

No. 742,009.

PATENTED OCT. 20, 1903.

M. L. CRAM.
BALLOT BOX.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 13, 1903.

NO MODEL.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

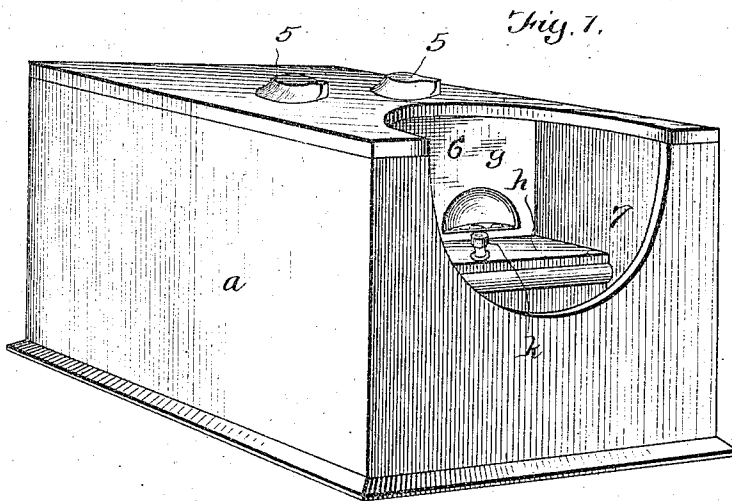


Fig. 7.

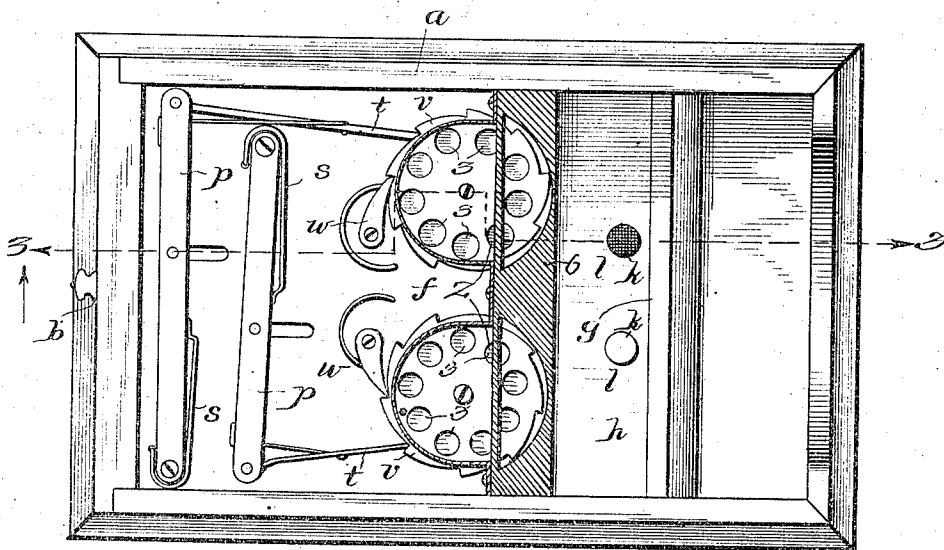


Fig. 8.

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Witnesses

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

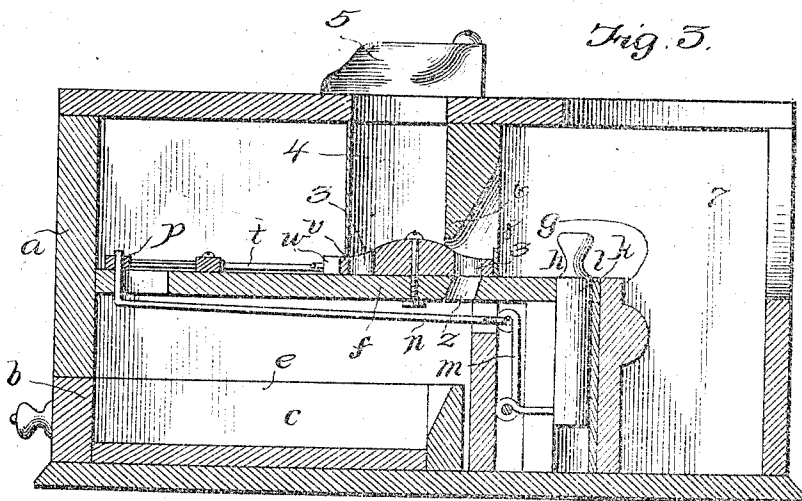


Fig. 3.

