H. O. RUGH.

VOTING MACHINE CONTROL.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 23, 1914.

Patented May 25, 1915.

1,141,074.

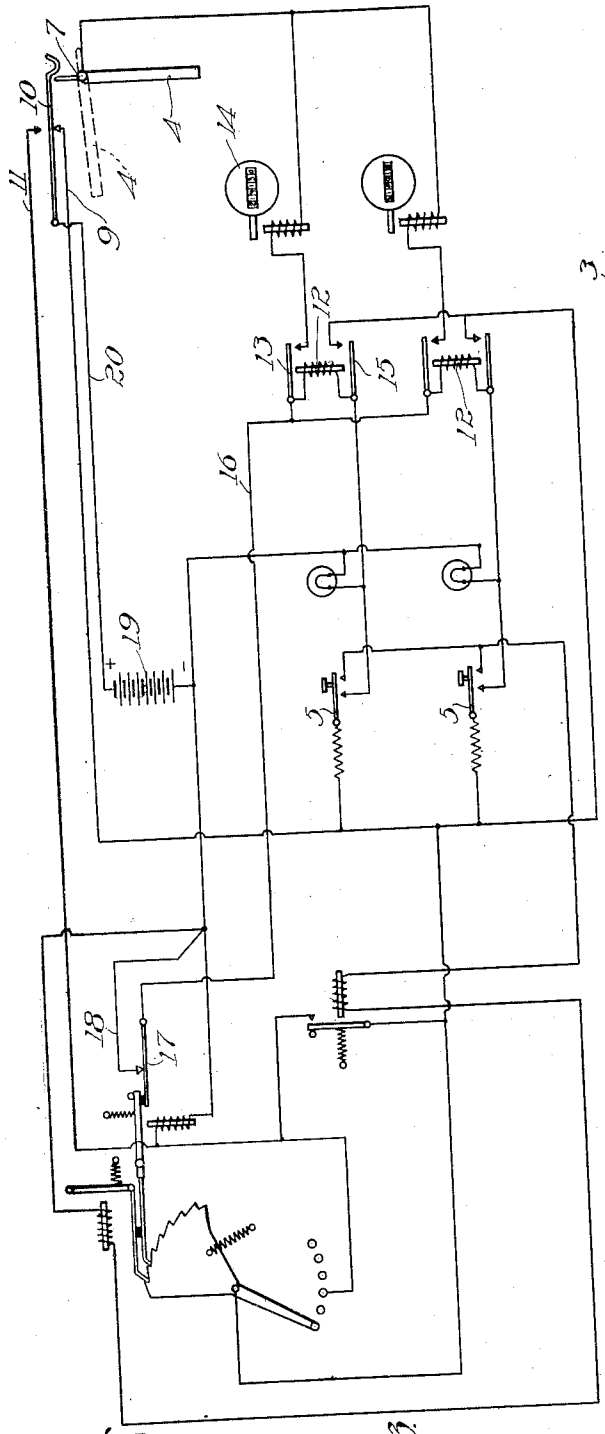


Fig. 3.

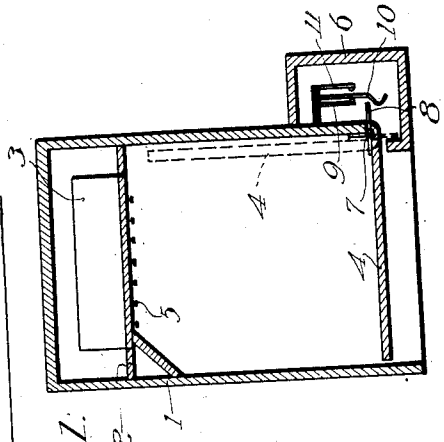


Fig. 1.

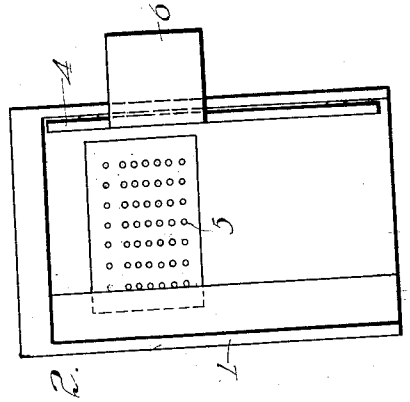


Fig. 2.

Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRY O. RUGH, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO RAILWAY ELECTRIC MANUFACTURING CO., OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

VOTING-MACHINE CONTROL.

1,141,074.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 25, 1915.

Application filed March 23, 1914. Serial No. 826,776.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRY O. RUGH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Voting-Machine Control, of which the following is a full, clear, concise, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification.

My invention relates to a control system for voting machines and more particularly to such control systems as applied to electrically operated voting machines.

My invention contemplates the provision of means operable when leaving a booth to cause a final registration of the votes cast for each particular candidate by the voter who has been within the booth.

My invention more specifically provides a gate or door or similar structure which is moved into a given position when a voter enters a booth, and which must remain in that position so long as the voter is within the booth, but which may move to its alternative or closed position when the voter leaves the booth, this movement of the gate to its closed position causing the actuation of all of the counters to register the votes cast by the voter.

