H. O. FISCHER.

LABELING MACHINE.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 10, 1917.

**1,311,643.**

Patented July 29, 1919.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

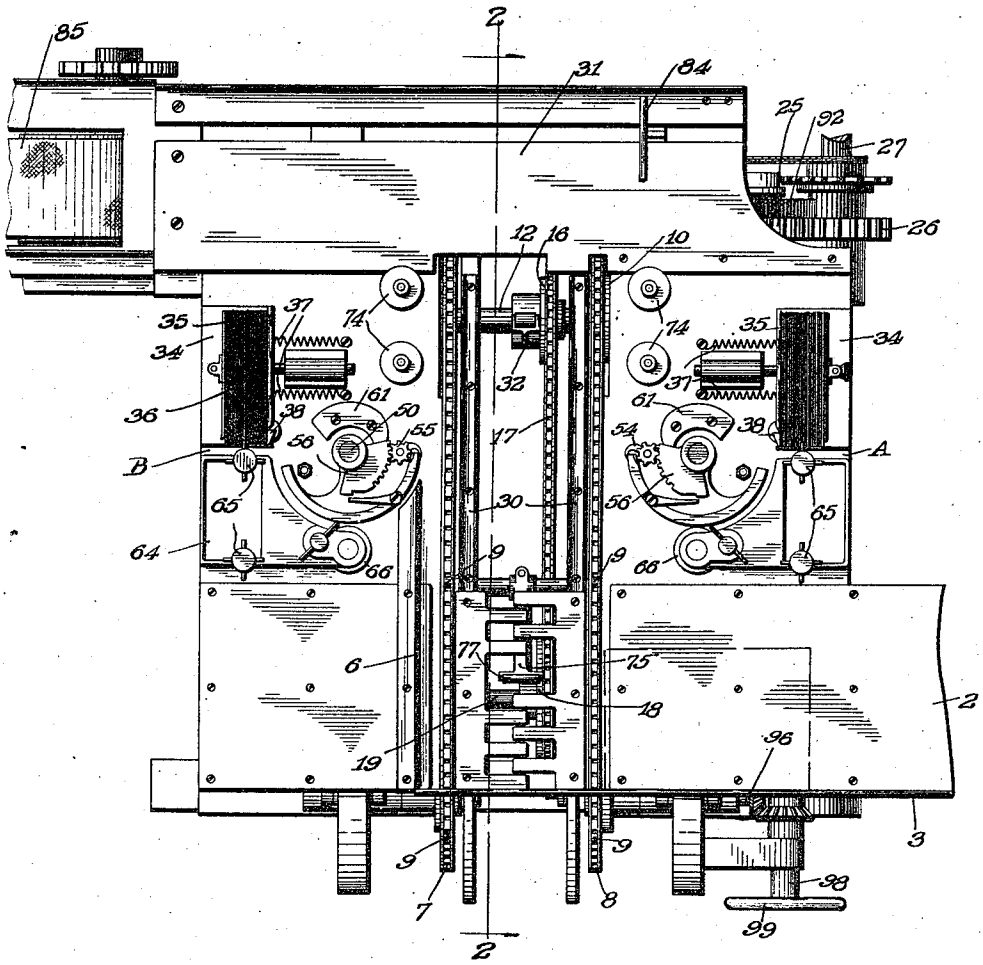



Fig. 1.

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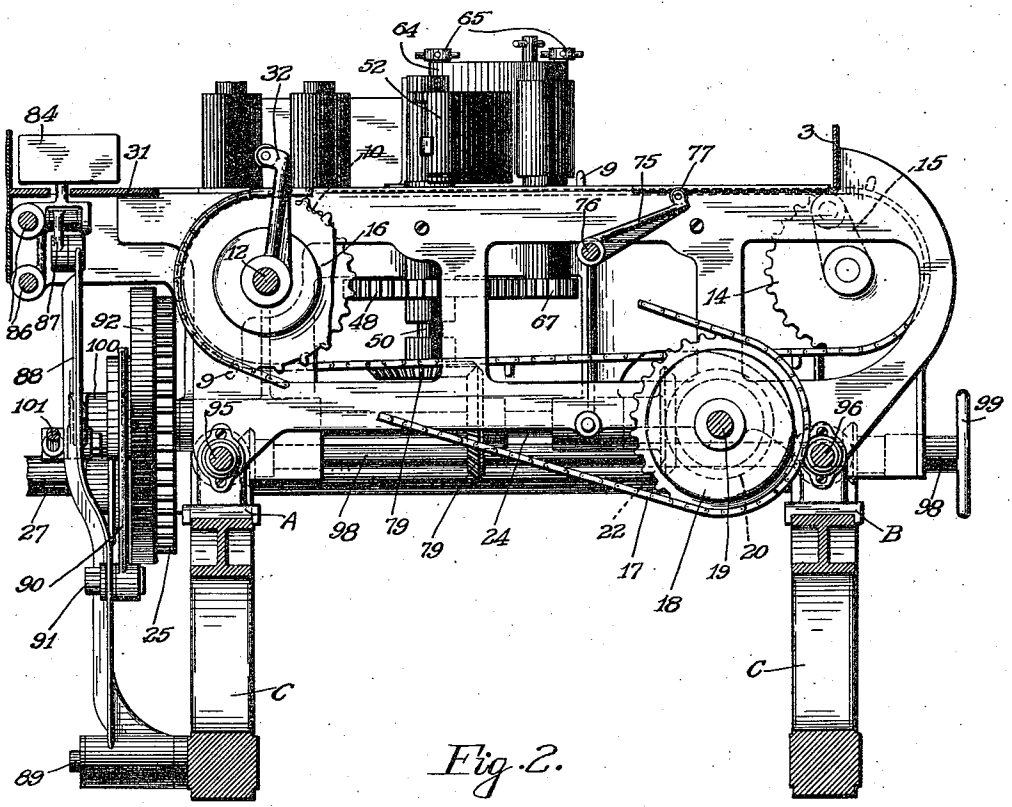



