April 14, 1931. L. H. LARSEN ET AL 1,800,546

HANDLE ARRESTING AND COIN RETURNING MECHANISM

Filed June 21, 1928 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

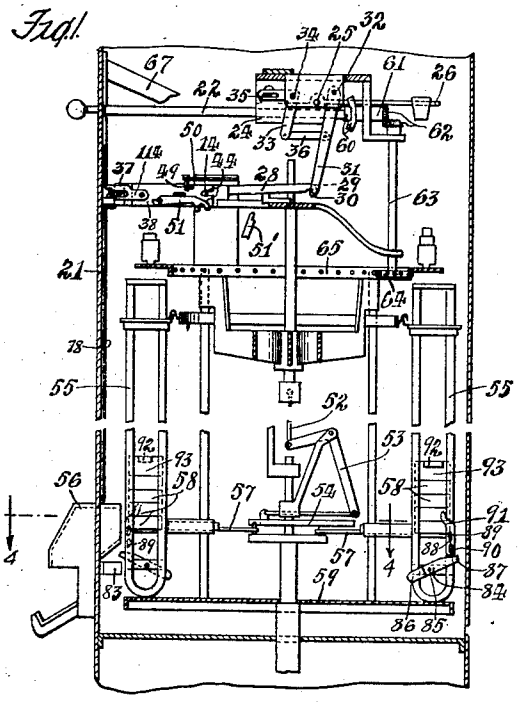


Fig. 3.

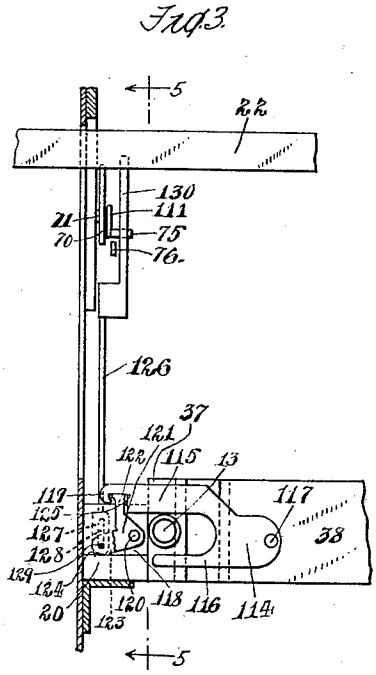
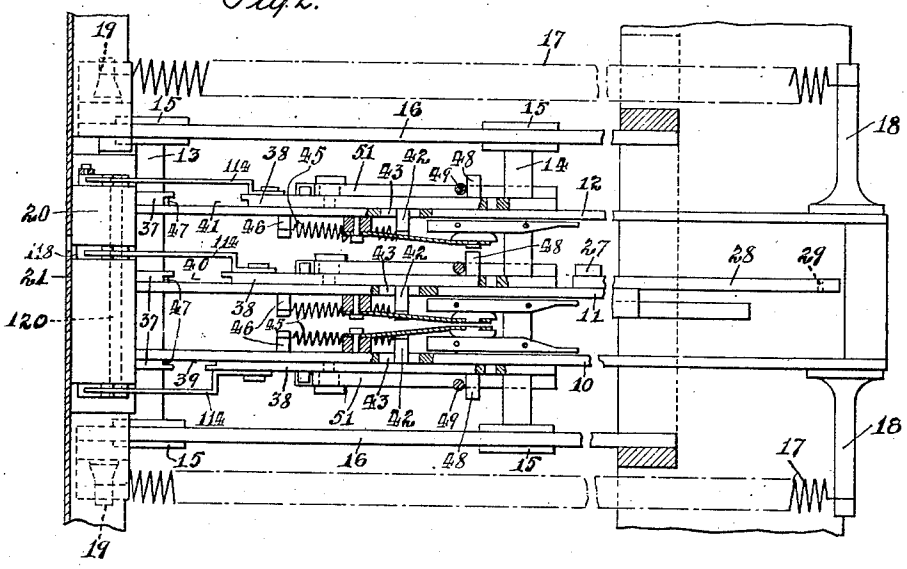


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 4.

