

Nov. 29, 1932.

F. KOHNLE

1,889,250

MARKING MACHINE

Filed Feb. 3, 1930

9 Sheets-Sheet 1

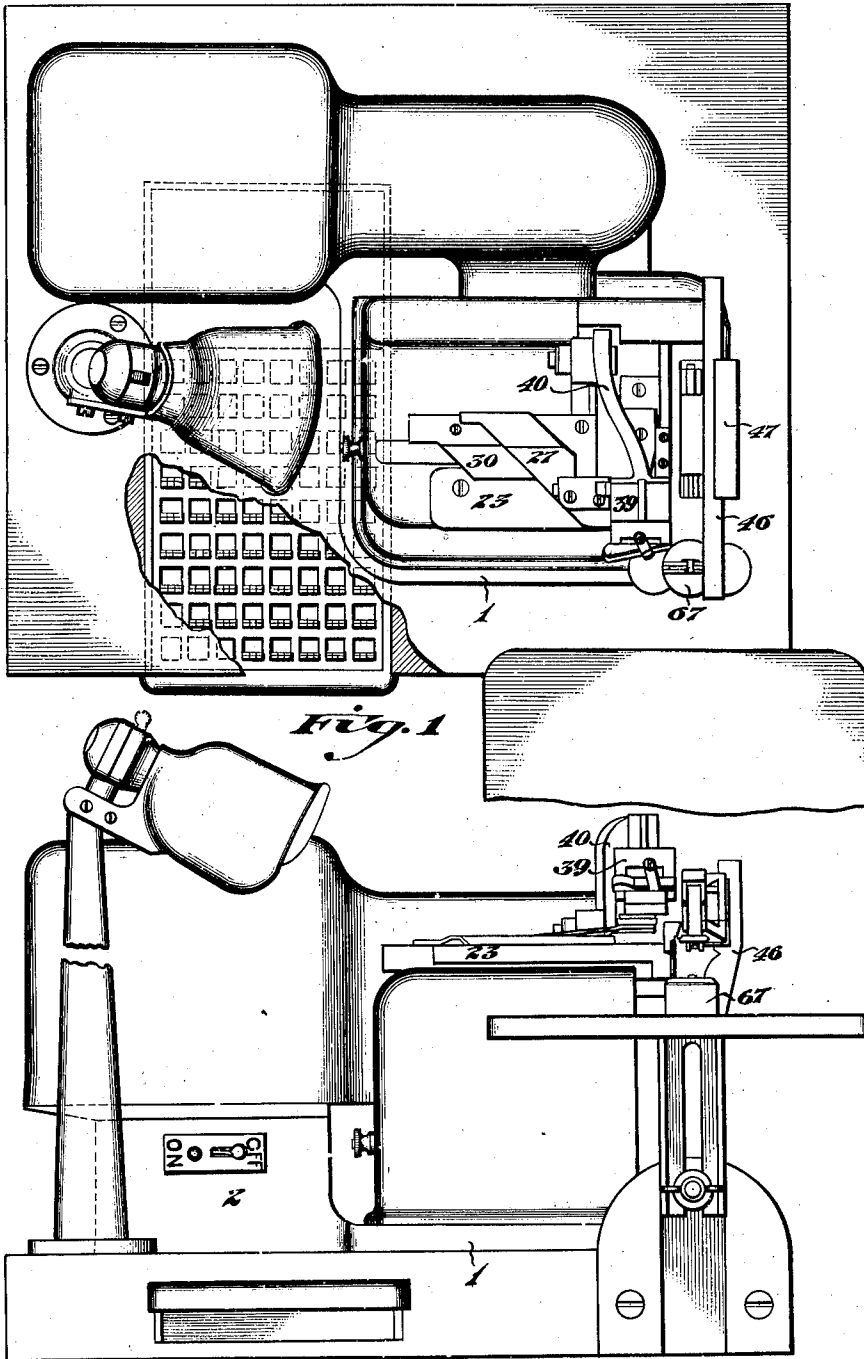


Fig. 2

By

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Frederick Kohnle
Work & Word Attorneys

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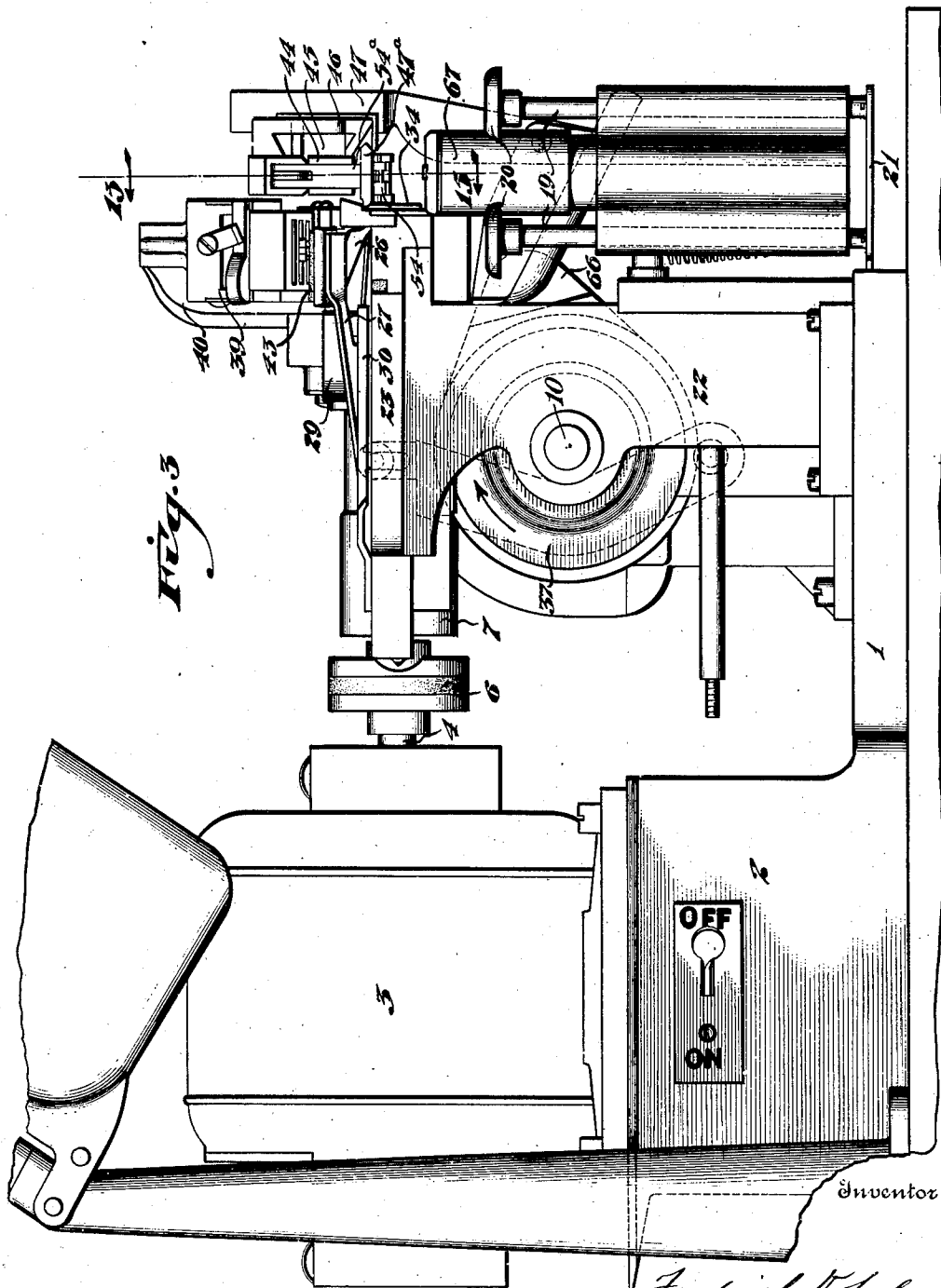
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MARKING MACHINE