Fig. 2.

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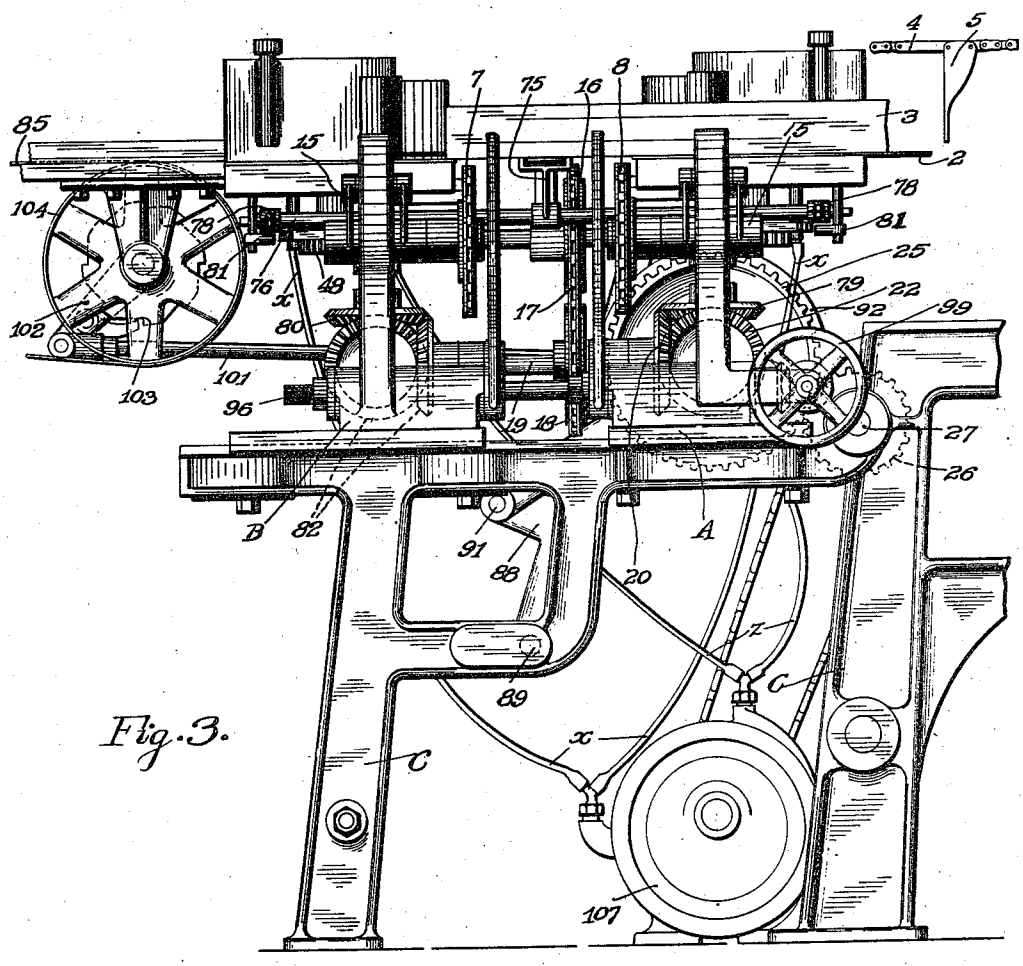



Fig. 3.

