M. J. DOLPHIN.

POSTMARKING MACHINE.

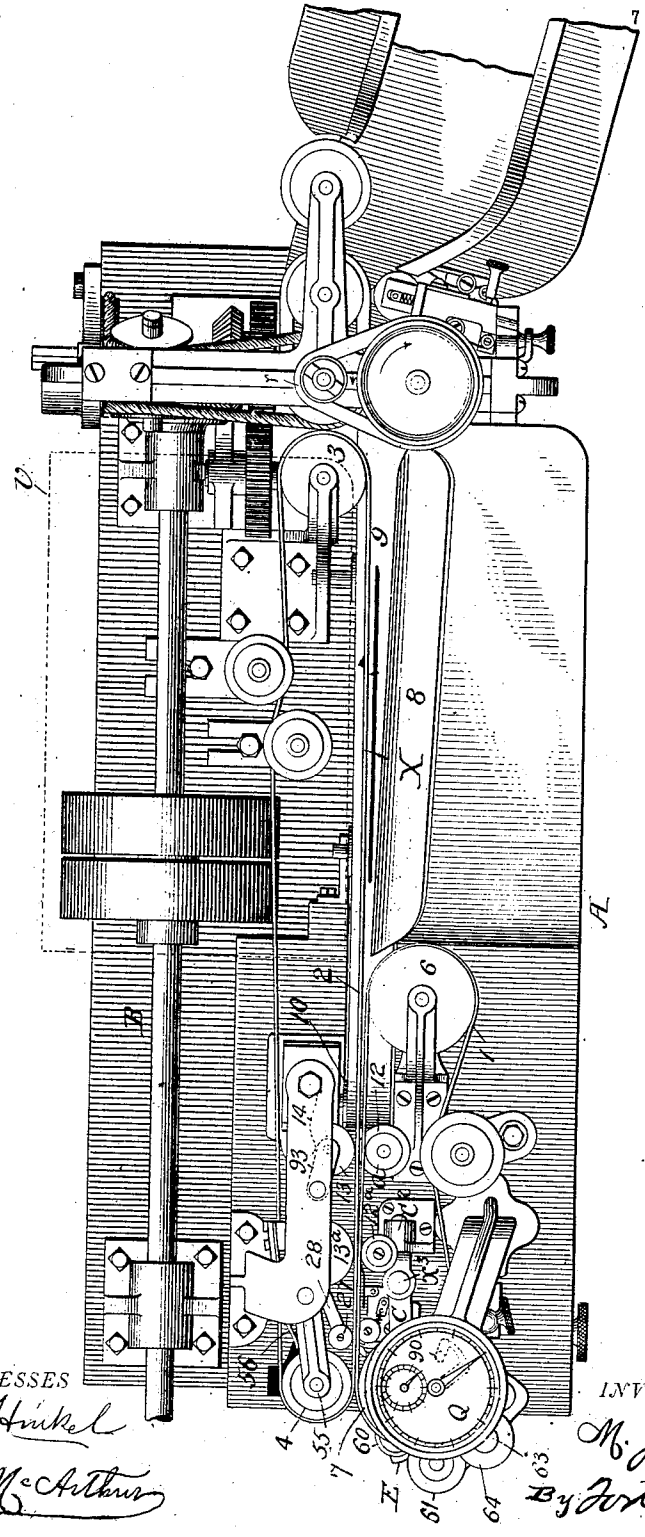
APPLICATION FILED MAY 26, 1890. RENEWED JULY 22, 1904.

915,278.

Patented Mar. 16, 1909.

7 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.



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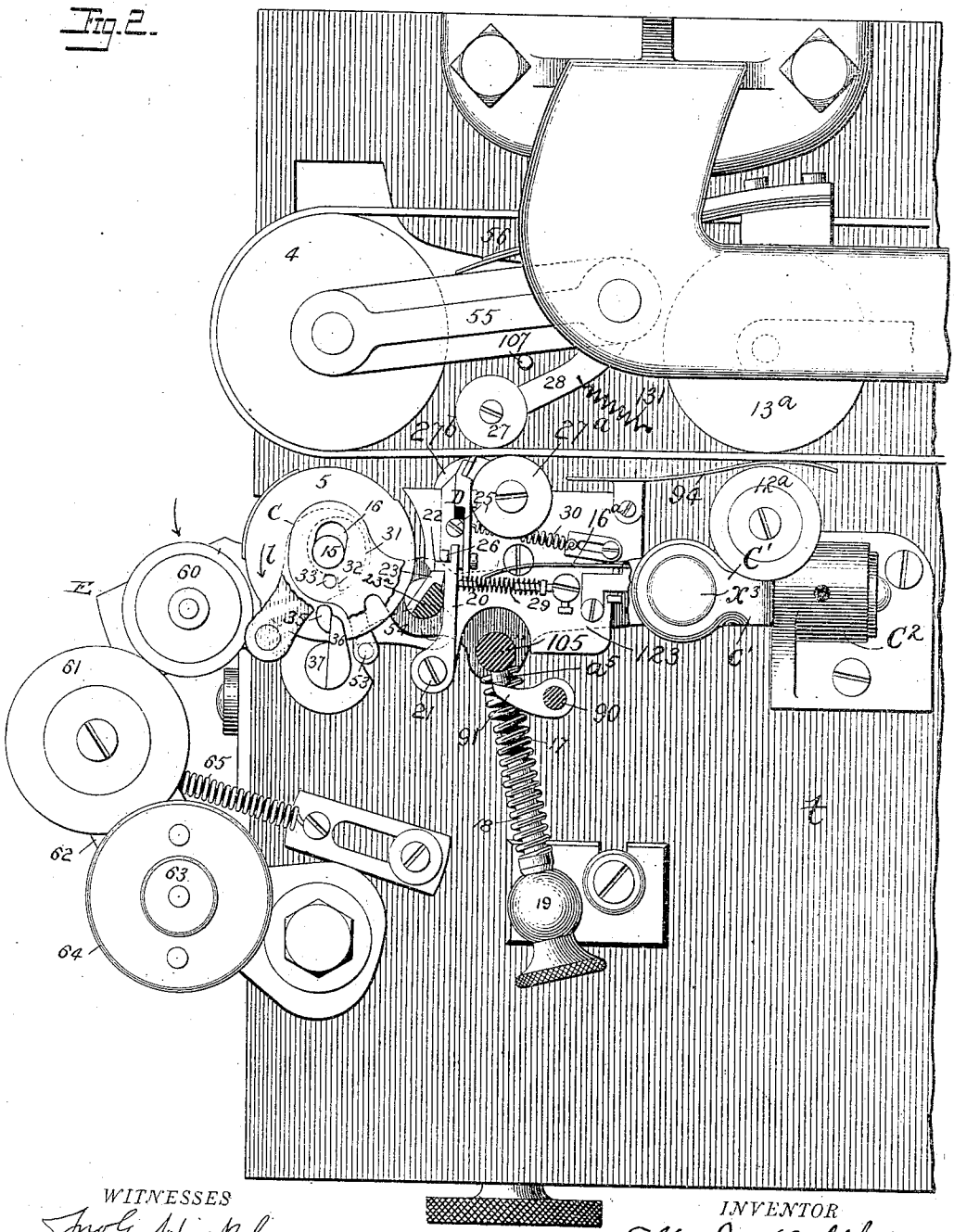
7 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.



