No. 820,802.

PATENTED MAY 15, 1906.

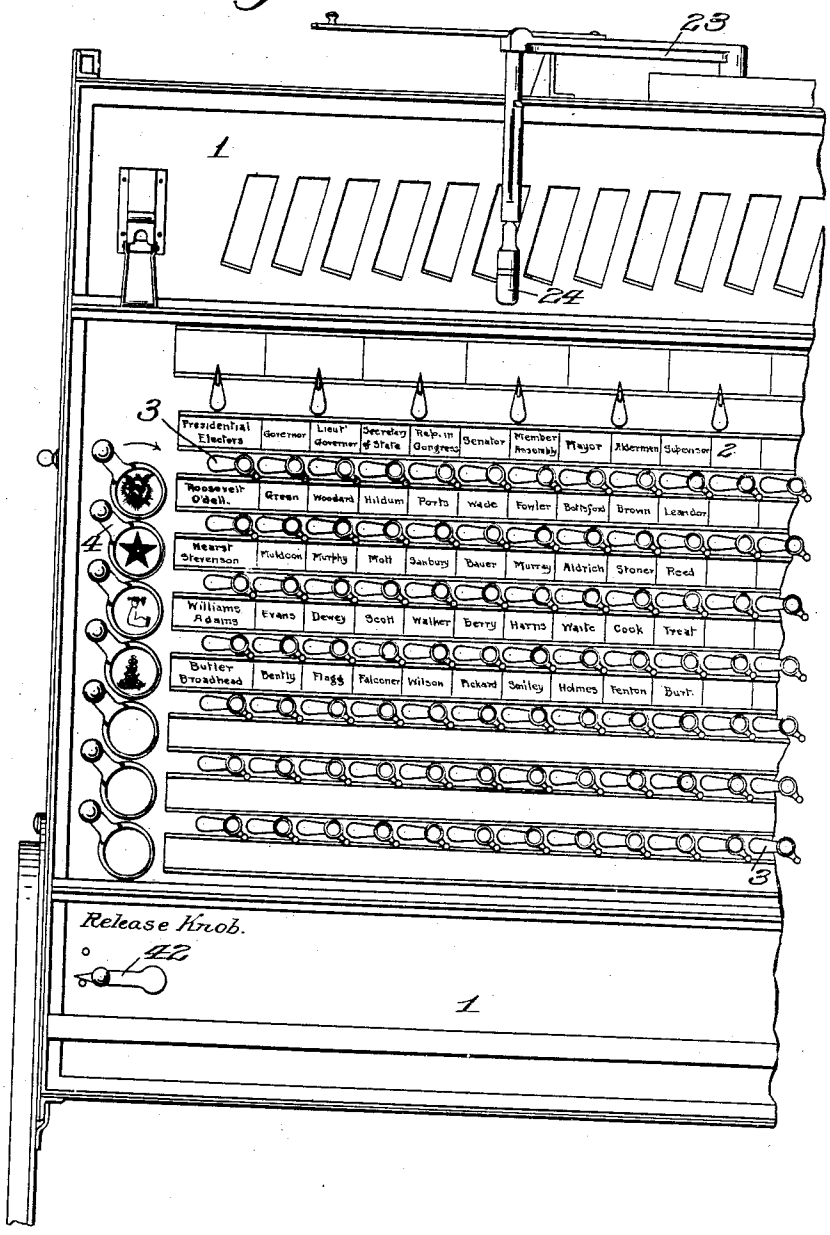
W. J. LAUSTERER.

VOTING MACHINE.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 9, 1904.

5 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.



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Fig. 2.