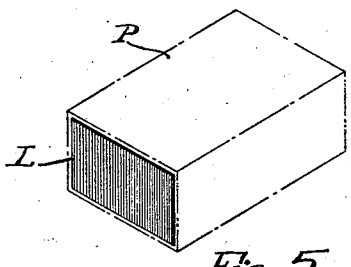



Fig. 5.

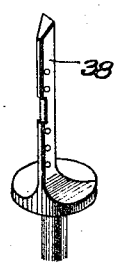



Fig. 4.

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4 SHEETS—SHEET 4.

Fig. 6.

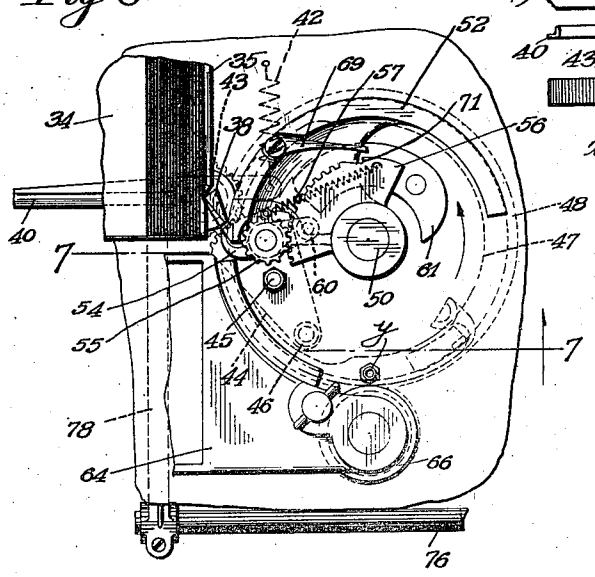
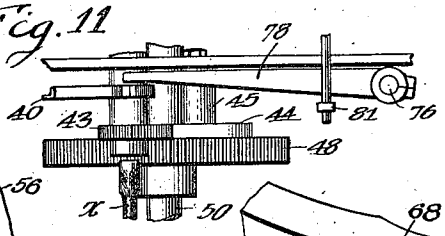



Fig. 11



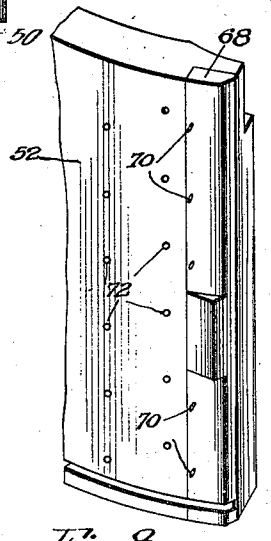




Fig. 8.

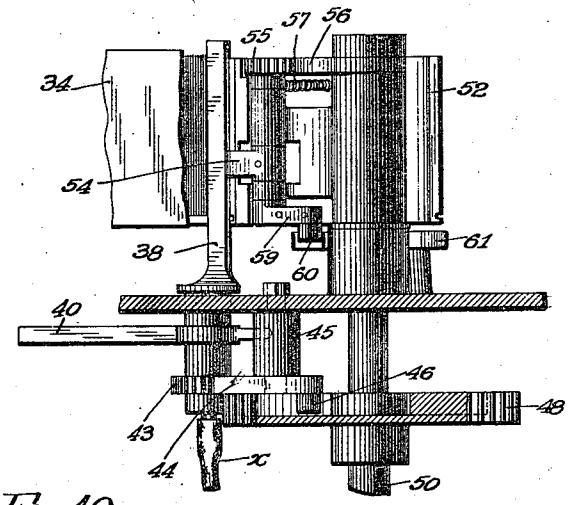
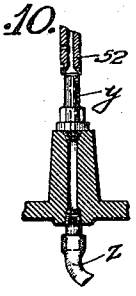



Fig. 7.

Fig. 10.



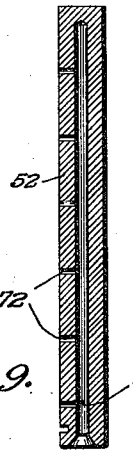




Fig. 9.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HERMANN O. FISCHER, OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO PACKAGE MACHINERY COMPANY, OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, A CORPORATION OF MASSACHUSETTS.

## LABELING-MACHINE.

1,311,643. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 29, 1919.

Application filed January 10, 1917. Serial No. 141,700.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HERMANN O. FISCHER, a subject of the Emperor of Germany, residing at 18 Sycamore St., Springfield, in the county of Hampden and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain Improvements in Labeling-Machines, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like reference characters on the drawings indicating like parts in the several figures.

