2 Sheets, Sheet 1.

G. A. Frebault,

Ballot Box.

No. 106,682. Patented Aug. 23, 1870.

Fig. 1

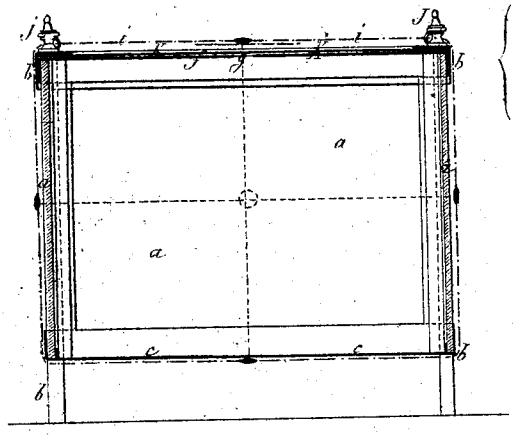


Fig. 3

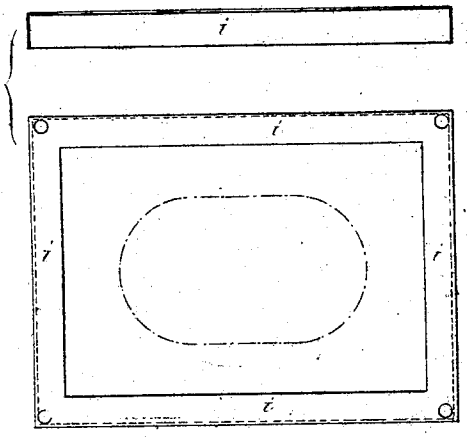


Fig. 2

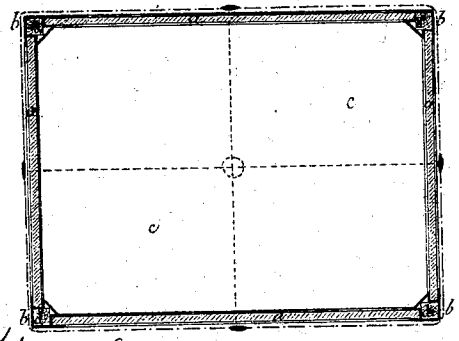
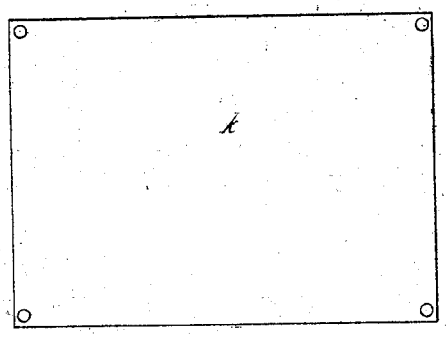


Fig. 4



Witnesses
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Fig. 5

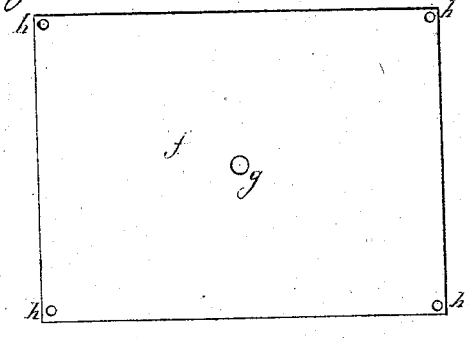


Fig. 6

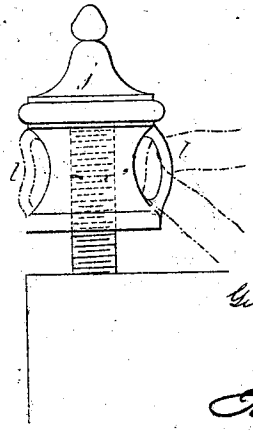
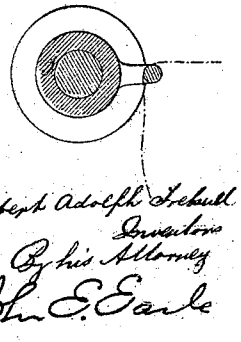


Fig. 7



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Inventor
By his Attorney
John E. Earle

2 Sheets. Sheet 2.

G. A. Trebault,

Ballot Box.

No. 106,682. Patented. Aug. 23, 1870.

