

J. MacKENZIE & A. MERCER.
 PREPAYMENT GAS METER AND OTHER COIN FREED APPARATUS.
 APPLICATION FILED APR. 17, 1909.

930,398.

Patented Aug. 10, 1909.
 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

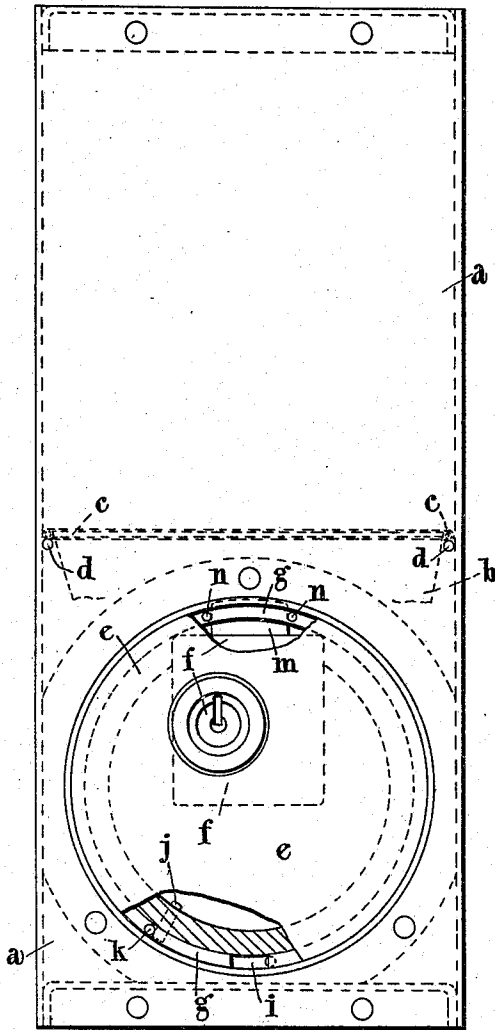


Fig. 1.

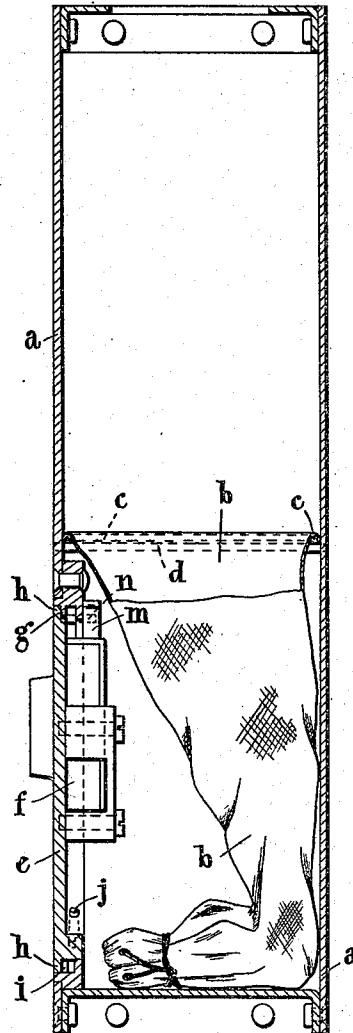


Fig. 3.

WITNESSES

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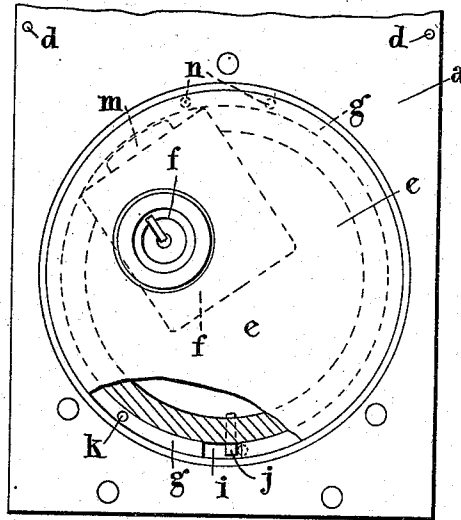


Fig. 2.

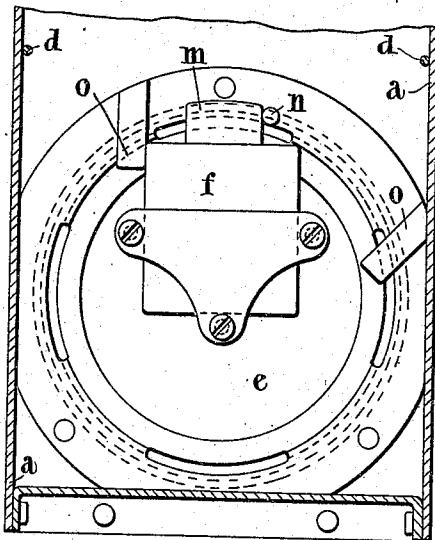


Fig. 4.

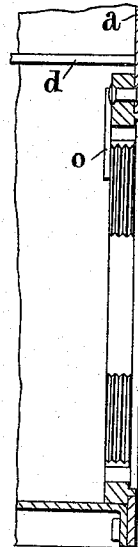


Fig. 5.

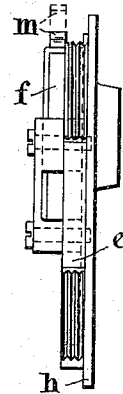


Fig. 6.

WITNESSES

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JOHN MacKENZIE AND ARTHUR MERCER, OF MANCHESTER, ENGLAND, ASSIGNORS TO METERS LIMITED, OF MANCHESTER, ENGLAND.

PREPAYMENT GAS-METER AND OTHER COIN-FREED APPARATUS.

No. 930,398.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 10, 1909.