This invention relates to machines for applying labels, seals and the like to packages, boxes, bottles and articles of various descriptions, which, for convenience, will be hereinafter referred to as packages. The invention will be herein disclosed as embodied in a machine for applying two seals simultaneously to opposite faces of a package. It is a common practice in wrapping cartons, particularly those containing food stuffs, to fold a wrapper around the longitudinal faces of the carton into a tubular form leaving extensions projecting at opposite ends of the package. These extensions are then folded down against the end faces of the package and an end seal or label is pasted on each end face to hold the folds in place. This method of wrapping produces a very attractive package, one which lends itself readily to ornamental designs, and it forms a very tight and effective wrapping. The machine hereinafter described in detail for the purpose of disclosing the present invention is designed especially to apply these end seals or labels to the opposite ends of a package.

The invention has for its chief object to devise a label affixing machine which shall be simple in construction, reliable in operation, can be readily adjusted by an unskilled operator and will operate at high speeds.

Since the labels used in machines of this character usually bear the trademark of the manufacturer or have some ornamental coloring or design, they are printed and cut to a uniform size before they come to the machine and the machine is provided with a magazine to receive the supply of labels. The present invention provides a novel mechanism for removing the labels from the magazine one at a time, rendering them adhesive and affixing them to the packages.

Another feature of the invention consists in a continuously operating package feeding mechanism, so constructed that it enables the machine to handle the packages at high speeds and at the same time avoids any danger of injuring them.

The invention also is directed to the provision of a novel controlling mechanism which prevents the feeding of a label upon the failure of the machine to deliver a package in the proper position to have a label applied to it, and to a novel arrangement for permitting the adjustment of the label applying mechanisms to enable the machine to handle packages varying widely in dimensions.

The invention also includes certain novel details of construction and combinations and arrangements of parts, the nature and advantages of which will be readily understood from the following description of the preferred embodiment of the invention, the novel features being particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

Referring now to the accompanying drawings,

Figure 1 is a plan view of a label applying machine constructed in accordance with this invention;

Fig. 2 is a cross sectional view of the machine shown in Fig. 1 taken on the line 2—2, Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a rear elevation of the machine shown in Figs. 1 and 2;

Fig. 4 is an angular view of one of the suction plates used on the machine;

Fig. 5 is an angular view showing the manner in which the machine applies a label or seal to a package;

Fig. 6 is a plan view of one of the label applying mechanisms;

Fig. 7 is a vertical cross sectional view on the line 7—7, Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 is an angular view of a part of the label applying device;

Fig. 9 is a vertical cross sectional view of the part shown in Fig. 8;

Fig. 10 is a vertical cross sectional view showing a detail of construction; and

Fig. 11 is a side elevation of certain parts of the mechanism shown in Fig. 6.

The machine shown may be used either as an attachment for a wrapping machine designed to perform certain preliminary wrapping operations on the package and then deliver it to the labeling machine, or it may be used to apply labels to packages which have not been prepared in this manner. In either

event the packages are delivered to the machine on a table or platform 2, having one or more side guides 3 to prevent lateral displacement of the packages, and they preferably are advanced one at a time toward the labeling mechanism by some mechanical means as, for instance, by a chain shown at 4 in Fig. 3, this chain being provided with package pushing devices 5. The forward movement of each package is arrested by a stop 6 (Fig. 1), after it has been delivered to two chains 7 and 8, which form a conveyer, each chain being provided with a series of package engaging lugs or fingers 9. These chains are supported at their forward ends on two driving sprocket wheels 10 mounted on a shaft 12, and at their rearward ends on a pair of idle sprocket wheels 14. The sprocket wheels 14 are supported by hangers 15 which are adjustable to tighten the chains 7 and 8. The shaft 12 also has fixed thereto a sprocket wheel 16 which is driven by means of a chain 17 running on another sprocket wheel 18 fast on the shaft 19. This shaft carries a beveled gear 20 meshing with a similar gear 22 mounted fast on the shaft 24, the latter shaft being driven by means of a gear 25 which it carries and which meshes with a pinion 26 fast on the driving shaft 27 of the machine. The constant rotary movement thus imparted to the chains 7 and 8 enables them to advance the packages at a uniform rate past the labeling mechanisms, the lugs 9 pushing the packages ahead of them one at a time along a pair of horizontal guides 30 toward a table 31 at the tail of the machine.

It may here be stated that in order to avoid any possibility of the lugs 9 biting into the lower edge of the package as they move out of contact with it, an arm 32 carrying a roll at its outer end is fixed to the shaft 12 in position to strike the rearward side of the package just before it leaves the chains 7 and 8, and pushes the package away from the lugs 9 forcing it on to the table or platform 31. This arm is enabled to operate in this manner because it extends beyond the peripheries of the wheels 10 on which the chains 8 and 9 travel and consequently its free end, which carries the roll, travels at a greater peripheral speed than do the chains. This roll thus comes up behind each package as it nears the end of the chains and pushes the package ahead of the lugs, speeding it up during the rest of its travel in this direction. The roll rotates freely by contact with the package and thus avoids any danger of injuring it.