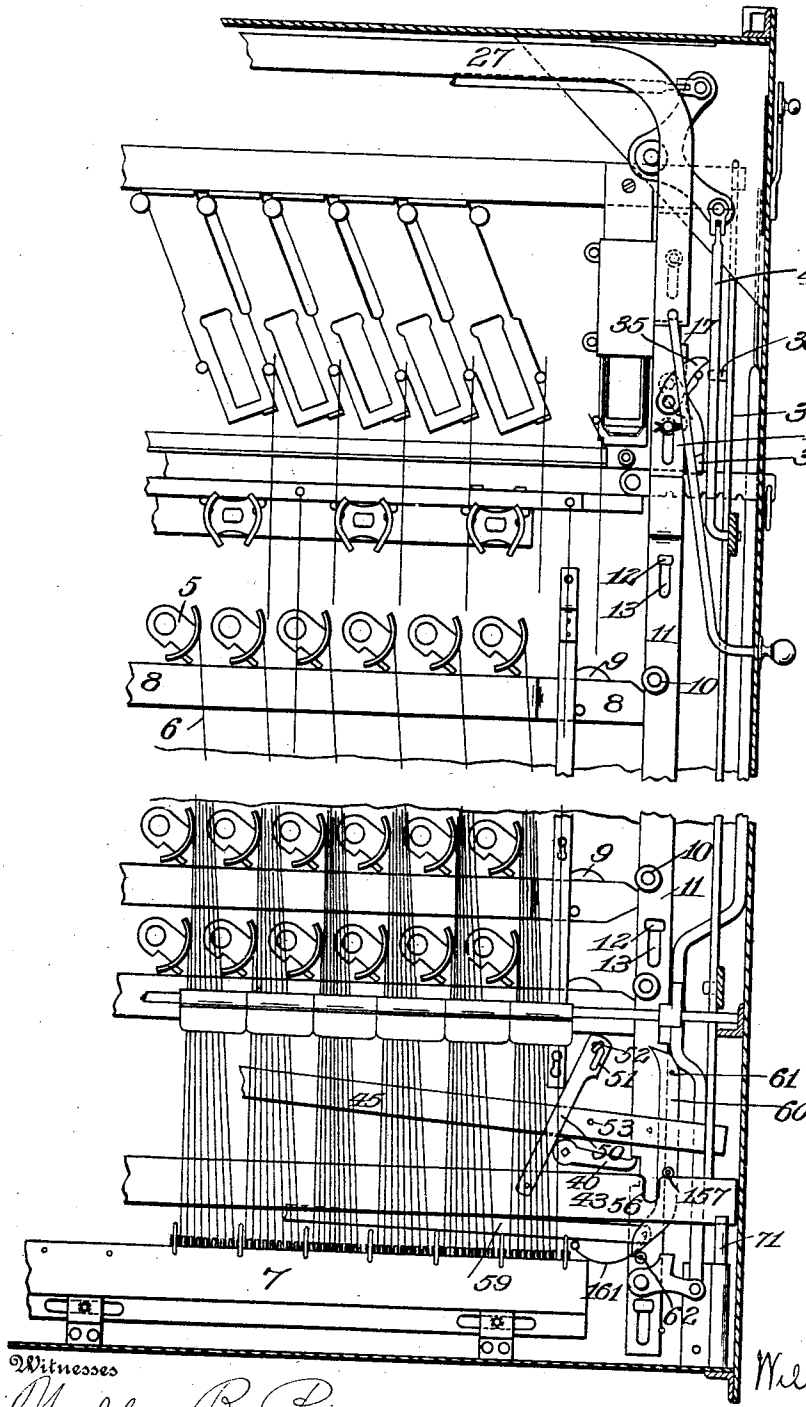
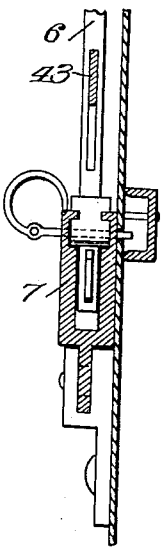


Fig. 2a.



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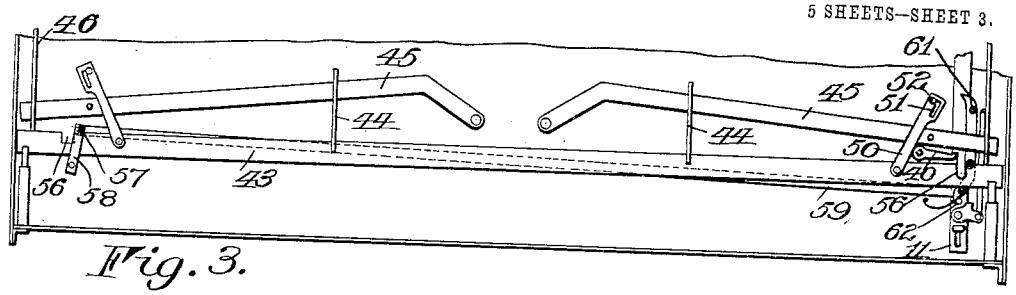


Fig. 3.

