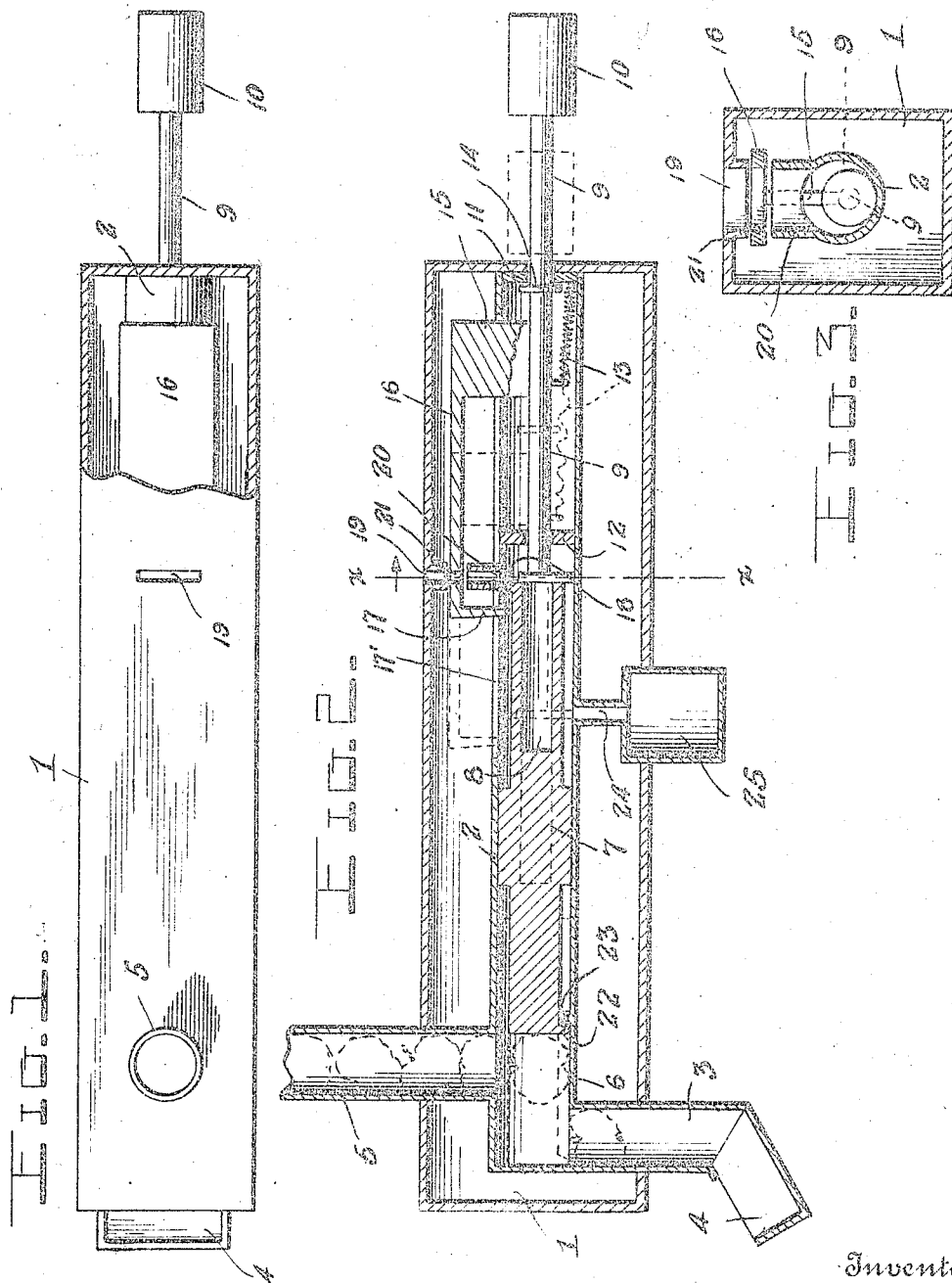


E. L. SMITH.
 VENDING MACHINE.
 APPLICATION FILED MAR. 19, 1908.

914,320.

Patented Mar. 2, 1909.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ERNEST L. SMITH, OF WINDSOR, NORTH CAROLINA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO ERNEST LINWOOD WEAVER, OF WARRENTON, NORTH CAROLINA.

VENDING-MACHINE.

No. 914,320.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 2, 1908.

Application filed March 19, 1908. Serial No. 422,101.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ERNEST L. SMITH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Windsor, in the county of Bertie and State of North Carolina, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Vending-Machines; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to vending machines, and particularly to coin or check-controlled machines, and while I have shown the device adapted for dispensing apples, it will be understood that it may be constructed along lines to adapt it for vending different articles of merchandise.

