connection with coin-controlled machines.

The primary object is to provide a simple device which will prevent the fraudulent obtaining of checks, or coupons, from a coin-controlled machine.

The invention is usefully employed, for example, in connection with a coin-controlled machine of the general construction illustrated in the pending application of Fred L. Mills, Serial No. 738,831, filed September 20, 1924.

The present improvement is illustrated in its preferred embodiment in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 represents a broken vertical sectional view of a coin-controlled machine of the character mentioned, equipped with the improved device; Fig. 2, a broken plan sectional view taken approximately as indicated at line 2 of Fig. 1; and Fig. 3, a similar section taken approximately as indicated at line 3 of Fig. 1.

It is usual, in the type of machine referred to, to employ a stack of slides, the operation of which is controlled by the coin-controlled mechanism in a manner now understood in the art. The slides are provided with perforations, or chambers, which register with the lower end of a coupon magazine, or a check magazine, and the slides serve, in the operation of the machine, to transfer checks, or coupons, and effect their delivery to a discharge chute with which the machine is equipped. According to the present invention, in the form illustrated, an auxiliary slide is interposed between the stack of slides referred to and the passage leading to the discharge chute. This auxiliary slide is provided with a perforation which registers normally with the discharge passage which extends through the bottom on which the stack of slides is mounted. It is so con-

trolled that if an effort is made to "cheat" the machine by jarring or jiggling the machine, the auxiliary slide will operate as a shutter to close the discharge passage. Such jiggling of the machine may occur, for example, when an effort is being made to employ a bogus coin, or to employ a penny, where a coin of larger denomination is required, to operate the machine.

In the construction illustrated, A designates the casing of a coin-controlled machine which is provided with a base A' and which is equipped at its front with vertical commodity compartments A² (one shown); B designates a frame mounted in the casing and constituting a support for the coin-controlled mechanism B'; and C designates an ejecting device for effecting delivery of articles from the compartments A².

The coin-controlled mechanism controls, in a known manner, the operation of a stack of pay-out slides D which are mounted on a bottom D' which is supported at a suitable distance above the bottom of the casing. The bottom D' is provided with a discharge passage 1 which communicates with the upper end of a discharge chute 2 which extends beneath the ejecting device C to a tray 3 which is open at the front of the machine. The chute 2 is equipped with a shutter 2^a which opens at the proper time to permit the contents of the chute 2 to pass to the tray 3. The shutter 2^a constitutes no part of the present invention.

The pay-out slides D are provided with vertical perforations 4 which normally register with the lower end of the coupon magazine 5. The lowermost one of the slides D is equipped with an upturned arm 6 which is adapted to engage the rear ends of the superposed slides. The slides are moved forwardly to the position shown in Fig. 1 by means of a plunger 7 which is actuated by an arm 8 mounted on a rock shaft 9. The rock shaft 9 is controlled and actuated in a well-known manner in the operation of the machine.

The pay-out slides have connected therewith a series of coil springs 10 which tend to move the slides rearwardly so as to bring the passages, or perforations, in the slide

into registration with the discharge passage 1. The pay-out slides are latched in their forward position by locking levers 11 which are mounted on a vertical pivot 12.

5 The latching levers 11 normally are held in the latching position by springs 11^a. These locking levers, or certain of them, may be thrown away from the latching position by means of throw-out levers 13 which are controlled in a known manner. The pay-out

10 slides are actuated from the bottom slide upward by means of the springs 10, when the corresponding locking levers 11 are released from engagement with the slides.