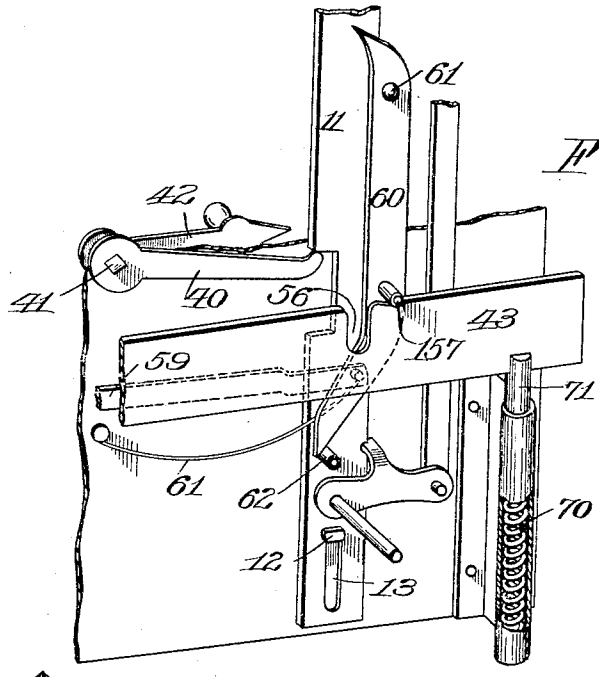


Fig. 4.

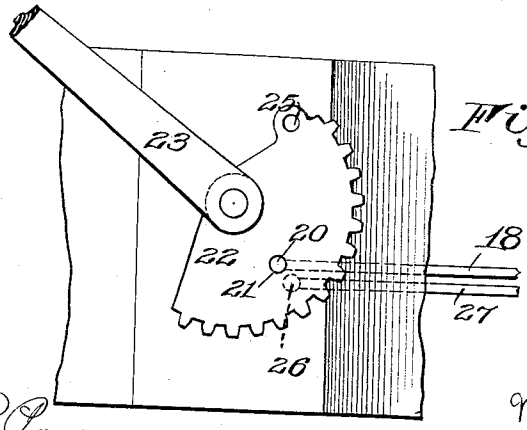


Fig. 5.

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Fig. 6.

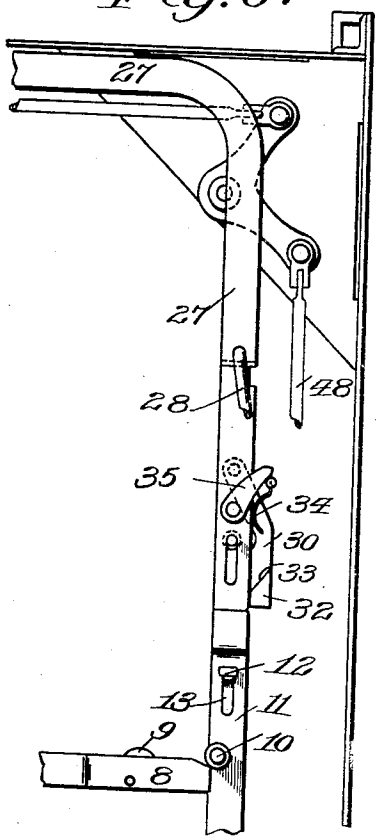


Fig. 8.

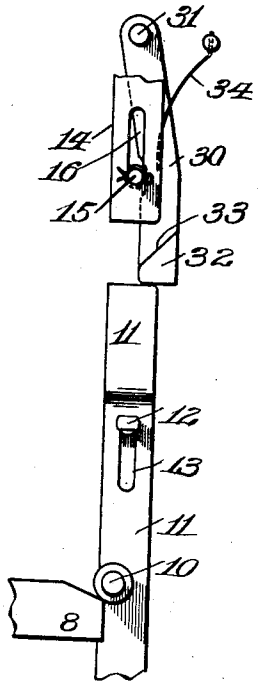


Fig. 7.

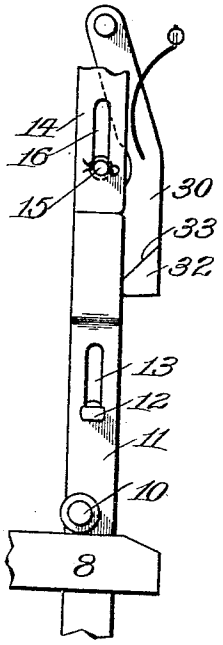
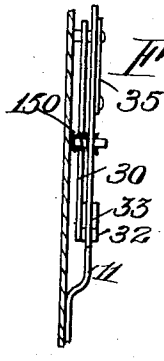


Fig. 9.



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VOTING MACHINE.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 9, 1904.

5 SHEETS—SHEET 5.

Fig. 10.