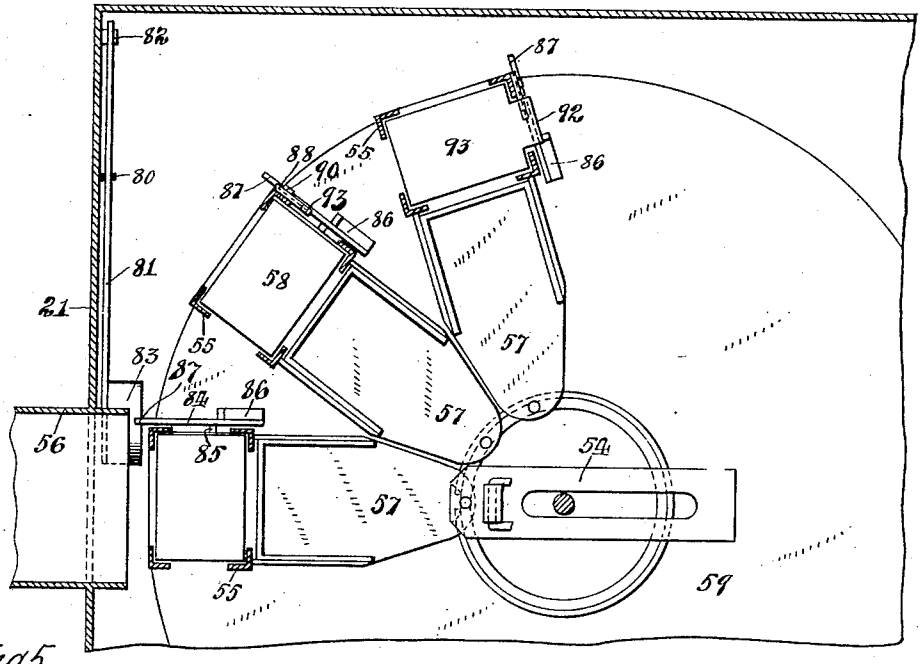
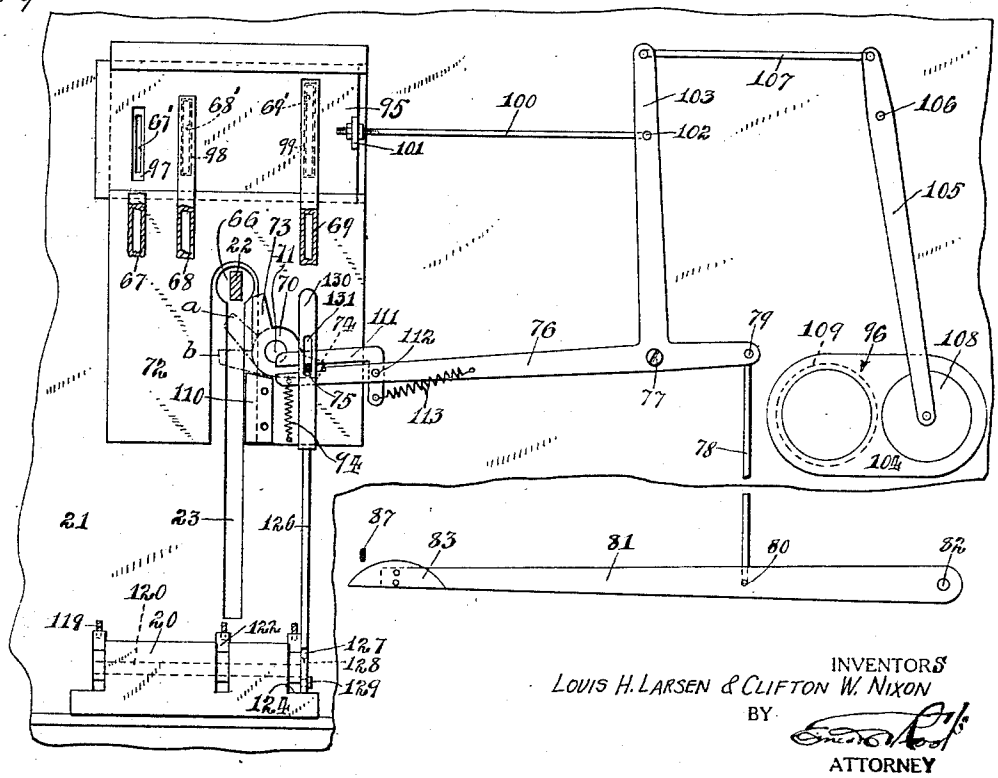


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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HANDLE-ARRESTING AND COIN-RETURNING MECHANISM

Application filed June 21, 1928, Serial No. 287,295, and in Great Britain July 13, 1927.

