

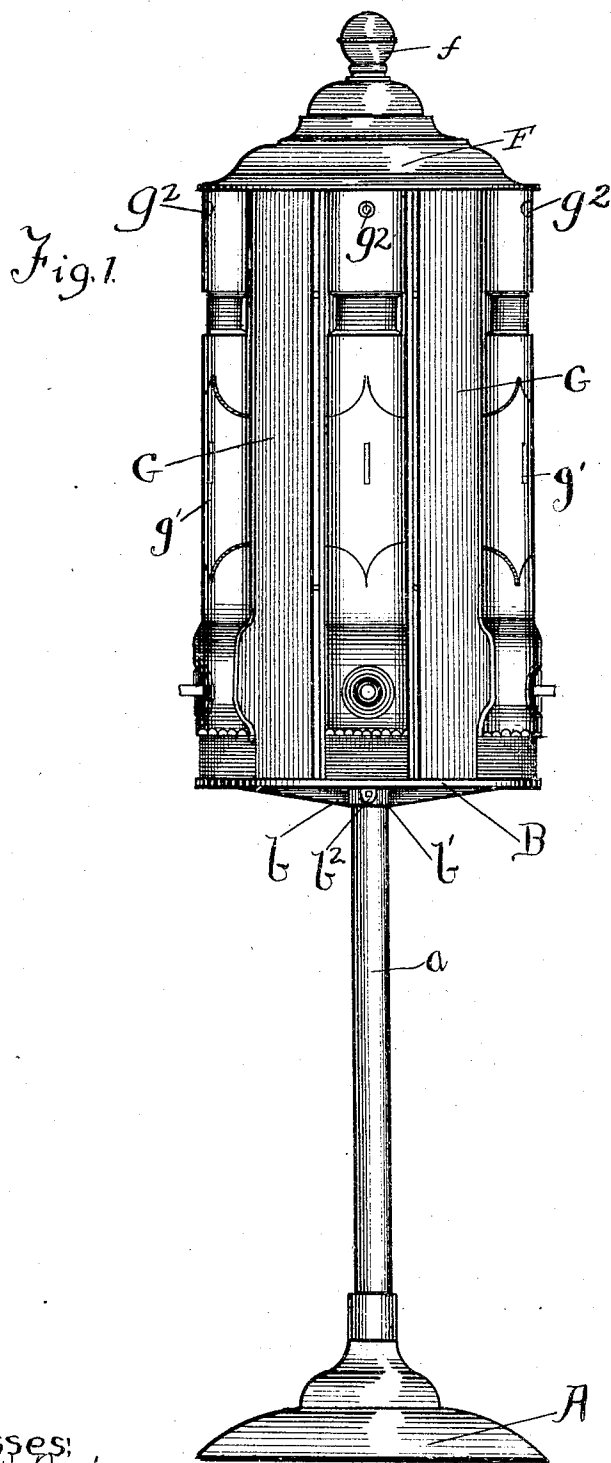
No. 792,296.

PATENTED JUNE 13, 1905.

G. B. TOWNSEND.
VENDING MACHINE.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 30, 1904.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses:
William V. Bond
Person H. Banning.

