A. W. SMITH.

STAMP AFFIXING MACHINE.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 24, 1916.

1,293,959.

Patented Feb. 11, 1919.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

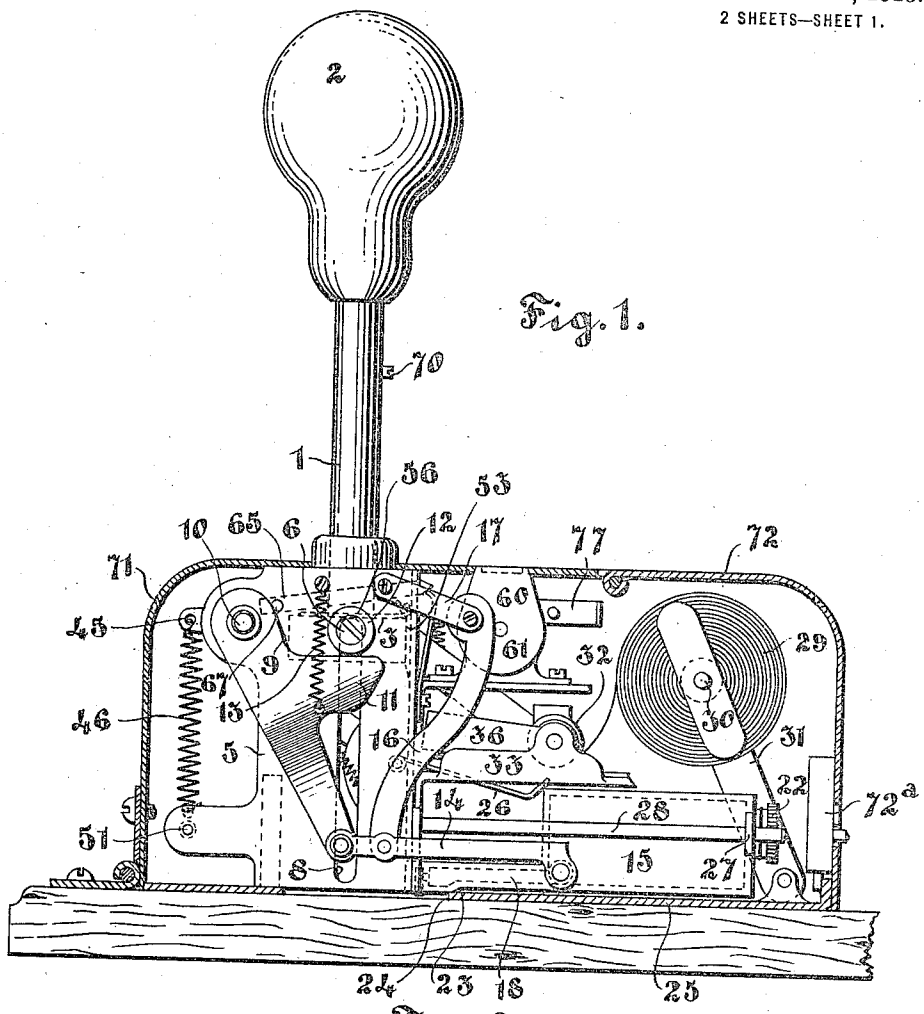


Fig. 1.

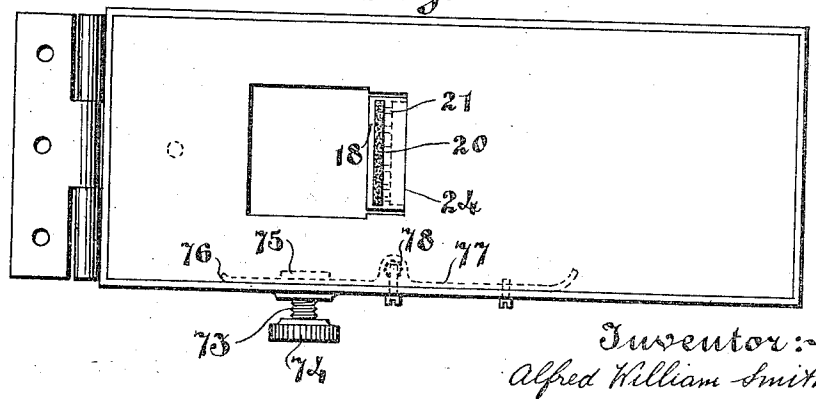


Fig. 2.

Inventor:-
Alfred William Smith,
per Rayner & Co
Attorneys.

