Sept. 14, 1926.

1,599,936

J. E. WILLIAMS

BANK APPLIANCE

Filed Feb. 11, 1926

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

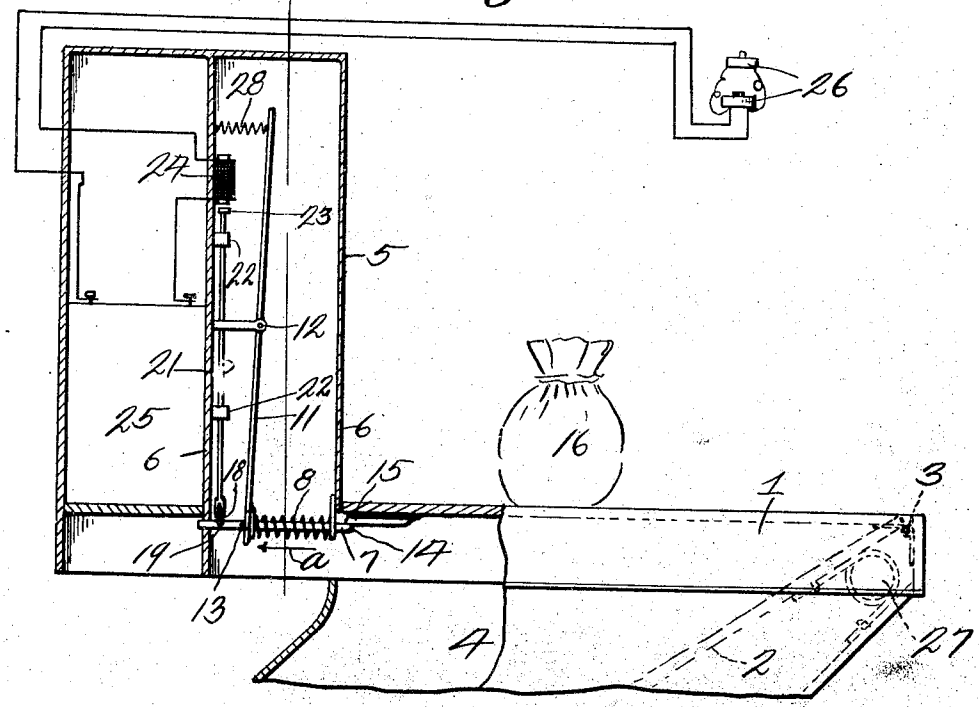

Fig. 2.

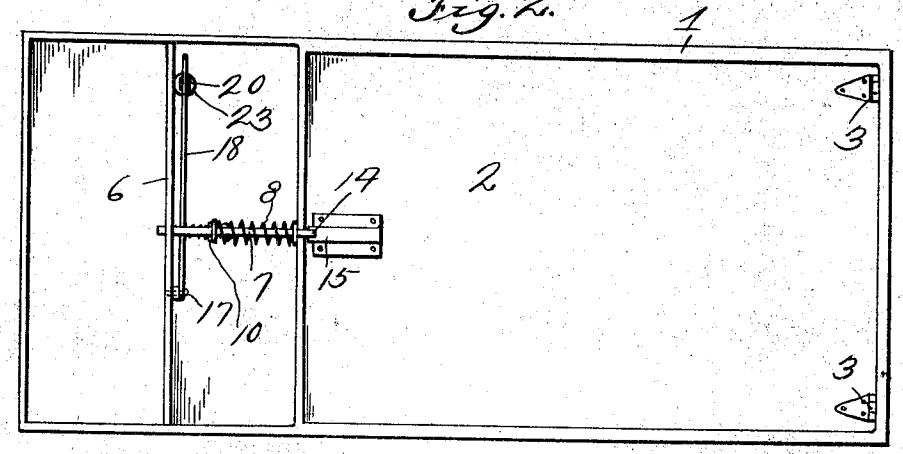

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Fig. 3.