Application filed April 17, 1909. Serial No. 490,558.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JOHN MacKENZIE and ARTHUR MERCER, subjects of the King of Great Britain and Ireland, residing at 6 Mawson Chambers, Deansgate, Manchester, in the county of Lancaster, England, have invented new and useful Improvements in Prepayment Gas-Meters and other Coin-Freed Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to prepayment gas meters and other coin freed apparatus and has for its object to provide a more convenient form of coin receptacle than has heretofore been employed and more efficient means for preventing unauthorized access to said receptacle.

The invention comprises the combination with a protective casing of a coin receptacle supported in said casing and composed of flexible material held open at the coin receiving end, the other or outlet end being laced, tied or otherwise adapted for ready opening and closing, and said casing being fitted with a circular locking plate placed into position by a partial rotary movement whereby lugs or like projections are caused to engage shoulders for holding the plate and casing firmly together, a locking bolt preventing unauthorized rotation of the plate to obtain its removal.

Referring to the accompanying sheet of explanatory drawings:—Figure 1 is a front elevation, partly in section, illustrating one convenient application of our invention, the locking plate being shown in its locked position. Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1, but showing the locking plate in another position. Fig. 3 is a sectional side elevation of the parts shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Fig. 4 is a rear sectional view showing a modified form of locking means. Fig. 5 is a sectional elevation illustrating the fixed member with which the locking plate shown in Fig. 4 engages. Fig. 6 is an end elevation of the locking plate shown in Fig. 4.

The same reference letters indicate the same or similar parts.

In the illustrated applications of our invention, we form our protective casing *a* from sheet metal or in any other convenient manner, and secure same to the gas meter or other apparatus by riveting or otherwise.

One form of coin receptacle comprises a piece of flexible material *b* (Fig. 3) made in

the form of an open-ended bag or cylinder, the upper end being secured upon a frame like member *c* which can freely fit within the protective casing *a*. Said frame *c* may be supported upon pins *d* inserted across the casing *a* or in any convenient manner. The lower end of the piece of flexible material *b* is laced, tied or otherwise adapted to be readily closed and opened, and the whole receptacle *b* is of such a length that when the locking plate *e*, to be hereinafter referred to, is withdrawn from position upon the casing *a*, the lower or outlet end of the receptacle *b* can extend through the apertures in the casing for facilitating the removal of the contents of the bag. When the casing is closed the lower end of the coin receptacle *b* rests upon the bottom of the casing *a* which supports the coins within the bag as shown in Fig. 3.

By the employment of our flexible coin receptacle we are enabled to use a locking plate *e* for the protective casing of circular form, said plate being fitted with a lock *f* controlled by a key. The protective casing *a*, at the place where said locking plate *e* fits, is provided with a lip like projection *g* which may be so arranged that when the corresponding portion *h* of the locking plate engages therewith, the outer face of said plate lies flush with the surface of the casing. In said lip we provide one or more grooves or slots as *i*, through which can pass bolts or projections as *j* upon the locking plate. To place the latter in position, the bolt is passed through the aforesaid slot *i* as shown in Fig. 2 and the locking plate given a partial turn from the position shown in Fig. 2 to that shown in Fig. 3 when the bolt passes behind the projecting lip *h* upon the casing and prevents withdrawal of the plate. The bolt *j* upon the locking plate may engage a stop *k* upon the casing for limiting the rotary movement of the locking plate. When the key has been turned in the lock and the locking bolt *m* shot out, the latter passes between stops *n* on the casing and so prevents rotation of the locking plate.

Instead of forming the lugs and lock upon the locking plate we may place same upon the casing and provide the locking plate with grooves and stops. In place of the aforesaid arrangement of bolts and grooves for securing the locking plate to the protective casing by a partial rotary movement, we may

form upon the locking plate *c* and upon the casing *a* interrupted screw threads, as shown in Figs. 4, 5 and 6; the action of the parts is however substantially the same as in the previously described arrangement. In this case we may provide suitable projections *o* upon the casing to assist in placing the locking plate in position, and prevent it being rotated too far.

10 We do not limit ourselves to the details of our apparatus as hereinbefore described, but may modify same to suit various requirements.

Having now described our invention, what 15 we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. In prepayment gas meters and other coin freed apparatus in combination, a rigid protective casing, an aperture in said casing, 20 a locking plate for said aperture, an open ended coin receptacle within said protective casing, a frame piece holding open the coin receiving end of said receptacle, means supporting said frame piece within the protective casing, and means detachably closing 25 the lower end of said receptacle, substantially as set forth.

2. In prepayment gas meters and other coin freed apparatus in combination, a rigid 30 protective casing, a circular aperture in said casing, a circular locking plate for said aperture, interengaging lugs and grooves secur-

ing said locking plate within said aperture, an open-ended coin receptacle with said protective casing, a frame piece holding open 35 the coin receiving end of said receptacle, means supporting said frame piece within the protective casing, and means detachably closing the lower end of said receptacle, substantially as set forth. 40

3. In prepayment gas meters and other coin freed apparatus, in combination, a rigid protective casing, a circular aperture in said casing, a groove or channel in the casing around said aperture, a circular locking plate, 45 a projection on said locking plate capable of entering said groove, a lock upon said locking plate, projections upon the casing between which the bolt of said lock passes, an open-ended coin receptacle within said protective 50 casing, a frame piece holding open the coin receiving end of said receptacle, pins passed through the casing supporting said frame piece, and a lace for detachably closing the lower end of said receptacle, substantially as 55 set forth.

In testimony whereof we have signed our names to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN MacKENZIE.
ARTHUR MERCER.

Witnesses:

ARTHUR HUGHES,
CHARLES CONRAD.