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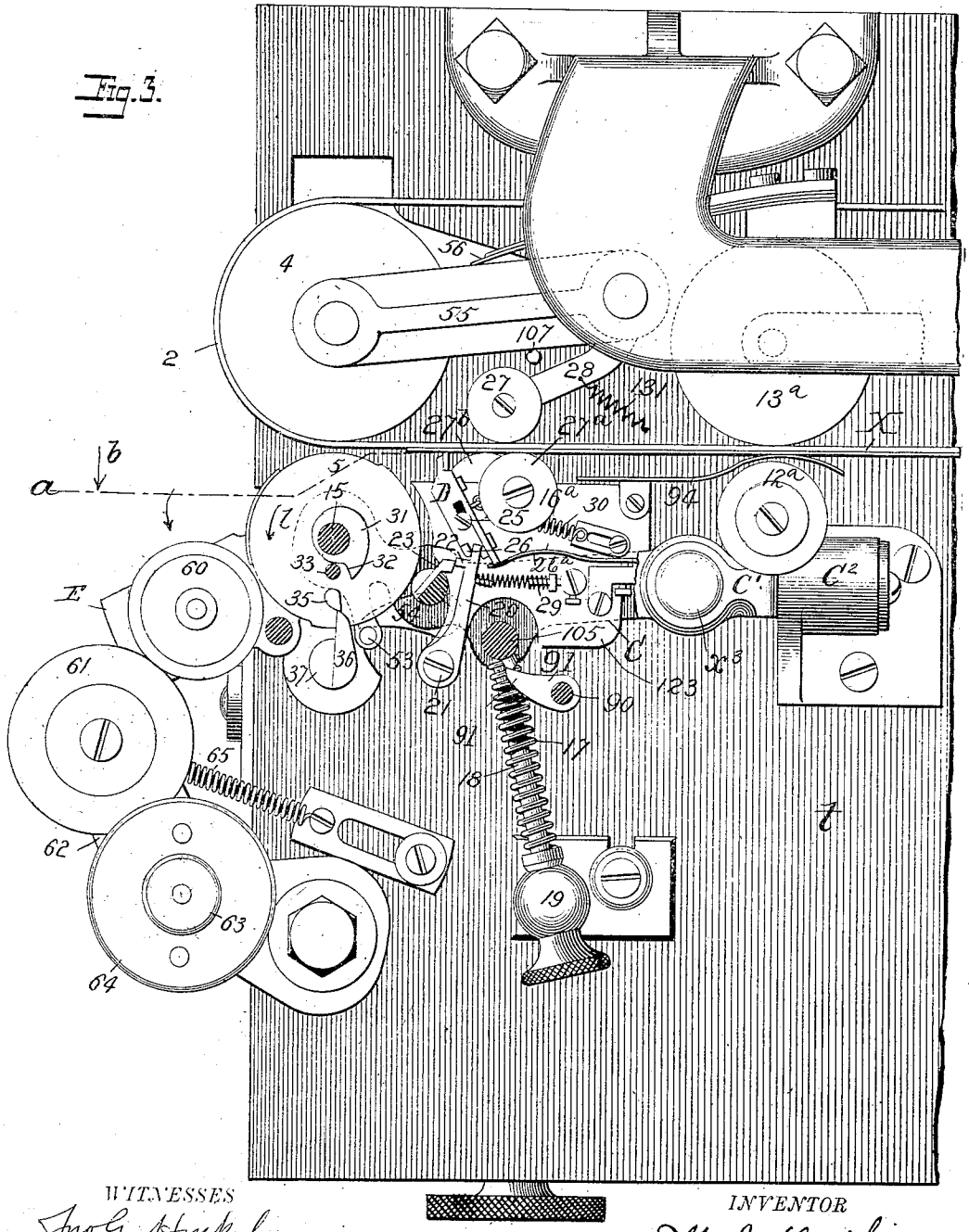
7 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 3.