I will describe one form which my invention may take more particularly by referring to the accompanying drawing illustrating such embodiment, in which—

Figure 1 is a top sectional view of a booth constructed in accordance with my invention; Fig. 2 is a front view with the door open, and Fig. 3 is a diagrammatic view illustrating the circuit controlling mechanism as applied to the counters.

Referring more particularly to Fig. 1, I have a booth 1 within which a voting machine is mounted consisting of the push button panel 2 and the box-like structure 3 for containing operating parts. The booth has a gate or closure 4, which, as will be seen, when moved to its dotted position in Fig. 1, permits the voter to reach the push buttons 5 for the purpose of voting. It will also be seen however that the gate 4 cannot be closed while the voter is within the booth. It is thus obligatory for the voter to enter the booth, thus entering the door, setting up his combinations for the candidates he selects, and then leaving the booth, whereupon the door 4, which may be suitably provided with spring closing means not shown, moves to the closed position illustrated in Fig. 1. The act of door closing causes the registration upon suitable counters of the votes intended by the voter to be cast in accordance with the buttons 5 that he has actuated. The mechanism by which the closure 4 actuates the register mechanism is mounted in a small box-like structure 6. The door 4 is supported upon a metallic hinge 7, which metallic hinge is also in engagement with a metallic circuit changing element 8 movable with the door. Within the box-like structure 6 there are also mounted three springs 9, 10 and 11, of which the springs 9 and 10 are normally in contact. The arrangement is such however that when the metallic circuit changing element 8 is swung, as when the door is opened or closed, then circuit is established between this metallic circuit changing element 8 and the spring 10, and at the same time the spring 10 is moved so as to break the circuit between it and the spring 9, and to establish circuit momentarily between said spring 9 and the spring 11. The hinge 7 is in electrical contact as stated with the element 8 and thus a circuit connection is preferably made with the stationary portion of the hinge, which through its connections, of course, is continued on to the element 8. It will be noted that the door 4 has a rounded extremity drawn preferably in the form of a circle with the axis of the hinge 7 as its center so that this door will always maintain a rather tight closure of the box 6, so that no tampering can be effected with the spring 10.

In Fig. 3, I show more in a diagrammatic way just how the switches 9, 10 and 11 and the switch element 8 are called upon to effect the circuit change specified. I am not describing the entire operation of the circuit here illustrated because this circuit and the system itself are set forth more in detail and claimed in my co-pending application Serial No. 826,777, filed Mar. 23, 1914. In the partial description of this circuit however which is thought desirable, it may be pointed out that the door 4 is shown in full lines in its closed position and in dotted lines in its open or voting position. The voting machine here illustrated has the push buttons

for the selections of candidates, which push buttons when depressed operate suitable relays 12, 12, of which there is one for each candidate, which relays when operated draw up their armatures 13 so as to bring into circuit coil operated counting mechanisms 14. It is designed that the armatures 13 remain in their attracted positions as the relays are of the locking type on account of their other armatures 15, and then whenever the door is closed from the voting position, contact is established which may be traced from the hinge 7, through the coil of counter 14, through the armature 13, conductor 16, contact spring 17, contact spring 18, battery 19, conductor 29, to spring 10, contact element 8 and hinge 7. Thus the actuating of the door 4 causes a registration at each counter which has been connected in circuit by its associated relay 12.

From what has been described the nature of my invention will be clear, and it will also be clear that within the scope of the appended claims it is capable of modification without departing from its spirit.

Having however thus described one form which my invention may take, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. Register controlling mechanism for voting machines comprising a booth, a circuit controlling door, said circuit controlling door being in the path of the voter when entering the booth and being adapted to be moved to one of its extreme alternative positions to permit access to the voting machine, and means whereby said door cannot be returned to its initial position while the voter is within the booth, said door when open extending substantially throughout the depth of the available space within said booth.

2. Register controlling mechanism for voting machines comprising a booth, a circuit controlling door, said circuit controlling door being in the path of the voter when entering the booth and being adapted to be moved to one of its extreme alternative positions to permit access to the voting machine, and means whereby said door cannot be returned to its initial position while the voter is within the booth, said door when open extending substantially throughout the depth of the available space within said booth, said door carrying a switch element.

3. Register controlling mechanism for voting machines comprising a booth, a circuit controlling door, said circuit controlling door being in the path of the voter when entering the booth and being adapted to be moved to one of its extreme alternative positions to permit access to the voting machine, means whereby said door cannot be returned to its initial position while the voter is within the booth, said door when open extending substantially throughout the depth of the available space within said booth, said door carrying a switch element, and a stationarily mounted switch element to coöperate with said first aforesaid switch element and momentarily actuable thereby as said door moves from one limiting position to the other.

In witness whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name this 16th day of March, A. D. 1914.

HARRY O. RUGH.

Witnesses:
A. LYDA JONES,
HAZEL ANN JONES.