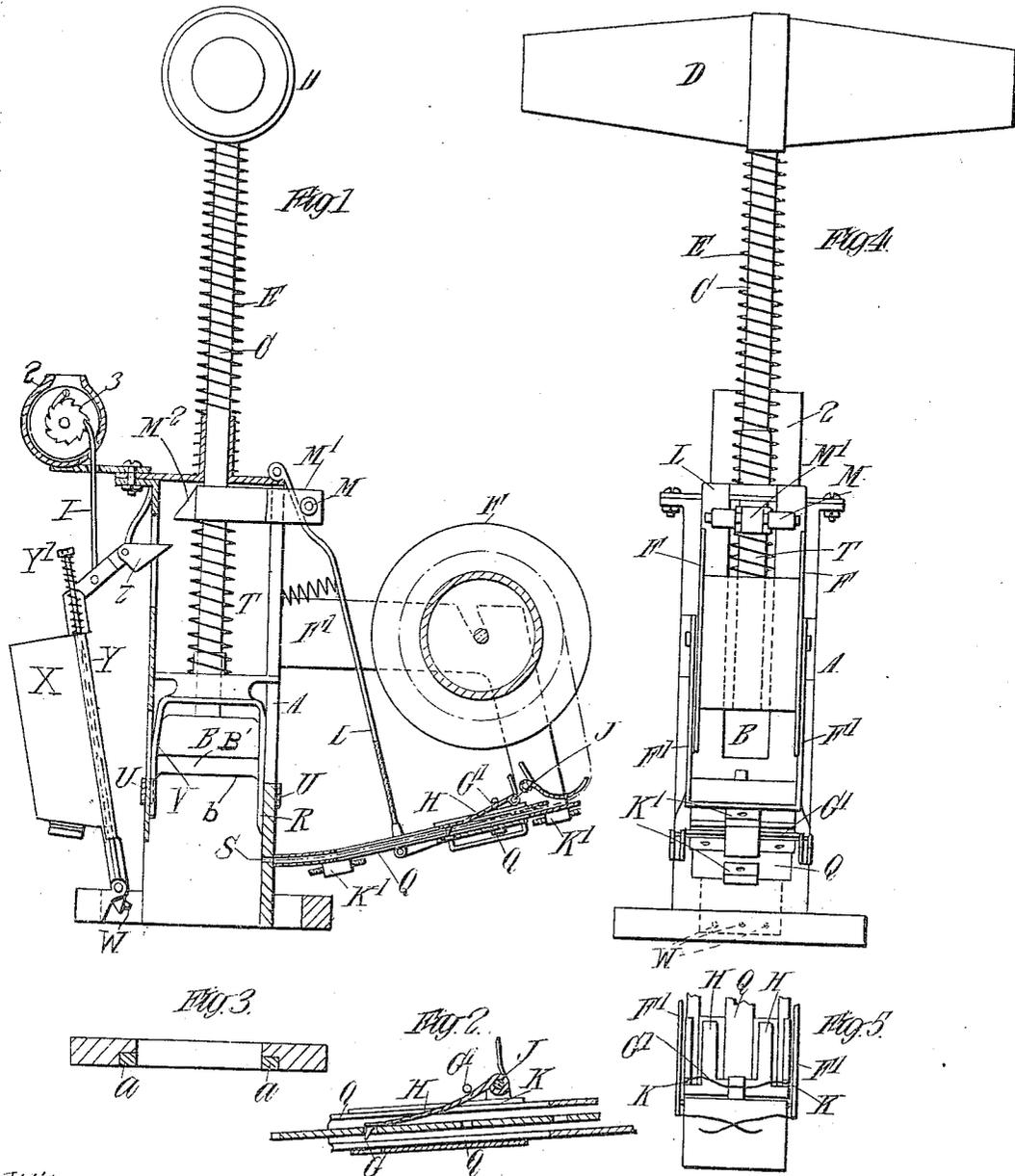


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 STAMP AFFIXER.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PERCY GORDON ECKERSLEY DANIEL, OF CLEVEDON, AND CHARLES ASHTON HENRY BULLOCK, OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

STAMP-AFFIXER.