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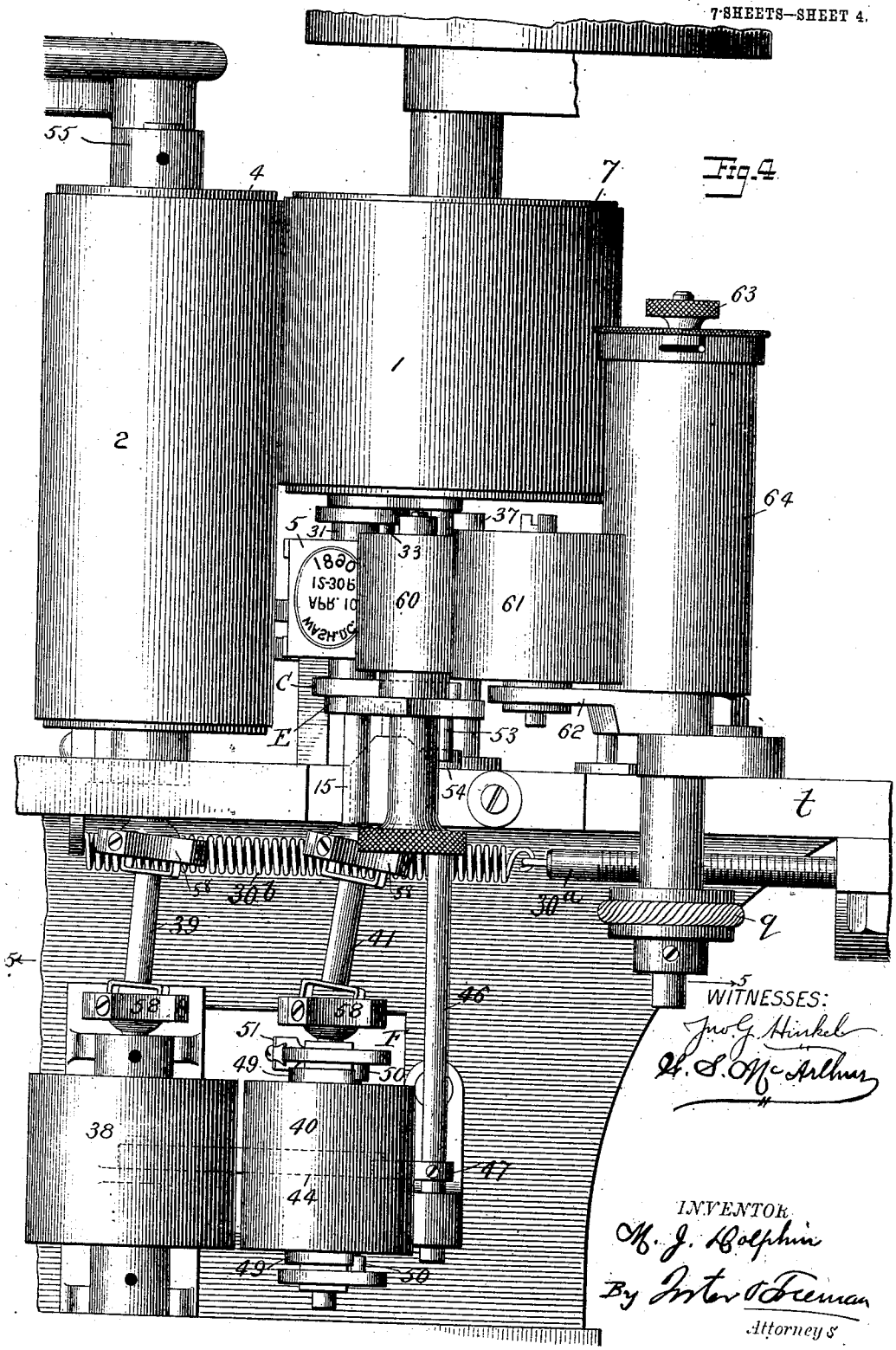
7 SHEETS—SHEET 4.

Fig. 4.



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7 SHEETS—SHEET 5.

Fig. 5.

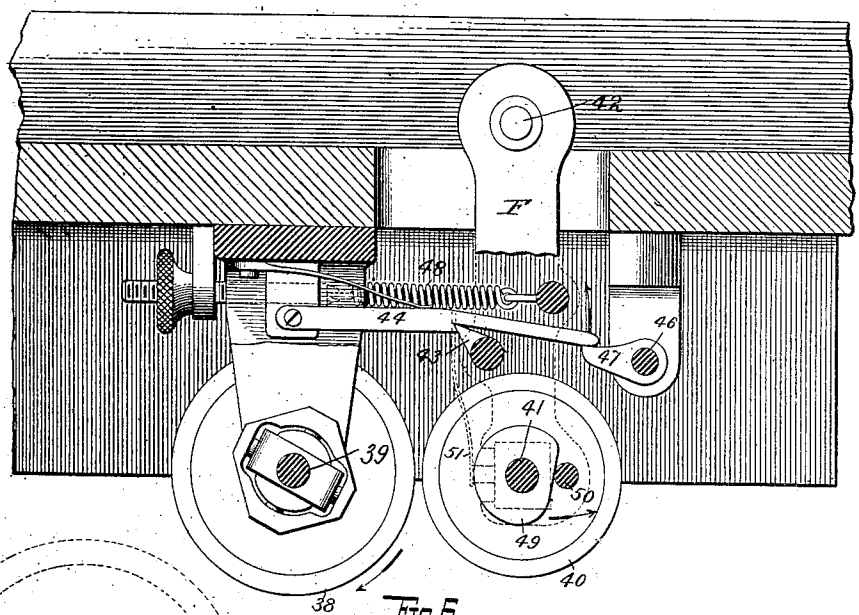


Fig. 6.

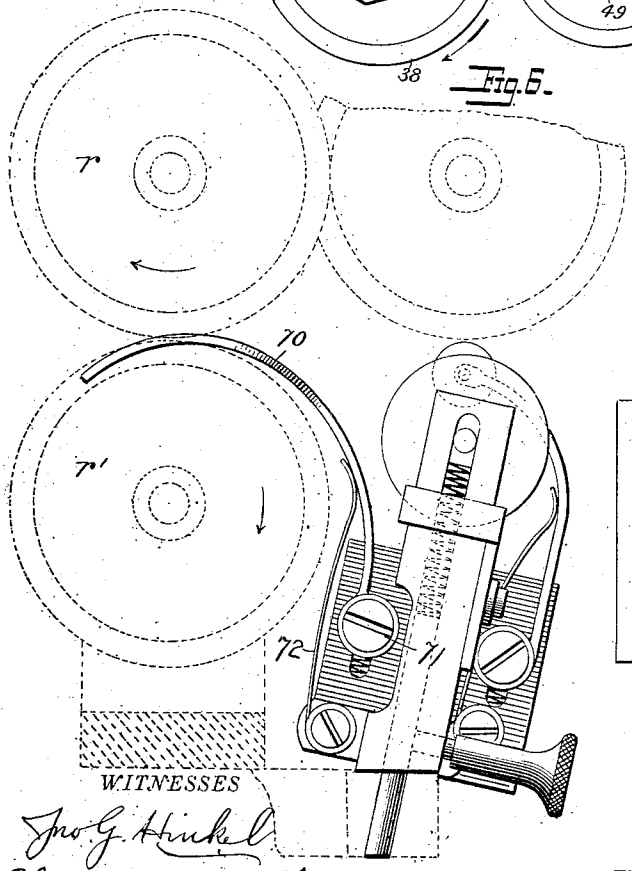
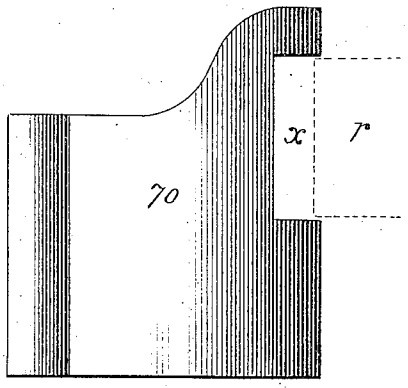


Fig. 7.



