

July 28, 1925.

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A. V. CLELAND

GUARD FOR BANK TELLER CAGES

Filed Dec. 31, 1921

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

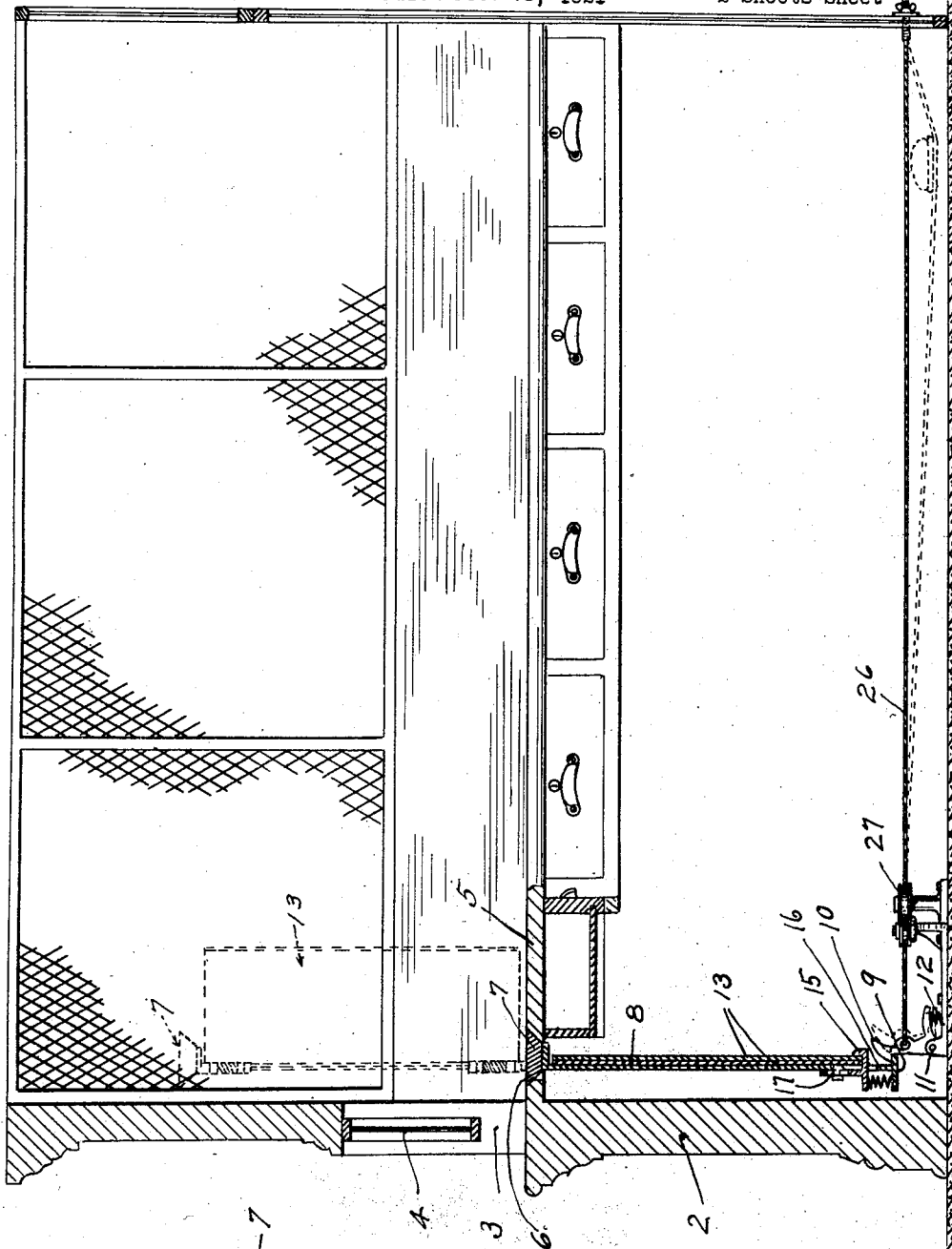


Fig. 1.

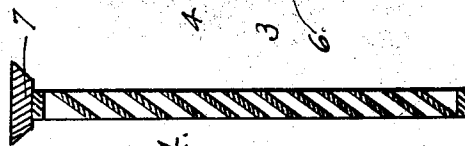


Fig. 4.