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Fig. 3.

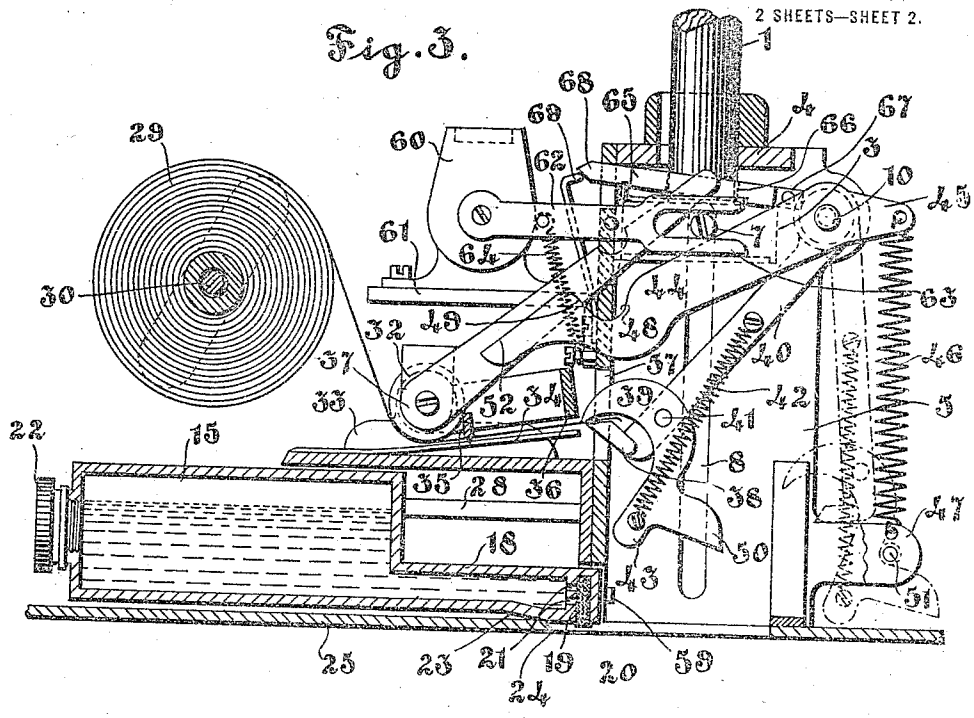
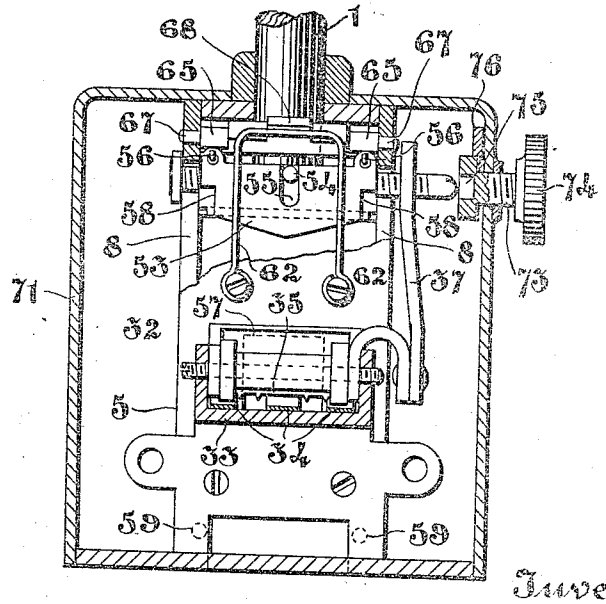


Fig. 4.



Inventor:-
Alfred William Smith
per Rayner & Co
Attorneys.

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALFRED WILLIAM SMITH, OF VICTORIA, ENGLAND.

STAMP-AFFIXING MACHINE.

1,293,959. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 11, 1919.

Application filed June 24, 1916. Serial No. 105,637.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALFRED WILLIAM SMITH, subject of the King of Great Britain and Ireland, residing at 4 Moreton Terrace Mews, Victoria, in the county of London, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in and Relating to Stamp-Affixing Machines, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to machines for affixing stamps or the like of the type in which the downward motion of a plunger operates a slidable water tank to moisten the article to which the stamp or the like is to be affixed, at the same time drawing forward the end stamp of a series or strip and severing and affixing same to the article at one operation.

