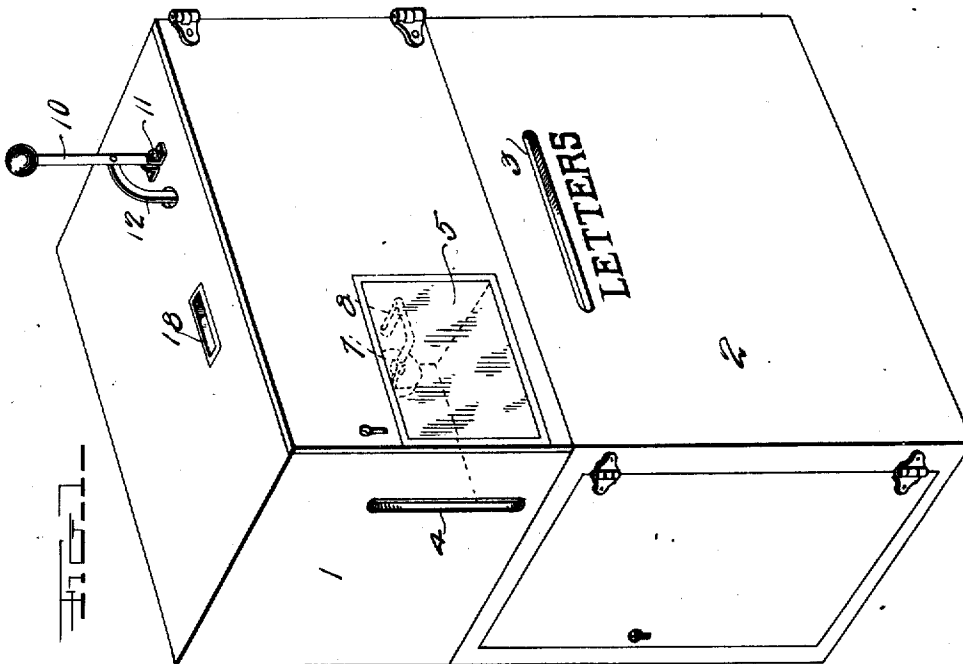
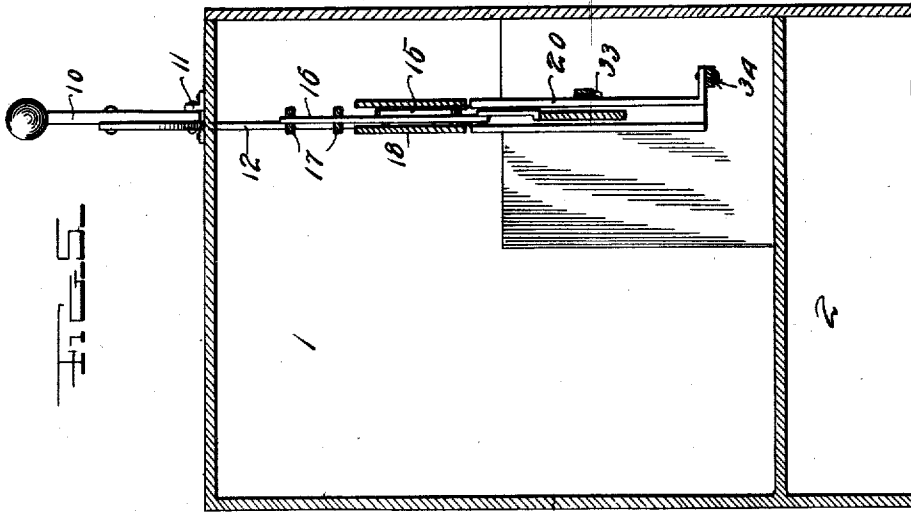


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LETTER STAMPING MACHINE.
APPLICATION FILED JULY 24, 1911.

1,013,383.