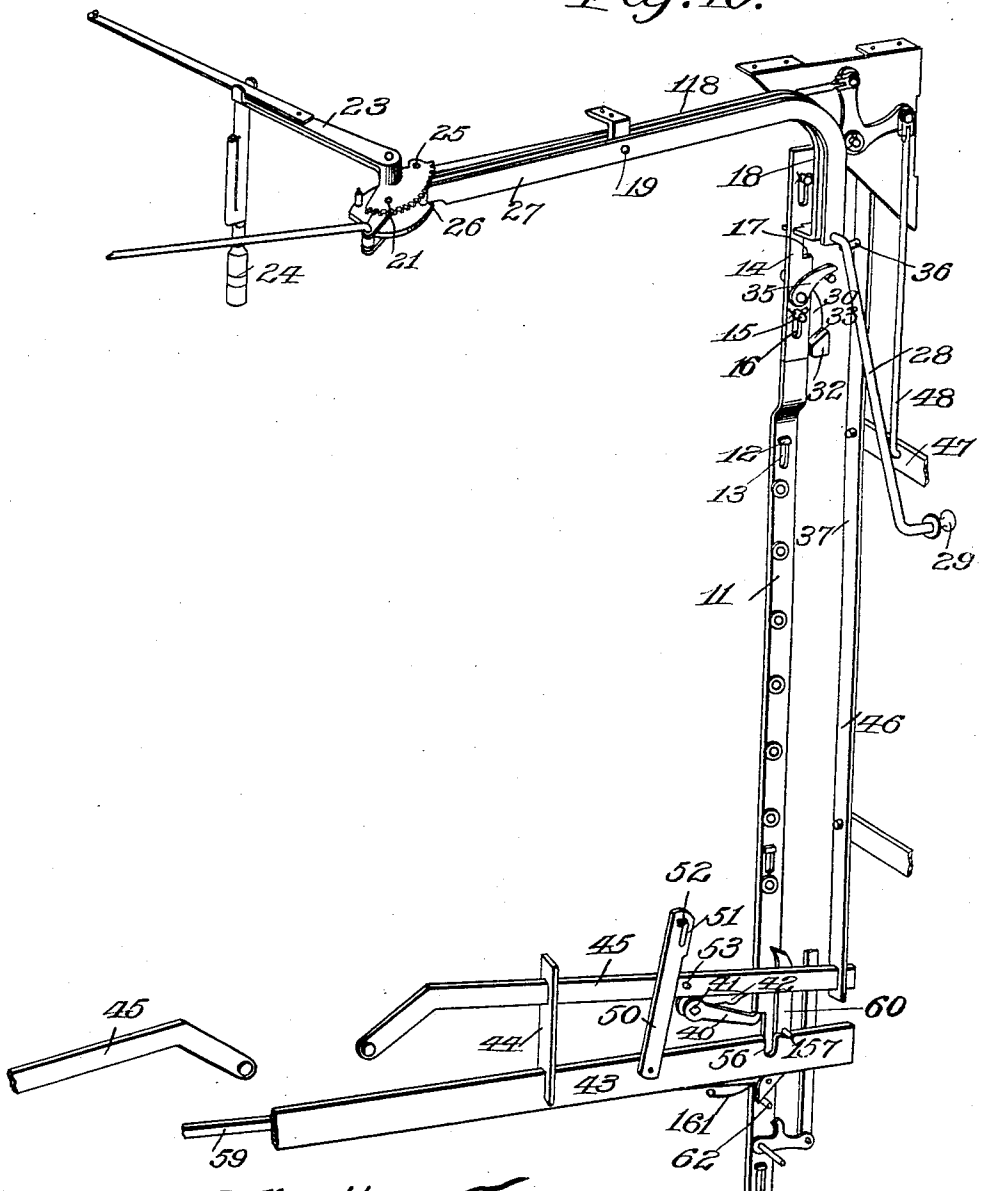
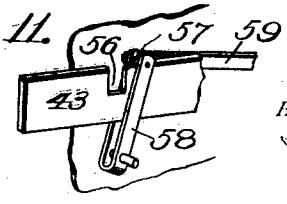


Fig. 11.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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VOTING-MACHINE.

No. 820,802. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 15, 1906.

Application filed November 9, 1904. Serial No. 231,976.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. LAUSTERER, of Jamestown, in the county of Chautauqua and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Voting-Machines; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and to the reference-numerals marked thereon.

My present invention relates to improvements in voting-machines, particularly of the type shown in Letters Patent No. 647,657 to A. J. Gillespie, in which the ballot-indicators are moved to voted position by the voter and the registers operated and the machine reset by means of a handle or operating part which also governs the barrier or curtain controlling access to the front of the machine.

The improvement forming the subject-matter of this application has for its object particularly to improve the means for controlling the operating and indicating mechanisms of the machine and maintaining the proper relations between these parts, whereby the voter may correctly indicate his choice of candidates, but is prevented from injuring the machine by improper operation of the parts, and also to provide means for releasing the parts to permit the operation either by the actuation of the devices for indicating a straight ticket or by the operation of a separate releasing device operable by the voter while within the inclosure.