The label applying mechanisms are arranged in duplicate in the machine shown so that they will apply a seal or label to each side of the package while the chain is carrying it from the receiving platform 2 to the discharge platform 31. Inasmuch as these label applying mechanisms are alike, one of them only will be described in detail.

The labels are supported on edge in a magazine 34 between a front plate 35 and a rear plate 36, the latter plate being constantly pressed toward the former plate by means of two springs 37. The plate 35 is cut away at one edge, as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 6, so that the labels project beyond it at this edge, and a suction plate 38 is mounted in the space so provided. The lower or shank portion of this plate consists of a rock shaft to which a tail piece 40 is rigidly fixed and one end of this tail piece is acted upon by a spring 42 in a direction tending to swing the suction plate about its axis toward its open position. In order to swing the suction plate into its closed position, it has a pinion 43 pinned to its lower end and this pinion meshes with a segment 44 (see Figs. 6 and 7) which is arranged to swing about a pivot stud 45 and carries a cam roll 46 at its rearward end. This roll normally is held by the spring 42 in contact with an internal cam face 47 formed on a gear 48 which is fast on a vertical shaft 50. This shaft also carries the label applying member 52 so that the movement of the suction plate is accurately timed with reference to the rotation of said member. The suction plate is of the usual construction and a suitable air exhausting mechanism of the character commonly used in machines of this type is provided to exhaust the air from the passages in the suction plate at the proper periods in the cycle of operations of the machine.

The suction plate 38 is operative to move the forward edge of the margin of the foremost label in the magazine into position to be grasped by the label affixing device. This device comprises a segmental plate 52 mounted fast on the rotary shaft 50 and having its peripheral surface curved to lie in the cylindrical surface formed by its rotative movement. A nipper 54 is pivoted to the rearward side of the plate 52, as clearly shown in Figs. 6 and 7, and the pivot or rock shaft to which this nipper is pinned carries a pinion 55 at its upper end which meshes with a segment 56 that rocks freely on the shaft 50. A spring 57 connects a pin rigid with the pinion 55 to the segment 56 at points such that it tends to maintain the nipper 54 in its closed or label gripping position. In order to open the nipper at the required point in the rotation of the label applying device, the lower end of the rock shaft carrying the nipper is provided with a short arm 59 carrying a roll 60 which is adapted to engage the surface of a stationary cam 61 mounted on the machine frame.

It will be evident from the foregoing description and from an inspection of Figs. 6 and 7 that as the shaft 50 rotates, carrying

the member 52 with it, the cam face 47 will, at a certain time, allow the suction plate 38 to swing outwardly carrying the margin of the endmost label in the magazine with it. While the suction plate maintains the edge of this label in this deflected position, the roll 60 is traveling along the face of the cam 61 and acts through the connections just described to hold the nipper 54 open; but this roll rides off the end of the cam 61 at about the time that the forward edge of the plate 52 engages the outturned edge of the label and the spring 57 immediately snaps the nipper 54 into its closed position, thus causing it to grip the margin of the label firmly, pressing it against the forward edge of the member 52. Fig. 6 shows the parts at substantially the instant that this operation is completed. As the label applying device continues to rotate, it draws the label out of the magazine causing the label to trail behind, resting more or less on the peripheral surface of the part 52. It will be noted that the rear face of the front plate 35 of the magazine lies substantially on a tangent to the path of travel of the member 52 so that the foremost label is pulled out edgewise in a plane substantially coincident with or parallel to itself.

It is next necessary to apply adhesive material to the rear face of the label and for this purpose a glue pot 64 is removably supported by clamping screws 65 adjacent to the member 52 and is provided with a glue applying roll 66 which is mounted on a shaft that carries a gear 67 running in mesh with the gear 48. A slight clearance is provided between the adhesive applying roll 66 and the label carrying member 52 so that in case the latter member does not carry a label the roll 66 will not smear its peripheral surface with glue. A detachable piece 68, which is set into the forward edge of the part 52, is provided with a series of very short pins 70 which may be long enough to touch the film of glue on the roll 66 and which, therefore, perform the function of pressing the forward edge of the label into engagement with the film of glue on this roll. At the same time these pins are so small that they cannot pick up enough glue to cause any trouble in case the machine is allowed to run without labels in the magazine. The adhesion of the label to the film of glue on the roll 66, which is established by the pins 70 forcing the forward edge of the label into engagement with the roll, serves to maintain the label in contact with the roll while it is carried past the roll by the member 52. The adhesive applying apparatus, of course, is provided with the usual scraping devices which reduce to the desired thickness the film of glue on the roll 66. This arrangement, while insuring the coating of substantially the entire surface of the label with glue, is also of advantage in handling the glue very neatly and avoiding the smearing of the glue on parts of the mechanism due to the failure of the workman to keep the magazine supplied with labels or for any other reason. The clearance provided between the label affixing device and the glue applying member need only be very small, say about one sixteenth of an inch.