The object of the invention is to provide a simple, cheap and efficient structure of this class which absolutely prevents fraudulent operation.

With this and other objects in view, the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts as will be described and particularly pointed out in the appended claim.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a top plan view with parts broken away; Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view showing in dotted lines the alternative position of the parts; and Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view on the line $x-x$ of Fig. 2.

Referring more especially to the drawings, 1 represents a suitable casing preferably rectangular in outline which supports the entire mechanism. Mounted longitudinally within the frame is a tube or casing, 2, connecting at its outer end with a discharge chute, 3, having a dispensing pocket, 4, at its outer end.

Extending from the casing 2, adjacent its outer end, is a merchandise tube or casing, 5, adapted to deliver its contents upon a shoulder, 6, formed at the end of the casing in position to be engaged by the combined plunger and baffle plate, 7. This plunger, 7, is provided at its rear end with a longitudinal slot, 8, which is adapted to be engaged by the operating shaft, 9, carrying on its outer end the usual thumb piece, 10. The operating shaft, 9, is mounted in bearings, 11 and 12, carried by the casing and is provided with a spiral spring, 13, connected to the operating shaft and to the bearing so

as to normally hold the shaft in retracted position. A suitable collar, 14, limits its rearward movement.

Secured to the upper side of the shaft 9 is a supporting piece, 15, from which projects a horizontal arm, 16, having depending from its outer free end, a detent or finger, 17, adapted to engage an upwardly projecting lug, 18, carried on the end of the plunger, 7, the casing 2 being suitably slotted at 17 to allow the passage of the detent. A suitable coin slot, 19, is carried by the casing 1, and is alined with a similar slot, 20, carried by the casing, 2, both being in alinement with a slot 21 formed in the arm, 16. Suitable lugs, 22, 23, are carried by the plunger, 7, and casing, 2, respectively, so as to limit the inward movement of the former. Depending from the casing, 2, is a tube, 24, connecting with a money box, 25, so as to receive the coins when released by the shaft, 9.

The operation is as follows: A coin is dropped into the slot, 19, and if the shaft, 9, is in normal position, it passes through the slot, 21, in the arm, 16; through the slot, 20, and across the aperture, 8, in the end of the plunger. The shaft, 9, is now operated and its engaging end comes into contact with the coin which closes the aperture 8, and, therefore, as the shaft is continued in its movement, the plunger is forced forwardly to eject the apple or other article of merchandise into the discharge chute, 3. At this time the remaining apples in the supply chute or casing, 5, drop down upon the upper side of the combined plunger and baffle plate, 7, and until the plunger is retracted are held thereon. After the shaft 9 is released, the spring, 13, retracts it to normal position, but it will be seen from an inspection of the dotted lines that the detent 17 does not engage the lug 18 until sufficient time has elapsed for the coin to drop into the money box, 25, the detent then engaging the lug 18 and retracting the plunger through the action of the spring, 13. This allows another apple or article of merchandise to drop upon the shoulder 6. The casing, 2 is only sufficiently deep to allow one apple or one article of any kind to descend from the chute, and the weight of the articles above holds the article on the shoulder in place so that it cannot be displaced except by the forward movement of the plunger.

From the foregoing description, taken in

connection with the accompanying drawings, the construction and operation of the invention will be readily understood without requiring a more extended explanation.

5 Various changes in the form, proportion and the minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention as defined in the appended
10 claim.

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

15 In a device of the class described, the combination with a casing, of a centrally disposed slotted tube therein, a discharge tube depending from the forward end thereof, a dispensing tube projecting from the slotted tube and off-set from the discharge tube, a
20 dispensing plunger in said slotted tube having a longitudinal socket therein, an operating plunger mounted for reciprocation in said slotted tube and adapted to enter therein, a

spring to retract said operating plunger, a coin chute carried by the casing, a coin chute 25 carried by the tube in register with the first coin chute and adapted to deliver a coin to the slotted tube so as to rest across the socket in the dispensing plunger, a retracting device carried by the operating plunger 30 and extending between the coin chutes, said retracting device having a slot to register with the coin chutes when the operating plunger is in normal position, and an arm on the retracting device extending through the 35 slot in the tube to engage the dispensing plunger to retract the same after a predetermined retrograde movement of the operating plunger.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set 40 my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ERNEST L. SMITH.

Witnesses:

W. L. DORIS,
W. P. KING.