Jan. 13, 1931. W. FRIEDRICHS 1,789,038

STAMPING, PRINTING, AND STAMP CANCELING DEVICE

Filed Sept. 27, 1928 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

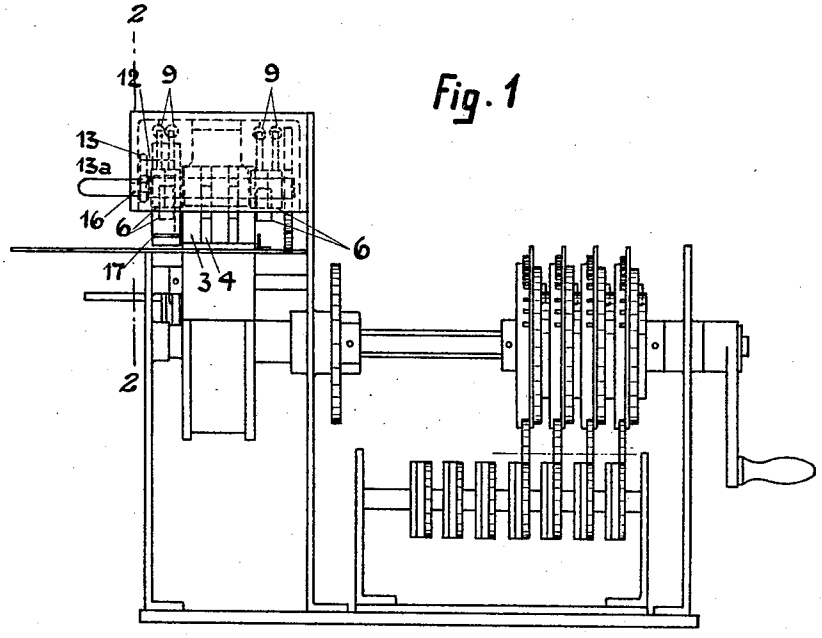
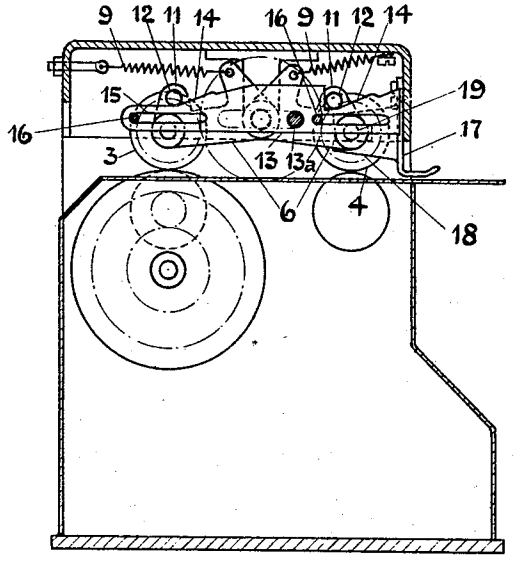