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7 SHEETS—SHEET 6.

Fig. 8.

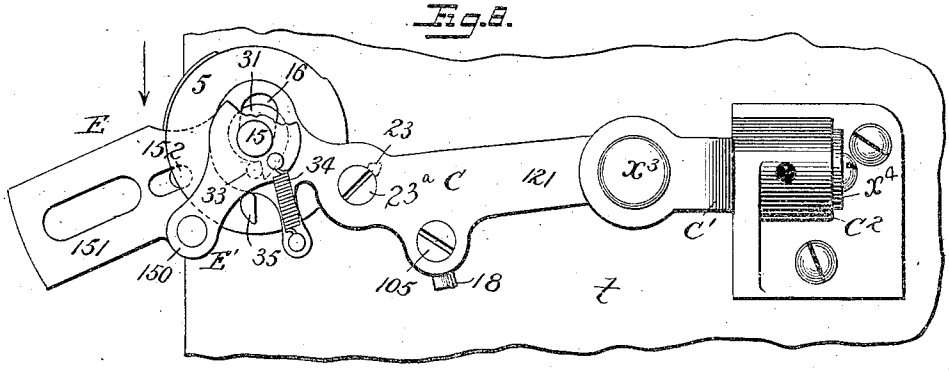
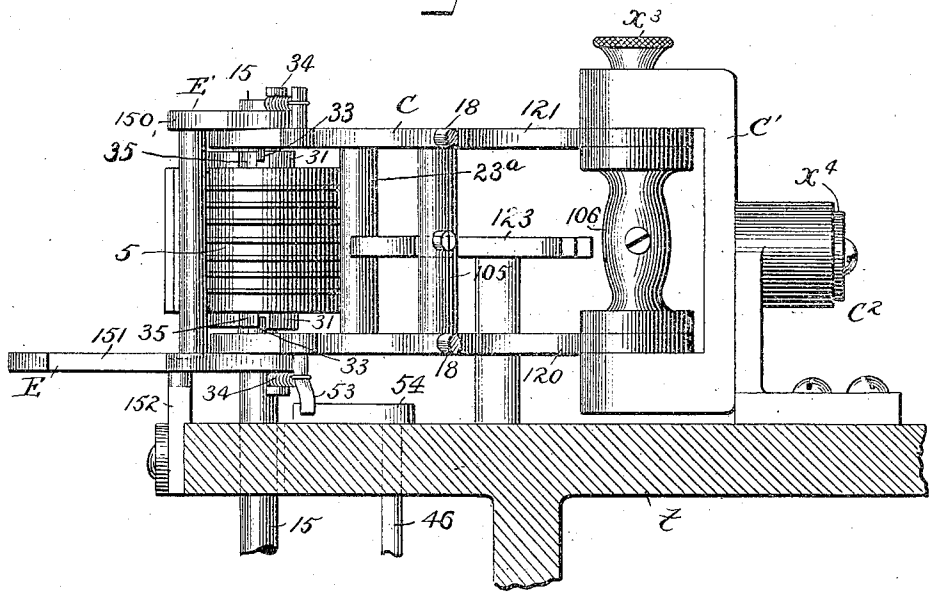


Fig. 9.



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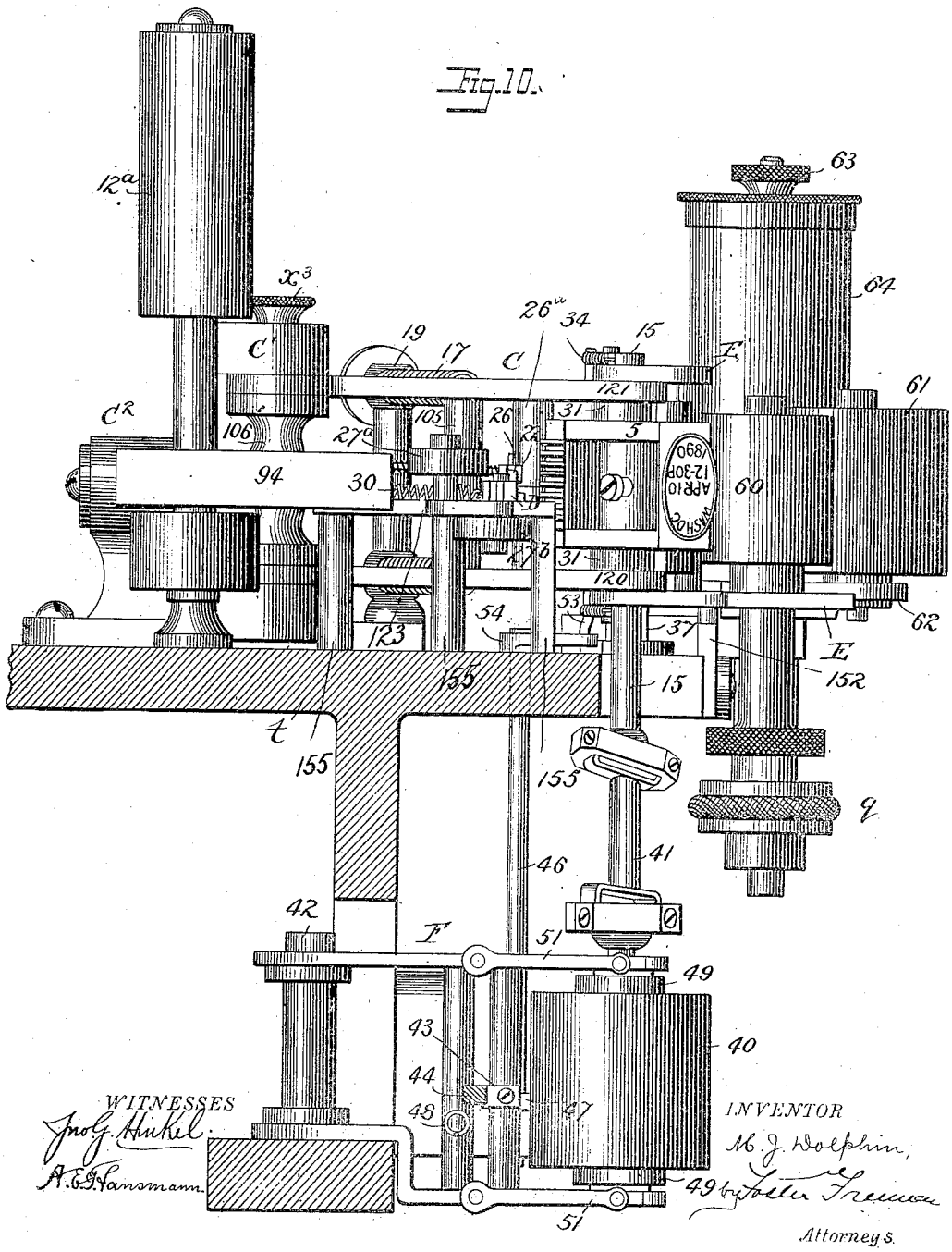
7 SHEETS—SHEET 7.