The invention has for its further object to provide efficient locking mechanism for the indicator-resetting devices, whereby improper operation is prevented, and, further, consists in certain improvements and combinations of parts hereinafter fully described, the novel features being pointed out in the specification.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation of a portion of a voting-machine to which my improvements are applied. Fig. 2 is a rear elevation of the same portion shown in Fig. 1, with the registers removed, the end, top, and bottom of the casing being shown in section. Fig. 2ª is a detail view. Fig. 3 is a rear elevation, on a smaller scale, showing the indicator-resetting mechanism and connected parts. Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view of the operating mechanism for the straight-ticket universal bar and the resetting-bar. Fig. 5 is a plan view of the operating-lever and its operating mechanism. Figs. 6, 7, 8, and 9 are detail views of the latch mechanism for preventing a second operation of the straight-ticket mechanism. Fig. 10 is a perspective view of the locking and releasing mechanism for the resetting device. Fig. 11 is a perspective view of the locking device at the left end of the resetting-bar.

Similar reference-numerals in the several figures indicate similar parts.

1 indicates the front plate of the machine, upon which are arranged the labels or tickets 2 containing the candidates' names, 3 indicating the front or operating portion of the ballot keys or indicators adapted to coöperate with the names, and 4 the straight-ticket keys or devices for indicating votes for all the candidates of a particular party, one of such keys being provided for each horizontal row of candidates' names. The candidate-indicators 3 are provided at the rear side of the plate 1 with arms 5, to which are connected the usual interlocking rods or straps 6, extending to the interlocking channel 7 at the lower portion of the machine, said arms 5 being also arranged to coöperate with the straight-ticket bars 8, supported at opposite ends upon links 9, to one of which the straight-ticket operating-key is connected. The ends of the straight-ticket bars are preferably beveled and are adapted to coöperate with rollers or projections 10, arranged upon what I term a "universal" bar 11, guided to move vertically upon the front plate 1, which is provided for this purpose with headed projections 12 operating in slots 13 in said bar. The upper end of this bar 11 is offset and cooperates with a sliding plate or bar 14 normally resting thereon and guided to move vertically on the frame by the studs 15 operating in slots 16 therein. Springs 150 in rear of the bar or plate 14 and encircling the stud afford sufficient friction to maintain said plate in raised position and prevent its accidental movement to lowermost position, but do not interfere materially with its positive downward movement, as hereinafter described. This sliding bar 14 is provided at

its outer side with a shoulder 17, adapted to coöperate with the end of a bent locking-lever 18, pivoted at 19 to a bracket on the frame, the inner end of said lever having a locking-pin 20 thereon adapted to coöperate with a socket or recess 21, formed in a pivoted segmental plate 22, to which latter is connected the operating-lever 23, which moves the curtain or barrier, permiting access to the front of the machine, and having a handle 24. The plate 22 is also provided with an aperture 25, with which is adapted to coöperate a pin 26 on the end of a locking-lever 27, also pivoted at 19, extending parallel with the lever 15 and having its lower end connected to a rod 28, provided with an operating-handle 29 on the exterior of the casing of the machine. The apertures 21 and 25 in the plate 22 are arranged at different distances from the center of motion, so that when the plate is in position shown in Fig. 10, it will be engaged by the lever 27, and the lever 18 will be held out of engagement, its pin 20 engaging the solid portion of the plate 22; but when moved to the opposite position, with the curtain covering the front of the machine and the parts ready for operation by the voter, said plate 22 will be locked by the engagement of the pin 20 on the lever 18. The levers 18 and 27 may be moved to engaging position by the weight of their outer ends; but I prefer to employ springs 118 for insuring their engagement, as shown in Fig. 10.

30 indicates a latch pivoted at 31 to the front plate of the machine, having a projection 32 at its lower end beveled on the upper side, as at 33, and adapted when the plate 14 is raised, independently of the universal bar 11, to drop into place above said bar 11 and lock the latter from movement. This latch may be operated by gravity, if desired, but I prefer to insure its action by means of a spring 34. (Shown in Figs. 7 and 8.) When the plate 14 is moved downward, its lower end engaging the beveled portion 33 of the lug 32 will force the latch outward to the position shown in Fig. 6, thereby bringing said plate 14 into contact with the universal bar 11. The plate 14 is further provided with a latch 35, resting upon the projection to which the spring 34 is connected when in normal position, as in Fig. 6, but adapted when said plate 14 is raised to project into the path of a pin 36, connected to the vertically-movable bar 37, which latter when moved downwardly to reset the machine serves to restore said plate 14 and the universal bar 11 to normal position, but said latch permits the free upward movement of said bar 37.