This invention relates to handle arresting and coin returning mechanism for coin-controlled machines, for instance vending and change making machines, and the invention is particularly applicable for use in connection with the control mechanism for such machines. In the accompanying drawings, we have shown our improvements, by way of example, as embodied in a control mechanism of the general construction illustrated and described in the application of Clifton W. Nixon for Letters Patent of the United States, filed June 7, 1927, Serial No. 197,075.

The main object of our invention is the provision in conjunction with the Nixon control mechanism referred to or in connection with adaptable mechanism for the same purpose, of means for arresting the operating handle or similar working part so as to prevent the operation of the machine under circumstances where the goods, which the would be customer desires to purchase, have been sold out and cannot be purchased until the machine has been restocked with the same, and also of combined means for causing the automatic return or delivery to the would be customer of any purchase coin which he may have deposited in the machine against exhausted goods of his selection.

A further object of our invention is the provision of mechanism of the foregoing character, wherein the parts are so arranged and are so connected with the control mechanism that the operating handle or other working part, which is to be arrested when the goods have become exhausted, will itself serve as the instrumentality for causing during its movement to arrested position, the automatic return or delivery to the would be customer of the deposited purchase coin.

A further object of our invention is the provision of a simple, practical and efficient construction of means whereby, on movement of the exhausted article holder into its delivery position, the arresting device proper will be swung into a position where it will serve as a power transmission connection for effecting the actuation of all of the coin holding slides carried by the control mechanism, so as to cause the release and return to the would be customer of any coins deposited against exhausted goods.

According to another feature, provision is made whereby the mechanism of our present invention will serve as the transmission medium for operating a gate adapted to prevent the deposit of purchase coins, and further for operating a sign adapted to indicate when the selected goods have been sold out.

Other objects will appear hereinafter.

The invention consists in the details of construction and in the arrangement and combination of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

The invention will be best understood by reference to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, and in which:—

Fig. 1 represents a fragmentary sectional elevation, more or less diagrammatic in character, of a coin-controlled vending and change making machine embodying our invention;

Fig. 2 represents a top plan view of a control mechanism constructed in accordance with the disclosure of the Nixon application above referred to and embodying the connections by which the slides of the control mechanism are operated by our handle arresting and coin returning mechanism;

Fig. 3 represents a side elevation and section, showing in detail the character of the cam hook plates applied to the slides, the cooperating bell cranks, and in general the transmission connections through which these parts are operated from the handle arresting device;

Fig. 4 represents a fragmentary sectional plan view, indcating the arrangement in circular series of the article holders and the means carried thereby for causing the operation of our handle arresting and coin returning mechanism, this view being taken substantially on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 5 represents an inner face elevation of our handle arresting and coin returning mechanism with associated parts shown in section, this view being taken substantially on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3, and this view including in proper relationship a detached de-

tail of the depressible arm for operating said mechanism.

The control mechanism, which constitutes the subject matter of the application above referred to and in conjunction with which by way of example we have shown our handle arresting mechanism, is made in the form of a carrier comprising strips 10, 11 and 12 (see Fig. 2) connected by cross pieces 13 and 14 provided with shoes 15 adapted to slide on guides or rails 16. Coiled pull springs 17 connect projections 18 on the strips 10 and 12 with fixed projections 19 on suitable frame parts, whereby the carrier is retracted against an abutment block 20 which is shown as located along the inner face of casing front plate 21. The carrier may be advanced or moved from the abutment block 20 against the tension of the springs 17 by any suitable operating handle or lever. In the present instance, we show a depressible handle 22 for this purpose, the same being movable in a vertical slot 23 in the casing front plate 21 and being mounted in a bearing block 24 (Fig. 1) which is supported for rocking movement by a pivot pin 25. A weighted arm 26, rigid with the pivot pin 25, may be employed to elevate the handle after each down stroke and to maintain it in elevated position.