Fig. 10.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MATTHEW J. DOLPHIN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO THE INTERNATIONAL POSTAL SUPPLY COMPANY OF NEW YORK, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

POSTMARKING-MACHINE.

No. 915,278. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented March 16, 1909.

Application filed May 26, 1890, Serial No. 353,211. Renewed July 22, 1904. Serial No. 217,713.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MATTHEW J. DOLPHIN, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Postmarking-Machines, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to that class of machines constructed for automatically marking or canceling mail matter; and my invention consists in certain improvements in such machines fully set forth hereinafter and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1, is a plan of my improved machine; Fig. 2, is an enlarged plan, the frame partly broken away, showing the parts more immediately connected with the stamping devices; Fig. 3, is the same as Fig. 2, showing the parts in different positions; Fig. 4, is an end view; Fig. 5, is a sectional plan on the line 5, 5, Fig. 4; Fig. 6, is a plan of part of the separating devices; Fig. 7, is an elevation of the guard of the separating devices. Fig. 8, is a plan of the die carrying frame and adjuncts; Fig. 9, is an elevation of Fig. 8; Fig. 10, is an elevation of the parts back of the line *a*, looking in the direction of the arrow *b*, Fig. 3.

The frame A, of the machine is suitably constructed to support the working parts hereinafter described, which are driven from a shaft B, operated by any suitable motor.

In the construction shown the letters are carried in a vertical position between traveling bands or belts 1, 2, the belt 2, passing around a drum 3, and also around a drum 4, which constitutes the impression bed or roller opposite a type roller 5. A stationary impression bed back of the belt 2, as in the other machines may, however, be employed, the roller 4, in such case turning in fixed bearings. The band 1, passes around two drums 6, 7, and is narrower than the band 2, so as to be above the type roller, as shown in Fig. 4; the drums 6, 7, which support the belt 1, are closer together than the drums 3, 4, leaving room for a guard plate 8, above a feed belt 9, running horizontally below the belt 1, 2, as shown in Fig. 1, and supported by drums 10, only one of which appears in said figure.

The letters are fed over a table *v*, dotted lines Fig. 1; striking the guard plate 8, each is thrown to a vertical position so as to drop onto the lower carrying belt before beginning to move toward the marking appliances. It is important that as the letters approach the trip device hereinafter referred to there shall be no slip between them and the carrying band, in order that they shall have the necessary impetus to operate the said device, and, therefore, instead of depending upon the friction of the band alone to guide the letters I arrange adjacent to said device and on opposite sides of the band 2, rollers 12, 13, one or both of which may have a yielding or elastic covering *a*, while one, for instance, the roller 13, is carried by a swinging frame 93, upon which bears a spring 14, that forces the roller against the band. These presser rollers can be duplicated at 12^a, 13^a, and a spring 94, aids to insure the adhesion of the letter to the band 2, so that there shall be no slip between the two, the spring and rollers yielding as required by any additional thickness of the letters.

The die or canceling stamp is upon a printing roller 5, which is carried by but with its shaft slightly movable in a frame C, pivoted at one end by a vertical pivot pin X^3, to a yoke C', the latter having a horizontal trunnion x^4, rocking in a bracket C^2, secured to the base-plate or table *t*. By this arrangement of joints the frame C, can swing upon the pin x^3, to carry the printing roller 5, to and from the letter, and can also rock upon the horizontal pin or trunnion x^4 so as to hold the face of the printing roller against the face of the letter when the latter is thicker at one edge than at the other. The printing roller is upon a shaft 15, that passes through slots 16, in the ends of the upper and lower plates 121 and 120 of the frame C, which plates are connected together by a cross-piece 105, and stud 23^a, and said shaft also passes through plates 150 and 151 of a frame E, into a slot in which extends a pivot pin 152, Fig. 8, and springs 34, 34, extend between pins upon the frames C and E, and draw back the latter and draw forward the plate C, so as to tend to hold the shaft 15, at the ends of the slots 16, farthest from the belt 2. Against the frame C, for instance against the cross-piece 105, thereof, bear springs 17, coiled around rods 18, and connected with the frame and sliding through a stationary post 19, upon the platform *t*, which springs tend to force the frame toward the belt 2, and to bring the printing

roller 5, against the letter upon the belt which in such case constitutes the bed. The frame and the printing roller are held in the position shown in Fig. 2, with the roller away from the belt by means of a catch that engages a portion of the frame C, which catch is released by a contact piece, or as hereinafter termed, a tripper with which each letter makes contact as it approaches the printing roller. As shown, the catch 20, is in the form of an arm pivoted to a stud 21, on a stationary plate 123, that is supported by three posts 155, see Figs. 2 and 10, in a position between the plates of the frame C, and a shoulder 22, of said catch 20, engages a lip 23, upon a stud 23^a, carried by the frame C, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. A spring 29, bears against the catch 20, to throw it to the position shown in Fig. 2, and the tripping device is shown in the form of a lever D, pivoted to a fixed stud 25, on the plate 123, and provided with a lip 26, engaging the projecting end of the catch 20, so that when the end of a letter strikes the end of the tripping lever the inner end of the latter moves with the letter and the outer edge swings and carries the catch 20 away from the lip 23, after which the springs 17, will force the frame C, and the printing roller toward the letter. In order that the edge of the letter even when of thin material may act positively upon the tripper, I provide two rolls 27, 27^a, which bear upon the opposite sides of the belt 2, as close as possible to the end of the tripper so as to hold the end of the letter closely to the belt and prevent the letter from crumpling or springing away out of proper contact with the tripper. To accommodate letters of different thicknesses the roller 27, Fig. 3, is carried by an arm 28, which is forced toward the belt 2, by a spring 131.