Fig. 9

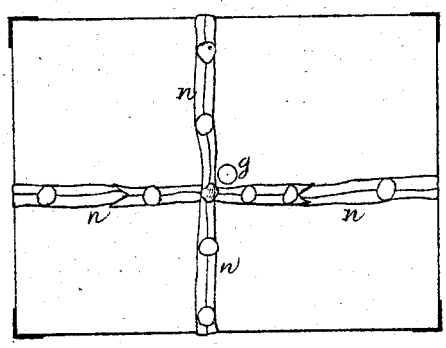

Fig. 10

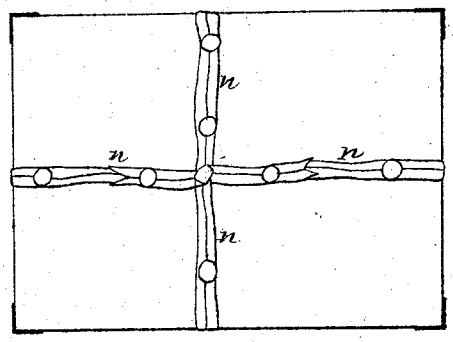

Fig. 11

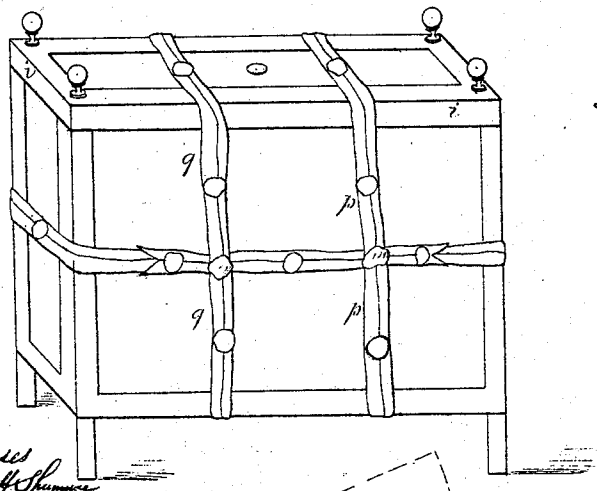

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Fig. 8

Fig. 15

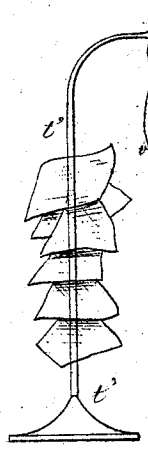


Fig. 16

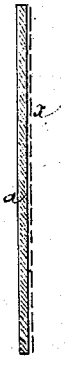


Fig. 12

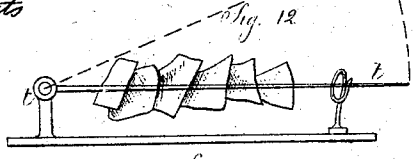


Fig. 14

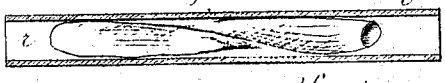
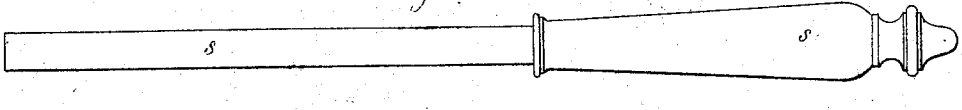


Fig. 13



Gilbert Adolph Trebault.
Inventor
By his Attorney,
John C. Earle

United States Patent Office.

GILBERT ADOLPHE FRÉBAULT, OF PARIS, FRANCE.

Letters Patent No. 106,682, *dated August* 23, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN BALLOT-BOXES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GILBERT ADOLPHE FRÉBAULT, of Paris, in the Empire of France, have invented an Improved Electoral Box; and I do hereby declare the following to be a true and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying illustrative drawings; that is to say—

The systems in use at the present time for recording votes at elections, or for drawing tickets for lotteries and other similar purposes, possess, without exception, the most serious inconveniences, and have never succeeded in inspiring the public with confidence. I will not mention the various more primitive methods used in certain countries for this purpose, where the irregularity and confusion consequent thereon produce the most injurious effects.

It is with a view of solving this difficult problem, and of affording every possible guarantee of security to the public, that I have invented the ballot-voting apparatus described in this specification and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical section.

Figure 2, a horizontal section.

Figures 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, illustrate in detail the different parts of the invention hereafter explained.

Figures 9, 10, and 11 represent the methods for tying up or securing the box, which may be done in any convenient manner, according to circumstances.

Figures 12 and 13 are two specimens of a kind of knitting-kneedle used for receiving the voting papers during their classification, after the election.

Figure 14 is a longitudinal section through one of the tubes that I use for inclosing the voting papers and transferring them into the box.

Figure 15 shows the rod or plunger serving to propel the voting paper into the box from the tube in which it is inclosed when the votes are being counted.