In the use of this form of handle the central strip 11 (Fig. 2) has pivoted thereto at 27 the end of a pull bar 28 hooked at 29 to receive the hooked end 30 of a draw bar 31 (Fig. 1) pivoted at 32 to a suitable frame part. Through a bell crank 33, pivoted to a suitable frame part at 34 and having a lost motion connection at 35 with the bearing block 24, and a link 36 which pivotally connects the bell crank lever 33 with the draw bar 31, the down stroke of the handle causes the draw bar 31 to engage the pull bar 28 and advance the spring tensioned carrier away from the abutment block.

Associated with each of the strips 10, 11 and 12 (see Fig. 2), is a coin holding unit including a head 37 and a slide 38 forming a coin-space. The coin-spaces may differ in size to accommodate different sizes of coins. Thus, with strip 10 is shown a coin-space 39 adapted to receive a dime; with strip 11 is shown a coin-space 40 adapted to receive a quarter; and with strip 12 is shown a coin-space 41 adapted to receive a half-dollar. The slides have movement relatively to their heads, being provided with pins 42 slidable in elongated slots 43 and having their ends 44 bifurcated (Fig. 1) to slide astride the cross piece 14 in grooves therein (grooves not shown). By springs 45, connecting the pins 42 with pins 46 fixed to the strips, the slides are drawn toward their heads to clamp coins in the coin-spaces, the coins being sustained by the transverse head pins 47 until clamped.

The slides carry laterally projecting pins 48 which cooperate with stop pins 49 depending from an overhead plate 50 to adjust the slides and make the coin-spaces of coin receiving size as the carrier is retracted against the abutment block. As the carrier is advanced from the abutment block, the tensioned slides clamp any coins reposing in the coin-spaces.

Each slide has pivoted thereto a hooked draw bar 51 adapted, when the carrier is drawn to extreme position from the abutment block, to engage a suitable movement receiving device indicated partially at 51′, full illustration of this device not being necessary for an understanding of the present invention. Such movement receiving device 51′ controls the operation of a train of elements including as part of the train, rod 52, bell crank 53, and pusher 54, whereby, as each article holder 55 is brought into delivery position behind the delivery chute 56, to engage and operate an ejecter 57 carried thereby and adapted on each operation to eject the lowermost article from the column of articles 58 contained within the article holder. The manner in which the carrier imparts movement to such movement receiving device and to the train of elements controlled thereby is illustrated and described in the application above referred to. In the present instance, it is deemed sufficient to state where a slide clamps a coin, it is thereby rendered effective, when the carrier is drawn to extreme position, to engage its draw bar 51 with the movement receiving device 51′ and thereby cause the operation of an ejecter 57 so as to discharge an article of goods; and where there is no clamped coin, a slide will be ineffective for such purpose, its draw bar falling short of engagement with the movement receiving device 51′.

The article holders may be mounted in circular series (as best shown in Fig. 4) in a magazine 59 which is rotated from handle 22 through sliding connections 60, short shaft 61, bevel gears 62, shaft 63, and pin wheel 64 arranged in driving engagement with magazine ring 65. By rotating the handle 22, that particular article holder 55, which contains the goods selected for purchase, can be brought into delivery position behind the delivery chute 56; and by depressing said handle the carrier will be operated to effect a delivery of the selected goods, if the proper coin has been deposited. Said handle 22 can be rotated only when it is in elevated position within the circular opening 66 (Fig. 5). Suitable coin chutes 67, 68 and 69 are provided to conduct the purchase coins from the coin deposit slots 67′, 68′ and 69′, respectively, to the coin-spaces 39, 40 and 41, respectively.

Our invention, in its preferred form of construction, as illustrated in the accompanying

drawings, comprises an arresting device 70 turnably mounted on a pivot stud 71 projecting from a suitable plate 72 on the inner side of the casing front 21, said arresting device being preferably disk-shaped in general form as best shown in Fig. 5 and being provided with two arms 73 and 74 projecting therefrom in spaced apart relation. The projecting arm 74 carries a pin 75 and bearing on the undersurface of this pin is the end of a lever element 76 mounted to rock on a pivot 77 suitably supported on the casing front. A connecting rod 78 is pivoted at 79 to the short arm of the lever element and at 80 to a depressible bar 81 having one end pivotally mounted at 82 to the casing front and the opposite end provided with a relatively large cam portion 83 which is adapted to be impinged by a suitable actuating device so as to cause the depression of bar 81, the rocking of lever element 76 and the turning of arresting device 70 until the projecting arm 73 thereof assumes a position across the path of handle 22, as indicated in broken outline at *a*.