957,658.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, PERCY GORDON ECKERSLEY DANIEL and CHARLES ASHTON HENRY BULLOCK, both subjects of the King of Great Britain, residing, respectively, at Eckersley, Walton Road, Clevedon, in the county of Somerset, England, and 11 Ludgate square, in the city and county of London, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stamp-Affixers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to apparatus for affixing postage or other stamps or vouchers, to labels paper or the like and has for its object to provide a neat compact and efficient apparatus which will affix postage or other stamps or vouchers to envelopes, labels, paper or the like, and which will also record the number of stamps or the like delivered from the machine up to and at any given time, the said apparatus being further designed to supply loose stamps or the like without affixing them to anything in which case the number of such can also be recorded.

According to the said invention we construct the apparatus in such a manner that the stamps or the like are fed thereto one at a time by means of their perforations, are cut off one by one, at the perforations, and pressed on to the article to which the affixation is required, moisture having been meanwhile supplied also by the apparatus and the delivery of the stamp or the like recorded. The apparatus is further constructed in such a manner that the stamps or the like may be delivered without affixation in which case the moisture supply need not be fitted and furthermore the recording may be dispensed with at any time.

In order that the said invention may be more clearly understood and readily carried into effect, we will now describe the same more fully with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of the apparatus embodying the features of our invention. Figs. 2 and 3 are sectional detail views thereof. Fig. 4 is a front elevation of the apparatus, and Fig. 5 is a detail of the same.

The apparatus comprises a case A containing a sliding block or plunger B fitted with

a rod C, connected at its upper end with a handle or knob D with which the plunger is operated. A spring E, or other device is employed for returning the plunger to its normal position after operation. The block or plunger B may be fitted at its lower end with a facing of yielding material B', such as india-rubber, the lower edges of which are preferably extended as shown in Fig. 1 to form a dished or concave surface *b*, so arranged as to insure an increased pressure applied at the edges of the stamp.

F is a roller or cylinder upon which the stamps or the like are wound said roller being carried in suitable bearings in the bracket F', part of which also supports the feeding mechanism and guides G, H, K and Q respectively. Of these, G, H is the device which selects each stamp or voucher or the like, and is mounted upon a sliding carriage K, which is connected by suitable means to the rods or levers L, by which the carriage K is caused to reciprocate upon the guides Q, between the adjustable stop K'.

It will be noted that the stops K' are arranged on the guide Q so as to be placed at different distances from the outlet of the guide Q. This is for the purpose of enabling the device to be used with stamps of different widths. The distance of the stops K' from the outlet of the guide Q is arranged so that the line of perforations between the stamp to be affixed and the succeeding stamp will be in the proper position to be cut by the knife R. These stops limit the movement of the arm L so that this arm is fed forward to a definite point as distinguished from being fed forward a definite distance. The device M', which operates the arm L, always moves this arm the same distance, and it is obvious that the arm L is flexed after the lower end of the same strikes the stops K'.

The device G H is composed preferably of a forked strip of metal hinged at J and provided on its under side with points or teeth G, which have their fore or front surface more or less vertical while the rear surface is inclined at an angle.

A spring G' or other suitable device tends to press this device downward, so that as a stamp is pushed down between the guides

Q, its edge first comes in contact with the inclined part of the teeth and the whole device lifts slightly allowing the stamp to pass onward, but immediately the first set of perforations reach the teeth, the spring G' forces the device downward, pushing the teeth through the perforations. The strip of stamps however is pushed onward until the teeth G fall into the second set of perforations, when the apparatus is ready to commence operating.

M' is a bracket projecting through a slot in the case A and mounted on the rod C, and the end of which is provided with projecting rods or rollers M, while the other end terminates in a cam-like projection M².