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9 Sheets-Sheet 2



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MARKING MACHINE

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9 Sheets-Sheet 3

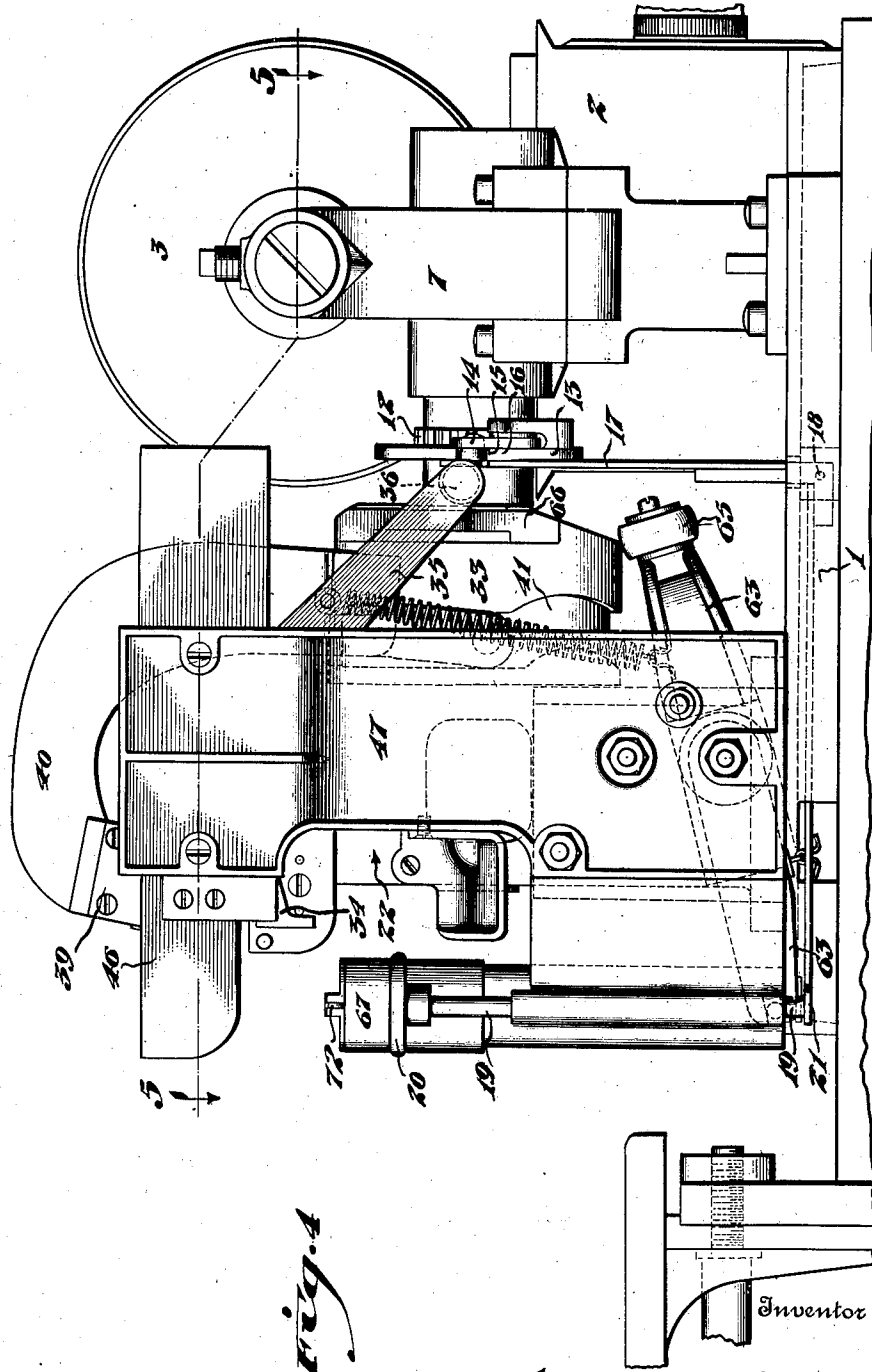


Fig. 4