Each of the article holders 55 carries means arranged to be actuated on the discharge of the last article therefrom, for impinging the cam portion 83 and thereby depressing the depressible bar 81. In the present instance, for this purpose, we show on each article holder an impinging element in the form of a lever 84 mounted between its ends on a pivot pin 85 for vertical rocking movement, one end 86 of the lever being sufficiently weighted to keep the opposite cam-like end 87 thereof and a vertically disposed sliding bar 88 in elevated position. Said sliding bar 88, which is supported on the cam-like lever end 87, is suitably slotted as at 89 to slide on suitable guide pins 90 on the holder, and the upper end 91 of said sliding bar is offset inwardly to lie in the path of a projecting lug 92 carried by a weight 93 loosely superposed upon the column of articles 58 within the holder. The weight 93 descends by gravity in accordance with the diminution of the articles in the article holder, so that upon the discharge of the last article therefrom the lug 92 of the weight will engage the sliding bar 88 and swing the lever 84 into a position in which its cam-like end 87 will impinge the cam portion 83 and thereby depress the depressible bar 81. The arrangement and relation of these parts are such that the extent of the depression of the depressible bar 81 will be merely enough to cause the arresting device 70 to be turned to a position in which its projecting arm 73 will assume a position, as indicated at *a*, where the handle 22 on its down stroke will engage said arm and so effect a further turning of the arresting device before being arrested thereby. The depressible bar 81 with its cam portion 83 is so arranged (as best illustrated in Fig. 4) in relation to the delivery chute 56 that each time an empty article holder moves into delivery position behind said delivery chute, the arresting device will be turned to a position where its arm 73 can be engaged by the handle, and it will remain in such position until, through the movement of the empty article holder from delivery position, the lever 84 will be disengaged from the cam portion 83, when said arresting device and connected parts are repositioned for the next operation by means of a pull spring 94 herein shown (Fig. 5) as applied to said arresting device for such purpose.

According to a feature of our invention, each time through the depression of the bar 81 the lever element 76 is actuated to turn the arresting device to a position where arm 73 can be engaged by the handle 22, a sliding gate 95 and a semaphore sign 96 are operated. In the present instance, the gate 95 is mounted to slide in the plate 72 (Fig. 5) and is provided with appropriate coin openings 97, 98 and 99 through which the coins are passed from the coin deposit slots 67′, 68′ and 69′ respectively, into the coin chutes 67, 68 and 69, respectively. A rod 100 is adjustably connected to the gate by screw-threading one end thereof into a lug 101 carried by the gate, the opposite end of the rod being pivoted at 102 to an arm 103 formed with and projecting upwardly from the lever element 76. By this arrangement, when the depressible bar 81 is in elevated position, the gate is open permitting the entrance of coins into the coin chutes; and upon the depression of the said bar, the gate will be closed preventing the insertion of coins on articles that have been sold out.

The semaphore sign 96 comprises a legend plate 104 carried by an arm 105 mounted on a pivot pin 106 and pivotally connected by a rod 107 with the upwardly projecting arm 103 of the lever element 76. The legend plate 104 includes a section 108 whereon may be painted, printed or otherwise produced any suitable informative matter, such for instance as a legend (not shown) "Brand sold out, select another". Under this arrangement, upon the depression of the depressible bar 81, the semaphore arm 105 will be moved so as to advance the plate section 108 into display position behind a display window 109 provided in the casing front 21. In this manner, provision may be made for automatically informing the would-be customer of the fact that the article he has selected has been sold out.