Fig. 2



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Fig. 3

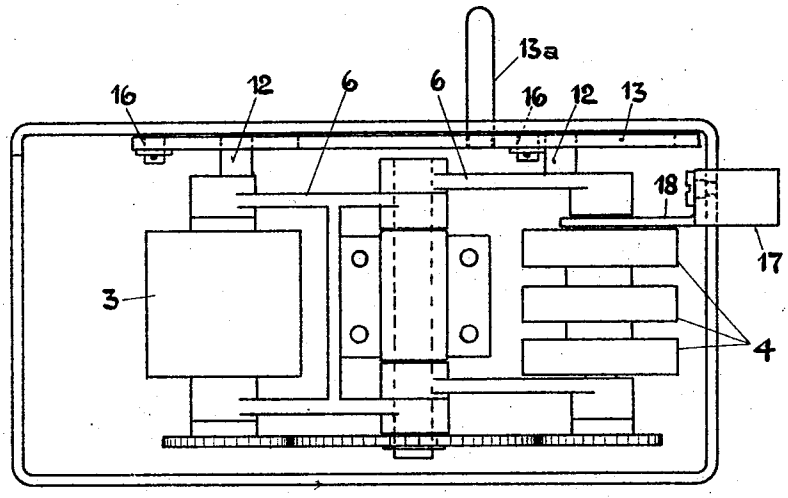
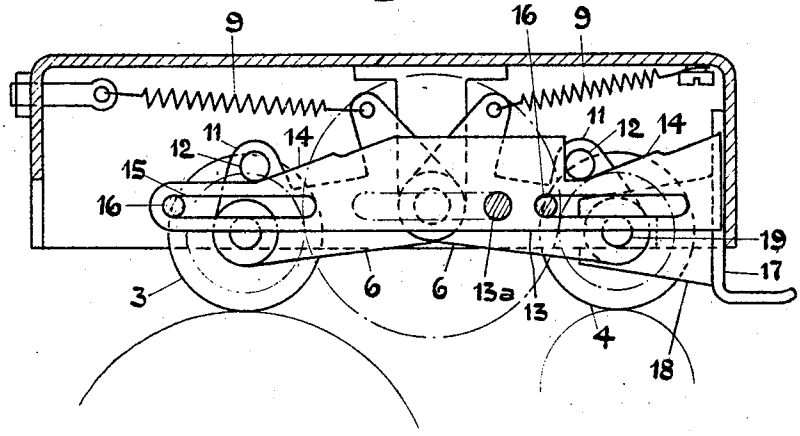


Fig. 4



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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STAMPING, PRINTING, AND STAMP-CANCELING DEVICE

Application filed September 27, 1928, Serial No. 308,748, and in Germany October 3, 1927.

This invention has reference to stamp-canceling or value-stamping and printing machines, and it refers among other possible embodiments to cash-paid value-impressing or canceling machines, and it is intended to devise means of more successfully adapting such machines to mail matter of different sizes than it was possible heretofore, and to generally simplify and improve the manipulation and the manufacture of devices of the kind referred to, and to attain other important objects and advantages which will appear as the specification proceeds. In view of these and other purposes the feeding and stamping or printing rollers on the one hand and the counter-pressure rollers on the other hand are selectively adjustable with relation to each other, so that by the means employed the rollers may either be caused to become engaged with each other or may be kept at a certain distance from each other. With this arrangement the important novel purpose and advantage are accomplished that the canceling and stamping machine may be adapted to different thicknesses of mail matter, so that in the case of comparatively thin stamping material or mail matter being treated the rollers are made to engage, while in the case of comparatively thick stamping or mail matter the rollers are removed from each other for a certain amount and in such a manner as not to interfere with the feeding of the mail matter or other articles. In further pursuance of my invention provision is made for displacing and adjusting a stop or the like, such as a measuring anvil, plate or shoe by positive operating means and in accordance with the adjustment of the rollers, the said stop or the like being disposed at the mail-introducing opening or near thereof, so that by the operation of this stop or the like the proper adjustment of the rollers may be automatically obtained upon the insertion of the mail matter or the like. Without the provision of such stopping or gauging means the operator was compelled to rely on guessing or estimation of the thickness of the mail matter for the adjustment of the rollers with the very annoying result that with the distance of the rollers being made too large the piece of mail matter or the like was only imperfectly fed or not at all, so that the device would be liable to indicate or register a stamping or canceling operation without it having been actually carried out; and a similar difficulty would be likely to occur with a too narrow adjustment of the rollers.

The invention will be more particularly described with reference to the accompanying drawing showing by way of exemplification a form of embodiment of the principles of this invention. Fig. 1 is a front view of the machine with the casing removed; Figure 2 is a vertical section on the line II—II of Figure 1; Figure 3 is a bottom plan view of the device, and Figure 4 shows a side view of the device according to this inventiton.