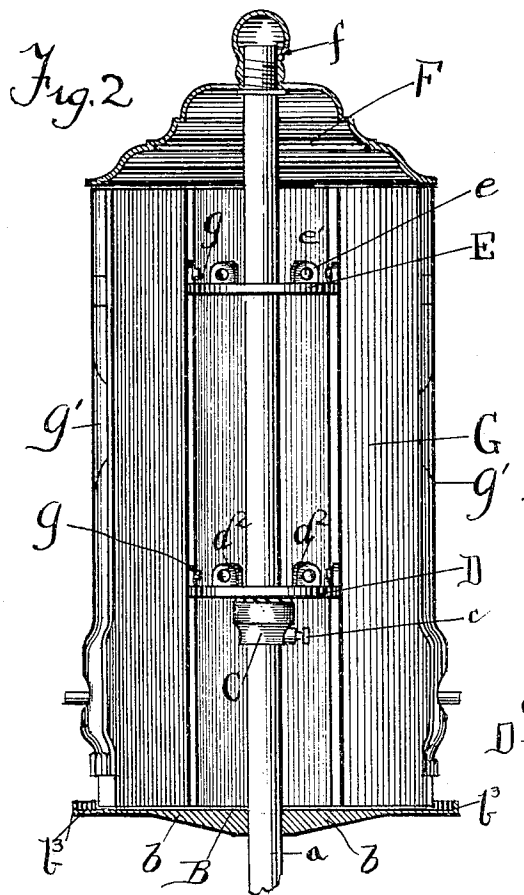
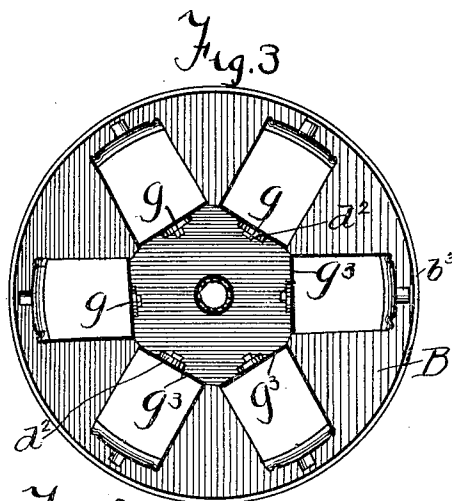
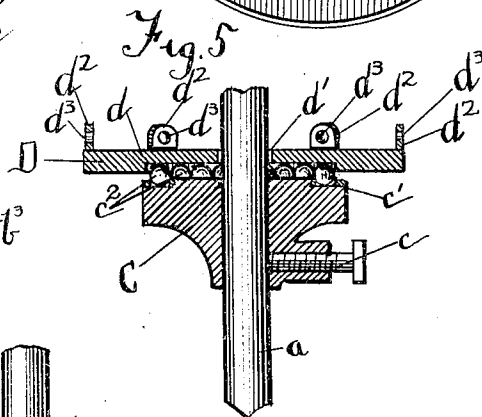
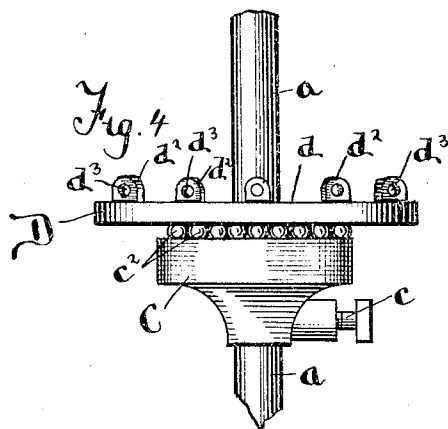
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3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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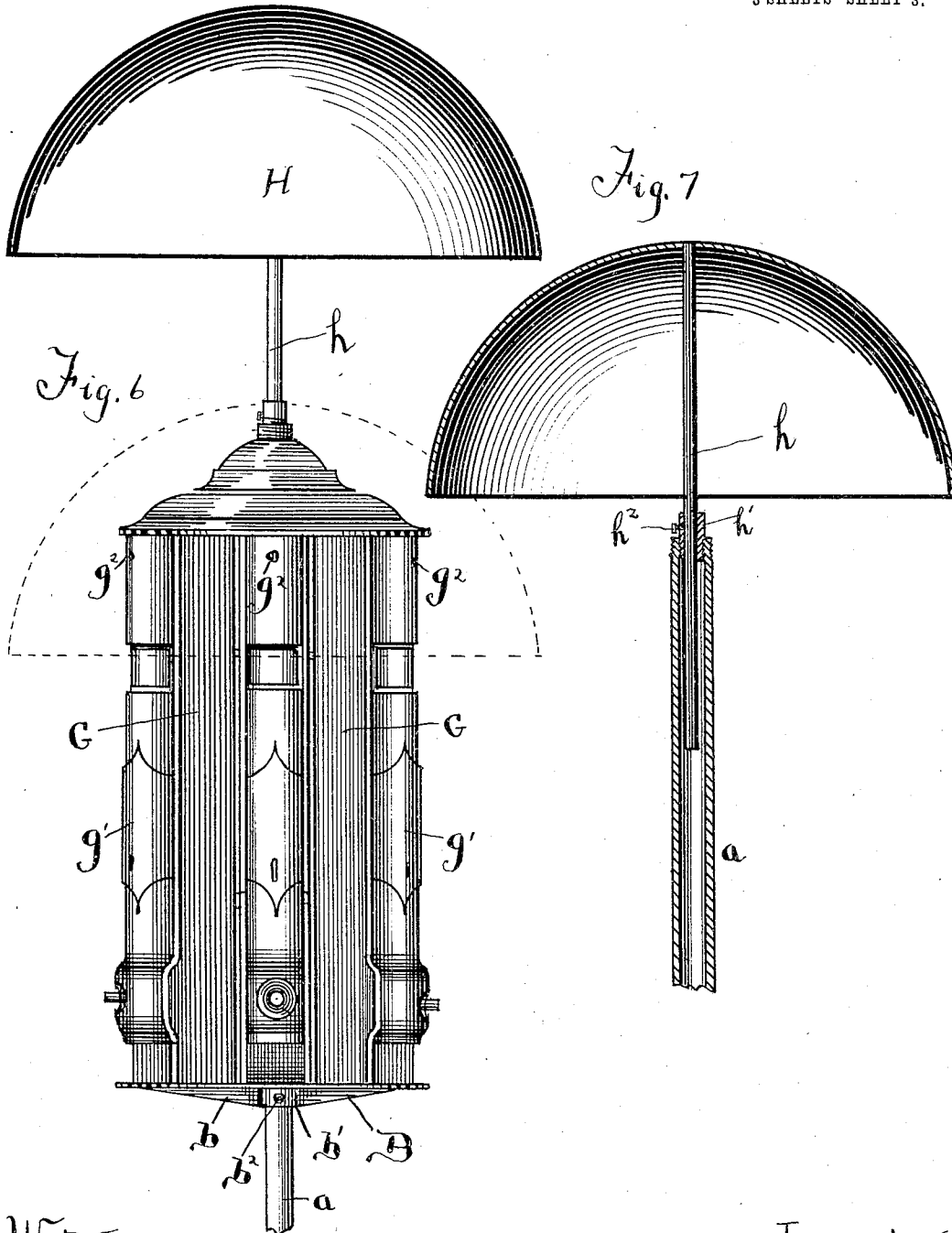
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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.



