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J. W. McCLUN

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BURGLARPROOF APPARATUS FOR BANKS

Filed May 18, 1931

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

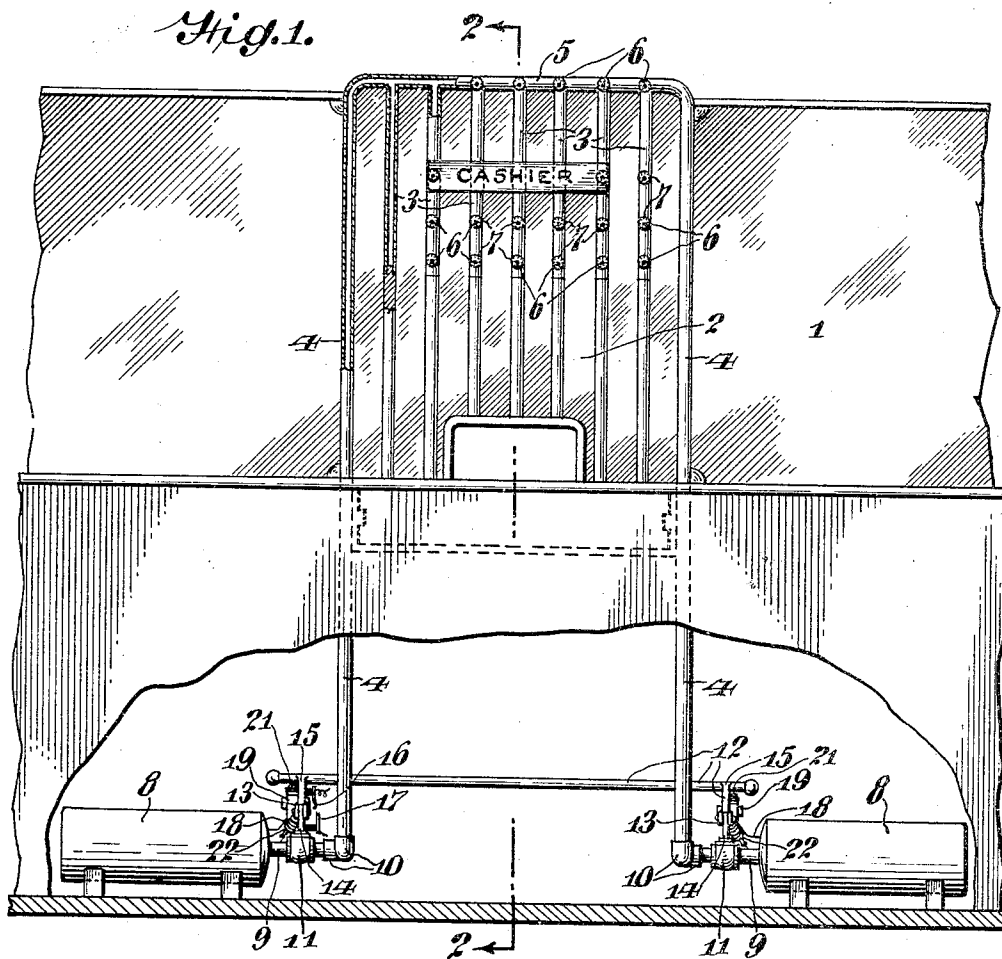


*Fig. 4.*

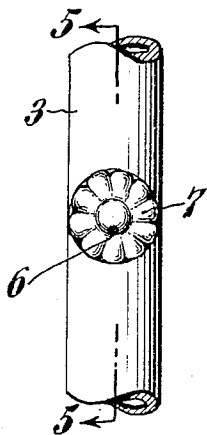
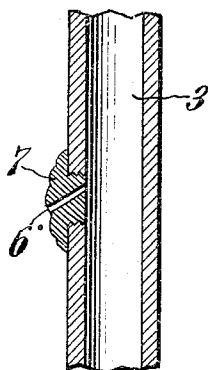


*Fig. 5.*



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Fig. 2.