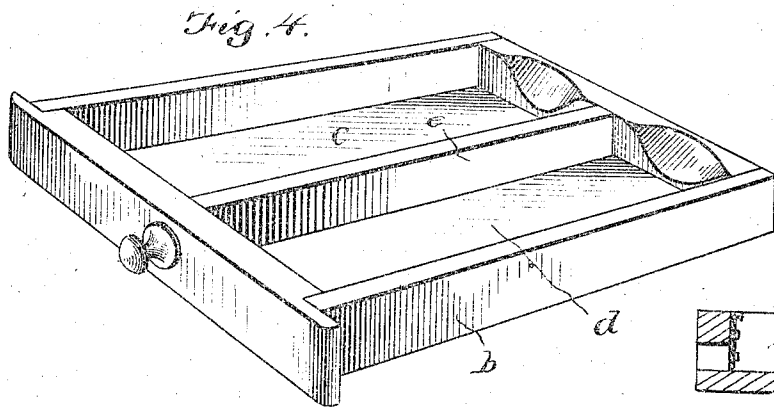


Fig. 4.

Fig. 6.

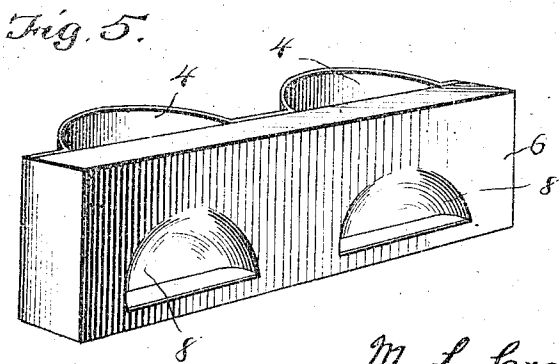


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MAURICE L. CRAM, OF CHARLEVOIX, MICHIGAN.

BALLOT-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 742,009, dated October 20, 1903.

Application filed June 13, 1903. Serial No. 161,340. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MAURICE L. CRAM, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Charlevoix, in the county of Charlevoix and State of Michigan, have made a certain new and useful invention in Ballot-Boxes; and I declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to characters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my ballot-box. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the same with the cover removed and partly in section. Fig. 3 is a section on the line 3-3, Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view of the drawer *b*. Fig. 5 is a detail view of the guard-partition *g*, showing its view-openings and the hoppers *h*. Fig. 6 is a detail view illustrating a slide to close an opening in the drawer *b*.

The invention has relation to ballot-boxes, chiefly designed for the use of lodges, clubs, and societies; and it consists in the novel construction and combinations of parts, as hereinafter set forth.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating the invention, the letter *a* designates a box or case, which is usually provided with a handle. In the lower part of the box is provided a slide or drawer *b*, in which are compartments *c* and *d*, which are separated from each other in such wise that the ballot-balls which may fall into one compartment cannot get from that one into the other compartment. For this purpose a partition *e* is provided between the compartments. The compartments may be lined with soft material, if desired, in order to prevent noise from the falling of a ballot-ball. Instead of one slide with compartments two drawers, side by side, may be used. The lower back portion of the box containing the slide or drawer is separated from the upper back portion by means of a partition *f*, which is designed to extend in front of a vertical partition *g* sufficiently to form a ledge *h*, below which is a recess or recesses for the reception of the keys *k*, the ends or heads of which project from their slideways above said ledge, as indicated at *l*. One of these keys

