

(No Model.)

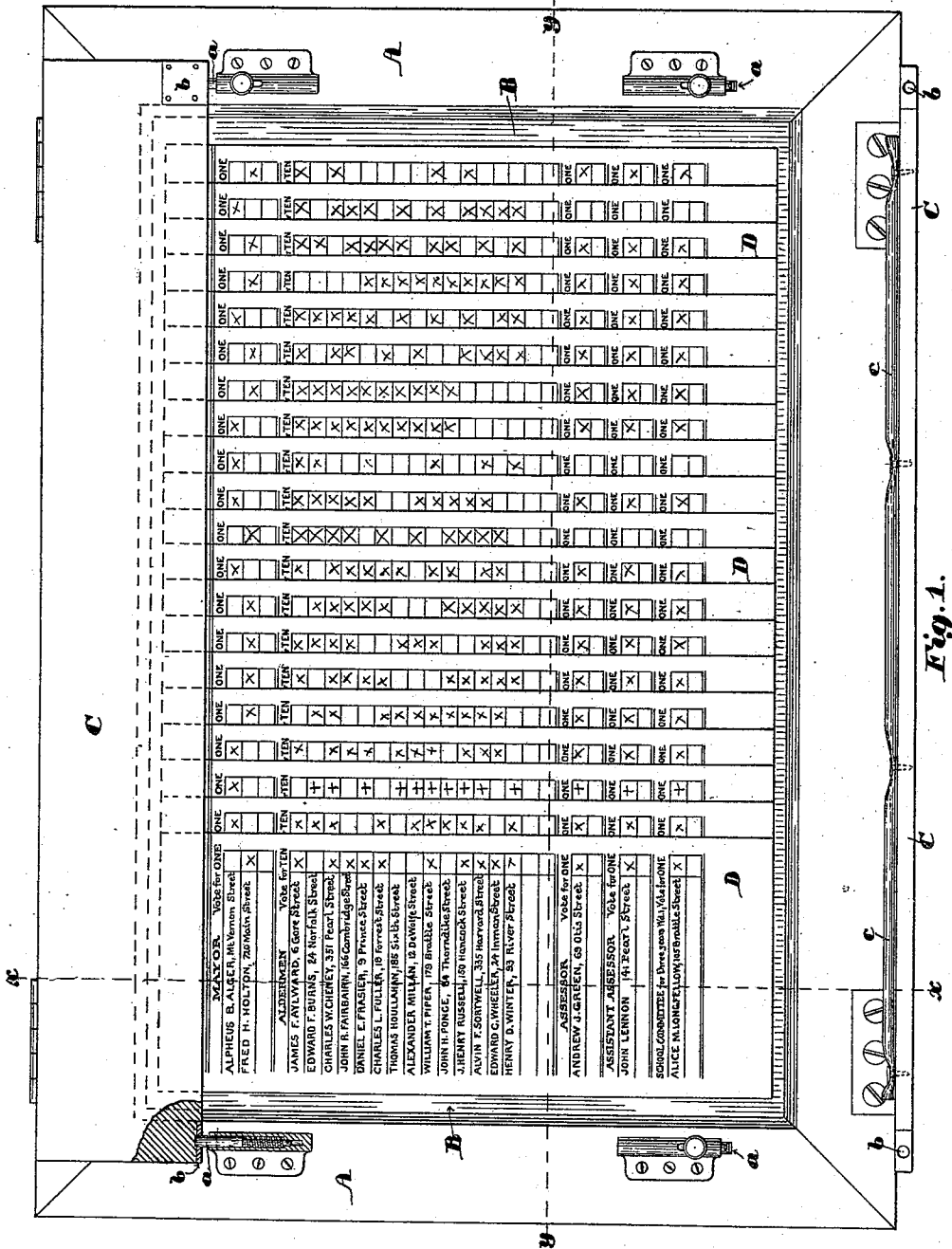
3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

I. S. PEAR.

DEVICE FOR FACILITATING THE COUNTING OF BALLOTS.

No. 468,972.

Patented Feb. 16, 1892.



Witnesses:

Walter E. Lombard.
William St. Barry.

Inventor:

Isaac S. Pear,
by N. C. Lombard
Attorney.

