

No. 873,824.

PATENTED DEC. 17, 1907.

C. C. ABBOTT.
BALLOT STRIP LOCKING DEVICE.
APPLICATION FILED APR. 27, 1907.

Fig. 1.

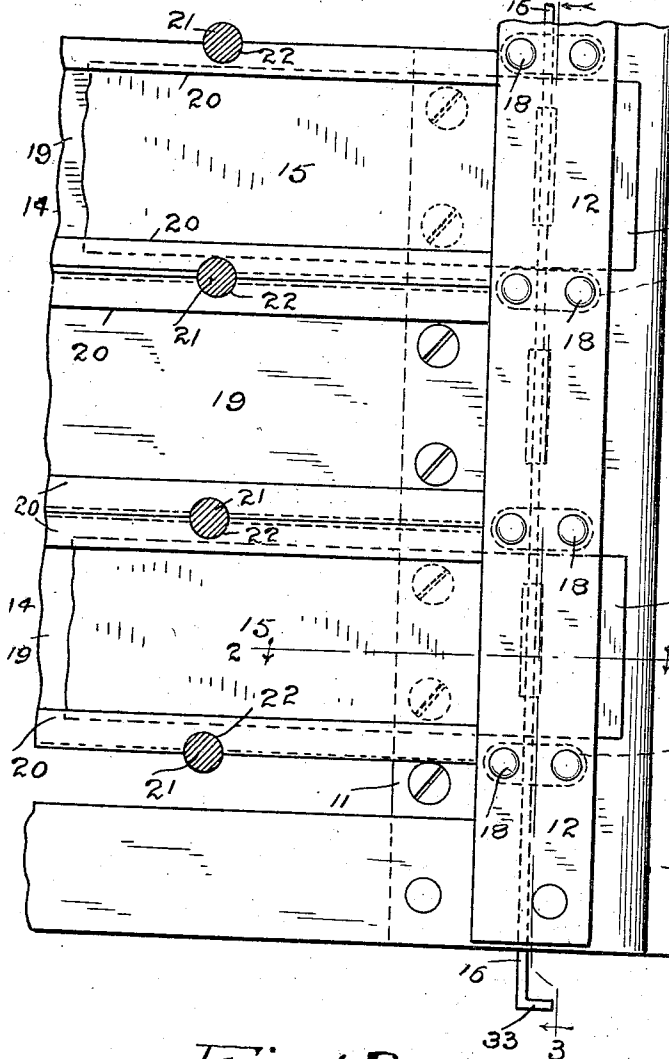


Fig. 3.

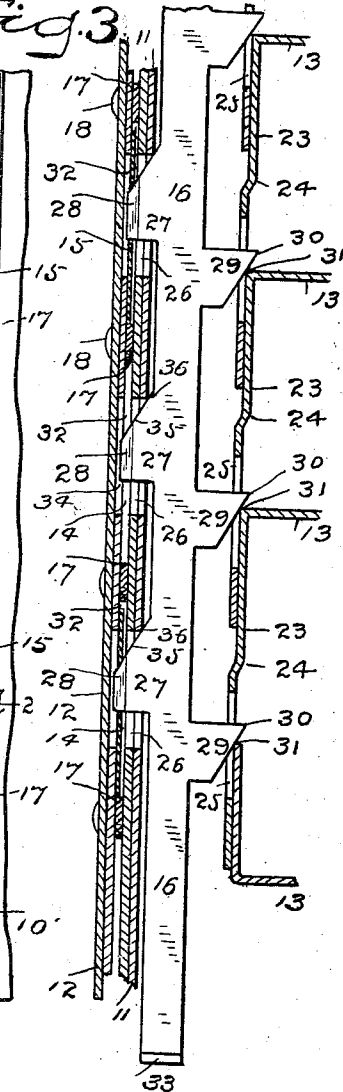
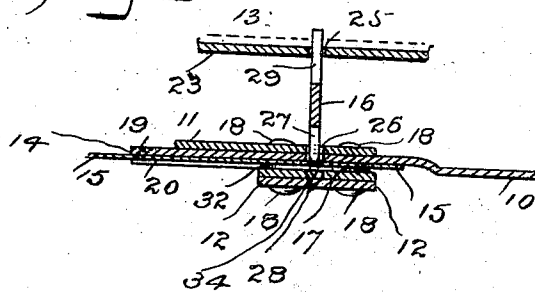


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BALLOT-STRIP-LOCKING DEVICE.

