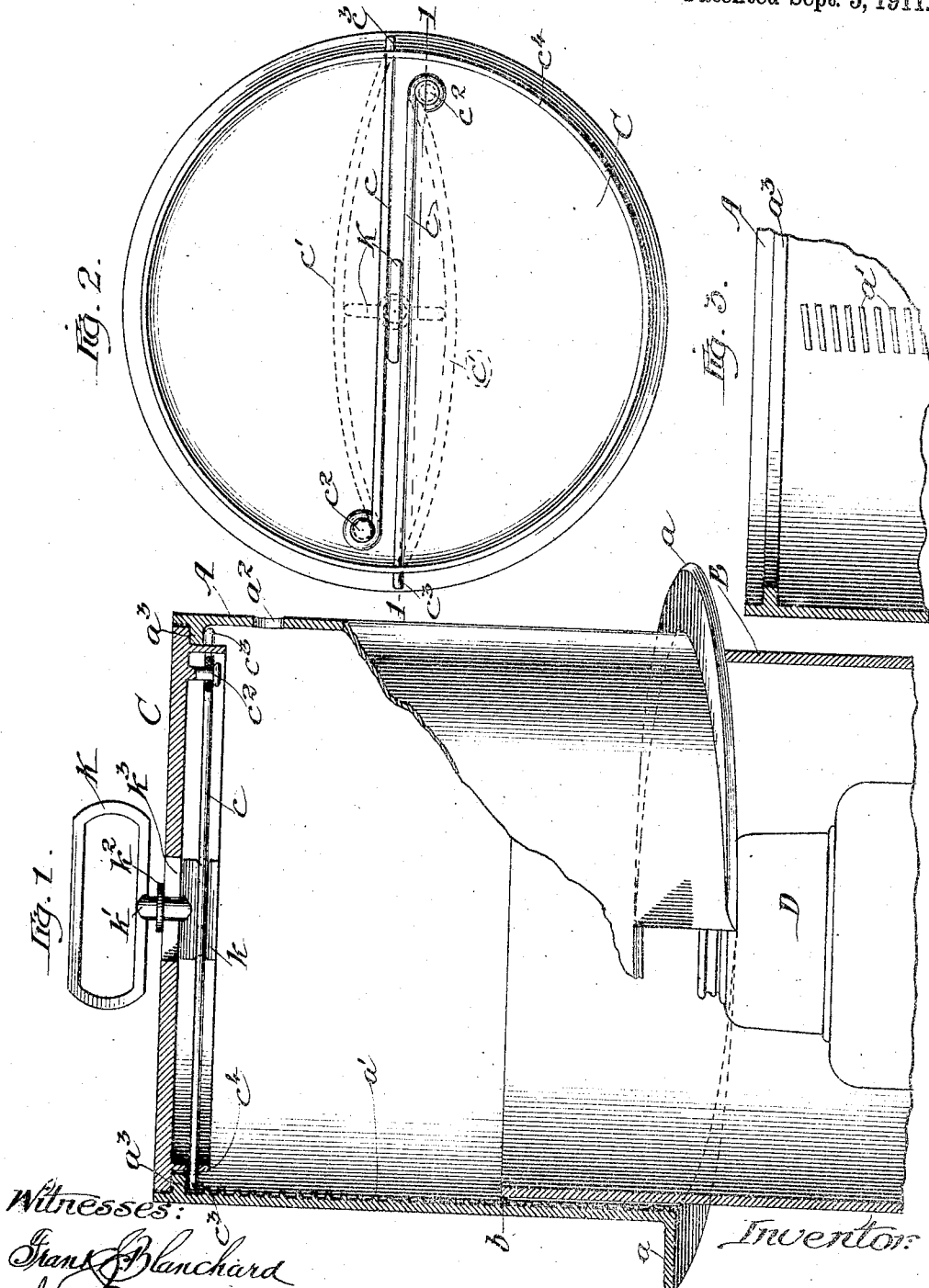


H. W. CLARK.  
 PROTECTING BOX OR CASING.  
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1,002,501.

Patented Sept. 5, 1911.



Witnesses:  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HORACE W. CLARK, OF MATTOON, ILLINOIS

PROTECTING BOX OR CASING.

1,002,501.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 5, 1911.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HORACE W. CLARK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Mattoon, in the county of Coles and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Protecting Boxes or Casings, of which the following is a true specification.