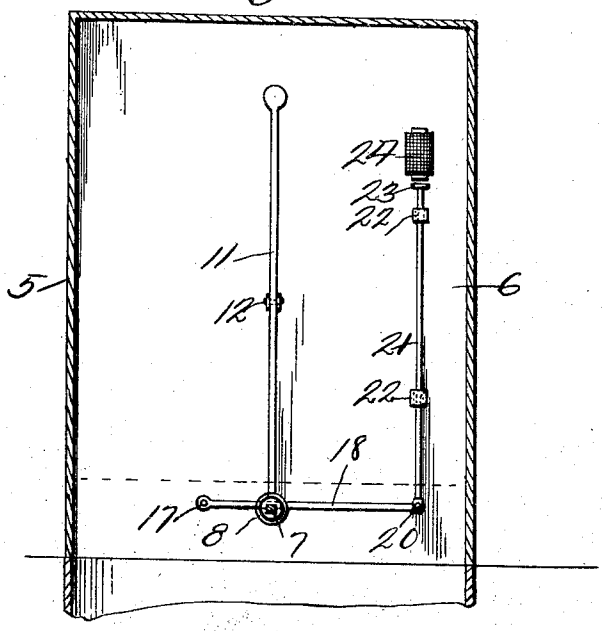
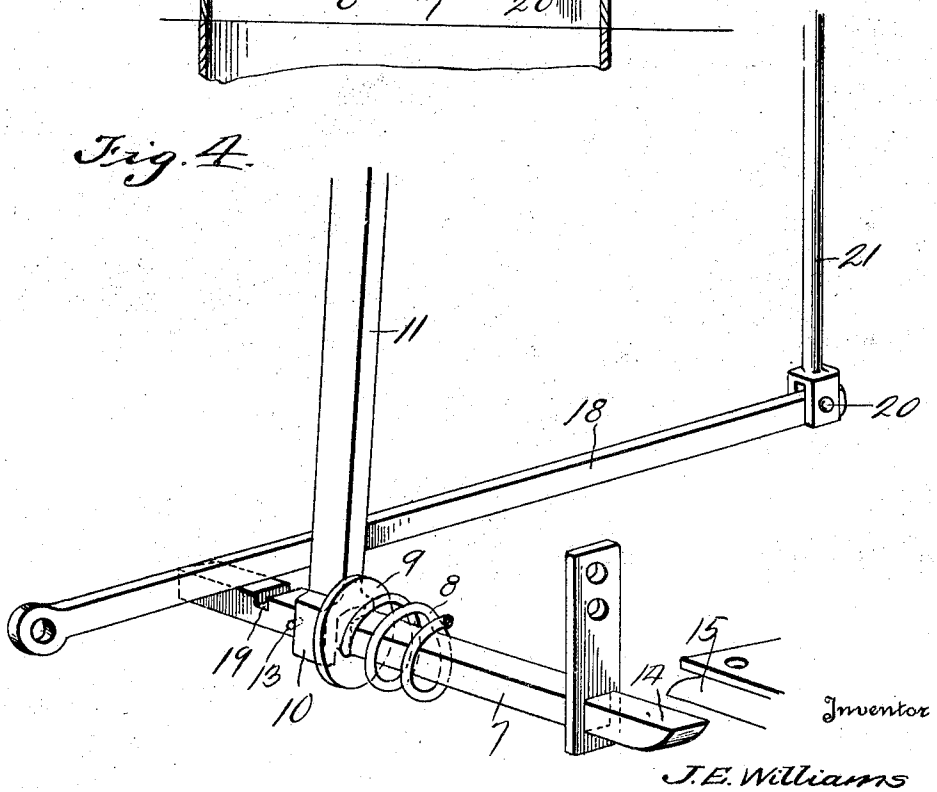


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BANK APPLIANCE.

Application filed February 11, 1926. Serial No. 87,729.

The invention relates to bank appliances and has for its object to provide a device of this character comprising a horizontally disposed hinged member which may be used as a table or counter, and which is disposed over a chute leading to any suitable point of deposit, for instance a vault in the basement of a building, and on which table money may be placed for various purposes, and an electrically controlled latching means for the free end of the hinged member, whereby said hinged member may be released, and money papers disposed thereon, discharged into a chute. The device is particularly adapted for use in banks, and if a hold-up man or burgular enters the bank, an employee may electrically release the hinged member.

A further object is to provide spring means for returning the hinged member to normal latched position after an operation thereof.

A further object is to provide a slidable latching bar cooperating with the free end of the hinged member, spring means for forcing said latching bar to inoperative position, a pivoted bar extending across the latching bar and holding the latching bar in operative position by cooperating with the notch in the latching bar, a vertically disposed slidable rod connected to the free end of the latching bar, a solenoid cooperating with the vertically disposed bar and means whereby said solenoid may be energized or deenergized.