As an additional means of forcing the label into engagement with the glue roll 66, the member 52 is provided with air channels or ducts which open into its peripheral face, as indicated at 72, Fig. 8, and air may be forced through these channels by the same means that creates the suction in the suction plate 38. Usually, however, it is unnecessary to employ this fluid pressure means for holding the label in contact with the glue roll.

The rotation of the two members 52 is, of course, so timed with reference to the travel of the lugs 9 on the chains 7 and 8, that as these lugs push a package past said members they apply the labels which they carry to the opposite faces of the package, centering the labels properly on these faces. The members 52 rotate at a peripheral speed substantially equal to the rate of travel of the packages so that they roll the labels on to the package. Any friction or sliding movement between the parts 52 and the package thus is avoided. Fig. 5 shows the label L applied to the package P in this manner. The centering of the label on the end face of the package is, of course, determined by the angular adjustment of the sprocket wheel 10 on the shaft 12, since this adjustment determines the relative timing of the passage of the lugs 9 past the rotatable label applying devices.

The two label applying mechanisms are, of course, driven in unison and for this purpose the shaft 50 of the right hand mechanism is operated by beveled gears 79, which connect it with the shaft 24, see Figs. 2 and 3, while the left hand mechanism is operated through a similar gear connection, one of the gears being indicated at 80, Fig. 3, with a shaft driven by a beveled gear connection 82 with the shaft 19.

If it is desired to render the nipper 54 inoperative for any reason as, for instance, in case of trouble, the segment 56 can be turned about the shaft 50 in a clockwise direction, as shown in Fig. 6, thus rotating the nipper 54 into its open position and a latch 69 can then be seated in a notch 71 formed in the segment 56, the latch operating thereafter to hold the nipper open until it is released by hand. When the nipper is locked in its open position, the roll 60 is maintained out of engagement with the cam 61.

The chains 7 and 8 next carry the package between rolls 74 positioned at opposite sides

of the chain and these rolls operate to press the labels firmly against the opposite faces of the package. A mechanism is provided which automatically prevents the label applying mechanisms from delivering labels in case no package is presented to the machine to receive them. This mechanism comprises a lever arm 75 mounted on a rock shaft 76 and carrying a roll 77 at its upper end, which normally is in the path of travel of the packages as they are carried forward by the chains 7 and 8. This rock shaft also carries two short arms 78, see Figs. 3 and 6, which at certain times are moved in front of the respective tail pieces 40 that project from the respective suction plates 38 of the two label applying mechanisms, and these arms thus prevent the springs 42 from swinging the suction plates into their open positions. The weight of a package in passing over the roll 77 is sufficient to depress this end of the lever and thus elevate the outer ends of the arms 78 far enough to maintain them above the paths of movement of the tail pieces 40, but the weight of the parts is so disposed that if the chains fail to deliver a package at the proper time to receive the seals or labels, the roll 77 will be elevated and the free end of the arms 78 will drop into position to engage the tail pieces 40 and keep the spring 42 from swinging the suction plates 38 into their open or label deflecting positions. The parts are so timed that an interruption in the delivery of packages to the machine causes each arm 78 to drop down in front of its respective tail piece 40 while the tail piece is held at the rearward limit of its stroke due to the engagement of the cam surface 47 with the roll 46 and the motion thus transmitted to the tailpiece through the sector 44 and the pinion 43. When the cam surface 47 passes out of engagement with the roll 46 to allow the spring 42 to swing the suction plate 38 into its label deflecting position, the tail piece 40 strikes the end of the arm 78 substantially at the beginning of this deflecting movement and thus prevents the suction plate from positioning the margin of a label for the engagement therewith of the label-applying member. The delivery of labels thus is controlled automatically by the proper presentation of packages to the machine. An adjustable stop 81, see Fig. 3, is positioned under each of the arms 78 and the downward movement of these arms is limited by these stops.