Patented Jan. 2, 1912.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses

C. R. Hardy

N. L. Collamer

Inventor
J. W. Fennel

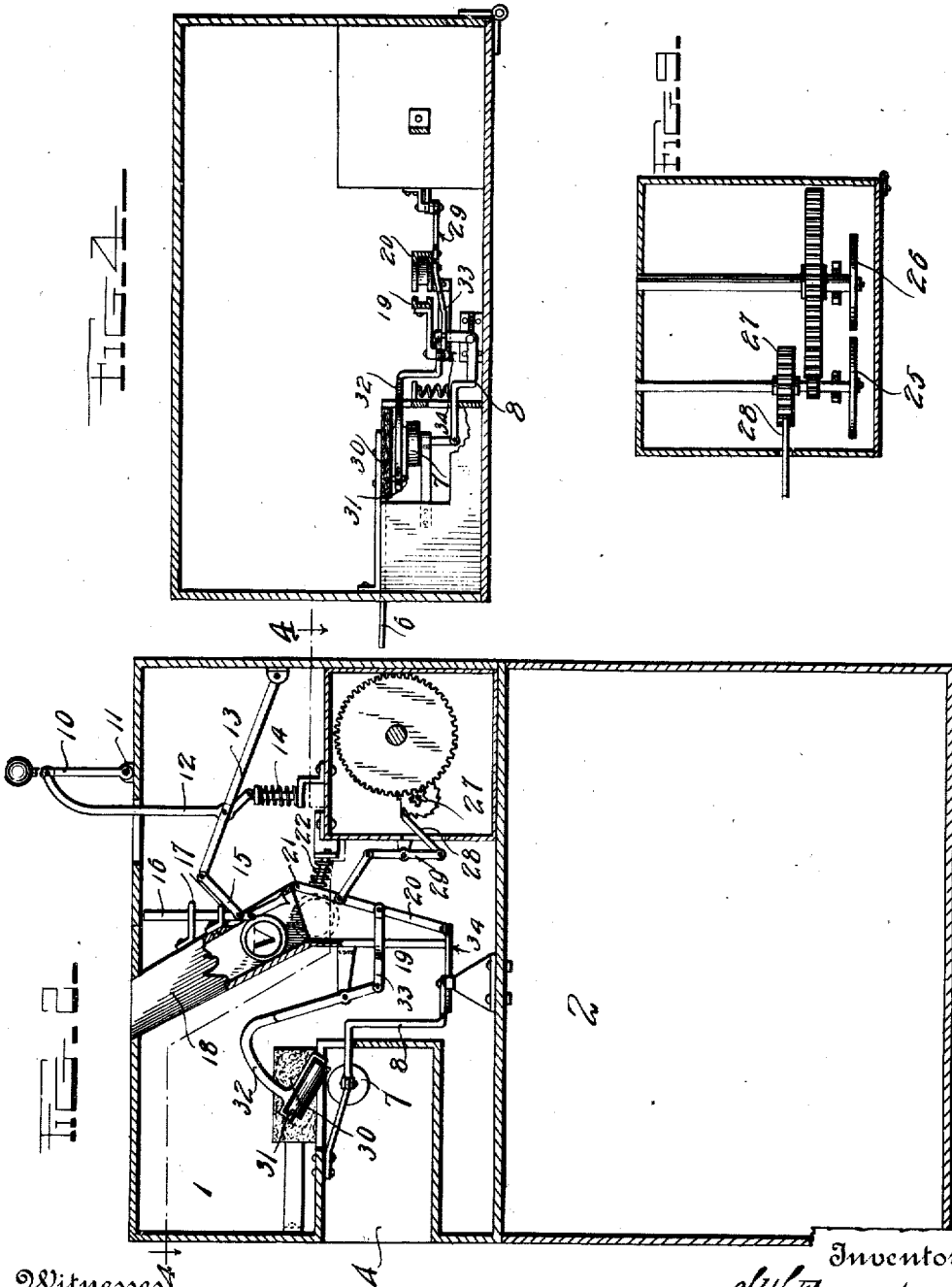
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