The universal bar 11 is adapted to be moved vertically independently of the straight ticket-bars by means of an arm 40, pivoted at 41 in the front plate of the machine and having at the front an operating-handle 42, (see Figs. 1 and 4,) so that the voter may, by operating the handle, raise the universal bar and unlock the machine.

43 indicates the resetting or restoring bar, coöperating, as usual, with the interlocking straps 3 and serving by its downward movement to restore the indicators to normal unvoted position. This bar is operated downwardly by means of compression-links 44, arranged between it and levers 45, pivoted at their inner ends to the casing and connected at their outer ends with vertically-moving bars 46, which are in turn connected to levers 47, actuated through rods 48 from the operating-lever 23, the construction being such that when the operating-lever is moved to the right (of Fig. 1) exposing the front of the machine, the rods 46 are moved downward, resetting the mechanism, and, as usual in this type of machine, causing a relative movement between the indicators and registers, thereby operating those registers whose indicators are left in voted position. The resetting-bar 43 is locked in its lowermost position by two locking devices, one released by the levers which actuate the bar and the other independently thereof. The first-mentioned locking device consists of automatically-engaging catches in the form of links 50, pivoted at their lower ends to said resetting-bar and provided at their upper ends with angular slots 51, in which are arranged stationary pins 52, the said links being extended at an angle to the horizontal, whereby when the bar is moved downward the links will tip outwardly and the upper horizontal portions of the slots will engage with the pins and prevent its upward movement until the links are tilted on their pivots to bring the vertical portions of the slots in line with the pins. This releasing movement is accomplished by means of the pins 53 on the levers 45, which engage with the lower sides of the links after said levers have been moved upward a predetermined distance, thereby preventing the premature release of the indicators which are held by the resetting-bar. This resetting-bar 43 is also locked by a securing device controlled by the movement of the universal bar 11, said bar 43 being provided for the purpose near its ends with notches 56, with one of which is adapted to coöperate a projection or pin 57 at the end of a lever 58, said lever being connected by a rod or bar 59 with the lower end of a lever 60, pivoted to the frame at 61 and having a projection 157, corresponding with the pin 57 and adapted to cooperate with the top of the bar and with the recess 56 at the right-hand end looking from the rear. A spring 161 operates to move the levers 58 and 60 to the right, so that when the projections are above the bar 43 they will be out of line with the slots 56 and will hold the said bar locked. The lower end of the lever 60 is offset and inclined, as shown in Fig. 4, and is adapted to be engaged by a pro-

jection 62 on the lower end of the universal bar 11, so that when said universal bar is raised by the operation of the straight-ticket key or by the operating-handle 42 the levers 60 and 58 will first be moved to bring the projections 57 and 157 in line with the slots 56, thereby releasing the resetting-bar. By the employment of the two holding devices for the resetting-bar the latter is held locked until the levers 45 have nearly completed their upward movement, so that the indicators may not be operated until the barrier is nearly removed from the front of the machine and then only by the movement of the universal bar.

I have not deemed it necessary to show nor to specifically describe the registering mechanism employed in this type of machine, which is well understood by those skilled in the art.