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MARKING MACHINE

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9 Sheets-Sheet 4

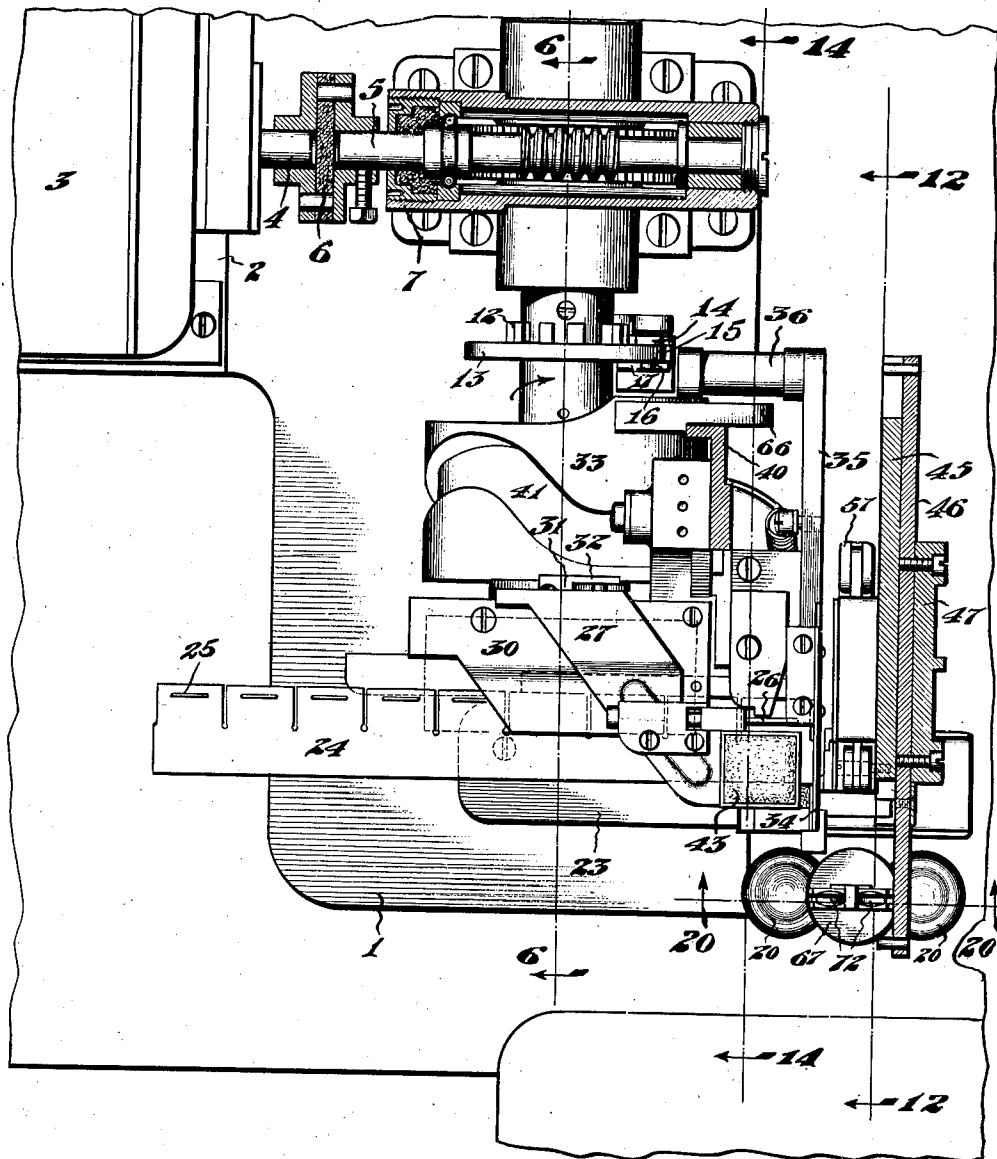


Fig. 5

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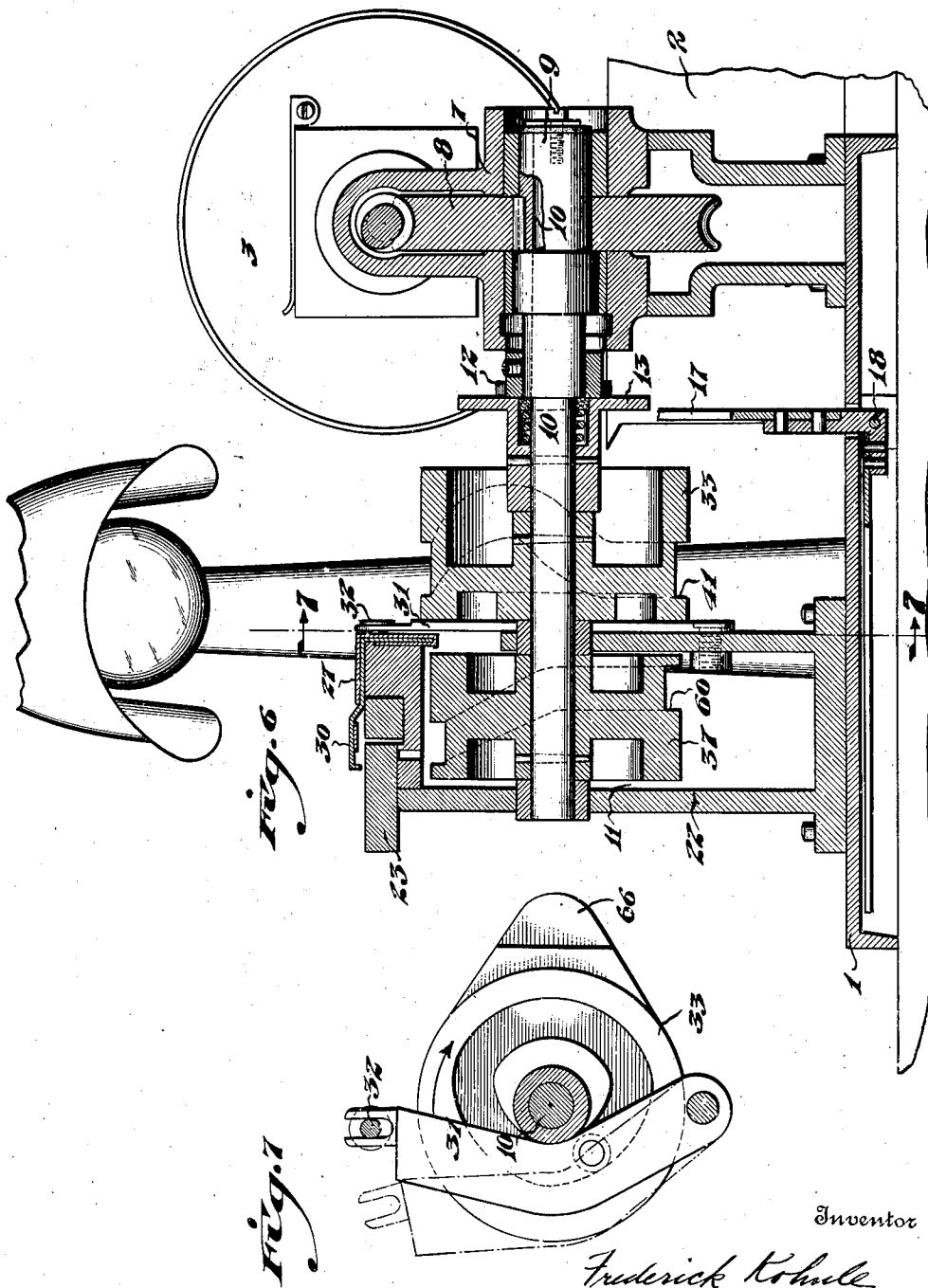
F. KOHNLE