According to my invention I employ a plunger which when it is depressed operates a lever, causing a water tank to be slid transversely to the plunger, a wick moistening device at one end being pressed into contact with and drawn over the surface to which the stamp is to be affixed. At the same time a swinging arm carrying a pair of grippers which engage the end of a strip of stamps or the like is pressed back so as to draw the strip of stamps forward until the end one reaches a position ready to be severed at the perforations between it and the next upon the strip. The strip of stamps is located in this position during the severing and affixing operations by means of a bar having teeth which engage in the perforations between some other stamps in the strip. Further motion of the descending plunger causes a knife thereon to sever the end stamp at the perforation between it and the next one, and as soon as this is done the swinging arm will bring the grippers against an abutment causing them to open and release the stamp.

The moistening device has now returned to its original position, leaving the moistened surface exposed so that the plunger when forced down to its full extent will press the stamp firmly upon the moistened surface, causing it to adhere thereto. In order to prevent the knife from damaging the surface to which the stamp is to be affixed, it is mounted upon the plunger so as to be capable of a limited amount of movement relative to the plunger and means are provided for arresting its downward motion before it comes into contact with the said surface.

A counter is provided on the machine and is adapted to be operated each time a stamp is affixed, and means are provided to insure a full stroke of the plunger being completed in each direction for each operation. Safety devices are also arranged to prevent tampering with or illicit use of the machine.

In order that my invention may be more readily understood, reference is had to the accompanying drawings in which:—

Figure 1 is a side view of the stamp affixing machine showing the mechanism in elevation and the casing in section.

Fig. 2 is an underneath plan of the casing showing the damping device and the apertures through which the stamp is pressed upon the article to which it is to be secured.

Fig. 3 is a part sectional elevation of the mechanism taken from the opposite side to Fig. 1 and Fig. 4 is a cross section.

Referring to the drawings, the plunger 1 is provided at its upper end with a handle or knob 2 and at its lower end is provided a block 3 which acts to press the stamp or the like onto the surface to which it is to be affixed. The plunger 1 is mounted in a plate 4 on the upper end of the sheet metal brackets or frame 5, and pins 6 and 7 secured one in each side of the block 3 engages in slots 8 in the frame 5 so as to slide down or up in the slots 8 when the plunger 1 is depressed or raised. Upon one side of the frame 5 the lever 9 is pivoted at 10, and a tongue 11 on the lever 9 projects into the path of the pin 6 on the block 3 of the plunger 1 so that the roller 12 on the pin 6 will, when the plunger is depressed, engage against the tongue 11 and turn the lever 9 about its pivot 10 against the action of the spring 13. To the lower end of the lever 9 is pivoted the link 14, the other end of which is pivoted to the sliding water tank 15 so that as the lever 9 turns about its pivot 10, the water tank 15 will be drawn forward so as to moisten the surface to which the stamp is to be affixed. As the lever 9 turns about its pivot, the tongue 11 will be pressed to one side until the roller 12 on the pin 6 passes around its end and allows the spring 13 to return the

lever 9 to its original position, thus sliding back the water tank 15. A bent arm 16 is hinged at one end to the link 14, and at the other end to a link 17 pivoted near to the upper end of the frame 5 so that when the lever 9 is forced back about its pivot 10, the arm 16 will come into the path of the pin 6 and roller 12 so that the further downward movement of the pin 6 will engage against the arm 16 and insure the return of the water tank 15 to its original position.

The water tank 15 is provided with a forward extension 18 having at its front end a slot 19 containing a wick 20, a series of perforations 21 communicating with the interior of the extension 19 of the tank 15 so as to allow the wick 20 to be maintained always in a moist condition. At the rear end of the tank 15 is provided a plug or stopper 22, through which the tank may be refilled. On the underside of the extension 18 is provided a short inclined cam face 23 which engages against the edge 24 of the base plate 25 so as to retain the wick 20 in a raised position when the tank 15 is drawn back. When however the tank 15 is drawn forward by the downward operation of the plunger 1 the cam face 23 on the base of the extension 18 of the tank 15 as it slides over the edge 24 will allow the forward end of the extension 18 to be lowered onto the surface over which the machine has been placed, and the further forward movement will cause the wick 20 to be dragged over the surface, moistening same so as to assure the adhesion of the stamp when pressed thereon. In order to insure proper contact of the wick 20 with the surface to be moistened, light springs 26 are mounted upon each side of the frame 5 and their outer ends engage over the upper surface of the water tank 15 so as to press same downwardly to maintain the wick 20 in contact with the surface to be moistened. At the rear end of the tank 15 is provided a pair of perforated lugs 27 which engage over and slide upon the guide rods 28.