With the above and other objects in view the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts as hereinafter set forth, shown in the drawing, described and claimed, it being understood that changes in the precise embodiment of the invention may be made within the scope of what is claimed without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the drawing:—

Figure 1 is a sectional view through the counter showing the tripping mechanism in side elevation.

Figure 2 is a bottom plan view.

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the slidable latching bar and the adjacent mechanism.

Referring to the drawing, the numeral 1 designates a conventional form of counter, which is provided with a hinged top 2, hingedly connected at 3 to the counter, and disposed above a chute 4, which may lead downwardly through a floor, and discharge into a vault or compartment in the basement of the building. Although the device is described in connection with a counter, for instance the paying teller's counter, it is to be understood that the same may be applied to a table or wherever applicable.

Disposed to one side of the counter 1 is a casing 5, in the walls 6 of which is slidably mounted a horizontally disposed latch bar 7, which latch bar is normally forced rearwardly by the expansion spring 8, which surrounds the bar 7 and engages the washer 9 which in turn engages the bifurcated end 10 of a vertically disposed lever 11, which is pivotally mounted at 12 intermediate its ends. Disposed in the latch bar 7 rearwardly of the bifurcated end 10 of the lever 11 is a pin 13, against which the bifurcated end 10 engages, and it will be seen that when the latch bar 7 is released the expansion spring 8 will force the lever 7 rearwardly and move the nose 14 thereof out of engagement with the plate 15 carried by the free end of the hinged top 2 of the counter, thereby allowing the free end of the counter to swing downwardly and the articles disposed thereon, for instance a bag of money 16, to be discharged into the chute 4 and conveyed to a point of deposit. Pivotally connected at 17 to one of the walls 6 of the casing 5 is a transversely disposed lever 18, which lever extends across the latching bar 7, and through a notch 19 therein. The other end of the lever 18 is pivotally connected at 20 to a vertically disposed rod 21, which extends upwardly through guides 22 carried by the wall 6 and has its upper end provided with an armature 23 adjacent a magnet 24. When the magnet 24 is energized the free end of the lever 18 will be pulled upwardly, thereby moving said lever on its pivotal point 17 and moving the same out of the notch 19 in the bar 7, thereby releasing said bar and allowing the bar to be moved to open position for releasing the table top 2.

Disposed within the casing 5 is a battery 25, which battery is in circuit with the magnet 24 and with a plurality of push button switches 26, which push button switches may be located in any convenient location within the bank so that they can be operated

by various employees in case of emergency. When the magnet is energized the latching bar 7 is immediately moved in the direction of the arrow *a*, thereby releasing the mechanism. A spring 27 is provided under the hinged top 2, which is sufficiently heavy to return the top 2 to horizontal position after an operation thereof and the discharge of the contents of the table from the top, however this feature may be eliminated if desired. To reduce the shock of operation a coiled spring 28 is provided, which coiled spring is connected to the upper end of the lever 11 and to the wall 6. Spring 28 is weaker than the spring 8 and forms means for taking up the shock of the operation of the device under the influence of the coiled spring 8, relieving the strain on the mechanism, and at the same time preventing excessive noise incident to the operation of the latching mechanism.

From the above it will be seen that a safety bank appliance is provided which is simple in construction, positive in its operation, the parts reduced to a minimum and one which may be controlled from various locations in a bank.

The invention having been set forth what is claimed as new and useful is:—

1. The combination with a hinged counter top, of an operating and latching device therefor, said device comprising a slidable latching bar cooperating with the free end of the top, a coiled spring surrounding said latching bar, a vertically disposed lever, said lever being pivoted intermediate its ends, a bifurcated end carried by said lever and in which the latching bar is disposed, said lever engaging one end of the coiled spring and cooperating with the spring for forcing the latching bar to open position, a transversely disposed pivoted lever extending across the latching bar and disposed in a recess thereof, a vertically disposed operating rod connected to the transversely disposed lever, a solenoid cooperating with said rod and forming means for disengaging the transversely disposed lever from the slidable latching bar and a coiled spring connected to the vertically disposed lever and forming means whereby the shock of operation of the device is taken up.

2. The combination with a solenoid operated latching member, said latching member cooperating with a latching bar, a spring for normally forcing said latching bar to open position, of a lever, said lever being pivoted intermediate its ends, a connection between said last named lever and the latching bar and stretchable yieldable means connected to said last named lever and forming means whereby the shock of operation of the latching member will be absorbed.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

JAY E. WILLIAMS.