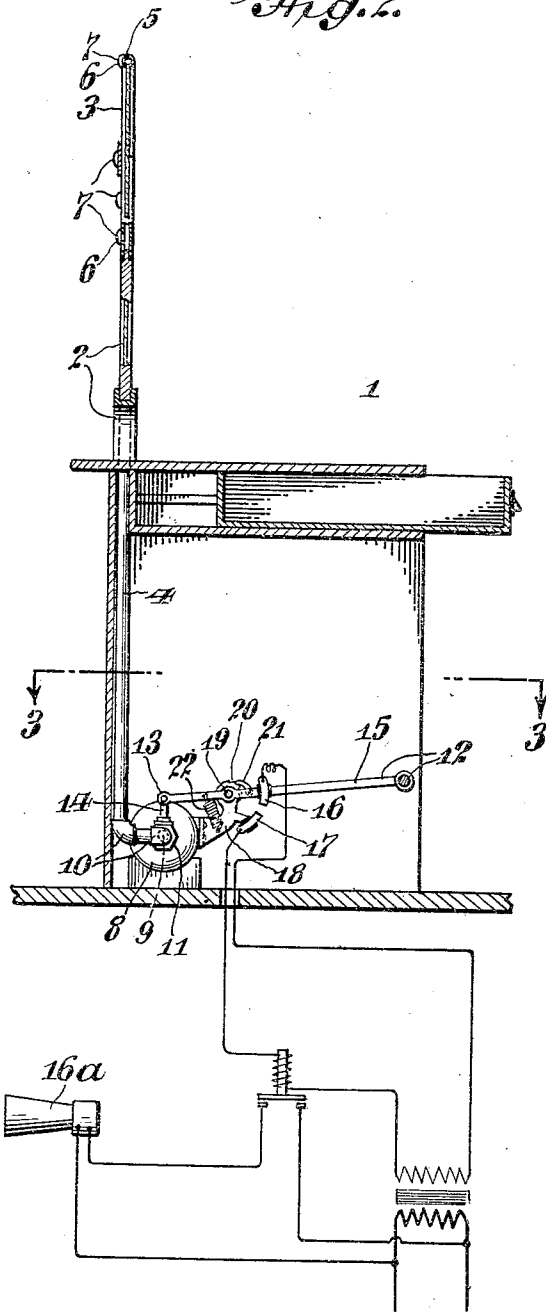
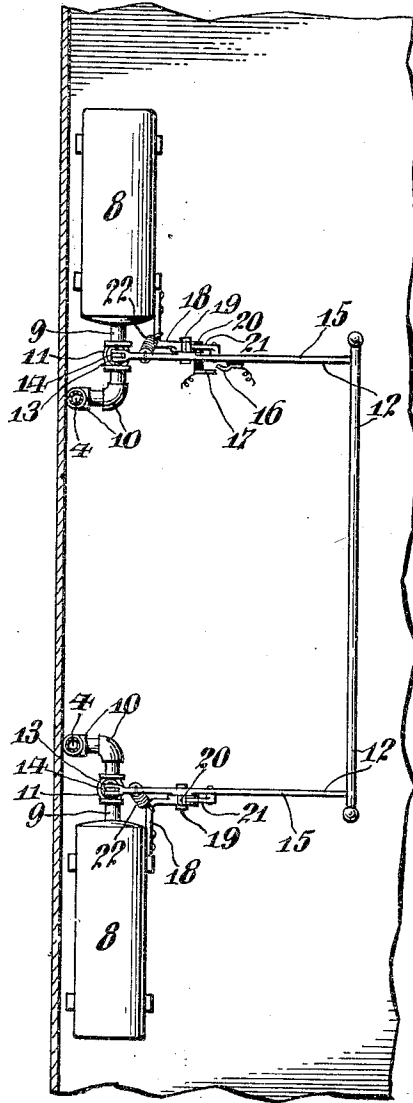


*Fig. 3.*



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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## BURGLARPROOF APPARATUS FOR BANKS

Application filed May 18, 1931. Serial No. 538,327.

The present invention relates to an improved burglar proof apparatus for use in protecting banks and similar places, and the purpose of the invention is to provide an apparatus of this character, so installed adjacent the cashier's cage and associated with the cashier's window grating and operable by the foot of the cashier as to discharge tear gas in the face of the burglar, and at the same time sound an alarm, such as a bell or siren exteriorly of the bank building, thereby rendering the cashier safe as well as guarding the bank against burglary. Obviously the tear gas will discharge into the face of the burglar so blurring his eyes that he will not be able to see the cashier, or observe his movements.

Another purpose is to provide an apparatus including tanks of tear gas under pressure, in conjunction with means operated by the foot of the cashier for permitting the tear gas to escape, and discharge from the bars of the window grating.

Another purpose is to construct the window grating of the cashier's cage of bars hollow a substantial distance down from the top, at least to a point less than five feet from the floor, and provided with camouflaged outlets so that the tear gas may easily discharge when permitted to escape from the tanks.