15 Interposed between the lowermost pay-out slide and the bottom D' is an auxiliary slide 14 which is provided with a perforation 14^a which registers normally with the perforation 1. A spring 14^b (Fig. 3) tends to

20 draw the auxiliary slide 14 rearwardly. An auxiliary latching lever 15, pivoted at 15^a and equipped with a spring 15^b, normally prevents the auxiliary slide 14 from moving rearwardly. The spring 15^b is a delicate

25 one; and, in the event that the machine should be jarred, or jiggled, in an effort to introduce a penny, for example, past the guard devices with which the coin-chute of the machine is equipped, where the machine

30 requires a coin of larger denomination, the spring 15^b will permit the latch 15 to move as a result of the jarring action and release the auxiliary slide 14. The spring 14^b will then draw the slide 14 rear-

35 wardly and bring a solid portion of the slide into position to obstruct the upper end of the passage 1. Hence, if a pay-out slide, or a plurality of pay-out slides, should be operated as a result of the fraudulent introduction of a coin of improper denomination, the pay-out slides, nevertheless, would

40 be unable to discharge the checks, or coupons, through the passage 1, and thus cheating of the machine would be avoided.

45 In Fig. 2, there is shown a supplemental latching device 16 for the pay-out slides, this device being mounted on a lever 16^a. This device operates in a well understood manner, and constitutes no portion of the

50 present invention. Other portions of the coin-controlled mechanism are shown fragmentarily. They are well known, and need not be explained for the purposes of the present invention.

55 From the description given, it will be understood that in the normal operation of the machine, one or more of the pay-out slides may be released and drawn rearwardly and will serve to transfer checks,

60 or coupons to the upper end of the discharge passage 1. Normally, the slide 14 is in such position that the passage 14^a registers with the passage 1. If the machine be jarred, or violently tilted, in an effort to cause an

65 improper coin to pass the guard devices (not

shown) with which the machine ordinarily is equipped, the result will be to cause the delicate spring 15^b to permit the auxiliary latching lever 15 to release the auxiliary slide 14, whereupon the latter will be drawn

70 rearwardly and will then serve as a shutter which closes the passage 1. Consequently, coupons will not be discharged into the chute 2 when the pay-out slides are actuated.

75 The foregoing detailed description has been given for clearness of understanding only, and no unnecessary limitations should be understood therefrom, but the appended claims should be construed as broadly as permissible in view of the prior art.

What I regard as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. In a machine of the character set forth, the combination of a coupon magazine and

85 pay-out mechanism associated therewith, of a fraud-preventing device comprising a member set normally to permit the pay-out mechanism, when operated, to effect discharge of coupons, and means for throwing

90 said member to an obstructing position to prevent such discharge when the machine is subjected to a jarring action.

2. In a machine of the character set forth, the combination of a coupon magazine and

95 pay-out mechanism associated therewith, of an auxiliary slide normally in position to permit discharge of coupons when the pay-out mechanism is operated, a spring tending to move said auxiliary slide to an obstruct-

100 ing position, and an inertia-operated latch member holding the auxiliary slide normally in the non-obstructing position.

3. In a machine of the character set forth, the combination with a coupon magazine,

105 pay-out mechanism comprising a stack of pay-out slides provided with perforations registering normally with the lower end of said magazine, and a bottom above which

110 said stack of slides is superposed, said bottom being provided with a discharge passage out of registration with the passages through said slides when they are in registry

115 with the coupon magazine, and an auxiliary slide interposed between said bottom and the lowermost pay-out slide and having a perforation normally registering with the discharge

120 passage through said bottom, a spring tending to move said auxiliary slide to a position to obstruct the passage through

125 said bottom, and an inertia-controlled latch member normally engaging said auxiliary slide.

4. In a machine of the character set forth, the combination with a coupon magazine,

130 pay-out mechanism comprising a stack of pay-out slides having perforations adapted to register with the lower end of said magazine, and a bottom provided with a discharge

135 passage out of alignment with said maga-

zine, of an auxiliary slide interposed between said bottom and the lowermost payout slide and having a perforation normally registering with the passage through said bottom, a spring tending to retract said auxiliary slide, a pivoted latching lever engaging said auxiliary slide, and a spring normally holding said latching lever in the latching position, said latching lever and its spring being so constructed and arranged 10 that the auxiliary slide will be released when the machine is subjected to a tilting and jarring action.

FRED L. MILLS.