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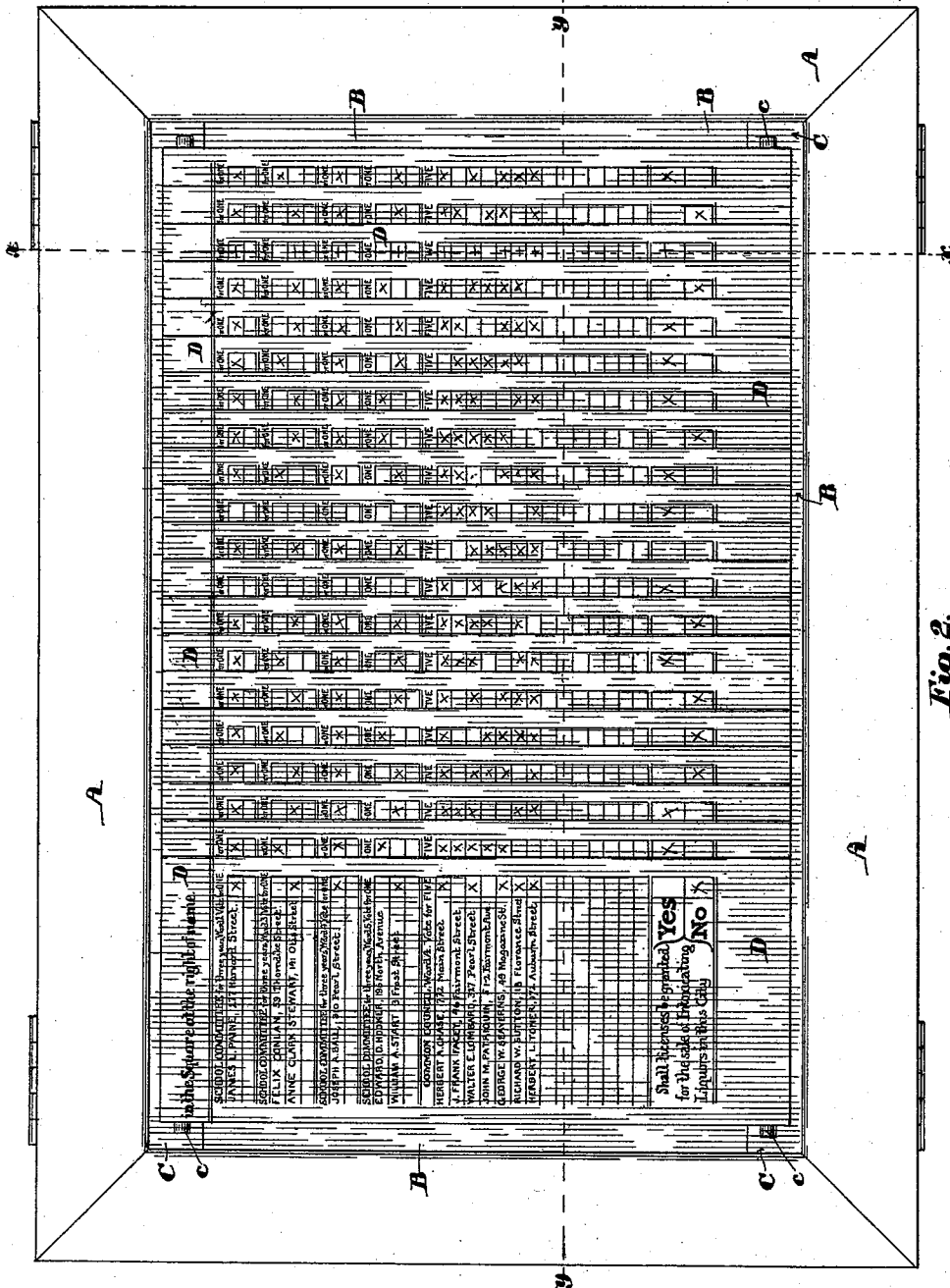
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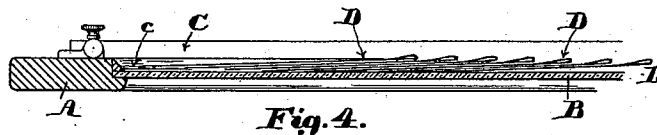
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ISAAC S. PEAR, OF CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

DEVICE FOR FACILITATING THE COUNTING OF BALLOTS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 468,972, dated February 16, 1892.

Application filed November 20, 1890. Serial No. 372,067. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ISAAC S. PEAR, of Cambridge, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Device for Facilitating the Counting of Ballots, of which the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification.

My invention relates to a device for facilitating the counting of ballots cast under the Australian system of voting; and it consists in certain novel features of construction, arrangement, and combination of parts, which will be readily understood by reference to the description of the drawings and to the claims hereinafter given, and in which my invention is clearly pointed out.

Figure 1 of the drawings is an elevation of my invention, with a series of ballots arranged therein in position for counting, with one of the clamping-bars raised. Fig. 2 is an elevation of the opposite side to that shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a section on line *xx* on Figs. 1 and 2. Fig. 4 is a partial section on line *yy* on Figs. 1 and 2.

In the drawings, A is a rectangular frame, preferably made of wood, though other material may be used, and having secured therein the panel B, made of glass or other transparent material, through which the names and marks on the ballot can be seen.

The frame A has hinged to its upper and lower bars two clamping bars or plates C C, the movable edges of which project over and cover portions of the upper and lower edges of said panel, said clamping-bars being secured in clamping position by means of the spring latches or bolts *a*, secured to the frame A, and constructed and arranged to engage with sockets *b*, formed in the edges of said bars, one at or near each end.

