(No Model.)

F. W. BARRETT.

BALLOT BOX.

No. 488,748. Patented Dec. 27, 1892.

Fig. 1.

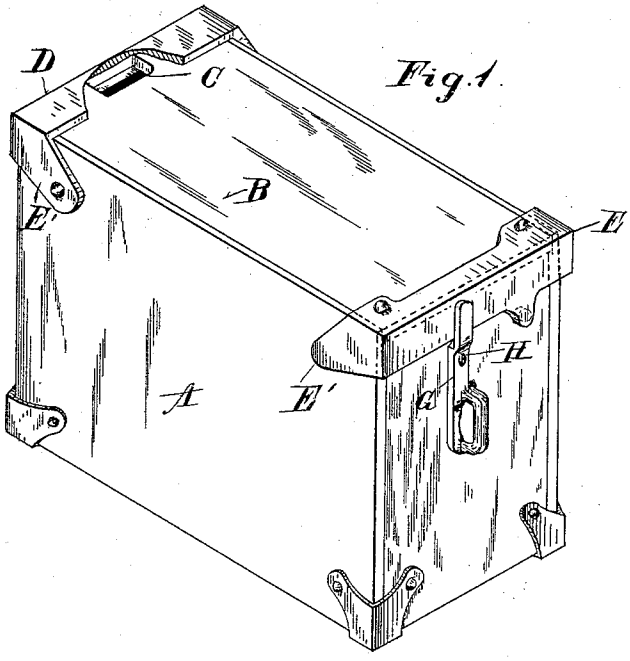


Fig. 2.

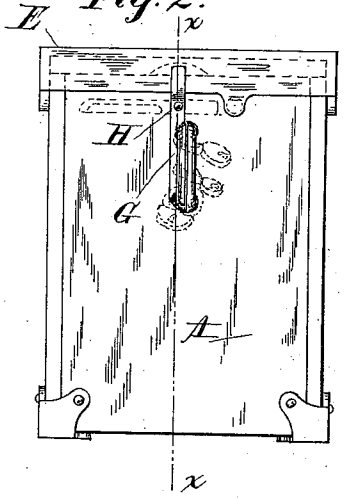


Fig. 3.

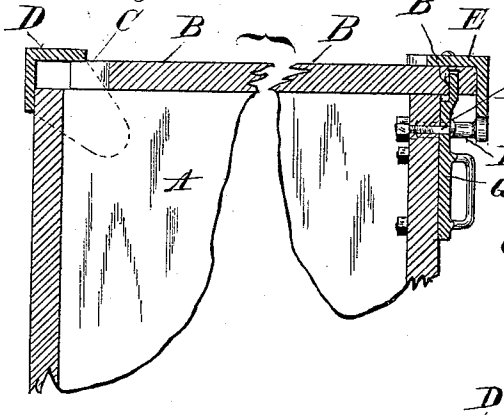


Fig. 4.

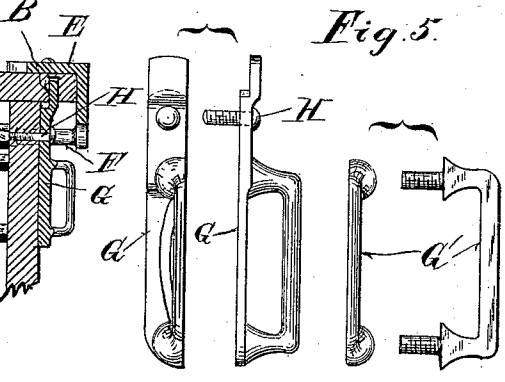
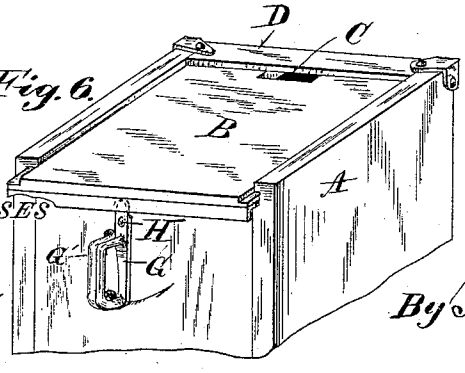


Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.



WITNESSES

H. M. Paisted.

J. E. Dowley

INVENTOR

Frederick W. Barrett

By H. A. Toulmin

his Attorney.

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK W. BARRETT, OF SPRINGFIELD, OHIO.

BALLOT-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 488,748, dated December 27, 1892.

Application filed January 30, 1892. Renewed November 1, 1892. Serial No. 450,608. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK W. BARRETT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Springfield, in the county of Clark and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Ballot-Boxes, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in ballot boxes.