The ejecting arm 32, as above described, pushes the packages one at a time off the chains 7 and 8 on to the platform 31 and into the path of a reciprocating pusher 84 which operates at right angles to the path of movement of the arm 32 and serves to push the packages on to a conveying belt 85. This pusher, as shown in Fig. 2, is mounted to slide on a pair of horizontal rods 86 and is connected by a short link 87 to the upper end of a lever 88 fulcrumed at 89, and operated by a cam follower 90 which is pivoted to the lever at 91 and is operated by a cam 92 fast on to the shaft 24. The conveyer 85 may be driven in any suitable manner, but in the machine shown this conveyer is operated by a crank 100, see Fig. 2, on the shaft 24 and a connecting rod 101, Figs. 2 and 3, which operates a lever 102 carrying a ratchet that engages a ratchet wheel 103 fast on a shaft which carries a pulley 104 over which the conveyer belt 85 runs. Obviously, any other suitable means may be provided for taking the packages away from the discharge end of the conveyer formed by the chains 7 and 8, the particular arrangement shown being merely a convenient way of illustrating this object.

It is obvious that the two label applying mechanisms must be adjustable toward and from each other in order to apply labels simultaneously to the opposite sides of packages of different lengths. In the machine shown this object is accomplished by mounting both of these mechanisms and the operating means therefor on independent frame sections indicated in the drawings at A and B, respectively, and these two sections are supported on a base C for sliding movement toward and from each other. For the purpose of effecting this movement two shafts 95 and 96, respectively, (see Fig. 2) are rotatably mounted in bearings formed for them in the two frame sections A and B and are each provided with right and left hand threaded portions engaging correspondingly threaded nuts fast on the sections A and B, so that when they are rotated in either direction they will move the frame sections A and B and the parts mounted on them toward and from the center line of travel of the packages as they are carried through the machine by the conveyer chains 7 and 8. This rotative adjusting movement is provided for by mounting a beveled gear on the end of each shaft 95 and 96 and providing a shaft 98 at right angles to the shaft 96 and carrying beveled gears meshing with the gears mounted on said shaft. The shaft 98 also is provided with a hand wheel 99 by means of which it can be rotated.

It will be noted that only two shafts, namely, 12 and 19 extend through the two sections A and B and those gears and wheels carried by the shafts which must move toward and from each other are splined to the shafts and suitably guided in their respective frame sections A and B so that the cooperative relationship between the shafts and the other parts mounted in the frame pieces A and B is preserved in all positions of adjustment.

Any suitable kind of air exhausting appa-

ratus may be used for the purpose of creating the suction required in the plate 38 and delivering the required air pressure to the label-applying plates 52. In the machine shown an air pump is used which is indicated in Fig. 3 at 107, this pump being driven from a shaft 27. Flexible tubes *x* lead from the suction side of the pump to the suction plates 38 and additional tubes *z* lead from the pressure side of the pump to nipples *y*, see Figs. 6 and 10, located on the bed of the machine in a line between the shafts 66 and 50 and immediately under the path of movement of the plate 52. The ducts 72′ formed in the plate 52 and into which the passages 72 open, are themselves open at the bottom so that as these ducts come in line with the nipple *y* air will be forced into them and through the short passages 72 against the face of the label which the member 52 carries, thus forcing this label away from the peripheral surface of the label-applying member 52 and pressing it into contact with the glue-applying roll 66.

It will readily be appreciated from the foregoing description that the label applying mechanisms provided by this invention are extremely simple in construction, that it is not liable to get out of order and that it requires practically no attention other than to keep the magazine supplied with labels, the glue pots supplied with glue and to lubricate the parts, all of which operations can be performed by an unskilled laborer. The adjustment required to enable the machine to handle packages of different dimensions also is extremely simple. It will also be evident that the employment of a continuously moving conveyer to carry the packages past the label applying mechanisms and the employment of rotary label affixing devices enable the machine to operate at relatively high speeds. Furthermore, the elimination of reciprocating motion, particularly in parts having a long stroke, not only increases the speed with which the packages can be handled but also decreases the wear and tear on the machine.

While I have herein shown and described the best embodiment of the invention of which I am at present aware, it is obvious that the invention may be embodied in many other forms differing in detail from the construction above described while still retaining the essential features and characteristics of the invention. It is obvious, therefore, that the invention is not limited to the details of the construction shown.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. In a machine for affixing labels to packages, the combination with a magazine for the labels, of a rotary label-applying device constructed and arranged to mechanically grasp a label in the magazine and through its rotative movement to pull the label out of the magazine, said device being operative thereafter to apply said label to a package.

2. In a machine for affixing labels to packages, the combination with a magazine for the labels, of a rotary label-applying device constructed and arranged to act positively on the labels during its rotative movement to pull them edgewise out of the magazine one at a time, and operative to apply them to the packages, and means for applying adhesive material to each label while it is carried by said device.

3. In a machine for affixing labels to packages, the combination with a magazine for the labels, of a rotary label-applying device constructed and arranged to grasp the edge of a label in the magazine and pull the label edgewise out of the magazine, and operative thereafter during its rotative movement to apply said label to a package.