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MARKING MACHINE

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9 Sheets-Sheet 5



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9 Sheets-Sheet 6

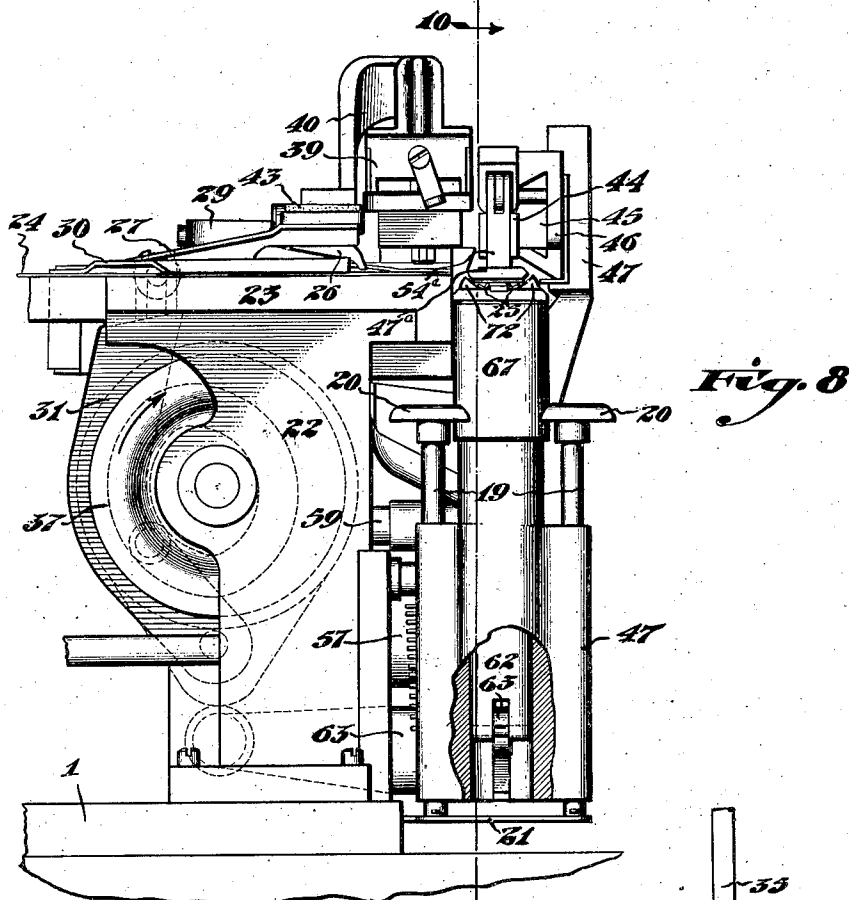


Fig. 8

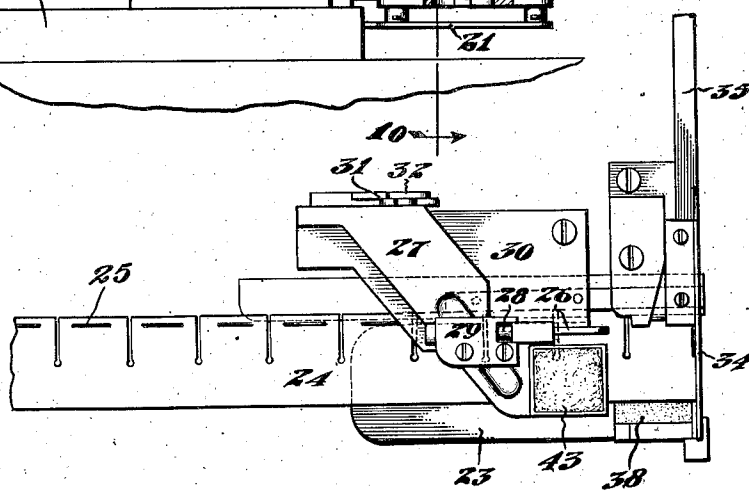


Fig. 9

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MARKING MACHINE

1,889,250

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9 Sheets-Sheet 7

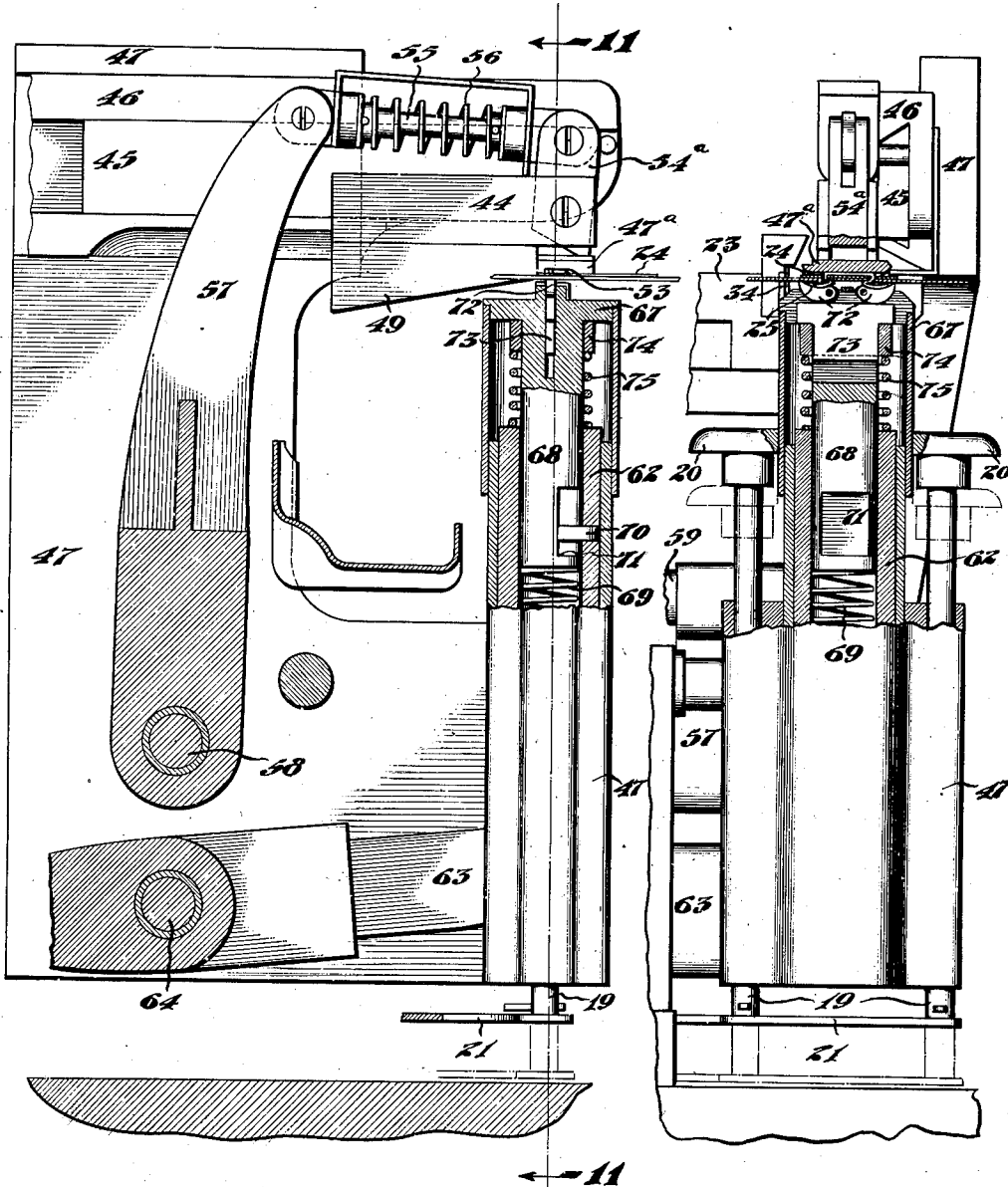


Fig. 10

Fig. 11

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9 Sheets-Sheet 8

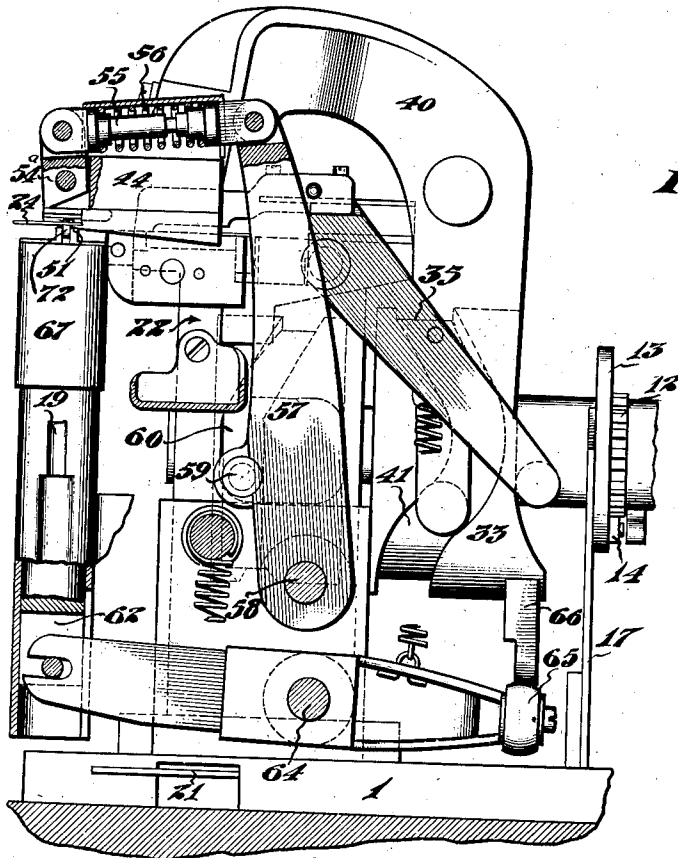


Fig. 12

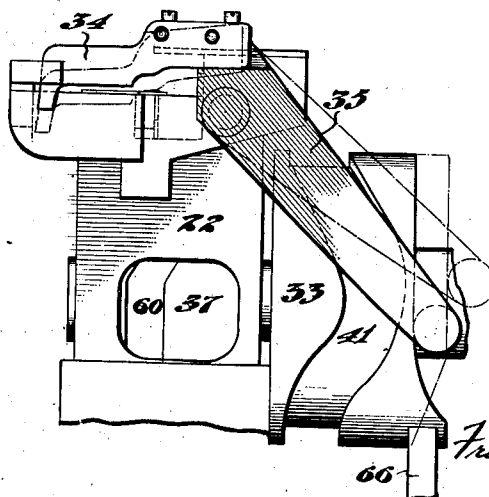


Fig. 13

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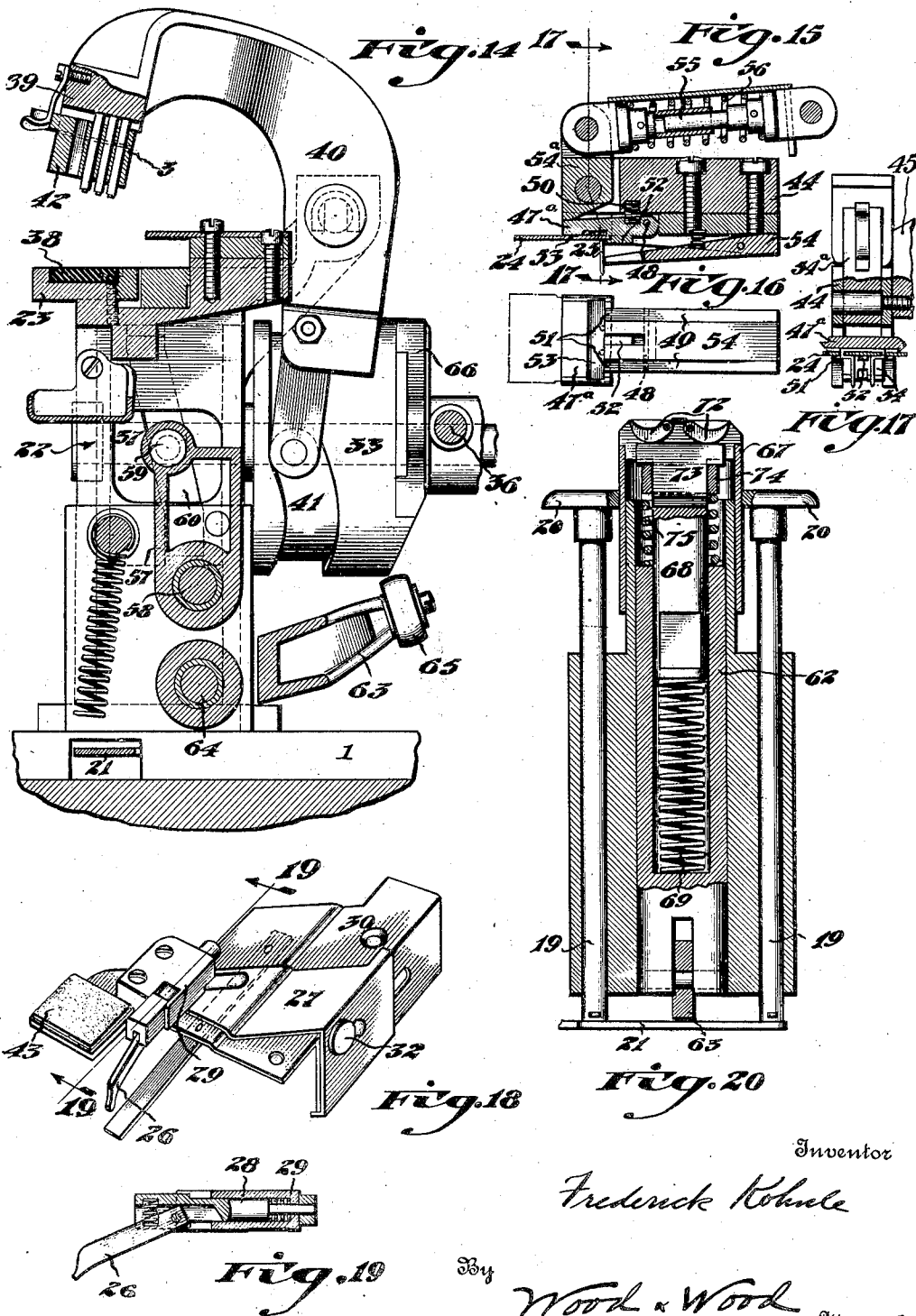
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9 Sheets-Sheet 9



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

FREDERICK KOHNLE, OF DAYTON, OHIO, ASSIGNOR TO THE MONARCH MARKING SYSTEM COMPANY, OF DAYTON, OHIO, A CORPORATION OF OHIO

MARKING MACHINE

Application filed February 3, 1930. Serial No. 425,431.

This invention relates to improvements in tag marking machines and particularly to mechanism for dispensing a marked tag or ticket after it has been severed from a supply strip or appropriately serve the same for application to the merchandise to be tick-
5 eted.

An object of the invention is to provide a tag marking machine with means adapted to grip or hold a tag at one edge while it is being severed from the supply strip and then pass the same to a device for applying the tag to the merchandise.

Another object of the invention is to provide a tag marking machine with a reciprocating dispensing device wherein a tag is gripped between jaws, the jaws operated by the transmitting connections moving the dispenser whereby a gripping pressure is applied to the jaws when the dispenser moves forwardly and the jaws released with the retreat stroke.

Further advantages and features of the invention will be more fully set forth in a description of the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the improved tag printing and applying machine, a portion of the base thereof being broken away to illustrate the type drawer.

Figure 2 is a front view thereof.

Figure 3 is an enlarged front view with the cover casings removed.

Figure 4 is a side or end view of the machine.

Figure 5 is a sectional view taken on line 5-5, Figure 4, illustrating a portion of the transmission in section, and the printing head cut away to further illustrate the mechanisms therebeneath.