Just below the tripper is a roller 27^b, which bears upon the belt 2, and holds the letters against the belt at that point. A spring 30, connected with the tripper serves to restore the latter to the position shown in Fig. 2, when the frame C, is swung back. It will be noted that the distance between the fulcrum of the tripping lever D, and the point where it bears upon the catch 20, is much shorter than the distance between said fulcrum and the end that contacts with the letter, and that the lever D, bears upon the catch at its extreme end, whereby I obtain such a leverage that the thinnest letters will exert sufficient power upon the tripping lever to swing back the catch.

It is necessary after the impression has been made upon the letter to carry the printing roller away from the path of the letter to its normal position out of said path and away from contact with the letter or belt, thereby permitting the tripper to return to its normal position before the letter has passed beyond the tripper, as otherwise the letter would be "reprinted" or the belt would be smeared and mark the faces or opposite sides of the succeeding letters. This is effected by the rotation of the printing roller itself, which roller has a cam 31, having an abrupt shoulder 32, which cam is connected to the roller or to the shaft 15, and as the roller revolves the cam bears upon the stationary pin 33, on the frame C, and gradually forces outward the frame until the lip 23, engages the shoulder of the catch 20, which catch is thrown into this position by the spring 29. After this the shoulder 32, of the cam passes the pin 33, when the springs 34, 34, will draw back the frame H in the direction of the arrow Fig. 8, moving therewith the shaft 15, and printing roller 5, and carrying the latter away from the path of the letter. It will be seen that this action is permissible in consequence of the elongation of the slots 16, which permit first the frame C, to be swung back to a limited extent and locked without moving the feed roller, and then permit the printing roller and its shaft to be drawn back without moving the frame. It will be seen that these actions take place during a single revolution of the printing roller, and that at the termination of this revolution the roller is restored to its normal position, so that after a letter has been marked the printing roller and the tripper which bears on the letter after the parts are restored to normal position will immediately be in position to operate upon the following letter. In order to position exactly the printing roller at the end of its movement, it is provided with a stop 35, Figs. 2 and 3, which makes contact with the shoulder 36, on the stationary rod 37, and prevents further movement until the frame C, is thrown forward, as shown in Fig. 3, when the stop will be in position to pass the shoulder.

Heretofore in some machines of this class the friction of the letters has been depended upon to rotate the stamping roller and lift the frame C, away from the bed, as for instance in the machine described in Laass & Hey's patent No. 388,366, but the necessary frictional contact of the stamping roll and letter to effect such result is objectionable, and I, therefore, provide means whereby the stamp roller is positively driven and thereby obviate the objections incident to driving the roller by the letter.

Different means may be employed for throwing the stamping roller into action with positive driving appliances upon or by the action of the tripper when the latter is moved by a letter. One means for this purpose is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, Fig. 4, in which 38, is a driving roller the driving shaft of which is connected by a flexi-

ble connection 39, with the shaft of the impression roll 4, and 40, is a parallel drum the shaft of which is connected by a flexible connection 41, with the shaft 15, of the stamp roller. Normally the drum 40, is out of contact with the drum 38, which is driven constantly from the shaft of the impression roller 4, but when a letter strikes the tripper the drum 40, through suitable intermediate devices described hereinafter is brought against the drum 38, when the drum 40, and the stamping roller will be positively revolved the extent of a single revolution on the completion of which the drum 40, may be carried to its normal position. The surfaces of the drums 38 and 40, are of rubber so as to insure friction and the drum 40, is carried by a frame F, pivoted to a stud 42, and having a shoulder 43, that engages with the shoulder of a catch lever 44, to hold the drum 40, in its normal position, shown in Fig. 5. When a letter strikes the tripper the latter is pushed to the position shown in Fig. 3, its inner end bearing on a leaf spring 26^a, which prevents shock and too great a movement of the tripper; and as the latter swings a shaft 46, is rocked to bring an arm 47, against the lever 44, and push the latter in the direction of the arrow, Fig. 5, away from the shoulder 43, when the frame F, will swing inward under the action of a spring 48, bringing the roller 40, against the drum 38. As the roller 40, begins to revolve with the roller 38, a cam 49, upon the shaft of the roller 40, will bear upon a stud 50, of the frame F, and the latter will gradually be forced outward in the direction of its arrow, Fig. 5, until the point of the cam passes the stud 50, when a spring 51, that bears upon the sliding bearing of the roller shaft will force the roller 40, away from the roller 38, the frame F, having meanwhile been engaged by the catch 44, and locked in its normal position.

The shaft 46, that swings the catch 44, is operated from the tripper through the medium of the upper swinging frame C, when the latter is released by the action of the tripper. A stud 53, Fig. 2, on the frame C, bears upon an arm 54, on the shaft 46, Fig. 9, so that when the frame C, swings inward the shaft 46, is turned.

Inasmuch as the frames F, C, move to a certain extent independently of each other while the shafts carried by the two frames are coupled together, it is necessary to use a flexible coupling, and a flexible coupling is also used between the rollers 38 and 4, inasmuch as the roller or drum 4, must swing away from the printing roller in proportion to the varying thickness of the mail matter I, therefore, mount the shaft of the roller 4, in a swinging frame 55, against which bears a spring 56, that tends to keep the frame against a bearing, as a stop 107, while a spring 30^b, Fig. 4, connected with a bracket extending from the frame 55, is also attached to the adjusting screw 30^a, that permits any desired tension to be obtained.