4. In a machine for affixing labels to packages, the combination with a magazine for the labels, of a continuously rotatable label-applying device constructed and arranged to grasp the edge of a label in the magazine and pull it edgewise out of said magazine, and operative thereafter to apply said label to a package, and means coöperating with said magazine to position the marginal portion of the label for the engagement therewith of said device.

5. In a machine for affixing labels to packages, the combination with a magazine for the labels, of a continuously rotating label affixing device constructed and arranged to pull the labels edgewise out of the magazine one at a time and to apply the labels to the packages, and an adhesive applying member located closely adjacent to the path of travel of said device but out of contact with said device whereby said member is operative to apply adhesive material to the label after said device has pulled the label out of the magazine.

6. In a machine for affixing labels to packages, the combination with a magazine for the labels, of a rotatable label affixing device constructed and arranged to remove the labels from the magazine one at a time and operative to apply the labels to the packages while making its rotative movement, and means for acting on the endmost label in the magazine to facilitate the initial engagement of said device with said label preparatory to removing it from the magazine.

7. In a label affixing machine, the combination with a magazine for the labels, of a continuously rotating label affixing device constructed and arranged to remove the labels from the magazine one at a time, and means for acting on the labels in the maga-

zine to facilitate the initial engagement of said device with a label preparatory to removing it from the magazine.

8. In a label affixing machine, the combination with a rotatable label affixing device operative to transfer labels one at a time, of an adhesive applying member mounted closely adjacent to the path of travel of said device, and means constructed and arranged to force the label away from the face of said device and into contact with said member as it is carried past said member by said device.

9. In a label affixing machine, the combination with a magazine for the labels, of a rotatable label affixing device comprising a segmental plate, a nipper coöperating with said plate to grip a label, a cam controlling the opening and closing movements of said nipper, a suction plate arranged to deflect the margin of the foremost label in the magazine into position to be grasped by said nipper, and means operating in timed relationship to the movement of said device for operating said suction plate.

10. In a label affixing machine, the combination with a movable label affixing device operative to transfer labels one at a time, of an adhesive applying member mounted closely adjacent to the path of movement of said device and means for utilizing fluid pressure to force the label against said member as it is carried past said member by said device.

11. In a label affixing machine, the combination with a rotatable label affixing device comprising a segmental plate, and means coöperating therewith to grasp a label substantially at the forward edge of said plate thereby causing the label to trail behind against the peripheral face of said plate, of an adhesive applying member mounted closely adjacent to the path of rotation of said plate, and means coöperating with said plate to force the label outwardly away from said device and into engagement with said member while said plate carries the label past said member.

12. In a machine for applying labels and the like to packages, the combination with a magazine for the labels and means for advancing the labels from the magazine one at a time, of mechanism operative automatically whenever a package is not presented in position to receive a label to prevent said label advancing operation without interfering with the normal movements of said means.

13. In a machine for applying labels and the like to packages, the combination with a magazine for the labels and means for advancing the labels from the magazine one at a time, of mechanism constructed and arranged to position the labels for the operative engagement therewith of said means, and means controlled by the presentation of the packages to the machine for controlling the operation of said mechanism.

14. In a machine for applying labels and the like to packages, the combination with a magazine for the labels and means for advancing the labels from the magazine one at a time, of a suction plate, mechanism for supporting and operating said suction plate to cause it to position a part of a label for the operative engagement therewith of said advancing means, a device normally positioned in the path of travel of packages into the machine, and connections between said suction plate operating mechanism and said device constructed and arranged to render the suction plate inoperative to position a label whenever a package is not presented to the machine in position to receive the label.

15. A labeling machine, having in combination a conveyer operative to advance packages one at a time, two label applying mechanisms located on opposite sides of said conveyer and operative to apply labels simultaneously to opposite faces of a package while it is advanced by said conveyer, and means for adjusting said mechanisms toward and from each other.

16. A labeling machine, having in combination a conveyer comprising a pair of conveyer elements arranged to advance packages one at a time, two label affixing mechanisms located on opposite sides of said conveyer and operative to apply labels to opposite faces of the packages advanced between them by said conveyer, two frame sections each supporting one of said label affixing mechanisms and one of said conveyer elements, and means for adjusting said sections toward and from each other to enable the machine to operate on packages of different sizes.

17. In a machine for applying labels and the like to packages, the combination with a magazine for the labels and means for feeding the labels from the magazine one at a time, of mechanism for positioning the labels for the operative engagement therewith of said means, and means for preventing the operation of said mechanism whenever a package is not presented to the machine in position to receive the label.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification.

HERMANN O. FISCHER.