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken on line 6-6, Figure 5, illustrating the cam shaft and its connection to the power shaft, and detailing the cams.

Figure 7 is a sectional view taken on line 7-7, Figure 6, illustrating the tag strip feeding cam and lever.

Figure 8 is a fragmentary front view of the machine, showing the staple clenching head in tag applying position, and a portion

of the supporting frame therefor in section to illustrate the operating lever connection to the base end of the clenching head plunger.

Figure 9 is a fragmentary plan view of the tag strip feeding mechanism, and the knife for severing a tag from the strip after the tag has been marked.

Figure 10 is a sectional view taken on line 10-10, Figure 8, showing the mechanisms in tag applying position and detailing the construction of the clenching head for properly crimping the clip of the tag.

Figure 11 is a sectional view taken on line 11-11, Figure 10, further detailing the die head and crimping mechanism in its functioning position.

Figure 12 is a view taken on line 12-12, Figure 5, but showing the various levers of the machine in position corresponding to the crimping position of the clenching head.

Figure 13 is a side elevation of the knife and operating mechanism therefor.

Figure 14 is a sectional view taken on line 14-14, Figure 5, illustrating the printing head and platen.

Figure 15 is a sectional view taken on line 15-15, Figure 3, detailing the construction of the slide clamping head for gripping and advancing a tag to the tag applying device.

Figure 16 is a bottom plan view of the slide clamping head.

Figure 17 is a sectional view on the line 17-17 of Figure 15, with parts in elevation.

Figure 18 is a perspective view of the tag strip feeding and inking slide pad relative to its slideways.

Figure 19 is a sectional view taken on line 19-19, Figure 18, illustrating the cushion mounting of the feeding finger relative to the slide.

Figure 20 is a sectional view taken on line 20-20, Figure 5, detailing the construction of the reciprocating die head and plunger.

Referring to the drawings, 1 indicates the base of the machine of L-form having an extremity arranged in a box-like casing 2 providing a support for an electric motor 3. The electric connections for the motor, including an electric controlling switch, are housed within the casing, and a hand lever of the

switch extends through the front wall of the casing as shown in Figure 2. The motor shaft 4 as shown in Figure 5 connects with a worm shaft 5 through a flexible coupling 6 and shaft 5 is suitably journaled in bearings in a journal bracket 7 mounted upon the base 1. A worm of the worm shaft is in mesh with a worm wheel 8 fixed upon a shaft 9 journaled in the journal bracket 7. The worm shaft 5 is journaled in an end thrust ball bearing. The journal bracket is of a construction enabling the worm and worm wheel to run in a lubricant.

A shaft 10 coaxial with the worm wheel shaft 9 is journaled in bearings in the casing 11 of the tag printing and ticketing mechanism and is adapted to be coupled or clutched to shaft 9 for a single cycle. The coupling mechanism, comprises, a ratchet 12 fixed upon the shaft 9 and a hubbed clutch disc 13 pinned to the shaft 10 and abuttingly adjacent the ratchet 12. The disc carries a spring-pressed pawl 14 having engagement with the teeth of the ratchet, and when engaged, therewith, rotatively connects shafts 9 and 10. The disc is provided with a radial slot 15 through which a pin 16 fixed upon the pawl 14 extends. The pin is adapted to be engaged by a lever arm 17 pivoted at 18 within the base 1 of the machine, and the lever arm 17 is arranged to swing toward and from the disc, and when in a perpendicular position is adapted to engage with the laterally extending pin 16 in the rotation of the disc to force the pawl out of engagement with the teeth of the ratchet.

The upper end of the lever arm 17 is bevelled or inclined to serve as a cam for engagement with the pin of the pawl 14 forcing the pawl outwardly with the rotation of the disc and thereby disengaging the pawl from the ratchet wheel at the end of an operating cycle. To release the pawl the lever arm 17 is swung laterally by depressing either one of a pair of control rods 19 slidably supported and positioned at opposite sides of the clenching mechanism, accessible to the operator while holding the material to be ticketed upon the clenching mechanism and in position to receive the price marked tag. The control rods 19, each has its upper end provided with a button 20 and its opposite end engages with a spring tensioned arm 21 connecting with the lever arm 17. For a single cycle control, the operator momentarily depresses one of the control rods to release the arm 17 whereupon the arm immediately snaps back into position ready to trip the pawl at the end of the cycle. For continuous operation, the operator holds the control rod depressed for a period desired.

The ticket feeding and printing mechanism is similar to that disclosed in a prior patent issued to me April 16, 1929, No. 1,709,354, for "tag price marking machines". The ma-

chine operates upon a gang tag strip constituting a plurality of tags, the tags individualized by notches cut into the strip from one longitudinal edge, the notches providing shoulders for engagement by the feeding mechanism to successfully advance the strip in degrees corresponding to or measuring with the notch spacing. The strip is intermittently advanced by a reciprocating finger which engages with a notch of the strip, preferably the first notch for the foremost tag of the strip to move a tag appropriately beneath the price marking or printing device and in relation to severing mechanism for cutting and delivering a printed or price marked tag from the strip.

In the present invention the tag after it has been severed from the strip is passed or dispensed transversely of the strip, appropriately over clenching mechanism for driving the wire staple through the goods to be ticketed and clenching the ends thereof.

Referring to Figures 5, 6 and 8 of the drawings, 22 indicates a pedestal fixed upon the base 1, with the head of the pedestal in the form of a table 23 for supporting the tag strip 24. The table is longitudinally slotted or channeled to receive and track the depending prongs of the metallic fasteners or staples 25 with which each tag of the strip is provided.

The strip is a commercial product of cardboard material having definitely spaced notches cut inward from one longitudinal edge thereof, each to be successively engaged by a feed finger 26, reciprocating with a slide or carriage 27. The feed finger 26 is pivotally mounted and yieldingly depressed within the forked or slotted lower side of a spring pressed plunger 28 slidably mounted within a holder 29, (see Figures 18 and 19) fixed upon the carriage. The forward end of the finger is appropriately shaped to engage into a notch of the tag strip with the forward stroke of the carriage for advancing the strip a determined or measured degree moving a foremost tag of the strip beneath the printing mechanism for printing the price marking or other data thereon. The finger moves with the carriage until the forward end engages against a rigid stop, which constitutes a knife or movable cutter die for severing the tags from the strip. The plunger is yieldingly engaged within the holder to accommodate for carriage movement to the end of its stroke and for any increment in carriage movement over that of the finger after the finger is engaged with the abutment. The finger advancing movement is thus definitely arrested for limiting the advancing motion of the strip and bringing a notch thereof successively into positive registration and alignment with the cutter or cutting dies, the dies cutting across the strip

continuous with the notches in severing the tag from the strip.

The front end of the finger and the rear end of the movable cutter or die are of a construction which will permit the notch engaging end of the finger to pass beneath the die with the butt end of the finger engaged against the side of the die, the die having its cutting edge forward of the point of finger engagement.