Although I have shown the flexible connections 39, 41, in the form of short shafts and universal joints 58, any other form of flexible connections may be used. It will also be evident that different appliances may be used for carrying the frictional driving rollers 38, 40, into and out of contact under the action of the tripper, and that any other means for positively driving the stamping roll from a positively moving part of the machine would effect the same result, and although I have shown a swinging frame carrying the printing roll and a cam carried with said roll for swinging said frame it will be evident that other means may be employed for effecting this result.

In those cases where the stamping roll turns in fixed bearings so that said roll only has an intermittent rotary motion the within described driving means or their equivalents may be employed for imparting such motion and for arresting the printing roll at the termination of each revolution.

Inasmuch as the printing roll with the construction described has a swinging as well as an intermittent rotary motion, it is necessary to arrange the inking rolls so as to maintain constant contact of said rolls, notwithstanding the changing of the position of the die. I, therefore, carry the inking roller 60, upon a shaft on the frame E, and carry the distributing roller 61, upon a swinging frame 62, swinging upon the shaft 63, of the reservoir roller 64, which is constantly driven by a band q, a spring 65, maintaining the frame 62, in such position that the distributing roller 61, constantly bears upon both of the rollers 60, 64. The roller 60, only makes contact with the raised die on the stamp roller 5, and the latter is normally in a position with the die out of contact with the roller 60, but the latter is driven constantly from the roller 64, through the roller 61, so that it is not necessary to depend on the motion of the stamp roller to drive the inking roller.

While the letters may be fed to the carriers laterally over the plate or chute 8, as before described, I prefer in some instances to make use of a separator of the character illustrated in my Letters Patent No. 408,405, dated Aug. 6, 1889. In such separator there are two rollers r, r', the former traveling peripherally in the direction of the bands 2, and the latter in the reverse direction, as herein shown in Figs. 1 and 6. In order to press the letters more firmly against the conducting roll r, and insure their movement with the latter as well as to prevent them (especially when of thin or flimsy material) from being

wrinkled or crumpled at the end by the reversely moving surface of the roller r', I combine with the roller r, a shield 70, which is shown in the form of a curved plate pivoted to a stud or rod 71, and being either a spring plate or forced with a spring pressure by a spring 72, toward the roller r, but with a slot x, to receive said roller, as shown in Fig. 7. This spring shield acts as a guard to prevent thin flimsy letters from being turned back or crumpled when brought against the roller r'.

Q, represents a counter which is moved one step at each outward movement of the frame C, so as to register one letter. Thus the vertical bar 105, strikes an arm 91, Figs. 2 and 3, on a shaft 90, which carries an arm connected to move the actuating arm of the counter, as shown in dotted lines Fig. 1. The particular construction of the counter is immaterial, as any available connecting mechanism may be used. A flat spring 94, may aid in keeping the letters against the vertical belt 2.

Without limiting myself to the precise construction and arrangement of parts shown, I claim:

1. The combination of the coöperating members of a frictional driving device, a die mounted and supported independent of said driving device and connected to be rotated thereby, an impression member, and a letter actuated tripper controlling the coöperation of the members of said driving device.

2. The combination of a rotatable printing die normally at rest, a continuously rotating impression roller, a frictional driving device, one member of which is mounted and supported independent of and connected with the die for rotating the latter, and a letter actuated tripper controlling the operation of the frictional driving device.

3. The combination of the intermittently rotatable printing roller of a printing couple, a frictional driving device mounted and supported independent of said roller for rotating the roller, means for holding the roller against forward rotation, a letter actuated tripper and connections for releasing the roller and controlling the operation of the driving device.

4. The combination of a letter feeding device, a marking die normally at rest, an impression member, a driving mechanism mounted and supported independent of said die for rotating the die, and a letter actuated tripper for controlling the operation of the driving mechanism.

5. The combination with the printing roller of a letter stamping machine, of a support for the roller and means for moving the support to maintain the roller normally out of the path of movement of the mail matter, driving mechanism for rotating said roller positively, a tripper, and connections whereby said driving mechanism is thrown into and out of operation on the movement of the tripper, substantially as set forth.

6. In a machine for stamping or marking mail matter, the combination of the supporting feed bed, a printing roller, a support therefor and means for moving the support to maintain the roller normally out of the path of movement of the mail matter, means for bringing the roller into said path, a tripping device normally in said path and controlling said means, a driving mechanism, and connections whereby the printing roller is put in operative connection with the driving shaft by the movement of the tripping device, substantially as set forth.

7. The combination with a printing roller of a machine for marking mail matter, a movable support for the roller, and means for shifting it to normally maintain the roller out of the path of the mail matter, of a driving shaft and a tripper or finger arranged in the path of the moving mail matter, and connections between the finger and the printing roll for bringing the latter into connection with the driving mechanism on the movement of the finger, substantially as set forth.

8. In a machine for marking mail matter, an oscillating frame carrying a printing roller, a catch for holding the frame in one position, and a driving mechanism in combination with a tripper in the path of the mail matter, and connections whereby the frame is released and the printing roller carried toward the letter path and also brought into operative connection with the driving mechanism on the movement of the tripping device, substantially as set forth.

9. The combination in a letter marking machine, of a supporting feed bed, a printing cylinder normally out of the path of movement of the mail matter, a tripper or releaser normally in said path, and means controlled by said tripper for bringing the roller into said path, a driving shaft, means whereby the printing roller is brought into operative connection with said shaft on the movement of the tripper, and means for throwing the roller out of operative connection with said shaft, substantially as set forth.

10. The combination of the feed bed, frame carrying the printing roller, catch arranged to hold the frame in its outer position and tripper arranged to engage the catch and the letter, a driving shaft, and connections arranged to be put into operation after the frame is released to then rotate the roller, substantially as set forth.

11. The combination of the frame carrying the printing roller, means for maintaining it normally at rest, means for moving

the frame out of its normal position and toward the letter, a cam carried with the roller, a bearing on the frame whereby the frame is restored to position as the roller revolves, and a driving shaft and means for positively turning said roller after the frame is released, substantially as set forth.

12. The combination of the frame, printing roller having a shaft movable in bearings of said frame independently of the latter means for maintaining the roller normally at rest, springs for moving the shaft in one direction, a cam carried with said roller having a bearing upon said frame to move said shaft in the opposite direction, a driving shaft and connections for turning said roller positively and a catch and tripper, substantially as set forth.