From the above the operation will now be understood. When the operating-lever 23 is in the position shown in Fig. 1, the front of the machine is not covered by the curtain and the parts are locked, as shown in Fig. 2; but when the lever 23 is moved to the opposite position, the voter being inclosed by the curtain, which also covers the front of the machine, the parts are then ready for operation by the voter, the links 50 on the resetting-bar being sustained by the pins 53 on the levers and the downwardly-extending portions of the slots being in line with the projections 52, although the resetting-bar is held by the projections 57 and 157, which are out of line with the slots 56 in the bar 43. When, however, the voter operates a straight-ticket key, the universal bar 11 is raised and through the bar or plate 14 the lever 18 is also actuated, releasing the pin 25 from the sector on the operating-lever and causing the pin 62 on the lower end of the bar 14 to tilt the lever 60 and disengage the projections 57 and 157 from the resetting-bar 43, which is then free to be moved upwardly by any of the interlocking rods, but is preferably assisted in its upward movement and operated free of said rods by means of springs arranged in guides 70 and operating upon the lower ends of rods 71, connected to the ends of said bar 43. One of the objects of release-handle 42 is to enable persons who are opposed to indicating a straight ticket for any party to render the machine operative and also to enable the machines to be used in those States in which the indication of a straight ticket is not permitted. The device is also useful in case the voter fails to move a straight-ticket indicator fully to voted position, in which event the indicators would project partially over the candidates' names; but the operating-lever would not be released; but upon receiving instructions from the inspector to operate the release-handle the machine would be unlocked allowing the voter to depart without requiring the presence behind the curtain of the inspector or any other person. After the voter has raised the universal bar 11 once, either by the handle 42 or a straight-ticket key, and it has returned to normal lowermost position, he cannot raise it again—as, for instance, in attempting to indicate a straight-ticket vote after he has voted a split—because the bar or plate 14 above said universal bar is retained by friction in its uppermost position, as shown in Fig. 8, permitting the latch 30 to fall over the top of the said universal bar, locking it from movement until the latch has been released by the downward movement of the plate 14, which is only caused by the latch 35 and projection 36, as before described. The provision of a means for preventing a second operation of a straight-ticket key is desirable, as it prevents undue strain on the interlocking devices if, after moving one indicator to voted position, an attempt should be made to actuate a series, and while this broad feature is not of my invention the means shown is found in practice to be efficient for the purpose. After the voter has arranged his ballot to his satisfaction he moves the operating handle or lever 23 to the left, Fig. 1, causing the registration of the indicated ballots, and the downward movement of the resetting-bar restoring the indicators to normal position and holding them locked while the front of the machine is uncovered, the parts being in the position shown in Fig. 2 and the operating-lever being held for one movement by the locking-lever 27, the pin upon it engaging with the aperture 21 of the segment. The machine remains locked until ready for the next voter, the inspector then raising the knob 29, connected to lever 27, which unlocks the operating-lever 23, so that the next voter may move it to the right, again covering the front of the machine, releasing the catches or links 50, and leaving the resetting-bar locked only by the catches controlled by the universal bar, so that when he releases the latter in the manner previously described he may indicate his ballots as before.

I claim as my invention—

1. In a voting-machine, the combination with individual-candidate indicators, straight-ticket indicators for operating a plurality of the former, means for locking the indicators adapted to be released by the operation of a straight-ticket indicator, and a barrier, of means within the barrier and operable by the voter independently of the operation of any of the individual-candidate or of the straight-ticket indicators for releasing the locking device.

2. In a voting-machine, the combination with candidate-ballot indicators and straight-ticket indicators for operating a plurality of the former, of means for locking the indicators from operation adapted to be released by

the operation of a straight-ticket indicator and a separate device operable by the voter independently of any of the candidate-indicators for releasing said indicator-locking means.

3. In a voting-machine, the combination with candidate-ballot indicators and straight-ticket indicators for operating a plurality of the former, of means for locking the indicators from operation, a universal bar or member adapted to be actuated by any of the straight-ticket indicators and serving by its movement to release the locking means and an operating means independent of any of the candidate-indicators or of the straight-ticket indicators and operable by the voter to actuate said member and release all the indicators.

4. In a voting-machine, the combination with candidate-ballot indicators and straight-ticket indicators for operating a plurality of the former, of means for locking the indicators from operation adapted to be released by the operation of a straight-ticket indicator, and a separate indicator-releasing device operable by the voter from the front of the machine and independently of any of the candidate and straight-ticket indicators for releasing the indicators.

5. In a voting-machine, the combination with candidate-ballot indicators and straight-ticket indicators for operating a plurality of the former, a bar coöperating with all the indicators, a lock for retaining said bar, a universal bar separate from the lock and operable by any of the straight-ticket indicators, and means operable by the voter independently of the straight-ticket indicators for actuating the universal bar.

6. In a voting-machine, the combination with the ballot-indicators, and straight-ticket indicators for operating a plurality of the former, of a universal bar with which the straight-ticket indicators coöperate, a bar coöperating with the indicators, a separate lock for said bar with which the universal bar coöperates to release the first-mentioned bar and means operable by the voter independently of any of the straight-ticket indicators for moving the universal bar.

7. In a voting-machine, the combination with a plurality of ballot-indicators, straight-ticket members for operating a plurality of the former, the bar coöperating with the indicators, and a lock for detaining it, of the longitudinally-movable universal bar coöperating with the lock to release it, a latch for retaining the universal bar, a movable member operating when in one position to hold the latch out of engagement with the universal bar and adapted to be moved by said bar to permit the engagement of the latch therewith to prevent a second movement.

8. In a voting-machine, the combination with the longitudinally-movable universal bar, the latch coöperating therewith to lock it, of a member operated by the bar in one direction only and coöperating with the latch to prevent its engagement with the bar when said member is moved by the latter.

9. In a voting-machine, the combination with the longitudinally-movable universal bar, the latch for coöperating therewith to lock it, of a member operated by the bar in one direction only and coöperating with the latch to prevent its engagement with the bar when said member is moved by the latter, said member also coöperating with the latch to release the bar when separately operated and means for operating the member independently of the bar.