The box, which is rectangular, has on its four sides thick sheets of glass, *a a*, which may, if desirable, be covered by wire-gauze, *x*, (see Figure 16,) the said sheet of glass being supported in grooves formed in the metallic frame *b*, which constitutes the body of the box.

The bottom is formed of a thin rectangular plate, *c*, fixed by solder, rivets, or screws to the four pillars, *d*, of the frame *b*.

At the time of voting the cover is closed by a metal plate, *f*, fig. 5, having a central hole, *g*, therein, and four smal. holes, *h*, at the corners, through which pass the pillars of the frame *b*, and is covered, on its four sides, by a metallic frame, *i*, fig. 3, to which any breadth of border may be given, the interior being either rectangular, oval, or other shape, and the said frame being fixed upon the pillars of the frame *b* by means of four knobs, *j*, seen in detail in figs. 6 and 7.

After the election, in order to completely close the central hole *g*, and, therefore, the entrance to the box, the metal plate *f*, fig. 5, is covered by another metal plate, *k*, without a central hole, fig. 4, which is itself sustained by the frame *i*, fixed, as above stated, by the knobs *j*.

These knobs *j*, shown in detail fig. 6, and in section fig. 7, are furnished with a small handle, *l*, through which passes the band or ribbon used. as hereafter described, for finally securing the box. This handle may be of the form indicated in dotted lines, or in any other convenient form. The ribbon surrounds the box on its outside, and after the election the operator will take care to twist the ribbon twice around the box, by covering, to a certain extent, the first turn by the second. He will then place the seals upon the double ribbon, at the point of its junction (see fig. 8) in cross-section.

m is the wax, and *n n'* the two ends of the band. This band or ribbon is, preferably, composed of a woven fabric, having a large mesh, so that the wax may penetrate it, and form a perfect seal, and may be colored to represent the colors of the national flag.

When it is required that the box should be sealed during a single day's election, the kind of sealing shown in fig. 9, in plan, is used. The metal safety-plate *k*, fig. 4, is not put on the cover, and the ribbon *n*, of the same colors as the flags of the nation, is twisted twice upon each side, in the form of a cross, and knotted at the point *o*. Care must be taken to place the band a little out of the center, so as to leave the hole *g* uncovered, and thus allow the introduction of the voting-tubes *r*, (see detail, fig. 14.)

When the election lasts longer than one day, the evening after the first day the safety-plate *k*, fig. 4, is placed on the box, and the ribbon *n*, fig. 10, passed over each face of the box twice, crossing in the center and overlapping, as explained above with reference to fig. 8.

In this case, as before described, the seals would not be applied till after the election; but if it is desired that the box should be sealed, even during the election, it would have the safety-plate applied thereto after the first day, and the method of securing the apparatus shown in fig. 11 would be resorted to. First, two turns are made with the ribbon at *p*, at about one-third the length of the box, and the two ends are then cut, forming an overlap, as above stated. The bands are also affixed to the sides, so as to make the safety-plate *k* thoroughly secure. Then a second bandage, *q*, is formed, in the shape of a cross, at the second third of the length of the box, and is secured to the first upon the side of the box, the overlap being arranged as in the former case, and sealed.

The method of placing the seals, and the different

circumstances under which they should be so placed, vary according to custom, or the laws or regulations of the various localities, and it is for this reason that I do not mention any particular manner of voting or counting the votes.

It will be easily understood that each voter, placing and hiding, as it were, his paper in the tube *r*, fig. 14, and throwing the said tube into the box, the vote is perfectly secret and inviolable, the bandages of the box being themselves perfectly secure after the seals have been deposited upon the ribbons.

The counting and registration of the votes are easily effected by pushing the voting papers out of the tubes, by means of the rod *s*, fig. 15. These voting papers thus expelled from the tubes are classified one after the other, upon the respective needles *t t'*, fig. 12 or 13. These needles may carry at their points a small eyelet-hole, *u*, in which a piece of string may be passed to receive the voting papers when drawn from the needles, this string *v* serving to collect the votes in bundles and carefully preserve them.

The tubes *r*, above mentioned, may be formed of any suitable material, or they may be replaced by any other article capable of inclosing and keeping a vote secret.

I claim—

An electoral box, consisting of the metallic frame, with glass sides and top *f*, with the perforation *g* and a cover, *k*, so as to be applied to the top and secured in the manner described, and combined with the tube *i* and plunger *s*, substantially in the manner described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification before two subscribing witnesses.

G. A. FRÉBAULT.

Witnesses:

F. OLCOTT,

JULES ARMENGAUD.