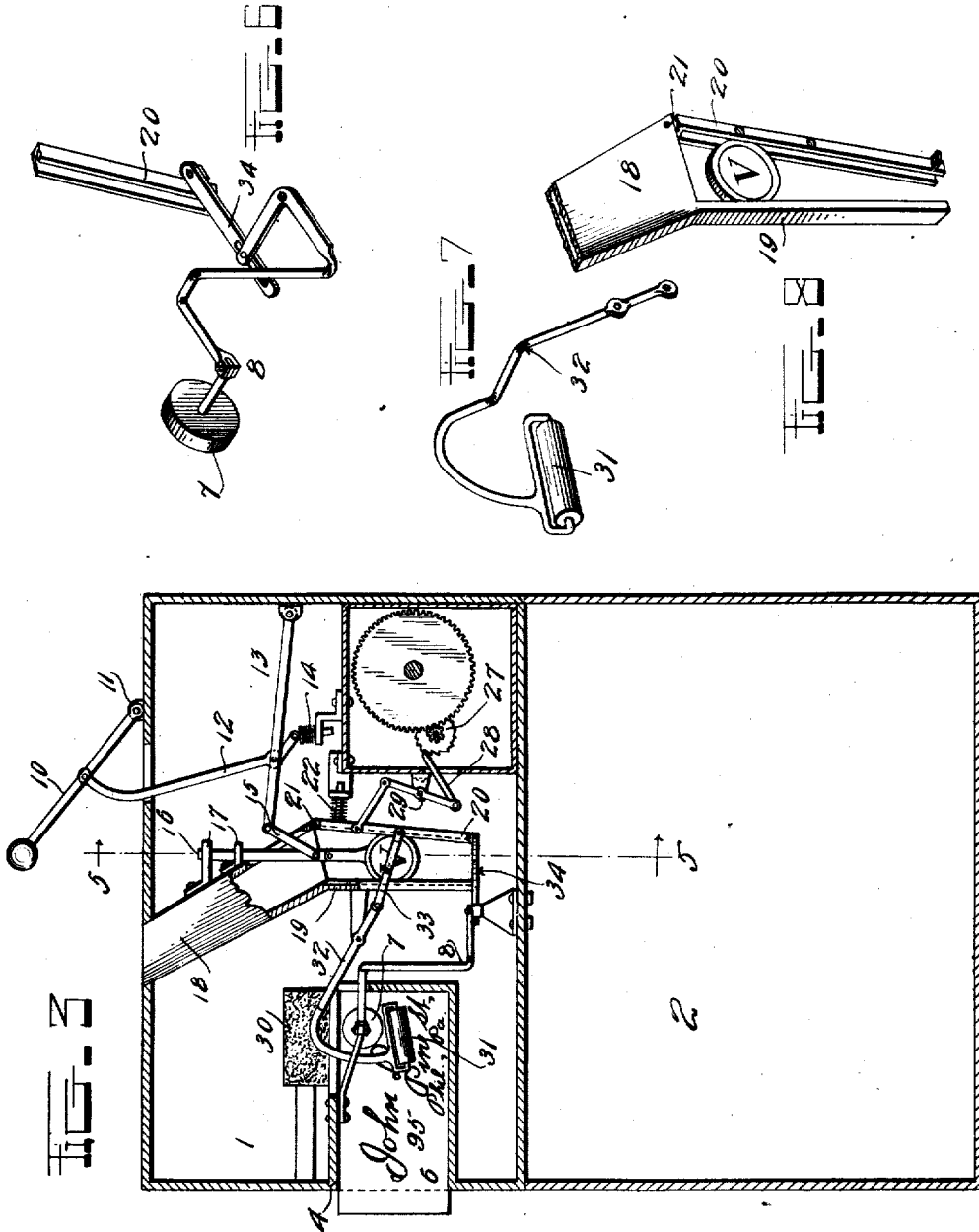
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3 SHEETS-SHEET 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JACOB W. FENNEL, OF NEWBURGH, NEW YORK.