The carriage slides upon an angle guide plate 30 fixed to the pedestal at the rear side of the table and a horizontal portion of the plate overlies the table adapting the carriage to be guidingly sustained over the table. The carriage is reciprocated by a lever 31 having its upper end forked to engage with a headed pin 32 fixed to and extending from the side of the carriage and the lever 31 intermedially is provided with a lateral extending roller engaging in the cam groove in the side of a cam wheel 33 fixed to the shaft 10 (see Figures 7 and 8). In each advancing step of the tag strip, the foremost tag of the strip is moved to a position to be severed from the strip by a movable die blade 34 extending crosswise of the strip and fixed upon the upper end of a lever 35 pivoted to the pedestal or forward end of the table with the opposite end of the lever having a lateral extension 36 carrying a roller engaging with the cam formed on the outer side of the cam wheel 33 fixed to the shaft 10. The lever is yieldingly held against the cam by a spring.

The movable die blade cooperates with the stationary die mounted within the table providing a die slot. The forward end of the die blade is provided with a depending tongue beyond the width of the tag strip which is always engaged with the die slot for maintaining the alignment and registration of the movable die with the stationary die. The swinging motion of the movable die produces a shear action across the tag strip.

In Figure 13 the movable cutter is shown in its normal rest position with its cutting edge above the plane of the tag strip but in a position to be engaged by the forward or butt end of the feed finger. At the time the foremost tag is severed from the strip a second or succeeding tag is in position over a printing platen 38 recessed within the table and beneath the type carrying or printing head 39 of the printing mechanism. The printing head is formed on the end of an overhanging portion of a lever 40 suitably fulcrumed upon a forwardly extending bracket arm of the pedestal with the lower end of the lever engaging into a peripheral cam groove 41 of the cam wheel 33. The printing head is arranged to receive and sustain a removable type base 42. The cam wheel for actuating the printing mechanism has its cam groove of a pattern to actuate the printing head twice in relatively varying degrees in each revolu-

tion of the cam wheel. The printing head is first moved downwardly for an impression stroke to print upon the foremost tag of the strip, this operation taking place in advance of the strip feeding whereupon the printing head is again brought down but to a lesser degree to impress upon an inking pad 43 mounted in a forward position upon the carriage and after the pad has been moved with the carriage to the forward end of its stroke bringing the pad beneath the printing head, the carriage at the forward end of the stroke dwells for a slight period so that the pad is at rest when engaged by the type of the printing head. The forward end of the carriage yieldingly sustains the pad adapting the type to be compressibly engaged upon the pad for efficient and uniform inking and the printing head retracts slightly in advance of the retraction of the carriage to avoid any crosswise rubbing action between the pad and type face. The relative timing of the various parts for each operating cycle is so arranged that the foremost tag of the strip is first printed upon and then advanced or moved to a position to sever it from the strip and issue the same from the machine.

The machine is primarily adapted for handling price tags possessing a staple for attaching the tag to the goods to be ticketed, the staple having a pair of prongs extending from the underside of the tag which are pressed through the goods and then clenched over against the underside of the goods. The tags respectively, with the advance of the strip, as they leave the printing or price marking station, move into engagement with a gripper to hold the tag after it has been severed from the strip in an outstanding or projected position for dispensing or delivery over a clenching block for attaching the tag to the goods. In the present instance, the gripper engages the top edge of the tag and reciprocates transversely to the strip or in a direction at right angles to that of which it was delivered to the gripper for moving the ticket outward from the table in an appropriate position with the prongs over the clenching mechanism. The clenching mechanism moves upwardly to force the goods over the prongs of the staple and clench the prongs against the underside of the goods. The gripper holds and sustains the tag in a horizontally projected position after it has been severed from the strip for inserting the goods therebeneath.

The gripper comprises a block 44 as a part of or mounted upon a dove-tailed slide plate 45 slidable within a dove-tailed horizontally supported guide block 46 secured to the upper end of the bracket 47, the bracket in turn being fixed to the pedestal 22.

The lower side of the gripper block 44 is grooved or channeled for receiving and recessing a swinging spring-pressed gripper

jaw 47^a swinging within the channel of the block and pivoted by a pin 48 engaging within the side walls 49 of the channel. The gripper block is shown as of sectional form for convenience in manufacture.

5 The jaw is normally depressed by a spring 50 (see Figure 15) against a pair of spaced stationary jaws or tongues 51—51 extending from the forward end of the gripper block and integral with the walls forming the
10 channel. The swinging jaw 47^a, centrally, is provided with a guide tongue 52 and cooperates with the stationary jaws for receiving the tag as it is advanced by the movement of the strip. The tongues at their approach
15 side are bevelled or inclined to guide the tag upon the upper side of the tongues as the tag is being moved into position within the gripper and between the movable and stationary
20 jaws. The underside of the movable jaw for its full width is provided with a groove 53 as a clearance for the head or cross bar of the staple on the face side of the tag. The jaws grasp the marginal edge of the tag between
25 the line of staple and edge of the tag, thus clearing the staple so that the prongs of the staple do not interfere with the feed of the tag between the jaws of the gripper and are positioned adjacent the ends of a swinging
30 guard beneath the jaws of the gripper and sustain the prongs against displacement during the process of applying the goods to the staple.

The guard constitutes a swinging arm 54
35 lying within the channel of the gripper block and pivoted thereto at a point rearward of the swinging jaw as shown in Figure 15. The arm thus is spring-pressed downwardly so that its forward end is directed about mid-
40 way of the length of the prongs and the forward end of the arm is forked so as to straddle the guide tongue 52 depending from the movable jaw and allow the guard arm to be swung into alignment with the lower jaws
45 51 under the pressure of the clinching mechanism.

The guide tongue on the movable jaw, the stationary jaws and the forward ends of the guard arm are approximately of the same
50 thickness and correspond to the gauge of the wire of the staple so as not to form any obstruction or interfere with the proper application of the tag to the goods and the degree of clinching of the prongs.

55 The gripper is disposed immediately adjacent the cutter so that no additional feed motion is required to fully position the tag within the gripper. The tag is firmly gripped between the jaws preferably during the sever-
60 ing operation so as to be firmly held by the gripper when the tag is severed from the strip. Pressure is applied upon the movable jaw by lever devices connecting with the gripper block for reciprocating the same.

65 A lever 54^a is pivoted within the forward

end of the gripper block 44 and has its lower end inclined to clear the movable jaw 47^a when the lever is swung to a retracted position, during the period when the tag is fed
70 between the jaws or when the gripper mechanism is in an idle position.

In the active position of the lever 54^a, initially to imparting a forward stroke to the gripper, its inclined end at the forward
75 nose portion thereof is engaged upon the upper side of the movable jaw for depressing the jaw to bring a clamping pressure upon the tag between the jaws. The upper end of the lever 54^a is forked and pivotally connects
80 with a sectional connecting link 55. The sections of the link 55 are telescopically joined with a spring 56 interposed between the sections rendering the link yieldingly extensible to accommodate for variations in tag
85 thickness and for any overthrow motion in the lever mechanism for reciprocating the gripper.

The opposite end of the sectional connecting link is pivotally connected to the upper
90 end of a lever 57 swinging upon a fulcrum 58 fixed into the side of the pedestal and extended through the bracket 47 supporting the gripper or dispensing mechanism. The lever 57 is provided with a laterally extended
95 pin 59 extending into a cam groove 60 of a cam wheel 37 fixed upon the shaft 10 of the portion of the shaft extending through and journaled in the pedestal.