10. In a voting-machine, the combination with the straight-ticket bars, the longitudinally-movable universal bar coöperating therewith and a latch adapted to coöperate with the bar to lock it from movement in one direction and having the inclined surface, of the member engaging the universal bar and operable in one direction only by the latter and adapted to engage the inclined surface of the latch to release it from the bar when operated in the other direction and means for moving the member in one direction independently of the bar.

11. In a voting-machine, the combination with the longitudinally-movable universal bar, the latch having the projection thereon, of the movable member forming a continuation of the universal bar and holding the latch out of engagement with the bar when moved by the bar in one direction and disengaging the latch from the bar when moved independently thereof.

12. In a voting-machine, the combination with the longitudinally-movable universal bar the member engaging the end thereof and movable by the bar in one direction only, of the latch for locking the bar having the projection adapted to extend between the bar and member and provided with the inclined surface adapted to be engaged by the member to release the bar.

13. In a voting-machine, the combination with the universal bar, the latch coöperating therewith, the sliding plate operable by the bar and coöperating with the latch to release and hold it out of engagement, of the operating member for the machine, the lever engaging said member and operable by the plate to release it.

14. In a voting-machine, the combination with the universal bar, the pivoted latch having the inclined projection and adapted to engage the bar, and the sliding plate with which the bar and latch coöperate, of the operating member, the locking-lever engaging it and operated in one direction by the sliding plate.

15. In a voting-machine, the combination with ballot-indicators, an operating member for the machine having the segment thereon,

two retaining devices adapted to engage the segment to lock it in two positions, of means for releasing one retaining device from the exterior of the casing and means connected with the ballot-indicating devices for disengaging the other retaining device.

16. In a voting-machine, the combination with ballot-indicating devices, an operating member for the machine, a lock for said member, means connected to the ballot-indicating devices for releasing said lock and means operable by the voter independently of the ballot-indicating devices for releasing said lock.

17. In a voting-machine, the combination with the ballot-indicating devices, an operating member for the machine, having the segment provided with two apertures, the two locking-levers for engaging said apertures, means operable by the ballot-indicating devices for releasing one of the levers and means operable from the exterior of the casing for releasing the other lever.

18. In a voting-machine, the combination with the ballot-indicators, the resetting-bar therefor and the automatically-engaging catches for locking the bar, of the operating devices for the resetting-bar adapted when retracted to engage and release the catches.

19. In a voting-machine, the combination with the ballot-indicators, the resetting-bar therefor and the automatically-engaging catches between the casing and bar for locking the latter, of the operating devices for the resetting-bar having a movement independent thereof and operating when moved in one direction to release the catches before operating the bar.

20. In a voting-machine, the combination with the ballot-indicating devices, the resetting-bar therefor and automatic catches for holding the bar embodying the slotted links and pins coöperating therewith, of means for operating the resetting-bar, having a movement independent thereof and adapted when retracted to release the catches before retracting the bar.

21. In a voting-machine, the combination with the ballot-indicators, the resetting-bar therefor, the pivoted locking-links having the slots, and the pins coöperating with the slots, of the operating-levers for the bar adapted to engage and release the links before the bar is retracted.

22. In a voting-machine, the combination with the ballot-indicators, the resetting-bar therefor, the links pivoted to the bar having the slots therein, and the stationary pins in the slots, of means for operating the bar having a movement independent thereof and adapted to engage and release the links before the bar is returned.

23. In a voting-machine, the combination with the ballot-indicators, the resetting-bar, the pivoted catches arranged at the ends of the bar adapted to project over the bar to lock it and connections between said links for causing their simultaneous operation.

24. In a voting-machine, the combination with the ballot-indicators, a resetting-bar therefor, means for operating said bar having a movement independent thereof, and automatic catches for retaining the bar adapted to be released by the operating means after a predetermined movement, of separate catches arranged at opposite ends of the bar and operable independently thereof to lock it, connections between them for causing their simultaneous operation and means for operating said last-mentioned catches to release the bar.

25. In a voting-machine, the combination with the ballot-indicators, a plurality of straight-ticket devices for operating a plurality of said indicators to voted position, a resetting-bar for the indicators, means for operating said bar having a movement independent thereof and automatic catches for retaining said bar adapted to be released by the operating means after a predetermined movement, of separate catches to lock the bar arranged at opposite ends thereof and operable independently thereof, connections between said catches and operating connections between one of said catches and the straight-ticket indicators for causing the release of the resetting-bar.

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Witnesses:
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F. N. HOWARD.