The stamps are fed into the apparatus at S, and are there cut off from the rest of the strip, at the perforations, by a V or W-shaped knife R which is actuated by the plunger B, the stroke of the knife being however controlled by a spring T and the stroke is limited by means of the stops U, while the proper cutting position of the knife is maintained by the spring V or other device. The knife R is slidably mounted on the rod 1 of the plunger B, and is held yieldingly in position thereon by means of the spring T which is interposed upon the rod between the knife and the bracket M' carried by the rod. By this construction it is apparent that as the rod and plunger descend, the knife will be carried thereby until the knife comes into contact with the stops U, when the knife will be held in a fixed position, but the plunger and its rod are permitted to continue in their downward motion, the rod sliding through the knife and pressing the spring T between the bracket M' and the knife. On the return movement of the rod the knife will be carried upward thereby, after the rod is moved a sufficient distance upwardly to release the compression upon the spring T.

W are small orifices for moisture and they lead from a removable and refillable air tight tank X which is mounted with a capability of sliding on the guides Y. The water or moisture is ejected from this tank by means of concussion which is preferably obtained by means of the lever Z, which is depressed and released by the descent upon and momentary contact of the projection M², with the lever Z, which lifts the tank X on its guides. Upon the release of the lever Z, springs Y' or gravity, suddenly drop or return the tank to its normal position, the shock ejecting a small quantity of liquid.

The recording mechanism is represented diagrammatically in the drawings at 1, 2 and 3.

We make no claim to any special form of counting mechanism, but prefer to use some device such as an ordinary cyclometer pro-

vided with an internal ratchet and pawl star wheel and a slot on the case through which a pin or other device can pass to operate the same. This internal arrangement prevents the tampering with the counting mechanism.

The operation of the apparatus is as follows:—Assuming that the stamps have been previously pushed into the guides Q until the second one is caught by the engagement of the teeth in the perforations as mentioned above, upon pressing the knob D, the rod C descends carrying with it the bracket carrying the rollers M which cause the levers or rods L to approach the case A, thereby pulling the carriage K and strip H with it. Now the teeth G are engaged in the perforations of the stamps, which are consequently pulled along the guides, until the end of the stroke of the plunger is reached or the carriage is checked by the stop K'. Upon the descent of the plunger, the first stamp is pushed through the case at S, previously to which the tank X has been lifted and dropped and moisture deposited on the envelop or the like. Upon the descent of the plunger the knife cuts off the projecting stamp at the perforations, after which the further descent of the knife is arrested by the stops U, while the plunger continues its descent carrying with it the detached stamp and finally pressing the same on to the moistened envelop or the like, which is placed beneath the case A. Upon removing the pressure from the knob, the plunger and all other parts return to their normal position ready for the next stroke which will again deliver a stamp or the like. The angle of the aforesaid teeth or pins permits them to disengage with the perforations of the stamps at the rearward stroke but insures engagement on the forward stroke.

The stops K' regulate the length of the travel of the carriage on the guides, which is limited to the distance between the perforations, so that a whole stamp is always delivered and no more, or less, at each stroke.

It is sometimes convenient to fit absorbent material into the space of the casing A, as shown at a in Fig. 3 for absorbing any excess of moisture.

To adapt the device for long and continuous use, it is obvious that motive power other than manual may be employed to reciprocate the rod C to operate the device automatically, and as such mechanism for reciprocating a rod, is old, it is not thought necessary to illustrate the same.

Although we have described the invention chiefly in respect of the delivery and affixing of stamps, one at a time, it is readily conceivable that many modifications can be arranged without departing from the original scope of the invention. For instance,

we could make the whole apparatus wider so as to feed the stamps in to the machine 2, 3, 4 or any number abreast and the operations would be just as in the case of a single stamp; or we can lengthen the stroke of the carriage so as to carry under the plunger, two or more stamps at one time.

What we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:—

1. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a case; of an operating handle and rod attached thereto, means for carrying a supply of water, means for automatically moistening the substance to which the stamp is to be affixed, means for carrying a supply of stamps, means for automatically feeding said stamps into the machine, means for automatically regulating the quantity of stamps so fed, means for automatically detaching a stamp from the supply, means for pressing the detached stamp on to the moistened surface, and means for automatically restoring the parts to their operative position after the delivery of each stamp.

2. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a case, of a movable air tight reservoir for water, means for automatically moistening the substance to which the stamp is to be affixed, means for carrying a supply of stamps, means for automatically feeding said stamps into the machine, means for automatically regulating the quantity of stamps so fed, means for automatically detaching a stamp from the supply, means for pressing the detached stamp on to the moistened surface, means for absorbing spare moisture, and means for automatically restoring the parts to their operative position after the delivery of each stamp.

3. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a case, of a movable air tight reservoir for water, guides for said reservoir, means for automatically moistening the substance to which the stamp is to be affixed, means for carrying a supply of stamps, means for automatically feeding said stamps into the machine, means for automatically regulating the quantity of stamps so fed, means for automatically detaching a stamp from the supply, means for pressing the detached stamp on to the moistened surface, and means for automatically restoring the parts to their operative position after the delivery of each stamp.

4. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a case, of a movable air tight reservoir for water, guides for said reservoir, delivery jets in said reservoir, means for automatically moistening the substance to which the stamp is to be affixed, means for carrying a supply of stamps, means for automatically feeding said stamps into the machine, means for automatically regulating the quantity of stamps so fed, means for automatically

detaching a stamp from the supply, means for pressing the detached stamp on to the moistened surface, and means for automatically restoring the parts to their operative position after the delivery of each stamp.

5. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a case, of a movable air tight reservoir for water, guides for said reservoir, delivery pipes in said reservoir, a lever carried by said case for lifting said reservoir in its guides and releasing the same, means for carrying a supply of stamps, means for automatically feeding said stamps into the machine, means for automatically regulating the quantity of stamps so fed, means for automatically detaching a stamp from the supply, means for pressing the detached stamp on to the moistened surface, and means for automatically restoring the parts to their operative position after the delivery of each stamp.

6. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a case, and a rod mounted to reciprocate with respect thereto, of a movable air tight reservoir for water, guides for said reservoir, delivery pipes in said reservoir, a lever carried by said case for lifting said reservoir in its guides, a projection carried by said rod for striking said lever and passing it for causing said reservoir to lift and suddenly drop to moisten the surface to be stamped, means for carrying a supply of stamps into the machine, means for automatically regulating the quantity of stamps so fed, means for automatically detaching a stamp from the supply, means for pressing the detached stamp on to the said moistened surface, and means for automatically restoring the parts to their operative position after the delivery of each stamp.

7. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a case, and a rod mounted to reciprocate with respect thereto, of a movable air tight reservoir for water, guides for said reservoir, delivery pipes in said reservoir, a lever carried by said case for lifting said reservoir in its guides, a projection carried by said rod for striking said lever and passing it for causing said reservoir to lift and suddenly drop to moisten the surface to be stamped, a reel and supporting bracket for same, for carrying a supply of stamps, means for automatically feeding said stamps into the machine, means for automatically regulating the quantity of stamps so fed, means for automatically detaching a stamp from the supply, means for pressing the detached stamp onto the said moistened surface, and means for automatically restoring the parts to their operative position after the delivery of each stamp.

8. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a case, and a rod mounted to reciprocate with respect thereto, of a movable air

tight reservoir for water, guides for said reservoir, delivery pipes in said reservoir, a lever carried by said case for lifting said reservoir in its guides, a projection carried
 5 by said rod for striking said lever and passing it for causing said reservoir to lift and suddenly drop to moisten a surface, a reel and supporting bracket for same, for carrying a supply of stamps, guides for the passage of said stamps, an automatically operated sliding carriage, a hinged rocking piece
 10 carried by said carriage and beveled teeth on said rocking piece for engagement in the perforations of the stamps, when the carriage moves forward, means for automatically
 15 regulating the quantity of stamps so fed, means for automatically detaching a stamp from the supply, means for pressing the detached stamp on to the said moistened surface, and means for automatically restoring
 20 the parts to their operative position after the delivery of each stamp.

9. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a case, and a rod mounted to reciprocate with respect thereto, of a movable air
 25 tight reservoir for water, guides for said reservoir, delivery pipes in said reservoir, a lever carried by said case for lifting said reservoir in its guides, a projection carried
 30 by said rod for striking said lever and passing it for causing said reservoir to lift and suddenly drop to moisten a surface, a reel and supporting bracket for same, for carrying a supply of stamps, guides for the
 35 passage of said stamps, an automatically operated sliding carriage, a hinged rocking piece for engagement in the perforations of the stamps, when the carriage moves forward, a stop on said guides, for limiting the
 40 forward travel of the carriage, means for automatically detaching a stamp from the supply, means for pressing the detached stamp on to the moistened surface, and means for automatically restoring the parts
 45 to their operative position after the delivery of each stamp.

10. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a case, and a rod mounted to reciprocate with respect thereto, of a movable air
 50 tight reservoir for water, guides for said reservoir, delivery pipes in said reservoir, a lever carried by said case for lifting said reservoir in its guides, a projection carried
 55 by said rod for striking said lever and passing it for causing said reservoir to lift and suddenly drop to moisten a surface, a reel and supporting bracket for same, for carrying a supply of stamps, guides for the passage of said stamps, an automatically operated
 60 sliding carriage, a hinged rocking piece for engagement in the perforations of the stamps when the carriage moves forward, a stop on said guides, for limiting the travel of the carriage, an automatically operated

spring controlled knife, operated by said
 65 rod, for severing each stamp, at the perforations, means for limiting the stroke of said knife, means for pressing the detached stamp onto the moistened surface, and means for automatically restoring the parts
 70 to their operative position after the delivery of each stamp.

11. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a case, and a rod mounted to reciprocate with respect thereto, of a movable air
 75 tight reservoir for water, guides for said reservoir, delivery pipes in said reservoir, a lever carried by said case for lifting said reservoir in its guides, a projection carried
 80 by said rod for striking said lever and passing it for causing said reservoir to lift and suddenly drop to moisten a surface, a reel and supporting bracket for same, for carrying a supply of stamps, guides for the passage of said stamps, an automatically operated
 85 sliding carriage, a hinged rocking piece for engagement in the perforations of the stamps when the carriage moves forward, a stop on said guides, for limiting the travel of the carriage, an automatically operated
 90 spring controlled knife operated by said rod, for severing each stamp, at the perforations, means for limiting the stroke of said knife, a plunger, resilient material attached thereto, and means for automatically restoring
 95 the parts to their operative position after the delivery of each stamp.

12. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a case, and a rod mounted to reciprocate with respect thereto, of a movable air
 100 tight reservoir for water, guides for said reservoir, delivery pipes in said reservoir, a lever carried by said case for lifting said reservoir in its guides, a projection carried
 105 by said rod for striking said lever and passing it for causing said reservoir to lift and suddenly drop to moisten a surface, a reel and supporting bracket for same, for carrying a supply of stamps, guides for the passage of said stamps, an automatically operated
 110 sliding carriage, a hinged rocking piece for engagement in the perforations of the stamps when the carriage moves forward, a stop on said guides, for limiting the travel of the carriage, an automatically operated
 115 spring controlled knife operated by said rod, for severing each stamp, at the perforations, means for limiting the stroke of said knife, a plunger, resilient material attached thereto, a double flange on the bottom of said case,
 120 absorbent material fitted thereto, and means for automatically restoring the parts to their operative position after the delivery of each stamp.

13. In a stamp affixer, the combination
 125 with a case, and a rod mounted to reciprocate with respect thereto, of a movable air tight reservoir for water, guides for said

reservoir, delivery pipes in said reservoir, a lever carried by said case for lifting said reservoir in its guides, a projection carried by said rod for striking said lever and passing it for causing said reservoir to lift and suddenly drop to moisten a surface, a reel and supporting bracket for same, for carrying a supply of stamps, guides for the passage of said stamps, an automatically operated sliding carriage, a hinged rocking piece for engagement in the perforations of the stamps when the carriage moves forward, a stop on said guides, for limiting the travel of the carriage, an automatically operated spring controlled knife operated by said rod, for severing each stamp, at the perforations, means for limiting the stroke of said knife, a plunger, resilient material attached thereto, a double flange on the bottom of said case, absorbent material fitted thereto, and means for restoring the parts to their operative position after the delivery of each stamp.

14. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a case, and a rod mounted to reciprocate with respect thereto, of a movable air tight reservoir for water, guides for said reservoir, delivery pipes in said reservoir, a lever carried by said case for lifting said reservoir in its guides, a projection carried by said rod for striking said lever and passing it for causing said reservoir to lift and suddenly drop to moisten a surface, a reel and supporting bracket for same, for carrying a supply of stamps, guides for the passage of said stamps, an automatically operated sliding carriage, a hinged rocking piece for engagement in the perforations of the stamps when the carriage moves forward, a stop on said guide, for limiting the travel of the carriage, an automatically operated spring controlled knife operated by said rod, for severing each stamp, at the perforations, means for limiting the stroke of said knife, a plunger, resilient material attached thereto, a double flange on the bottom of said case, absorbent material fitted thereto, and springs for restoring the parts to their operative position after the delivery of each stamp.

15. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a casing, of a reciprocatory plunger, having a resilient facing arranged to press a stamp and provided with projecting edges arranged to increase the pressure at the edges of said stamp, and means arranged to reciprocate said plunger.

16. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a reciprocatory plunger, provided with a stem, of a knife relatively movable with said plunger for severing stamps, yielding means carried by said stem arranged to press said knife into operative position, and yielding means independent of said stem arranged to press said knife laterally.

17. In a stamp affixer, the combination with means for pressing a stamp, of means for supplying moisture to the material to which the stamp is to be affixed, and fixed means independent of said pressing means and said moistening means for absorbing spare moisture from said substance.

18. In a stamp affixer, the combination with means for pressing a stamp, of means for automatically supplying jets of moisture for said stamps by concussion effected by spring tension, and means for automatically restoring the parts of the device to their initial positions after each operation.

19. In a stamp affixer, the combination of a plunger, a reciprocating knife, a guide for said knife and means including a spring integral with said knife for holding the edge of said knife against said guide.

20. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a casing, of a plunger mounted therein, a flexible lever pivotally secured at one end to said casing and provided at the other end with means for feeding stamps, means arranged to limit the movement of said stamp feeding means, and means operated by said plunger for moving said lever, to the limit of movement of said stamp feeding means and then flexing said lever.

21. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a casing, of a plunger mounted therein, a flexible lever pivotally secured at one end to said casing and provided at the other end with means for feeding stamps, means arranged to limit the movement of said stamp feeding means, means operated by said plunger for moving said lever to the limit of the movement of said stamp feeding means, and then flexing said lever, and automatic means for returning said lever to its initial position.

22. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a plunger, of a holder for moisture provided with orifices, and means operated by said plunger for raising said holder and releasing it to permit it to drop freely.

23. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a plunger, of a holder for moisture provided with orifices in its lower portion and arranged to slide vertically, a spring pressing said holder, and means for raising said holder against said spring and then releasing it.

24. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a plunger of a holder for moisture provided with orifices in its lower portion and arranged to slide vertically, and means operated by said plunger for raising and then releasing said holder.

25. In a stamp affixer, the combination of a plunger, a support for the same provided with a recess at its lower portion through which said plunger is arranged to operate, means for supplying moisture at

said recess, and means surrounding said recess for absorbing excess moisture.

26. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a case and a rod mounted to reciprocate with respect thereto, of a movable airtight reservoir for water having restricted outlets, guides for said reservoir, a lever carried by said case for lifting said reservoir in its guides, a projection carried by said rod for striking said lever and passing it for causing said reservoir to rise and suddenly drop to moisten a surface, a reel and a supporting bracket for the same for carrying a supply of stamps, guides for the passage of said stamps, an automatically operated sliding carriage, a hinged flexible feed arm connected to said carriage, a vertically traveling member cooperating with said flexible arm to automatically move the carriage forward, a hinged rocking piece carried by the carriage for engagement in the perforations of the stamps when the carriage moves forward, a stop on said guide for limiting the forward travel of the carriage, an automatically operated spring-controlled knife operated by said rod for severing each stamp at the perforations, means for limiting the stroke of said knife, a plunger, resilient material attached thereto, a double flange on the bottom of said case, absorbent material fitted thereto, and springs for restoring the parts to their operative position after the delivery of each stamp.