should have its head colored white, the other black, or other colors may be used, they being, however, different for the two keys. The keys are preferably removable. Each key is designed when in its slideway to engage an arm of an angle-lever *m*, to the other arm of which is connected a rod *n*, which is attached to a transverse lever *p*, which is pivoted to the partition *f* and is held in rearward position by its spring *s*. To the movable end of this transverse lever is connected a spring-pawl *t*, which engages a ratchet-disk *v*, journaled to said partition. A spring-stop *w* is also provided in connection with each ratchet-disk. Each ratchet-disk is provided with a series of apertures *z*, which are of proper size each to receive one of the ballot-balls, and as these apertures are arranged in circular series radially equidistant from the pivotal point of the disk each of them will pass over an aperture *z* through the partition *f* in such wise as to fall into the compartment below. Above each disk is a hopper *4*, connected to the framing and serving to receive a quantity of ballot-balls, the hoppers being, however, closed at their upper ends by means of metal covers *5*, so that the balls in one hopper cannot get therefrom into the other hopper. The twin disks, keys, hoppers, and covers are laterally arranged with reference to each other, and the cover of the disk which is in engagement with the angle-lever of the black key should be colored black, the other cover being colored white. When the black balls are placed in the hopper corresponding to the black key and the white balls in the hopper corresponding to the white key, the cover being closed and the compartments of the slide in the lower portion of the box being empty, the machine is ready for operation.

In voting a white or election ball the white key is pressed down with the finger. This operates the lever mechanism to turn the corresponding disk one step, as each ratchet-tooth is sufficiently long to include in its radial scope one of the apertures *z*, and as this movement is made one of these apertures will come into registration with the through-aperture or passage *z* to the corresponding compartment below, into which the ballot-ball will fall. The through aperture or passage *z* is arranged under a guard-partition *g* of the

frame, and the disk is also segmentally below said guard, so that no ball from the hopper can pass into and through the aperture or passage z until the disk is set in operation by means of the key.

The front of the box is usually provided with a sight and hand opening at 7 for purposes of inspection and to reach the heads of the keys.

The segmental portion of each disk which passes under the guard 6 is designed to be visible from the front, a view-opening being provided at 8 for the purpose. When so arranged, the person voting can see the turning of the disk bringing his ballot-ball to the passage z and dropping it into the compartment below. Any mistake in handling the keys or in filling the hoppers with a mixture of black and white balls will therefore be easily noticed and readily remedied. Should it be desired, the upward inclined faces of the view-openings 8 may be provided with reflecting-surfaces in order to render more easily visible the exposed segmental portions of the disks and the ballot-balls carried thereby.

This ballot-box is of simple and durable construction and its mechanism is of little complexity and easily kept in order. The keys are removable and in order to avoid casual manipulation may be taken out of the slideways when the box is not in use.

In order to facilitate replacing balls in the hoppers, a small opening may be made in the end of the drawer D , such opening being closed by a slide. (See Fig. 6.)

Having described this invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a ballot-box, the combination of an apertured disk having ratchet-teeth, a spring-pawl and stop for said disk, and operating

means for said disk having a reciprocatory key working in a plane at right angles to that of said ratchet-disk, substantially as specified.

2. In a ballot-box, the combination of an apertured horizontal ratchet-disk, a spring-pawl and stop for said disk, a vertically-reciprocatory key for operating said disk, and lever mechanism connecting said key and pawl, substantially as specified.

3. In a ballot-box, the combination with a ball-carrying disk, having a circular series of apertures, and corresponding ratchet-teeth, of a partition under said disk, said partition being provided with a passage adapted to register with any one of said apertures and above said passage a segment-guard, substantially as specified.

4. In a ballot-box, the combination with a ball-carrying disk, having a circular series of apertures, and corresponding ratchet-teeth, of a hopper above said disk, a partition under said disk, said partition being provided with a passage adapted to register with any one of said apertures, and above said passage a segment-guard, substantially as specified.

5. In a ballot-box, the combination with the ball-carrying disks having circular series of apertures and corresponding ratchet-teeth, of hoppers above said disks, a partition under said disks, said partition being provided with passages adapted to register respectively with any one of said apertures, a segment-guard above said passages, and a compartment slide or drawer under said partition, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

MAURICE L. CRAM.

Witnesses:

WM. H. COLLINS,
VERA E. WAGNER.