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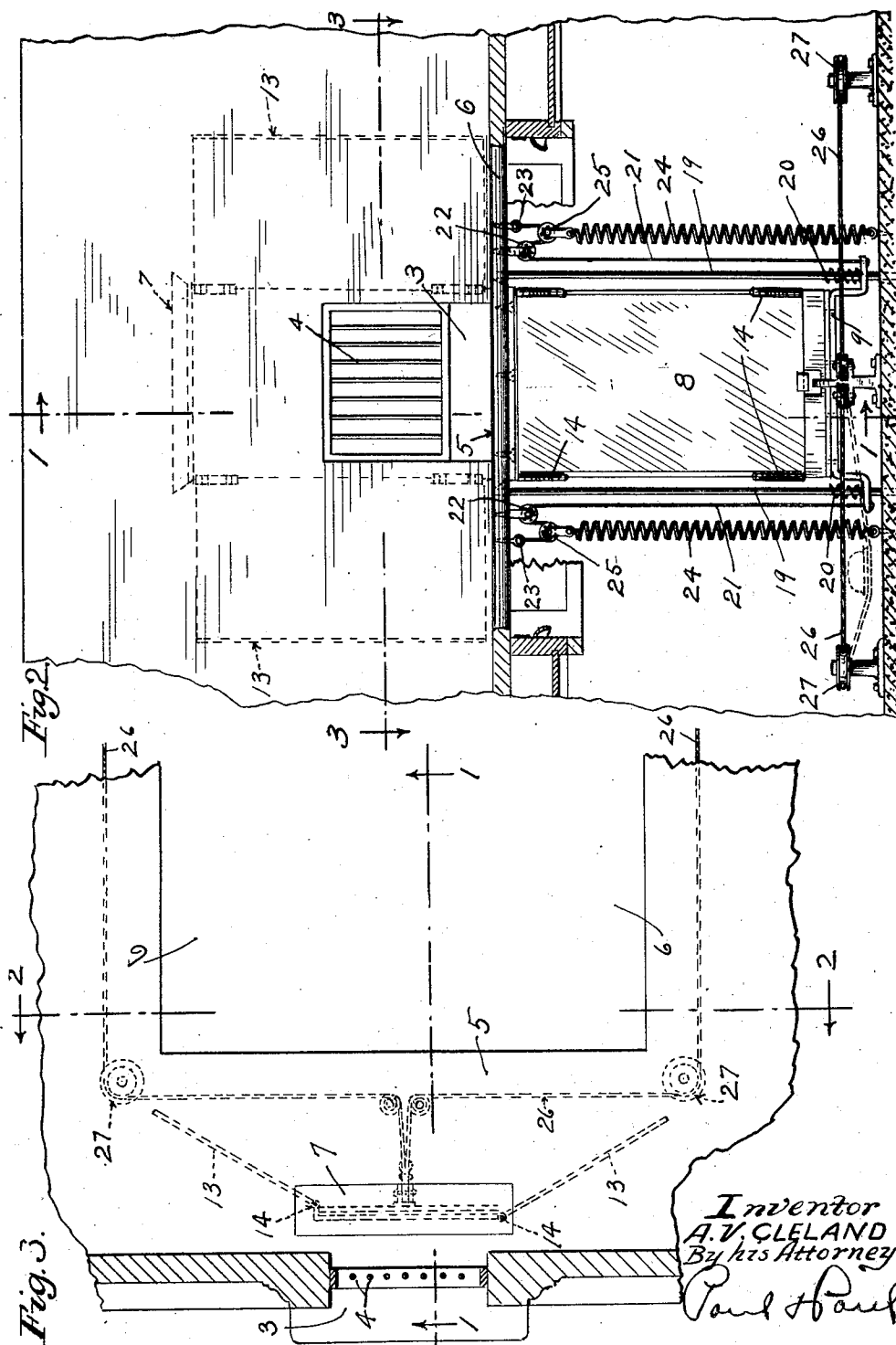
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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANDREW V. CLELAND, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

GUARD FOR BANK-TELLER CAGES.

Application filed December 31, 1921. Serial No. 526,378.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANDREW V. CLELAND, a citizen of the United States, resident of Minneapolis, county of Hennepin, State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Guards for Bank-Teller Cages, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a protecting gate or guard which may be instantly thrust between the teller or other person in charge of the cash in the bank and a robber standing in front of or near the teller's window. In bank teller's cages as usually constructed small grated windows are provided, through which the teller passes out the cash to the bank's customers or receives deposits and in case of a hold-up of the bank, the clerk has no means of protecting himself when a robber stands at the window and demands the money. The clerk can not drop to the floor under the counter and will be shot if he attempts to. With my invention a bullet-proof shield or guard is immediately thrown in front of the window, separating the clerk from the robber and affording complete protection.

The invention consists generally in various constructions and combinations, all as hereinafter described and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification,

Figure 1 is a sectional view of a teller's cage with my invention applied thereto,

Figure 2 is an inside view, showing the normal position of the guard or shield under the counter, taken on the section line 2—2 of Figure 3,

Figure 3 is a sectional view on the line 3—3 of Figure 2,

Figure 4 is a detail sectional view, showing the preferred construction of the guard.