My invention is an improvement in boxes or casings for housing water meters, gas meters and the like where placed below the ground or in open or exposed places.

The invention relates particularly to an improvement in the lid of the said box and the peculiar mechanism whereby the casing is readily adjusted with reference to the surface of the ground.

My construction is herein described, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings, Figure 1 represents a sectional elevation view of my device taken through line 1-1 of Fig. 2. Fig. 2 is a plan view of my cover with lock taken from the underside of the cover. Fig. 3 is a detail of the casing as shown in Fig. 1.

More particularly described, A represents the upper section of my casing which is intended to telescope upon the lower section B and these sections are preferably cylindrical in form and are constructed of metal or concrete or other suitable material.

*a a* represent flanges attached to the bottom of upper section A and are constructed with a pitch and are intended to raise or lower the section A when embedded in the earth by rotation by means of a lever inserted within the hole *a*<sup>2</sup> in the side of the section A.

Upon the inner face of the section A is constructed a rack *a*<sup>1</sup> and upon the upper and outer edge of the section B is constructed a lug *b* so adapted as to engage rack *a*<sup>1</sup>. A plurality of these racks may be used if desired. It is designed that when the section B is placed within the recess in the ground intended to receive the casing that the section A may be telescoped thereupon to such a depth as may be desired and the rack *a*<sup>1</sup> be turned into engagement with the lug *b* for the purpose of holding the upper section A in position until the earth shall have been packed around it. In case it is desirable later to change the height of section A, by use of a lever inserted at *a*<sup>2</sup> the

section A may be turned out of engagement with the lug *b* and raised or lowered by the operation of the flanges *a a* as hereinbefore described.

C represents the cover of my casing which is fitted on its inner face with an apron *c*<sup>1</sup> and the said cover is designed to rest upon the shelf *a*<sup>3</sup> lying within the top of the upper section A.

*c c* represent spring bars which are attached at one end to pins *c*<sup>2</sup> *c*<sup>2</sup> fitted to the cover C and at the outer edge project through suitable apertures in the apron *c*<sup>1</sup> and engage the under face of the shelf *a*<sup>3</sup> for the purpose of locking the cover in position. The spring bars *c c* are actuated by a key K fitted with engaging arms *k k* and its shank *k*<sup>1</sup> fitted with a collar *k*<sup>2</sup> intended to hold the key K in position after it is passed through the aperture *k*<sup>3</sup> in the said cover C.

In operation, by a quarter turn of the key K inserted within the aperture *k*<sup>3</sup> the engaging arms *k k* force the spring bars *c c* out of engagement with the shelf *a*<sup>3</sup> as shown by the dotted lines in Fig. 2, thereby releasing the cover from the casing and by reverse movement the spring bars *c c* are allowed to spring back into their original position and lock the cover on the casing.

D represents a meter of any suitable form placed within my casing.

It is not intended in this invention to confine myself in operation to the particular form of spring bars as described herein or to the number of two as shown herein. Any number of bars or any form of bars which can be operated by a key in one operation may be used within the intent of my invention.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. In combination with a protecting box for water meters and the like and cover therefor, a lock consisting of a shelf formed on the inner face of said box, parallel spring bars attached at opposite ends of the under face of said cover, the other ends being adapted to engage with the said shelf at points on opposite sides of the said box and means for forcing said spring bars out of engagement with said shelf.

2. In a protecting box for water meters and the like, the combination with a casing fitted on its upper and inner face with a shelf, of a cover consisting of a plate of form and size to sit within the mouth of

the said casing and rest upon the said shelf thereof, an apron fitted on the inner face of said cover, spring bars lying parallel with each other upon the inner face of said cover and secured at one and opposite ends to the said cover, the other and opposite ends passing through suitable apertures in the said apron and engaging on opposite sides of the said casing with the under face of the said shelf and a key designed to withdraw the said spring bars from said engagement.

3. In a protecting box for water meters and the like, the combination with a casing provided on its upper and inner surface with a shelf, of a cover and lock therefor, consisting of a plate designed to rest within the mouth of said casing and upon which

the said plate is designed to rest, an apron formed upon the inner face of said plate, a spring bar attached at one end to the inner face of the said plate and at its other end passing through an aperture in said apron and engaging with the under face of the said shelf and a key designed to pass through a suitable aperture in said plate, and by a quarter turn to disengage the said spring bar from the said shelf, whereby the said cover is released from engagement with the said casing.

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Witnesses:

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