LETTER-STAMPING MACHINE.

1,013,383.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 2, 1912.

Application filed July 24, 1911. Serial No. 640,304.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JACOB W. FENNEL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Newburgh, in the county of Orange and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Stamping 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.

This invention relates to check-controlled machines, and more especially to those of that type wherein the presence of the proper coin is necessary to permit the hand-actuated plunger to do the work; and in the present specification I have illustrated my improved mechanism as applied to the canceling of a postage stamp on an envelop and applying to the latter a post-mark, although it will be understood that the same can be applied in a variety of other ways and for a number of other purposes.

The following specification and claims set forth the preferred construction of my invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawings wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of this device applied to the top of a letter box; Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section showing the coin on its way in through the chute; Fig. 3 is a similar section showing the coin within the track and being depressed by the plunger, the inking roller in this case having passed across the face of the dial; Fig. 4 is a horizontal section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2; Fig. 5 is a vertical cross section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3; Figs. 6, 7, and 8 are perspective details respectively of the die, the ink roller, and the track referred to hereinafter; Fig. 9 is a horizontal section through the coin register.

In the present embodiment of my invention I have illustrated the same as contained within a rectangular casing 1 mounted upon the top of a letter box 2 having the usual inlet opening 3, although it might be attached to a wall or other support or mounted upon the side of the letter box. The casing 1 has an upright slot 4 and in the wall at right angles to it a glass panel 5 so that the envelop 6 can be inserted into the slot and seen through the panel and the stamp 7 carried by a stem 8 can be observed as it marks the envelop with whatever legend the

die on the stamp may contain so that, after having been properly marked with the Government receipt, the user can drop the envelop into the slot 3 within the letter box 2, and later it will be collected and sent.

I have spoken above of marking the envelop, and obviously the die on the stamp 3 can contain both a stamp-canceler and a post marking device so that each person who mails a letter under the present system will both cancel its stamp and post mark the envelop under my improved system; but it is easily conceivable that the die on the stamp may be of such nature as to avoid the necessity for the use of any postage stamp, because as will be seen below this die cannot be impressed on the envelop until the user has paid the proper coin and therefore there is no need for printing, selling, sticking, and canceling postage stamps if the system contemplated by this invention be adopted. Moreover, by making said die of such character that it will contain a post-mark with a date capable of being set day by day, the letters when collected from the letter box are in proper condition to be sorted and started toward their destination, without the necessity for having any clerks cancel the stamps or apply the post-marks.

The numeral 10 designates the handle pivoted at 11 so that it will project to the exterior of the casing and within reach of the user's hand, 12 is a link connecting this lever with a power lever 13 preferably disposed within the casing and normally raised by a spring 14, and 15 is a link connecting the power lever with the plunger 16 which by preference reciprocates vertically in guides 17 within the casing and entirely out of reach and perhaps out of sight of the user.

18 designates the coin chute which delivers a coin of the proper size over a preferably vertical track 19, and 20 designates the main lever pivoted at 21 at its upper end and pressed at its lower end toward said track by an expansive spring 22 so that the elements 19 and 20 which may be said to form the rails of the track normally converge and present a V-shaped space into which the coin is delivered by the chute 18. Suitable safe-guards (not shown) will be placed at the mouth or inlet end of the chute to prevent the insertion of other coins than those of the proper denomination, and a

coin receptacle will be placed below the V-shaped space, so that coins forced through it by means of the plunger will accumulate therein, but these features do not form parts of the present invention and are not illustrated. The drawings do show in outline however, a coin register, which I preferably employ and which may be briefly described as consisting of dials 25 and 26 preferably having indicating figures on their faces, and one of them having a ratchet 27 fast on its shaft engaged by a pawl 28, and link mechanism 29 connecting this pawl with the main lever 20 so that every impulse of the latter as described below will move the ratchet wheel one step forward and will register the reception of another coin. Hence I provide a check upon the person who comes later to collect the coins out of the safe or receptacle which this device contains, and as the register cannot be actuated unless a coin is actually pressed by the main lever the coin register will keep accurate record of the coins that pass in.