In the drawing, 2 represents the outside wall of the teller's cage, having the usual window 3 and grating 4. In the rear of the teller's window is the usual counter 5 over which the cash is paid and received. Usually a robber would step up to this window and presenting his revolver, compel the teller to hand over the cash in the cage and unless the teller was advised of the approach of the robber, he would have no opportunity to grasp a weapon himself or dodge under the counter.

To protect the teller standing in the cage

and enable him to throw a guard in front of the window, without moving himself from his standing position, I provide an opening 6 in the rear of the window, mounting therein a beveled bar 7 which effectually closes the opening and connecting to the underside of the bar a metallic shield 8 which normally is suspended below the counter but is adapted to rise vertically through the counter to the dotted line position in Figure 1 and effectually screen the person in front of the window.

At the lower end of the plate 8 is a cross bar 9 that is normally engaged by a dog 10 pivoted at 11 and held in engagement with the cross bar by a spring 12. The lower end of this dog has a treadle extension to be engaged by the foot of the operator. On each side of the guard plate are wings 13 connected to the plate by suitable means, such as spring-hinges 14, which normally tend to hold the wings in the position indicated by dotted lines in Figure 3. Normally, these wings are swung to a position in contact with the guard plate, as shown in Figure 1, and held by a lug 15 on a slide 16 that has a pin hole and slot connections 17 with the guard 8, normally engaging the lower edges of the hinged wings for holding them in their closed position. The cross bar 9 is mounted to slide vertically on rods 19 to guide the guard and cushion springs 20 are preferably provided on said rods to take up the shock when upward movement of the cross bar and slide is arrested by engagement with the underside of the counter. Cables 21 are connected to the ends of the cross bar 9 and pass over sheaves 22 and are attached at 23 to the underside of the counter and extension springs 24 have running connections at 25 with the cables and normally tend to raise and hold the guard plate in its raised position, the springs being put under tension when the guard plate is lowered and when it is raised, the power of the spring will instantly throw the guard plate to the dotted line position in Figure 1 and effectually conceal the clerk or teller in the cage.

I prefer to provide a cable 26 attached to the dog 10 and passing around sheaves 27 at a distant point, so that a person standing in the cage at any place opposite the counter can put his foot on this cable and trip the dog, releasing the guard and covering the teller's cage.

It will be understood that the hinged wings are not released until the guard reaches a point above the counter, when the slide 16 is pushed down by engagement with the counter to release the lower ends of the wings and allow them to fly open.

In Figure 4 I have shown a modified construction, which consists in providing a guard having steel slats in the form of blind slats, so arranged that a bullet coming from the outside and striking them will be deflected upwardly, while if a shot is fired from the cage, the slats will deflect the bullet downwardly to a point where the robber would be standing in front of the window.

The bar 7 is fitted into the counter so that its upper surface is flush with the counter and the guard plate will be entirely concealed until such time as it is released and thrown up in position for use.

I claim as my invention:

1. The combination, with a bank teller's counter and window, of a bullet-proof guard mounted to be moved to a position in front of the window on the inside of the cage, and a foot controlled device for moving said guard, and said guard having hinged wings adapted to be opened when the guard is moved to its working position.

2. The combination, with a teller's counter and window, of a guard normally arranged below the counter and window to move vertically to a position opposite the window, a device for holding said guard normally in its lowered position, mechanism for releasing said guard and allowing it to be projected upwardly to its window guarding position and hinged wings normally folded and adapted to open up and form extensions of said guard when it is moved to its window-guarding position.

3. The combination, with a teller's counter and window, of a guard normally positioned below the counter and movable vertically through an opening therein to a point

opposite the window, wings hinged to said guard and normally folded against one side thereof, with means for locking said wings in their folded position, said locking means becoming tripped to release said wings when said guard reaches a predetermined point in its vertical movement, springs for raising said guard and a latch device arranged to release said springs to project said guard.

4. The combination, with a bank teller's counter and window, of a bullet-proof guard normally beneath the counter and a foot controlled device for projecting said guard upwardly between the clerk standing at the counter and said window, and spring actuated wings mounted on said guard and arranged to swing to an open position when the guard is raised and form lateral extensions thereof.

5. The combination with a bank teller's counter and window, of a bullet-proof guard arranged to be moved to a guarding position between the window and the normal standing position of the teller, and means normally closed but adapted to swing to an open position when the guard is moved to its guarding position, and form extensions thereof, and a mechanism for controlling the movement of said guard.

6. The combination with a teller's counter and window, of a guard plate normally arranged below the counter and window to move vertically to a position opposite the window, vertical guides on which said guard is movable, springs adapted to normally exert an upward pull on said guard plate, a latch device for normally locking said guard in its lowered position, a tripping mechanism for said latch device, said plate having means adapted to open and form an additional guard when said plate is moved to its guarding position.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 22d day of December, 1921.

ANDREW V. CLELAND.