When, because of the depression of the depressible bar 81, the arresting device 70 has been turned so that its arm 73 occupies the position indicated at *a*, the handle 22 on its down stroke will engage the arm 73 and serve as the means for further turning the arresting device until said arm 73 occupies the position indicated in broken outline at *b*, where a stop 110 on the plate 72 limits such further

turning of the arresting device and thereby arrests the down stroke of said handle. With the arrest of the handle, the movement of the carrier from the abutment block ceases, so that the machine cannot be operated. Now, the movement of the arm 73 from the position indicated at *a* to the position indicated at *b* does not impart movement to the lever element 76 and parts connected thereto except as to a relatively movable jaw 111 which engages the top side of pin 75 and cooperates with the opposing end of the lever element 76 in clamping said pin in order firmly to maintain said lever element 76 in proper operative relation to said pin at all times, the said jaw 111 being pivoted for its relative movement to the said lever element 76 at 112 and being further connected therewith by a pull spring 113. While, therefore, the lever element 76 has clamping engagement with the arresting device so as to turn it to the position where the arm 73 will be engaged by the handle, the further movement of the arresting device to arresting position, which further movement is effected by the handle, in no wise produces an effect upon the said lever element 76.

As we have previously intimated, the sliding gate 95 is closed to prevent the deposit of purchase coins in the coin chutes only when an empty article holder is moved into delivery position behind the delivery chute 56. The prospective customer may, therefore, and frequently does, insert his purchase coin through the open gate and into one of the coin chutes before the empty article holder is moved into delivery position. In accordance with an important feature of our present invention, the movement of the arm 73 from the position indicated at *a* to the position indicated at *b* is provided in order that the handle before it is arrested may serve as the source of power for imparting to the arresting device and train of parts controlled thereby the movement necessary to operate the slides 38 on the carrier so that any coins deposited on exhausted articles and clamped by said slides will be freed for return to the prospective customer. In carrying out this provision in its preferred form of construction, we attach to each slide 38 for movement therewith a cam hook plate 114 made with an upper arm 115 and a lower arm 116 arranged on opposite sides of the cross piece 13. The cam hook plates 114 are attached at their rear ends to the slides by means of pivot studs 117 to have rocking movement. The arms 115 are slidable on the cross piece 13 while the arms 116 serve as stops to limit rising movement. Said arms 115 protrude beyond the front end of the carrier and are received in suitable transverse openings 118 provided in the abutment block 20. Their front ends are made to form depending cam hooks 119.

Mounted within the abutment block 20, lengthwise thereof, is a rock shaft 120 carrying detents in the form of bell cranks 121 having detent arms 122 formed to cooperate with the cam hooks 119 and having arms 123 adapted to rest on the bottom surfaces 124 of the openings 118 so as to maintain the bell crank detents in proper position to cooperate with the cam hooks 119. Under this arrangement, the cam hooks 119 slide over the arms 122 and fall into interlocking engagement therewith as the carrier comes to rest against the abutment block 20, and when the carrier is advanced from the abutment block the bell crank detents are actuated, raising the arms 123 from the bottom surfaces 124 until the cam hooks 119 are disengaged from the detent arms 122. The bell crank detents are rigid with the shaft 120 so that the actuation of any one of them will result in rocking the shaft and hence actuating all of the bell crank detents. By this arrangement, when any one of the bell crank detents is actuated, raising its arm 123 from the bottom surface 124, all of the bell crank detents being correspondingly actuated will engage their detent arms 122 with the shoulders 125 formed on the cam hook arms 115 and so force the slides 38 away from their heads 37 with the result that any coins within the coin-spaces will be released and fall from the coin-spaces for return to the prospective customer. To release the coins so that they will fall from the coin-spaces requires only a slight movement of the slides 38 away from their heads 37. Consequently, a slight impelling force imparted by the bell crank detents to the cam hook plates will effect the release of any coins reposing in the coin-spaces.