Witnesses:
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Percy W. Banning.

Inventor:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE B. TOWNSEND, OF RIVER FOREST, ILLINOIS.

VENDING-MACHINE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 792,296, dated June 13, 1905.

Application filed June 30, 1904. Serial No. 214,777.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE B. TOWNSEND, a citizen of the United States, residing at River Forest, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Vending-Machines, of which the following is a specification.

The object of this invention is to construct a vending-machine having a plurality of boxes or compartments so arranged and mounted that a number of different articles can be vended by the same machine; and the invention more especially consists in the method of mounting the several boxes or compartments from which the articles are discharged so that the different boxes or compartments can be successively brought into position for operation without the necessity for the operator changing his position in reference to the machine.

A further object of the invention is to so arrange the mounting for the several boxes or compartments that they may be quickly and readily adjusted into place or removed from the mounting or support without disturbing the other boxes or compartments, thereby enabling a defective or injured compartment to be removed for repair or substitution without disturbing the general arrangement of the machine.

A further object consists in arranging the mounting or support so that it will occupy the least possible amount of space and at the same time be strong and durable and easily manipulated as well as attractive in appearance.

A further object of the invention is to provide protective means for the several compartments or boxes so that the delicate mechanism therein contained will not be injured by jolts or jars or by rough handling incidental to the operation of the machine.

The present invention does not relate to the interior mechanism for vending the contents of the several compartments or boxes, but relates entirely to the means by which the several compartments are arranged and held in position upon the mounting or support; and the invention finally consists in the fea-

tures of construction and combination of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawings illustrating the invention, Figure 1 is a side elevation of the entire device; Fig. 2, a view, partly in section, showing the interior arrangement of the support or upright; Fig. 3, a top view showing the roof or cover removed; Fig. 4, a side elevation somewhat enlarged of the attaching-plate and ball-bearing mounting therefor; Fig. 5, a sectional view of Fig. 4; Fig. 6, a view showing the device supplied with the protective canopy, and Fig. 7 a section of the canopy.