In the figures the invention is shown with the surrounding casing removed. The printing, pressure or canceling rollers 3 and 4 are journaled in the levers 6 which are under the influence of the springs 9. Upon pins 16 which are secured to the casing and are engaged with the slots 15 of a bar 13 the said bar 13 is arranged for horizontal displacement. A handle or the like 13^a is secured to the bar 13, and the levers 6 are provided with shoulders or extensions 11 with lugs or studs 12 which latter are adapted to rest against the cam faces or controlling faces 14 of the bar 13. Within or along a wall of the casing a stop, feeler, shoe or the like 17 is guided for vertical displacement. An extension or projection 18 of this member 17 encompasses the shaft of the printing or pressure roller 4. If the bar 13 is moved to the left relatively to the representation on the drawing, the levers 6 are rocked upwards against the action of the spring 9 and as a result thereof the printing or pressure rollers 3, 4 are raised off from the feeding and complemental stamping, or canceling rollers. The member or shoe 17 is lifted for the same amount, so that the distance between said member or shoe 17 and the supporting surface for the mail matter, is accordingly increased to correspond to the distance of the

pressure rollers 3 and 4 from the complemental stamping, printing or canceling and feeding rollers below the rollers 3 and 4. The operation of the device is substantially carried out by first raising the rollers for instance to their highest position, so that the front edge of the letter or of other mail matter or the like is placed beneath the gauging or measuring member, stop or shoe 17. Thereupon the rollers 3 and 4 and the gauging member 17 are lowered by the displacement of the bar 13 for such an amount as the letter or piece of mail matter will admit, and the machine is then ready for operation. In view of the gauging member or shoe 17 operating as a stop for the downward movement of the rollers the distance of the rollers from each other will always be of the proper amount to correspond to the thickness of the mail matter or the like.

The shoe 17 and with it the rollers are lowered on to the first piece of mail matter to be stamped, and if other mail matter of the same thickness is to be stamped, the shoe need not be moved. If pieces of mail of a different thickness are to be subsequently attended to, the shoe is lifted and again lowered upon the piece of mail, whereby the rollers readily assume the proper position in accordance with the thickness of the inserted piece of mail.

Having thus fully described what I consider to be a preferred embodiment of the principles of this invention it will be understood that various modifications may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:—

1. In a stamping device in combination stamping means, and counter-pressure producing means, cooperatively engaging with said stamping means, and means adapted to set the distance between the counter-pressure means and the stamping means a displaceably mounted feeler member operatively connected to said setting means, the feeler member adapted to be positively displaced and set in accordance with the thickness of the mail matter engaging therewith.

2. In a stamping device in combination stamping means, and counter-pressure producing means, cooperatively engaging with said stamping means, cams adapted for displacement substantially transversely with relation to said stamping means, and gauging and adjusting means for said cams.

3. In a stamping device in combination stamping means, and counter-pressure producing means cooperatively engageable with said stamping means, cams engaging with said means and adapted for displacement, substantially transversely with relation thereto, and gauging and adjusting means for said cams.

4. In a stamping device in combination two sets of substantially axially parallel rollers, and gauging and setting means engaging one set of said rollers, and adapted to vary and set the distance of the two sets from each other, a displaceably mounted feeler member operatively connected to said means and adapted to be positively displaced and set in accordance with the thickness of the mail matter engaging therewith.

5. In a stamping device in combination two spacedly disposed, spring actuated, engageable sets of substantially axially parallel rollers, a cam-bearing displaceably disposed bar, engaging one of said sets, and a gauging member operatively connected to said rollers, and adapted for the adjustment of the bar and of the sets of rollers with relation to each other.

6. In a stamping device in combination two spacedly disposed, spring actuated, engageable sets of substantially axially parallel rollers, a cam-bearing displaceably disposed bar, engaging one of said sets, a displaceably mounted feeler member, operatively connected to the cam engaging set of rollers, and adapted to be positively displaced and adjusted in accordance with the thickness of the mail matter engaging therewith.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

WILHELM FRIEDRICHS.