The transmission controlled by the arresting device for imparting slight movement to the bell crank detents when the handle moves the arm 73 from the position indicated at *a* to the position indicated at *b* comprises a connecting rod 126 provided at its lower end with a link portion 127 having an elongated slot 128 in which is received a pin 129 projecting from an arm 123 of one of the bell crank detents 121. Attached to the upper end of connecting rod 126 is a blade 130 provided with an elongated slot 131 in which is received the pin 75 projecting from the arm 74 of the arresting device. From an inspection of Fig. 5 it will be noted that the pins 75 and 129 normally occupy positions at the lower ends of the slots 131 and 128, respectively. Under this arrangement, the actuation of the lever element 76 to move the arresting device arm 73 to the position indicated at *a* does not effect the operation of the rod connection 126 since the pin 75 merely moves to the top end of the slot 131. But when the handle moves the arm 73 from the position *a* to the position *b*, then the connecting rod 126 is called into action to transmit

movement to the bell crank detents, since the pin 75 on this movement engages the blade 130 at the upper end of the slot 131. Through the provision of the slot 128 in link portion 127 the cam hook plates on movement of the carrier from the abutment block are enabled to slip out of engagement with the bell crank detents without imparting movement to the connecting rod 126.

The functions of the several features of our improvements have been described in connection with the description of the construction and arrangement of such features, so that it is not believed any further description will be necessary to a thorough understanding thereof. Attention is, however, called to the fact that each time an empty article holder is brought into delivery position behind the delivery chute, the arresting device will be turned far enough to bring its arm 73 into position to be engaged by the depressible handle, the gate will be closed to prevent the insertion of purchase coins, and the sign will be displayed behind the display window; and further that each time the empty article holder moves out of delivery position, all of said devices will be automatically repositioned. If desired, either the gate or the sign, or even both of these devices, may be omitted without necessitating any changes in the construction or operation of the arresting device. After the initial movement of the arresting device, when its arm 73 is turned to the position indicated at *a*, the operating movement of the handle before it is arrested to prevent the full movement of the carrier and consequently the operation of the machine, is itself utilized as the source of power for operating the coin clamping slides and releasing any purchase coins that may have been deposited prior to the closing of the gate.

While we have illustrated and described the preferred form of construction for carrying our invention into effect, this is capable of variation and modification without departing from the spirit of the invention. We, therefore, do not wish to be limited to the precise details of construction set forth but desire to avail ourselves of such variations and modifications as come within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim is:—

1. In a coin-controlled machine provided with a coin holding unit with a coin clamping member and operating means for said unit, arresting means for said operating means; and means connected to be controlled by said arresting means for operating said coin clamping member.

2. In a coin-controlled machine provided with a coin holding unit with a coin clamping member and operating means for said unit, arresting means for said operating means; actuable means arranged to move said arresting means into position to be engaged by said operating means, to be thereby moved into arresting position; and means connected to be controlled by said arresting means for operating said coin clamping member.

3. In a coin-controlled machine, the combination of a coin holding unit in which a relatively movable coin clamping member is adapted to clamp a coin in the unit; operating means for said unit; and means arranged to be actuated by said operating means controlling the operation of said coin clamping member independently of the operation of said unit.

4. In a coin-controlled machine, the combination with a coin holding unit in which a relatively movable coin clamping member is adapted to clamp a coin in the unit, of an operating element for said unit; an arresting device arranged to be moved into position to be engaged and moved by said operating element so as to arrest said operating element; means for moving said arresting device into position to be engaged and moved by said operating element; and means arranged to be actuated by said arresting device, on the movement thereof by said operating element, controlling the operation of said clamping member.

5. In a coin-controlled machine, the combination of an operating element; a coin clamping member adapted to be operated to release a coin clamped thereby; a movable device having an arm adapted to be engaged by said element, to provide for the movement of said device by said element; and means connected to be operated by the movement of said device for operating said coin clamping member and thus effect the release of a clamped coin.

6. In a coin-controlled machine, the combination with a coin holding unit with a coin clamping member and an operating element for said unit, of a turnably mounted arresting device having an arm; means for initially turning said device to position said arm where it will be engaged by said element, to provide for the further turning of said device by said element; and means connected to be controlled by said device for operating said clamping member on the further turning of said device.

7. In a coin-controlled machine, the combination with a coin holding unit with a coin clamping member and an operating element for said unit, of a turnably mounted arresting device having an arm; means for initially turning said device to position said arm where it will be engaged by said element, to provide for the further turning of said device by said element; means for limiting such further turning to cause said device to arrest said element; and means connected to be controlled by said device for operating

said clamping member during such further turning of said device.