The vending-machine of the present invention is constructed to have a base A, preferably of sufficient size and weight to prevent the easy removal or displacement of the machine, and mounted upon said base is an upwardly-extending post or upright *a*, which extends clear through the machine up to the top thereof. Said post or upright, as shown, is constructed of pipe, although it may be constructed of solid material, if so desired. At a suitable distance from the base upon the post or upright is a circular table B, provided on its under side with radially-arranged ribs *b*, converging together into a circular collar *b'*, which is firmly held in position upon the supporting post or upright by means of a set-screw *b²* or in any other suitable manner. The circular table is preferably provided around its outer edge with an upwardly-extending flange *b³*, which serves to prevent any of the contents of the vending-machine which chance to fall upon the table from being dislodged therefrom. At a suitable distance above the circular table is a collar C, held in position upon the supporting post or upright by means of set-screws *c*, and in the upper face of said collar is a runway *c'*, within which is located a series of ball-bearings *c²*, and said runway coöperates with a runway *d* in a supporting-plate D, which supporting-plate is provided with a hole or opening *d'* in its center, through which passes the supporting post or upright, allowing the supporting-plate to revolve freely around the upright or post by means of the ball-bearings heretofore referred to. As shown, the supporting-plate

is hexagonal in shape, having six flat sides, and on each of the flat sides, in the center thereof, is an upwardly-extending ear d^2 , provided in its center with a hole or eye d^3 for the passage of a bolt therethrough. At a suitable distance above the supporting-plate D is an upper supporting-plate E, of similar size and shape, provided with a series of ears e , similarly arranged and having holes or eyes e' therethrough.

At the upper end of the supporting post or upright is a roof or top F, preferably of ornamental design, which serves as a protection or cover for the remaining parts, and the end of the upright or post is protected by means of a cap f , screw-threaded onto the end of the upright or post.

To the six flat sides of the upper and lower supporting-plates are attached a plurality of independent vending-machines G, which are each capable of vending a commodity and each of a length to easily revolve in the space between the circular table and the roof or top, and said vending-machines are adapted to be secured to the supporting-plates by means of bolts g , which pass through the several ears of the supporting-plates and hold the vending-machines securely in place and allow the entire series of vending-machines to be readily and easily revolved around the supporting post or upright. Each of the boxes or compartments is provided with a door g' on its front, and said doors are locked into place by means of locks g^2 , so that it is necessary to remove the door of one of the machines in order to obtain access into the interior thereof. The bolts g pass through the rear wall g^3 of the independent machines, and said bolts are secured to the machines from the inside by means of nuts (not shown) or other suitable locking mechanism.

The arrangement is one which allows of the employment of a plurality of independent machines which may be removed from the supporting mechanism and used independently, if so desired, and may be reassembled and supported in the form shown, if so desired. The arrangement is one which perfectly balances the mechanism and leaves a diverging space between each of the independent vending-machines, thereby enabling them to be readily grasped by the hand of the operator in revolving the machine. The circular table which projects slightly beyond the bases of the machines affords a substantial protection against injury in case the upright should be upset by any accident, in which case the edge of the circular table would strike the ground and save the faces of the vending-machines from contact therewith, thereby preventing or minimizing injury to the machine. The table, with its flanged edge, further serves to prevent any articles vended from any one of the several machines from falling to the ground

when they are forcibly ejected, as will sometimes happen.

In Figs. 6 and 7 is shown an arrangement by which the machine will be preserved from injury due to inclemency of the weather, and such arrangement consists in a removable canopy or top H of circular or umbrella shape mounted upon a rod h , which is adapted to be held within the hollow upright or post and to slide up and down therein to regulate the height of the canopy above the machine. The rod is carried by a socket h' , which is screw-threaded into the upper end of the upright or post, and the rod is held in its socket by means of a set-screw h^2 , which allows the rod to be raised or lowered in order to regulate the position of the canopy. In ordinary use the canopy will be elevated above the machine sufficiently to allow a tall man to stand thereunder, which arrangement will sufficiently protect the machines under ordinary circumstances; but in case of a rain or snow storm the canopy can be lowered into the position shown by dotted lines in Fig. 6, thereby sheltering and protecting the operative parts from all danger. The socket is of a size to allow the ball f , hitherto described, to be inserted into place on the end of the upright or post when the canopy and supporting-rod are removed, so that the machine can be used either with or without the canopy without in any way changing the arrangement of the parts. The canopy presents a large surface which may be advantageously employed for advertising purposes, thereby increasing the value of the machine, which, moreover, is so adapted and arranged that it may be employed in open places and is not limited to use within stores or upon walls, as is ordinarily the case.