The roll 29 of stamps or the like is mounted upon a spindle 30 upon a hinged arm 31 pivoted to the base-plate 25 near its rear end so that the roll 29 may be turned into a convenient position over the water tank 15. The end of the strip of stamps or the like passes under a roller 32 mounted in a fixed platform 33 and is pressed upwardly by means of a series of light spring strips 34, so that the perforations between the end stamp and its neighbor will be engaged over sprockets or projections on the bar 35 mounted in the U-shaped member 36 which is pivoted upon the axle of the roller 32. This U-shaped member 36 has a lever arm 37 rigidly secured thereto, which lever arm 37 is raised by means of the pin 7 when the plunger 1 is at the top of its stroke so as to turn the U-shaped member 35 about its pivot, allowing the stamps to be drawn over the bar 35. As the plunger 1 descends however, the lever 37 is released and when the stamps have been drawn forward the required distance, the sprockets or projections on the bar 35 drop into the perforations and locate the stamps in position during the operation of severing the end one.

The operation of feeding forward the stamp to be severed each time the machine is actuated is performed by means of fixed and movable grippers 38 and 39 upon the end of a swing arm 40 hinged between the two sides of the frames 5 upon the same pivot 10 on which the lever 9 turns. The movable jaw 39 of the gripper is hinged to the arm 40 at 41, and is connected to the arm by means of springs 42 connected to its lower end 43. The direction of the pull of these springs 42 is such that in the position shown in Fig. 3 the movable jaw will be held against the fixed jaw 38 so as to grip the stamp between them, so that when the arm 40 is caused to swing about its pivot the end stamp will be drawn into position ready to be severed and fixed to the moistened surface. The arm 40 is caused to turn about its pivot to the desired extent by means of the lever 44 secured upon the pin 10, upon which the lever arm 40 is mounted. This lever 44 has an extension 45 to which one end of a spring 46 is secured, the other end being connected to a lug 47 on the frame 5, so that the tension of the spring 46 tends to turn the lever arm 44 upwardly about the axis of the pin 10 and maintains it in contact with the pin 7 on the block 3 of the plunger 1. When the plunger 1 is depressed, the pin 7 engaging against the lever 44 will press this downward around the pivot pin 10, causing the arm 40 to also swing about this axis until the pin 7 engages in the recess 48 in the arm 44 when the end stamp will have been brought to the required position ready for the severing operation. Further downward movement of the plunger 1 will cause the pin 7 to press upon the portion 49 of the lever 44, causing the arm 40 to swing farther backward, bringing the tail 50 of the movable edge 39 of the grippers into contact with a pin 51 mounted in the brackets 47, thus turning the jaw 39 about its pivot 41 and releasing the end of the stamp. The jaw 39 will be turned about its pivot 41 to a sufficient extent to cause the spring 42 to act upon a line upon the opposite side of the pivot to that previously occupied, so that the jaw 39 will be held away from the fixed jaw 38, leaving the grippers open ready to engage upon the stamp strip when returned to their normal position. The flat surface 52 at the end of the arm 44 serves to hold the swinging arm and grippers out of the path of the block 3 during the opera-

tion of severing and affixing the stamp. On the return or upward stroke of the plunger 1, the lever 44 and swinging arm 40 again turn about the pivot 10 under the influence of the spring 46, the fixed jaw 38 engaging under the free end of the strip of stamps. When the end 43 of the movable jaw engages against the wall of the frame 5 as shown in Fig. 3, it will be turned about its pivot 41 until the spring 42 causes the jaw 39 to close upon and grip the end of the strip of stamps ready for again drawing out a fresh stamp next time the plunger is actuated.

Mounted upon the side of the block 3 which faces the strip of stamps is a knife 53. This knife 53 is connected to the block 3 by means of a pin 54 engaging in a slot 55 and springs 56 arranged upon the top of the block normally act to press the knife 53 downwardly. As the plunger 1 descends the knife will come in contact with the upper surface of the stamp to be severed and will act together with the edge 57 of the aperture through which the strip of stamps is fed to shear the end stamp from the strip just prior to its being released by the jaws of the gripper upon the end of the swinging arm 40. When the stamp has been thus severed and released, the downward movement of the plunger continues until the shoulders 58 upon the knife 53 engage over stop pins 59 secured in the frame 5 and which act to arrest the farther downward movement of the knife prior to its coming in contact with the surface to which the stamp is to be affixed. The block 3 however continues its downward movement and presses the stamp firmly onto the moistened surface of the object to which it is to be affixed.