8. In a coin-controlled machine, the combination with an operating element and an article holder with actuating means adapted to be actuated on the discharge of the last article, of an arresting device arranged in relation to said element; and means responsive to the actuation of said actuating means arranged to move said device to a position to be engaged by said element.

9. In a coin-controlled machine, embodying an operating handle, a coin holding unit with a clamping member and an article holder with actuating means adapted to be actuated on the discharge of the last article, in combination with an arresting device arranged in relation to said handle; means responsive to the actuation of said actuating means arranged to move said arresting device to a position to be engaged by said handle; and means connected to be controlled by said arresting device for operating said clamping member.

10. In a coin-controlled machine, embodying an operating handle, a coin holding unit with a coin clamping member and an article holder with actuating means adapted to be actuated on the discharge of the last article, in combination with an arresting device arranged in relation to said handle; means responsive to the actuation of said actuating means arranged to move said arresting device initially to a position to be engaged by said handle, to be given subsequent movement by said handle to arresting position; and transmission means controlled by said arresting device for operating said clamping member, said transmission means being connected to be idle on the initial movement of said arresting device.

11. In a coin-controlled machine, embodying an operating handle and an article holder with actuating means adapted to be actuated on the discharge of the last article, an arresting device arranged in relation to said handle; transmission means responsive to the actuation of said actuating means arranged to move said arresting device initially to a position to be engaged by said handle, to be given subsequent movement by said handle to arresting position, said transmission means being connected to be inoperative on the subsequent movement of said arresting means.

12. The combination with a handle and a carrier arranged to be operated thereby and provided with a plurality of coin holding units, each including a slide arranged on movement of the carrier to clamp a coin carried by its respective unit, of an arresting device movable into position to be engaged by said handle, to be thereby moved into position for arresting said handle; and means connected to be operated by said arresting means for moving each slide from clamping to non-clamping position.

13. In combination, in a coin-controlled machine, a handle; a holder for articles of merchandise; actuating means associated with said holder and adapted to be actuated to assume a position for imparting an application of force upon the discharge of an article of merchandise from said holder; an arresting device for said handle; and transmission means arranged to receive operating force from said actuating means and connected with said arresting device to cause the same to move into position for effecting the arrest of said handle.

14. In combination, in a coin-controlled machine, a coin holding unit with a relatively movable clamping member; a handle for operating said unit; an article holder provided with actuating means for imparting an application of force; an arresting device for said handle; transmission means arranged to receive operating force from said actuating means and connected with said arresting device to cause the same to move into position to be engaged by said handle; means arranged to be controlled by said arresting device for operating said clamping member and including a disengageable coupling comprising a cam hook plate and a rocking detent.

15. In a coin-controlled machine, embodying a coin holding unit with a coin clamping member and a handle for operating said unit, an arresting device movable into position to be engaged by said handle and to be thence moved by said handle to position for arresting the same; means connected with said arresting device for operating said clamping member and including a cooperating cam hook plate and rocking detent arranged to impart operating movement to said clamping member and to be disengaged to allow free operation of said unit.

16. In a coin-controlled machine, embodying a coin holding unit with a coin clamping member and a handle for operating said unit, an operating device movable into position to be engaged by said handle and to be thence moved by said handle to position for arresting the same; means connected with said arresting device for operating said clamping member and comprising a cooperating cam hook plate and a rocking detent, said cam hook plate being attached to said clamping member and being disengageable with said detent; and a link connected with a lost motion action between said detent and said arresting device.

17. In a coin-controlled machine, the combination with an operating handle, of a turnably mounted arresting device provided with an arm; a power delivering rocking element engaging a pin on said device and adapted, when actuated, to turn said device into a position in which said handle will engage said

arm and impel the further turning of said device; and a stop for limiting the turning of said device.

18. In a coin-controlled machine, the combination with an operating handle, of a turnably mounted arresting device provided with an arm; a power delivery rocking element engaging a pin on said device and adapted, when actuated, to turn said device into a position in which said handle will engage said arm and impel the further turning of said device, a stop for limiting the turning of said device; and a spring drawn jaw engaging said pin in cooperation with said rocking element, said jaw being pivoted to said rocking element and adapted to yield relatively thereto.

In testimony whereof, we have signed our names to this specification.

LOUIS H. LARSEN.
CLIFTON W. NIXON.