Each of the clamping bars or plates C C has secured to its under side, near its inner edge, a strip of rubber or other elastic material *c*, of suitable dimensions to bear upon the ends of the series of ballots D D when arranged in position on the panel B, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

The operation of my invention is as fol-

lows: When the ballots cast under the Australian system of voting are taken from the ballot-box, they are folded with the names of the candidates voted for upon the inside of the sheet, and every ballot has to be opened out, so as to bring the names and marks to view. In counting the ballots by the use of my invention the ballots, after being opened out, are folded in the reverse direction, so that two pages of names and marks will be outward. A number of the ballots—say ten or twenty—are then arranged upon the panel B in such a manner that the names upon all of the ballots but one will be hid from view; but all of the columns of cross-marks at the right of the page are visible, care being taken to arrange the ballots so that the same list of names upon all of the ballots shall be upward and that the same name on all the ballots shall be in the same line horizontally. When the ballots are properly arranged on the panel B, the clamping-bars are turned down, so that the elastic strip *c* bears upon the ends of all the ballots, so as to hold them firmly in position, said bars being held in such depressed positions by the spring-actuated latches or bolts *a*. The inspector then reads off the names on the left-hand ballot in succession with the number of cross-mark opposite each name, which numbers are set down under the appropriate names upon a tally-sheet. The inspector then turns the frame over, so as to expose the names and cross-marks upon the opposite sides of the ballots, if any, which are visible through the transparent panel B, and in like manner reads off the names and the number of cross-marks opposite each name, which are set down in their proper columns by his assistant. When the ballots have all been counted in this way, the columns under each name are footed up in the usual way to give the grand total. Of course the inspector and his assistant should, when opening out, refolding, and arranging the ballots in the frame, scan the ballots carefully, and if any are irregularly marked—that is, at the left of the blank space provided for said mark, so that when arranged in the frame said marks would be hid from view by a ballot overlap-

ping it—said irregular ballots should be laid one side, and if counted at all should be counted by themselves and without placing them in the frame.

5 By the use of my invention a saving of at least one-half in the time required to count the ballots may be made.

I do not wish to be confined to the use of clamping-bars hinged and secured in clamping position in the precise manner shown in the drawings, as it is obvious that said bars may be applied in a variety of ways with substantially the same result, the essential thing in regard to such bars being that they shall 10 press upon the ballots when in position and be readily and easily removable when it is desired to remove the ballots or place a new series in position on the panel.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure 20 by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. In a device for facilitating the counting of ballots, the combination of a transparent support adapted to receive a series of ballots arranged to overlap each other and a pair of 25 movable clamps constructed and arranged to bear one upon each end of said series of ballots without covering any names or voting-marks thereon.

2. In a device for facilitating the counting 30 of ballots, the combination of a transparent panel, a frame surrounding said panel, and a pair of movable clamps attached to said frame and constructed and arranged to press upon the ends of a series of ballots arranged upon 35 said panel without covering or obscuring any names or voting-marks thereon.

3. In a device for facilitating the counting of ballots, the combination of a transparent panel, a frame inclosing said panel, a pair of 40 movable clamps for holding a series of ballots in position on said panel, and latches or catches for holding said clamps in clamping position.

4. In a device for facilitating the counting of ballots, the combination of a transparent 45 panel, a frame inclosing said panel, a pair of movable clamps for holding a series of ballots in position on said panel, and a strip of rubber or other elastic material attached to the

under side of each of said clamps and adapted to bear upon said ballots with a yielding 50 pressure.

5. In a device for facilitating the counting of ballots, the combination of a transparent support to receive a series of ballots, a pair of 55 movable clamps, each provided with an elastic bearing-surface constructed and arranged to bear upon said ballots with a yielding pressure, and latches or catches constructed and arranged to hold said clamps in clamping 60 position.

6. The method of counting ballots, which consists in opening out the folded ballots, re-folding them with the pages containing the names of the candidates voted for outward, arranging a series of said ballots in line upon 65 a level or plane surface and overlapping each other, so that the names of the candidates on all the ballots except one will be hid from view and that portion of one page of each ballot upon which the voting-marks are placed 70 will be exposed to view, counting the several cross-marks in line with each candidate's name upon the page that is upward in succession, and then turning the clamped series of ballots the other side up and counting the 75 several cross-marks in line with each candidate's name that is then exposed to view.

7. The combination, with a group or series of election-ballots arranged to overlap each other, as described, of a clamping device for 80 securing said ballots in said overlapped positions, whereby the voting-marks opposite each candidate's name on one side of said ballots may be counted, and then the group of ballots may be turned over and the voting-marks 85 upon the other side of said ballots may be counted without the necessity of rearranging said ballots.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of 90 two subscribing witnesses, on this 15th day of November, A. D. 1890.

ISAAC S. PEAR.

Witnesses:

N. C. LOMBARD,
WALTER E. LOMBARD.