Each of the independent vending-machines carried by the supporting mechanism is complete in itself and is so arranged that it can be used independently, if so desired, the arrangement being one which enables its easy removal from the supporting mechanism. The utility of the several machines is in no wise impaired by their arrangement in a series, so that they may be operated in series or independently at will and the several independent machines carried by the supporting mechanism can be changed or shifted at will, allowing an empty machine to be removed and a loaded machine substituted without the necessity for filling the machine when in place on the supporting mechanism. In the same way the number of commodities vended by the multiple vending-machine can be varied by removing certain of the independent machines and substituting others therefor without interfering with the operation of the device to an appreciable extent.

What I regard as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a multiple vending-machine, the com-

5 combination of a fixed central upright or post a plurality of independent vending-machines revolubly arranged around the central support, a mounting for the independent vending-machines to which they are removably secured, and means for holding the mounting in revoluble relation to the fixed central upright or post, substantially as described.

10 2. In a multiple vending-machine, the combination of a fixed central upright or post, a supporting-plate revolubly mounted upon the fixed central upright or post, and a plurality of independent vending-machines removably secured to the supporting-plate and radially
15 arranged with respect to the fixed central upright or post, substantially as described.

3. In a multiple vending-machine, the combination of a fixed central upright or post, a supporting-plate carried by the upright or
20 post, a ball-bearing mounting for the supporting-plate allowing the same to revolve around the upright or post, a series of ears around the edge of the supporting-plate, a plurality of independent vending-machines
25 and locking means for securing the vending-machines to the ears, said vending-machines being radially arranged with respect to the fixed central upright or post, substantially as described.

30 4. In a multiple vending-machine, the combination of a fixed central upright or post, a supporting-plate carried by the upright or post, a ball-bearing mounting for the supporting-plate allowing the same to revolve
35 around the upright or post, a series of ears around the edge of the supporting-plate, a plurality of independent vending-machines locking means for securing the vending-machines to the ears, said vending-machines being
40 radially arranged with respect to the fixed central upright or post, and a table fixedly secured to the upright or post below the independent vending-machines, substantially as described.

45 5. In a multiple vending-machine, the combination of a fixed central upright or post, a table fixedly secured to the upright or post, lower and upper supporting-plates through
50 which the upright or post passes, a ball-bearing mounting for one of the supporting-plates for allowing it to revolve around the upright or post, and a plurality of independent vending-machines radially arranged with respect
55 to the upright or post and removably secured to the supporting-plates, substantially as described.

6. In a multiple vending-machine, the combination of a fixed central upright or post, a table fixedly secured to the upright or post,
60 lower and upper supporting-plates through

which the upright or post passes, a ball-bearing mounting for one of the supporting-plates for allowing it to revolve around the upright or post, a plurality of independent vending-machines radially arranged with respect to
65 the upright or post and removably secured to the supporting-plates, doors for the vending-machines allowing access to the interior thereof, and means adapted to be manipulated from the interior of the vending-machines for un-
70 fastening the same from the supporting-plates, substantially as described.

7. In a multiple vending-machine, the combination of a fixed central upright or post, a plurality of independent vending-machines
75 revolubly arranged around the central support, a mounting for the independent vending-machines to which they are removably secured, means for holding the mounting in revoluble relation to the fixed central upright
80 or post, and a canopy removably secured at the top of the fixed central upright or support, substantially as described.

8. In a multiple vending-machine, the combination of a fixed central upright or post, a
85 plurality of independent vending-machines revolubly arranged around the central support, a mounting for the independent vending-machines to which they are removably secured, means for holding the mounting in
90 revoluble relation to the fixed central upright or post, a rod slidably mounted within the fixed central upright or support and a canopy supported by the rod and adapted to be raised and lowered therein to shelter the vending
95 mechanism, substantially as described.

9. In a multiple vending-machine, the combination of a support, a mounting rotatably secured to the support, and a plurality of independent vending-machines removably secured
100 to the mounting and adapted to revolve therewith, substantially as described.

10. In a multiple vending-machine, the combination of a support, a mounting revolubly secured to the support, and a plurality of
105 vending-machines removably secured to the mounting and adapted to revolve therewith, substantially as described.

11. In a multiple vending-machine, the combination of a support, a mounting revolubly secured to the support, and a plurality of vending-machines radially arranged with respect
110 to the support and removably secured to the mounting and adapted to revolve therewith, substantially as described.

GEORGE B. TOWNSEND.

Witnesses:

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