With the construction thus far described, the user inserts a coin into the chute 18 and it passes down the same and lodges in the V-shaped space between the main lever 20 and the fixed track 19, where it comes to rest directly beneath the lower end of the plunger 16 which latter stands normally raised by the force of the spring 14. Following instructions the user then manipulates the main handle 10, and through the power lever 13 and link 15 the plunger is caused to descend; and in its downward movement it presses the coin into the V-shaped space referred to and therefore swings the main lever 20 on its pivot 21 against the force of its spring 22—thereby pushing the coin downward into the coin-receptacle and retracting pawl 28 which latter advances the proper dial in the coin register one step. While it is obvious that this check controlling mechanism may be utilized in connection with other devices than the letter marker described herein, I have preferred to show it in this connection and will now describe the details thereof.

The numeral 30 designates an ink pad, over which moves a roller 31 mounted on a pivoted arm 32 connected by a link 33 with the main lever 20; and in similar manner the numeral 7 designates the stamp mounted on a stem or arm 8 and connected by a link mechanism 34 with the main lever 20. The point of connection between the two links 33 and 34 on the one hand and said lever 20 on the other hand are, however, so disposed that when said lever moves its first impulse throws the roller across the die on the face of the stamp and its further movement projects the stamp against the envelop so as to mark the latter with the wet ink. Any suitable means may be adopted for carrying out

this principle, that illustrated being merely for the purpose of showing that it can be done in this way. But here again the essential feature is that the ink roller and stamp will not move until the main lever moves, and no matter how much a child might play with the handle 10 without putting a coin in the chute, he could do nothing further than reciprocate the plunger 16 within its guides 17, and as no coin stood in the V-shaped space between the main lever 20 and the fixed track 19 the former would not move on its pivot 21. As with the case of the coin register, the printing mechanism which includes the inking device and the stamp remains idle until the main lever moves.

Continuing the operation of the machine, described above, the coin is forced down by the descent of the plunger 16, the main lever in its swinging movement first inks the die on the stamp and then presses the stamp against the letter, and as soon as the coin has passed the lower end of the main lever and dropped into the coin-receptacle, the spring 22 restores all parts to their normal position and sets them ready for renewed operation when another coin is inserted.

Thus it will be seen that if my invention were adopted by the Government, the necessity for printing, selling, sticking, and canceling postage stamps would be entirely avoided; and as these machines would cost no more than the stamp-vending machines now proposed, and would save the labor of postal clerks who now cancel the stamps and apply the post marks, it will be clear that the application of my invention to this use would be highly beneficial and economical. Still I do not wish to be confined to this specific use of my check-controlled mechanism, nor to the exact details of construction save as described below.

What is claimed as new is:

1. In a coin controlled mechanism, the combination with the coin chute, a fixed upright track beneath the same, a main lever pivoted at its upper end opposite said track, and a spring pressing its lower end toward the track so as to make a V-shaped space whose upper end communicates with the lower end of said chute; of a plunger mounted in guides and standing normally above said V-shaped space, a handle connected with said plunger, a casing surrounding the mechanism and beyond which said handle projects, and other mechanisms controlled by the movement of said main lever.

2. In a coin controlled mechanism, the combination with the coin chute, a fixed upright track, a main lever pivoted opposite said track, and a spring pressing it toward the track so as to make a V-shaped space whose upper end communicates with the lower end of said chute; of a plunger standing normally above said space, a power le-

ver connected with said plunger, a spring holding the plunger normally raised, a handle, a link connecting it with said power lever, a surrounding casing beyond which said handle projects, and other mechanisms controlled by the movement of said main lever.

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

JACOB W. FENNEL.

Witnesses:

PEARL FENNEL,
NETTIE FENNEL.