The object of my improvements is to lock the ballot box in both its closed or sealed positions and when partially open to admit of voting; to this end my improvements have reference to a box provided with a sliding cover, the cover being provided with an opening for the admission of votes when in its voting position and holding means for said cover; have reference to a special form of holding means adapted to hold the cover in position, in both its sealed and voting positions, consisting of overlapping pieces carried by said members and having a sliding engagement each with the other member; have reference to a pivoted locking latch adapted to engage with said cover and lock it in both positions; and have reference to other points hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings on which like reference letters indicate corresponding parts: Figure 1, represents a perspective view of my ballot box in its sealed condition, a portion of one holding piece being broken away to show the ballot opening normally covered thereby; Fig. 2, an end view of the box, the opening position of the latch being shown by dotted lines; Fig. 3, a vertical section through the latch and a portion of the box, on the line *x x* Fig. 2, the cover being shown in its voting position; Fig. 4, detailed views of the locking latch, Fig. 5 similar views of the matching portion therefor. Fig. 6, a perspective view of a ballot box in its voting position.

In some States the law requires that each judge shall individually lock the ballot box, being provided with a separate and different key therefor. My device admits of attaching a number of pad-locks to the box, and, by simply adjusting the cover, the locking latch will lock the same in both its sealed and voting positions. Referring to the drawings, the letter A designates the box provided with a cover B, slidingly mounted therein, and having an opening C at one end, or elsewhere, to admit of inserting the ballots within the box when the cover is in its voting position. This opening however, is covered by a strap D, or other holding piece, wide enough to close the opening when the box is sealed, and being secured to the box by end extensions E′, it holds the cover against other than sliding disengagement from the box. The opposite end of the cover is provided with a holding piece E, preferably secured to the cover itself, and having extensions E′ at the ends, which simply embrace the box to strengthen it. The latter holding piece is engaged with the box by an inwardly extending lug F, adapted to slide into a matching opening in the end of the box, and prevent lifting out this end of the cover while engaged with the said opening. As seen from Fig. 3 the cover B may be drawn out far enough to expose the opening C, sufficiently for voting purposes, while one end of the cover is held by the strap D, and the other end by the lug F. In order to prevent further sliding of the cover, a locking latch G, pivoted at H, is adapted to swing into engagement with a slot B′, Fig. 3. The latch is provided with a loop or handle, which may be connected by a pad-lock, or otherwise, to a matching handle G′, secured to the box itself, whereby the latch will be prevented from turning. When the latch is inserted in the slot B′, and then locked to the matching handle G′, the cover is locked in its voting position; by rotating the latch to the dotted position Fig. 11, and closing the cover, the latch may be rotated back to the outside or end thereof, as seen in Fig. 2, and lock the box in its sealed condition. The locking position of the latch is the same in both positions of the cover, but engages differently with the cover, to effect said locked positions. The holding pieces D and E, are preferably in the form of angle straps to strengthen the box; and the other corners are similarly stayed, if so desired, by corner irons. The latch and its matching piece, serve as a convenient handle for the box, as well as a place of attachment for the locks.

The holding pieces may be mounted one on

one member and one on the other, as shown in this form of the device; or may be otherwise connected to the box as long as they serve to hold the cover, and close the box, as hereinbefore described.

The removal of the cover is readily effected by turning the latch to the dotted position shown in Fig. 2, and drawing out the cover till both ends are free from their engagement with the box.

Fig. 6 shows a ballot box in perspective, the cover being drawn out to its voting position and slidingly engaged at the sides with the box, by a tongue and groove engagement. The latch is engaged with the cover similarly to the sectional view of Fig. 3. In both forms the strap at the latch end of the cover is dropped down below the lower surface of cover in order to prevent slipping ballots into the box. In Fig. 6 the lug extension F to hold the cover in position is not used; the rabbet of the box on each side of the cover acting to hold the latter from being lifted out.

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

1. In a ballot box, the combination with the box and a slidable cover therefor having an opening to admit votes, of a covering piece carried by the box adapted to cover said opening and seal the box in one position, and to expose said opening for voting, in another position of the cover, and means to lock said cover in said voting and sealed positions.

2. In a ballot box, the combination with a box and a cover therefor, adapted for the admission of ballots, of holding pieces or straps at each end, carried by one member and slidingly engaging with the other member, a locking latch adapted to engage with said cover and lock it in both its voting and sealed conditions, and means to secure the latch in its locking position therewith.

3. In a ballot box, the combination with a box, and a sliding cover therefor provided with an opening for the admission of ballots, of a holding piece normally closing said opening, and consisting of a strap secured to the box at one end, another holding piece mounted on the cover at the other end, and provided with an inwardly extending lug engaging with the box to normally prevent raising the cover, the cover being thus held from other than sliding movement, and means to limit said sliding movement to lock the cover at predetermined points.

4. In a ballot box, the combination with a box and a sliding cover therefor, and a holding device to prevent other than sliding movement of the cover, of a locking latch pivoted to said box and adapted to engage with said cover at predetermined points to lock the cover, and having a loop or handle portion, a matching loop secured to the box, and means to secure said looped portions together and effect a locked condition of the latch.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

FREDERICK W. BARRETT.

Witnesses:

WARREN M. MCNAIR,

JOHN E. FENWICK.