In the forward stroke of the lever mechanism, the lever 54^a is initially moved to compress the jaws, impinging a tag therebetween,
100 whereupon through the continued motion of the lever mechanism, motion is imparted to the gripper block to move the same forward, bringing the sustained tag over the clinching
105 mechanism for securing the tag to the goods.

A return stroke of the lever mechanism releases the gripping pressure of the jaws, the lever 54^a is swung to a retracted position
110 by engaging with the gripper block which limits its motion and stabilizes the connection between the connecting link and lever so that the jaws are released and remain released until the parts are again moved forward.
115

The staple clinching mechanism is of a commercial type analogous to that disclosed in Letters Patent No. 1,171,729, dated February
120 15, 1916, and comprises a tubular plunger 62 slidably mounted within a bore of a forward extension of the rear bracket 47. The lower end of the plunger 62 is notched to receive the forward end of an actuating lever
125 63 as shown in Figure 12, the lever 63 swinging upon a fulcrum 64 supported within the pedestal and bracket.

The rear end of the lever is provided with a roller 65 engaging upon the periphery of the cam wheel 33, the cam wheel upon its periphery being provided with a radial cam 66
130

to operate the lever in a portion of its cycle appropriately for lifting the plunger 62.

A clenching head 67 yieldingly connects with the plunger 62 by means of a stem 68 integral with the head and telescopically engaged into the plunger, the lower end of the stem bearing against a spring 69 housed and supported within the plunger. The stem of the plunger head is locked against rotative motion by a key 70 fixed to the plunger and extending into a notch 71 (see Figure 10) of the stem.

The head is slotted diametrically and provided with a pair of oppositely disposed clenching dogs 72—72 pivotally mounted within the slot of the head and fulcrumed to swing upwardly toward each other, each to bend or clench a staple prong against the goods as shown in Figure 11.

The clenching dogs are actuated by a T-shaped plate 73 slidably mounted within the slot of the head beneath the dogs and engaged by a collar 74 slidable upon the stem 68. The collar in turn is engaged by a spring 75 interposed between the collar and the upper end of the plunger 62.

In an upward movement of the plunger with the goods to be ticketed spotted over the head, the tag held by the gripper with its staple prongs extending in a perpendicular position over the clenching dogs which are in an open or retracted position below the plane of the head, the material is pushed over the prongs until the upward movement of the head is arrested by contact with the projecting ends of the movable gripper jaw held locked by the lever. The plunger continues its upward motion, compressing the spring 75 sufficiently to apply the necessary upward pressure against the collar and T plate, forcing the clenching dogs upward to clench the staple prongs.

The upper surfaces of the clenching dogs are curved for directing the points of the prongs into the goods. The yielding connection between the stem of the head and plunger compensates for the additional movement of the plunger after the head is arrested and maintains the head compressibly against the goods and tag while the staples are being clenched.

The machine normally is at rest with the ticket feeding carriage at its foremost position, the inking pad beneath the printing head, the printing head in a retracted or uplifted position clear of the inking pad, and the dispensing mechanism in its retracted position. All of the moving parts operate in a proper sequence in a single cycle or revolution of the driving shaft. Upon tripping the clutch the dispensing device is moved forward and the carriage retreated, both carriage and dispenser dwelling at the end of the stroke, the one for providing an interval for the printing head to descend and make an im-

pression upon the tag therebeneath, and the other for cooperating with the clenching mechanism which moves upwardly to press the merchandise over the prongs of the staples and clench the prongs. The dispenser then retreats and is in its normal position before the carriage moves forward so as to receive a ticket with the forward movement of the carriage. The carriage follows moving forward and comes to rest allowing the printing head to descend for pressing its type upon the pad and again retreat before the clutch is automatically tripped at the end of the cycle to cut off the power.

The machine is capable of operating at high speeds. The operation is momentary from the time the operator depresses the clutch control for applying a tag.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. A machine for successively cutting marking tags from a strip and individually dispensing the tags as severed, comprising, means for severing the tag successively from the strip, and a reciprocating dispenser gripping a tag at an edge thereof as it is being severed from the strip and subsequently carry the same laterally of the feed of the strip and sustain the same for application to the goods to be ticketed.

2. In a machine for operating upon a tag strip, successively cutting the tags from the strip, holding each tag as it is being severed from the strip, and dispensing the same, comprising, a movable member, cooperating jaws carried by said member for receiving and gripping an edge of the tag therebetween, and transmission means for moving said member in alternate directions cooperating with said jaws for applying a gripping pressure thereto in a forward motion of the transmission means and release the jaws in a retreat motion.

3. In a machine for successively cutting the tags from the strip, the tags each provided with an attaching device having pins projecting from one face of the tag, comprising, a movable member, cooperating jaws carried by said member for receiving and gripping an edge of the tag therebetween, with the pins of the tags depending therefrom, a guard swinging below the jaws for engagement with the pins to stabilize the same, and transmission means for moving said member in alternate directions cooperating with said jaws for applying a gripping pressure thereto in a forward motion of the transmission means and release the jaws in a retreat motion.

4. In a machine for successively cutting tags from the strip, comprising, a movable member, cooperating jaws carried by said member for receiving and gripping an edge of the tag therebetween, transmission means for moving said member in alternate directions cooperating with said jaws for applying

a gripping pressure thereto in a forward motion of the transmissison means and release the jaws in a retreat motion, and an attaching device cooperating with one of said jaws, for securing the tag to merchandise.

5. In a machine for operating upon a tag strip, tag strip feeding mechanism for advancing the strip and successively bringing the foremost tag thereof to a position for severing from the strip, a reciprocating gripper device engaging the foremost tag at an edge thereof sustaining it while being severed from the strip, and subsequently carrying the severed tag to a position outwardly aside from the strip.

6. In a machine for operating upon a tag strip, tag attaching mechanism, tag strip feeding mechanism for advancing the strip and successively bringing the foremost tag thereof to a position for severing from the strip, a reciprocating gripper device engaging the foremost tag at an edge thereof sustaining it while being severed from the strip, and subsequently carrying the severed tag to a position outwardly aside from the strip, holding the same in an extended position over the mechanism for attaching the tag to the merchandise to be ticketed, and said gripper device adapted to cooperate with the attaching mechanism for clenching the fastener staple of the tag securing the tag to the merchandise.

7. In a machine for operating upon a tag strip, tag strip feeding mechanism, for advancing the strip and successively bringing the foremost tag thereof to a position for severing from the strip, a reciprocating device engaging the foremost tag at an edge thereof for carrying the tag when severed from the strip, to an extended position outwardly aside from the strip.

8. In a machine for operating upon a tag strip, tag strip feeding mechanism, for advancing the strip and successively bringing the foremost tag thereof to a position for severing from the strip, a reciprocating device having a throat for engaging the foremost tag at an edge thereof sustaining it while being severed from the strip, and subsequently carrying the severed tag to a position outwardly aside from the strip, and a depressible finger, mounted upon said device for engagement with pins extending laterally from the underside of the tag to sustain the pins in their perpendicular position, preliminary to clinching the pins in the application.

In witness whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name.

FREDERICK KOHNLE.