13. The combination with the printing roller of a letter marking machine and with a continuously moving driving drum, of a driven drum connected with said printing roller movable to and from the driving drum, a tripper in line with the moving mail matter, and connections whereby the driven drum is brought against the driving drum on the movement of the tripper, substantially as set forth.

14. The combination with the supporting feed bed, printing roller movable to and from said bed and actuating devices for so moving it, a retaining device for holding it in one position, and tripper for actuating said retaining device, of a driven drum connected with the printing roller and movable to and from a driving drum, connections between the tripper and the supports of the driven drum whereby the drums are brought into contact on the movement of the tripper, and means for returning the driven drum to its normal position, substantially as set forth.

15. The combination in a stamp marking machine with a printing roller and a drum and with independent frames supporting one the printing roller and the other the drum, of catches or detents for holding said frames in their normal positions, a tripping device, and connections between the same and said catches to release the latter on the movement of the tripping device, substantially as set forth.

16. The combination with the supporting feed bed and printing roller, of a driving drum and a driven drum for driving the printing roller, the printing roller and driven drum connected by a flexible shaft, and means for throwing the driving drums into and out of contact, substantially as set forth.

17. The combination with a roller constituting the supporting feed bed or a part thereof and supported in a yielding bearing, of a driving drum 38, connected with the feed bed roller by a flexible shaft, a printing roller movable to and from the bed and connected by a flexible shaft with a drum movable to and from the driving roller, and a tripper and devices controlled by the tripper for shifting the printing roller and bringing together the driven drum and driving drum on the movement of the tripper, substantially as set forth.

18. The combination with the driving drum 38, and with the printing roller movable to and from the supporting feed bed, of a drum 40 connected with the printing roller, a pivoted frame supporting the roller, means for moving it in one direction, a catch for holding the frame in its normal position, a tripper and connections for moving said catch, and means whereby the said frame is restored to its normal position by the rotation of the drum 40, substantially as set forth.

19. The combination with the movable frame the printing roller carried thereby and with the catch for holding the frame in its normal position, of the movable frame, the driven drum 40 carried thereby, a catch for holding the same in its normal position, and connections between the printing roller frame and the catch of the driven drum frame, substantially as set forth.

20. The combination with the movable frame, the printing roller carried thereby, and with the catch in the form of a lever 20 for holding the frame in its normal position, of the movable frame, the driven drum 40 carried thereby, a catch for holding the same in its normal position, a tripper lever, and connections between the printing roller frame and the catch of the driven drum frame, substantially as set forth.

21. The combination with the movable frame, the printing roller carried thereby, and with the catch in the form of a lever 20 for holding the frame in its normal position, of the movable frame, the driven drum 40 carried thereby, a catch for holding the same in its normal position, a tripper lever D, connections between the printing roller frame and the catch of the driven drum frame, and springs 29, 30, substantially as set forth.

22. In a mail marking machine, the combination of a marking roller and an impression roller one of which is movably mounted and held normally at rest out of the letter path, means for positively rotating said latter roller when it is moved into the letter path, a contact piece in the letter path, and intermediate connections whereby the movable roller is brought into the letter path by the engagement of the contact piece with a letter.

23. The combination with the traveling band, its supporting rolls and tripper, of a roller 27^b below the tripper, substantially as described.

24. The combination with the tripper and roller 27ª, of a traveling feed bed carried by a roller 4, supported in swinging bearings, and a roller 27 also supported in swinging bearings, substantially as set forth.

25. The combination of the printing roller and a frame pivoted to a yoke by a pivot parallel to the shaft of the printing roller, said yoke connected to a support by a pivot at right angles to the shaft of the printing roller, substantially as described.

26. The combination of the printing bed, frame and means for carrying the latter toward and from the bed, a printing roller supported by the frame and movable independently of the frame from the bed, driving mechanism for positively turning the roller intermittently, and springs for retracting the roller, substantially as set forth.

27. The combination with a marking roller and an impression roller one of which is movably supported and held at rest away from the other, of means for positively rotating said latter roller when in its operative position, a contact piece adapted to make contact with the mail-matter and connections actuated by said contact piece for connecting the rotating means with the movably mounted roller, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

28. The combination with a marking roller and an impression roller one of which is movably mounted and held normally at rest away from the other roller, of means positively rotated and normally disconnected from said latter roller, a contact piece extending into the letter path and connected to said positively rotated means whereby the passing mail-matter serves to connect the positively rotated means with the movably mounted roller, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

29. The combination with the intermittently driven stamp roller, of the constantly driven inking roller, and means for maintaining the stamp roller normally with its die out of contact with the inking roller, substantially as set forth.

30. In a machine for marking mail-matter and the like, the combination with a rotary printing couple, one member of which is movably mounted in respect to the other member, of means for moving said movable member to and from the other member, means for positively rotating said movable member when said latter member is moved to its operative position, a contact piece connected to engage the rotating means with said movable member and a feed device for moving the mail-matter to the contact piece, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

31. The combination with the printing roller, of a frame mounted on a pivot at a right angle to the axis of said roller whereby the latter may accommodate itself to letters thicker at one end than at the other, substantially as described.

32. The combination of the printing roller of a mail marking machine, a continuously moving impression surface therefor, means for maintaining the printing roller normally out of the path of movement of the mail matter, independent driving mechanism for the printing roller, and mail actuated means for controlling the operation of the driving mechanism and for causing the movement of said roller into said path.

33. The combination of the printing roller of a mail marking machine, a continuously moving impression surface therefor, means for maintaining the printing roller normally at rest and in printing position, independent driving mechanism for rotating the printing roller, and mail actuated means for controlling the operation of the driving mechanism.

34. The combination of a printing couple, one member of which is movable relatively to the other, an independent intermittently operable driving mechanism for one of said members, a mail actuated means for controlling the movement of one of said members toward the other and for controlling the operation of said driving mechanism and means for continuously rotating the other member.

35. In a machine for marking mail matter, the combination with the continuously moving supporting impression member, of a marker normally out of the path of the mail matter, an independent frictional driving mechanism for operating the marker, and a tripper or releaser normally in said path for controlling the operation of said frictional driving mechanism and for controlling the movement of the marker into the path of the mail matter.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

MATTHEW J. DOLPHIN.

Witnesses:
CHARLES E. FOSTER,
J. S. BARKER.