27. In a stamp affixer, the combination of a casing and an actuating rod and means for feeding stamps comprising a guide for said stamps, a carriage movably mounted on said guide, stops on said guide for limiting the movement of said carriage, means on said carriage for engaging said stamps when said carriage is moved forwardly, a flexible rod secured to said carriage and hingedly mounted upon said casing, and means actuated by said actuating rod for swinging said hinged rod and moving said carriage.

28. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a plunger, of a pivoted flexible lever, means connected with said lever for feeding a stamp web beneath said plunger, comprising a carriage, a stop limiting the movement of said carriage, a pivoted strip on said carriage provided with beveled teeth arranged to engage the perforations in the stamp web, and means operated by the movement of said plunger to oscillate said lever and shift said carriage to said stop and then flex said lever by a further movement of said plunger.

29. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a plunger, of a pivoted lever, a carriage connected with said lever, a pivoted strip on said carriage, having rearwardly beveled teeth arranged to engage the perforations in the stamp web in one direction

and release said perforations and slide over said web in the opposite direction, a spring tending to press said strip toward said stamp web, an adjustable stop for said carriage, and means movable with said plunger arranged to oscillate said lever and shift said carriage.

30. The combination with a feeding device comprising a carriage, of a pivoted toothed strip on said carriage arranged to engage a web, a spring tending to press the teeth into said web, a pivoted flexible lever connected to shift said carriage, a plunger arranged to engage said web, and means carried with said plunger arranged to oscillate said lever to shift said web, and flex said lever when said web has been shifted a pre-determined extent.

31. In a stamp affixer, the combination of stamp engaging means, means to advance said stamp engaging means to feed the stamp to a predetermined position, and means to absorb any tendency to move said stamp beyond said predetermined position, and pressing means for affixing said stamp.

32. In a stamp affixer, the combination of stamp engaging means, and yielding means to advance said stamp engaging means to feed the stamp to a predetermined position, and to absorb any tendency to move said stamp beyond said predetermined position, and pressing means for affixing said stamp.

33. In a stamp affixer, means to support a continuous strip of perforated stamps, means to engage the perforations between said stamps, a stop, means having a limited flexibility for advancing said means to engage said perforations, whereby any tendency to move said means to engage said perforations beyond said stop is absorbed by said means having a limited flexibility, and pressing means for affixing said stamp.

34. In a stamp affixer, the combination of a casing, of a plunger having a resilient facing arranged to press a stamp and provided with means to increase the pressure at the edges of said stamp, and means arranged to actuate said plunger.

35. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a plunger, of a knife relatively movable with respect to said plunger for severing stamps, yielding means carried by said plunger arranged to press said knife into operative position, and yielding means arranged to press said knife laterally.

36. In a stamp affixer, the combination with a casing, of a plunger mounted therein, means for feeding stamps, means arranged to limit the movement of said stamp feeding means, and a flexible arm operated by said plunger to advance said stamp feeding means.

37. In a stamp affixer, the combination with means for pressing a stamp, of means

for applying moisture to the surface to which said stamp is to be affixed, and means independent of said pressing means for absorbing said moisture from said surface.

5 38. In a stamp affixer, the combination with means for pressing a stamp, of means actuated thereby for moistening the substance to which said stamp is to be affixed,
10 means arranged to effect the contemporaneous movement of said stamp pressing means

and said moistening means toward operative position independently.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

PERCY GORDON ECKERSLEY DANIEL.
CHARLES ASHTON HENRY BULLOCK.

Witnesses:

HAROLD W. LAKE,
T. S. WARDLE.