No. 873,824.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 17, 1907.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES C. ABBOTT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pittsfield, county of Berkshire, State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Ballot-Strip-Locking Device, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has for its object to provide simple, inexpensive and certain means for simultaneously locking a series of ballot strips in a voting machine.

The invention is equally applicable to either the horizontal or vertical type of machines. In the present instance I have illustrated the invention as applied to a horizontal machine, that is to a machine in which the ballot strips containing the party nominations are placed horizontally in the machine.

In the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 is an elevation of a portion of the front of a voting machine illustrating the application of my novel ballot strip locking device thereto; Fig. 2 a horizontal section on the line 2—2 in Fig. 1, looking down; and Fig. 3 is a vertical section on the line 3—3 in Fig. 1, looking in the direction of the arrows.

10 denotes the front plate of the frame of a voting machine, 11 a vertical backing strip, 12 a vertical front strip which in the present instance is shown as doubled upon itself transversely, 13 longitudinal braces shown as formed from sheet metal, 14 ballot strip holders, 15 ballot strips and 16 the ballot strip locking bar. Front strip 12 is separated from the front plate of the frame by means of interposed blocks or plates 17, leaving openings 32 to receive the ballot strip, and both the front strip and the backing strip are retained in place by rivets 18 passing through the strips, the front plate and the blocks.

The ballot strip holders are formed from strips of sheet metal with the edges curved over and turned inward toward each other so as to lie parallel with the back of the strip and inclose the edges of a ballot strip. For convenience in explanation, I have indicated the backs of the ballot strip holders by 19 and the turned over edges by 20. These ballot strip holders lie in alinement with the openings 32 between blocks 17 and are shown as retained in place by the shafts 21 of the voting members, semi-circular recesses 22 being formed in the turned over edges of the

ballot strip holders to receive said shafts, as clearly shown. The longitudinal braces are provided with side plates 23, all of which except the lower one are shown as backwardly offset, as at 24, to receive the side plate of the contiguous longitudinal brace. Each side plate 23 is provided with a vertical slot 25 and the backing strip and front plate are provided with a series of vertical slots 26.

The ballot strip locking bar is vertically movable and is provided on its front edge with a series of projections or teeth 27 which lie in slots 26 in the backing strip and front plate and register with slots 34 in the inner plate of front strip 12. The projections or teeth 27 are provided with inclines 35 which engage the upper end walls of slots 26 in backing plate 11, said walls forming bearing surfaces 36. The forward edges of projections 27 are preferably sharpened, as at 28, to adapt them to be forced into or through, and thus to securely lock, the ballot strips.

The back edge of the ballot strip locking bar is provided with a series of projections or teeth 29 which lie in slots 25 in the side plates of the longitudinal braces and are provided with inclines 30 which are adapted to engage bearing portions of the contiguous longitudinal braces, as at 31. In the case of all except the lower longitudinal brace, the side plates 23 extend downward from the main portions of the braces and the inclines 30 upon the ballot strip locking bar engage bearing portions 31 at the angles formed by the intersection of the side plates with the main portions of the braces. The lower longitudinal brace is shown as inverted and the side plate thereof extends upward lying on the inner side of the side plate of the next longitudinal brace above it.

The lower incline upon the ballot strip locking bar engages a bearing portion 31 at the upper end of the side plate of the lower longitudinal brace instead of engaging the angle as in the case of the longitudinal braces above it. In practice, the contiguous side plates of the longitudinal braces are firmly riveted together so that the structure as a whole is firm and rigid but relatively light in weight.