It is to be understood that the particulars herein given are in no way limitative, and that while still keeping within the scope of the invention, any desired modification of details and proportions may be made in the construction of the appliance according to circumstances.

The invention comprises further features and combination of parts to be hereinafter set forth, shown in the drawings and claimed.

In the drawings:—

Figure 1 is a view of a conventional type of cashier's cage, showing the camouflaged

tear gas outlets, and illustrating parts broken away and showing the tear gas tanks as connected to the remote bars of the window grating.

Figure 2 is a sectional view on line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a sectional view on line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is an enlarged detail view of one of the hollow grating bars of the window grating.

Figure 5 is a sectional view on line 5—5 of Figure 4.

Referring to the drawings 1 identifies a cashier's cage and 2 the cashier's window. The bars of the window are constructed hollow or tubular from the top of the grating down to a point a little below five feet from the floor in front of the window. The hollow portions of the bars are identified by the reference character 3. The remote bars 4 of the window grating are hollow or tubular for their entire length, and are united by a transverse tubular portion 5 at the top of the window grating. The hollow portions 3 of the window grating or bars have outlets 6, which are camouflaged by means of rosettes, or any other designs or filigree work as at 7. These rosettes or filigree work are for the purpose of rendering the outlets obscure to the observer, so that a burglar, who may stand in front of the cashier's window will not be able to note the origin of the tear gas.

Arranged under the counter back of the cashier's cage are tanks 8, which are adapted to contain tear gas under pressure. Pipes 9 are connected to the tanks 8, and in turn are connected by elbows 10 to the remote side bars 4 of the cashier's window, so that when valves 11 which are carried by the pipes 9 are open tear gas under pressure will pass through the remote side bars or rods 4 and then escape at the camouflaged outlets.

A suitable foot treadle or operating bar 12 is also operatively mounted under the counter of the cashier's cage and is provided with operative connections 13 with the valve stems 14 of the valves 11 to open the latter.

One of the side arms 15 of the treadle is provided with a contact 16, which is in circuit with an electrically operated siren or bell 16a, but which may be located exteriorly of the bank building or may be located at police headquarters. Positioned below and adapted to be engaged by the contacts 16 is a contact 17, which is also in circuit with the alarm device (not shown), so that when the treadle is foot operated the contacts 16 and 17 will engage and cause an electric circuit to be closed, thereby operating the alarm, at the same time turning on the tear gas.

Suitable brackets 18 are carried by the sides of the tanks 8, on which the side arms 15 of the treadle are pivotally mounted at 19. Formed on the brackets 18 are ratchets 20, the teeth of which are relatively small and are engaged by the dogs or pawls 21, which are pivoted in the side arms 15 of the treadle, so that when the treadle is moved downwardly against the tension of the springs 22 the dogs or pawls 21 will be received by the teeth of the ratchets and hold the treadle in its down position, thereby keeping the valves open and hence allowing a thorough supply of tear gas to discharge from the outlet 6.

By means on an apparatus of this kind it is possible to so blur the eyes of a gunman or hold up man, in front of a cashier's window, as to prevent him observing the cashier behind the window, rendering the cashier comparatively safe and at the same time averting robbery of the cash on hand. Obviously upon operating the treadle the contacts engage and sound the exterior alarm, thereby bringing police protection to the bank.

The invention having been set forth, what is claimed is:

1. A protecting apparatus comprising a grating including hollow side bars and intermediate bars, the latter having hollow portions extending downwardly a substantial distance from the top of the grating with the hollow portions communicating with the side bars, the hollow portions having camouflaged outlets, a source of tear gas supply, pipes communicating therewith and with the side bars respectively, valves in the pipes for controlling the discharge of gas from the source, and manually actuated means having connection with the valves for opening the latter to allow the passage of gas through the side bars and into the hollow portions of the intermediate bars so as to escape from the outlets.

2. A protecting apparatus comprising a grating, a pair of tanks of tear gas, pipes communicating with the tanks and rising therefrom, said pipes providing side bars for the grating, intermediate bars included in the grating, a hollow transverse bar merging into and connecting the upper ends of the side bars, said intermediate bars being hollow for a portion of their length with the hollow portions communicating with the transverse bar and being provided with camouflaged outlets, valves in the pipes for controlling the discharge of gas, a foot treadle including side arms having ends connected to the stems of the valves for opening the latter to release the tear gas, means on the sides of the tanks and pivotally supporting the side arms of the treadle, tensioning means connected to the supporting means and side arms respectively for normally holding the valves closed, and means operating upon the opening of the valves to hold the latter open.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JAMES W. McCLUN.