The operation will be readily understood from the drawing. When the ballot strip locking bar is moved upward, the inclines 35 on projections 27 engage bearing surfaces 36 upon backing plate 11, which moves the bar

backward and disengages the projections or teeth 27 from the ballot strips if any have been inserted. The ballot strips may then be removed or ballot strips may be inserted into the ballot strip holders through the openings 32 between the front strip and the front plate. When the ballot strips are all in place, the ballot strip locking bar is drawn downward with sufficient force to cause said bar to be forced forward through the engagement of the inclines 30 thereon with the longitudinal braces at 31 and the front projections or teeth 27 to be forced into or through the ballot strips, thereby locking them securely in place, the ballot strips being held by projections or teeth 27 which either puncture the ballot strips or force them into slots 34 in the inner plate of the front strip. I have shown the lower end of the ballot strip locking bar as provided with a suitable hand piece 33 for convenience in manipulation. In practice, the lower end of the ballot strip locking bar lies within the base of the machine, which is not shown in the drawing and is wholly concealed from view and out of reach until the machine is opened in the regular manner.

Having thus described my invention I claim:

1. In a device of the character described, the combination with means for holding a ballot strip, of a ballot strip locking bar having a projection and means for forcing said projection into engagement with the back of a ballot strip, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.

2. In a device of the character described, the combination with means for holding ballot strips, of a ballot strip locking bar having projections on opposite sides and means engaged by said projections for forcing the ballot strip locking bar either backward or forward when said bar is moved upward or downward respectively.

3. In a device of the character described the combination with means for holding ballot strips, of a ballot strip locking bar having projections on opposite sides provided with inclines and means engaged by said inclines for moving said locking bar backward when it is raised and for moving it forward to lock the ballot strips when it is drawn downward.

4. In a device of the character described, the combination with ballot strip holders consisting of strips of sheet metal with the edges curved over and turned toward each other, and ballot strips lying therein, of a ballot strip locking bar having projections and means for forcing said projections into engagement with the ballot strips.

5. In a device of the character described, the combination with a front plate and a backing plate having slots therethrough, a front strip having slots and blocks between

the front plate and front strip leaving openings between said plate and strip, of ballot strip holders in alinement with said openings, ballot strips therein, a ballot strip locking bar having projections lying in said slots and means for forcing said projections into engagement with the ballot strips.

6. In a device of the character described, the combination with a front plate and a backing plate having slots therethrough, a front strip having slots and blocks between the front plate and front strip leaving openings between said plate and strip, of ballot strip holders in alinement with said openings, ballot strips in said openings and ballot strip holders, a ballot strip locking bar having front projections lying in said slots and provided with inclines and rear projections also provided with inclines and longitudinal braces engaged by the inclines whereby the ballot strip locking bar is forced forward and the ballot strip is forced by the projections into the slots in the front strip.

7. In a device of the character described, the combination with a front plate and a backing plate having slots and a front strip doubled upon itself and having slots in the rear plate thereof, of a ballot strip locking bar having front projections passing through the slots in the front plate and backing plate and registering with the slots in the front strip and having inclines engaging the walls of the slots in the backing strip and rear projections also having inclines and bearing portions engaged by said inclines, the engagement of the front inclines with the backing strip acting to move the ballot strip locking bar backward when it is raised and the engagement of the rear inclines with the bearing portions acting to force said bar forward when it is drawn downward, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.

8. In a device of the character described, the combination with means for retaining a ballot strip and a front strip having a slot, of a ballot strip locking bar having on its front edge a projection in alinement with said slot and on its back edge an incline and a longitudinal brace engaged by the incline to force the ballot strip locking bar forward to engage a ballot strip between the front projection and the front strip.

9. The ballot strip locking bar 16 having sharpened projections on its front edge and projections on its back edge, both of said projections being provided with inclines, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.

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

CHARLES C. ABBOTT.

Witnesses:

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JAMES W. SYNAN.