In order to register the number of stamps which have been affixed by the machine, a counter 60 is mounted upon a bracket 61 and is provided with an arm 62 having a forked end 63 which engages over the pin 7 so that on the downward movement of the plunger 1 the arm 63 will turn about its pivot and operate the counter, while on the return stroke the pin 7 will again engage in the forked end 63 of the arm 62 and return it to the original position. A spring 64 acts between the arm 62 and the frame 5 to retain the arm in a position ready to be again engaged by the pin 7 when it has reached its lowest position. To further insure the accuracy of the record given by this counter I provide a non-return or full stroke device to insure a complete movement of the plunger in both directions for each operation of the counter. For this purpose I employ a plate 65 perforated at 66 to receive the plunger 1 and hinged at one end 67 to the frame 5. Its other end 68 is made V-shaped and a spring 69 engages against the V-shaped end. When this spring 69 engages underneath the V-shaped end 68 as shown in Fig. 3 the plate 65 will be inclined in such a position as to allow the plunger 1 to be pressed downwardly, but if any attempt be made to draw the plunger upward, it will bind in the perforation 66. When however the plunger 1 has reached the bottom of its stroke, a pin 70 thereon will engage upon the upper surface of the plate 65, depressing same until the spring 69 engages over the upper edge of the V-shaped end 68. In this position the plate 65 is inclined downwardly so that while the plunger is free to be moved upward any attempt to depress it will cause it to bind as before. On reaching the top of the stroke however, the block 3 will come in contact with the under surface of the plate 65, forcing it upwardly until the spring 69 again engages on the underside of the V-shaped end 68, in which position the plunger 1 is again free to be depressed.

The whole of the mechanism is inclosed in a simple casing 71 mounted upon the base-plate 25 and provided with a hinged portion 72 at one end which is adapted to be secured by means of a suitable lock 72ª. This hinged portion 72 when opened and turned about its hinge allows the pivoted arm 31 to be turned outward for the purpose of placing a new roll of stamps or the like thereon. A safety locking device is also provided to prevent the illicit operation of the machine. This comprises a screw 73 having a milled head 74 by means of which it may be rotated so as to cause its hollow end 75 to engage over the pin 7 in the block 3, thus preventing the plunger 1 from being depressed. When this screw 73 has been thus engaged with the pin 7, the end 76 of the lever arm 77 will be drawn downward by means of the spring 78 so as to engage behind the hollow end 75 of the screw 73, thus preventing it from being disengaged from the pin 7 until the hinged portion 72 of the casing 71 has been unlocked and opened by an authorized person.

The operation of the machine is as follows:—On the depression of the plunger 1, the lever 9 is turned about its pivot 10 causing the wick 20 on the forward end of the water tank 15 to be drawn over and dampen the surface to which it is desired to affix a stamp and farther downward motion of the plunger allows the water tank 15 to be returned to its original position. During this operation the pin 7 will have operated the lever 44 upon the other side of the frame, causing the arm 40 to turn about the axis of the pin 10 and as the end of the strip of stamps is gripped between the fixed jaw 38 on the end of this arm 40 and the movable jaw 39 pivoted thereto, this will cause the end stamp to be drawn out to a position ready to be severed from the strip.

When this position has been reached, sprockets or projections on the bar 35 engage in the perforations between the next two stamps on the strip and locate the end stamp in the position to enable the descending knife 53 upon the block 3 to sever it exactly along the line of perforations between it and its neighbor. Farther downward movement of the plunger now causes the tail-piece 50 upon the movable jaw 39 to engage against the cross-pin 51 in the frame 5, thus turning the movable jaw about its pivot 41, and releasing the end of the stamp. The plunger now continues on its downward movement, pressing the stamp firmly upon the dampened surface, while the knife 53 is arrested and held out of contact therewith by means of the shoulders 58 which engage against stop pins 59 on the frame 5, thus causing the knife 53 to slide relatively to the block 3 against the action of the springs 56 which normally press it downwardly. During this downward movement of the plunger the arm 62 on the counter 60 has been turned about its pivot so as to register the fact that a stamp has been delivered from the machine. When the plunger is again raised, the arm 40 will again swing about its pivot until the fixed jaw 38 engages under the free end of the strip of stamps and the end 43 of the movable jaw 39 will engage against the upright face of the frame 5, causing it to be turned about its pivot until the spring 42 causes it to close firmly upon and grip the free end of the strip of stamps. At the same time the pin 7 will have again engaged in the forked end 63 of the lever 62 on the counter 60 so as to return it to its original position. The lever 9 which operates the damping device is loosely mounted upon its pivot pin 10 so as to allow it to move outwardly, and the under surface of the tongue 11 is inclined so as to enable the roller 12 and pin 6 to engage under and press it outwardly so as to pass by it and reach its original position ready again to actuate it when depressed.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. A stamp affixing machine comprising a plunger, a wick moistening device adapted to be drawn over the surface to which the stamp is to be affixed, a swinging arm carrying a pair of grippers adapted to engage the end of the strip of stamps, means for moving the swinging arm so as to draw the end stamp into position for severing, a knife or cutter upon the plunger adapted to cut off the end stamp, means for locating the strip of stamps so that the end one is cut exactly along its line of perforations, a stop adapted to open the grippers after the stamp has been severed, and means for arresting the motion of the knife so as to hold same out of contact with the surface, while a block upon the end of the plunger presses the stamp firmly thereon.

2. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, comprising a water tank having at its forward end a downwardly projecting wick adapted to be maintained in a moist condition by the water in the tank, a hinged lever having a tongue projecting into the path of a pin upon the plunger, a link connection between the end of the lever and the water tank, guides upon which the water tank may slide, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means associated with said plunger for severing said stamp, said plunger being movable into a position in which it presses the stamp on to the surface to which it is to be fixed.

3. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, comprising a water tank having at its forward end a downwardly projecting wick adapted to be maintained in a moist condition by the water in the tank, a hinged lever having a tongue projecting into the path of a pin upon the plunger, a link connection between the end of the lever and the water tank, guides upon which the water tank may slide, a spring or springs adapted to press upon the water tank as it is drawn forward so as to maintain the wick in contact with the surface to be moistened and an inclined or cam surface upon the underside of the tank to raise the wick when the tank is returned to its normal position, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means associated with said plunger for severing said stamp, said plunger being movable into a position in which it presses the stamp on to the surface to which it is to be fixed.

4. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, means associated with said plunger for moving said moistening device over the surface to which the stamp is to be fixed, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, said means comprising a swinging arm having a fixed jaw, a movable jaw hinged thereto, springs adapted to maintain the movable jaw in the open or closed position, a tail-piece to the movable jaw adapted to contact with an abutment so as to close the jaws upon the end of the strip of stamps when the plunger is in the raised position, a lever connected to the swinging arm and adapted to

be actuated by the descending plunger to cause the swinging arm to draw the end stamp to a position to be severed, a stop against which the tail-piece of the movable jaw contacts to release the grippers when the stamp has been severed, and a spring to return the parts to the normal position after the stamp has been affixed.

5. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, comprising a water tank having at its forward end a downwardly projecting wick adapted to be maintained in a moist condition by the water in the tank, a hinged lever having a tongue projecting into the path of a pin upon the plunger, a link connection between the end of the lever and the water tank, guides upon which the water tank may slide, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, said means comprising a swinging arm having a fixed jaw, a movable jaw hinged thereto, springs adapted to maintain the movable jaw in the open or closed position, a tail-piece to the movable jaw adapted to contact with an abutment so as to close the jaws upon the end of the strip of stamps when the plunger is in the raised position, a lever connected to the swinging arm and adapted to be actuated by the descending plunger to cause the swinging arm to draw the end stamp to a position to be severed, a stop against which the tail-piece of the movable jaw contacts to release the grippers when the stamp has been severed, and a spring to return the parts to the normal position after the stamp has been affixed.

6. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, comprising a water tank having at its forward end a downwardly projecting wick adapted to be maintained in a moist condition by the water in the tank, a hinged lever having a tongue projecting into the path of a pin upon the plunger, a link connection between the end of the lever and the water tank, guides upon which the water tank may slide, a spring or springs adapted to press upon the water tank as it is drawn forward so as to maintain the wick in contact with the surface to be moistened and an inclined or cam surface upon the underside of the tank to raise the wick when the tank is returned to its normal position, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, said means comprising a swinging arm having a fixed jaw, a movable jaw hinged thereto, springs adapted to maintain the movable jaw in the open or closed position, a tail-piece to the movable jaw adapted to contact with an abutment so as to close the jaws upon the end of the strip of stamps when the plunger is in the raised position, a lever connected to the swinging arm and adapted to be actuated by the descending plunger to cause the swinging arm to draw the end stamp to a position to be severed, a stop against which the tail-piece of the movable jaw contacts to release the grippers when the stamp has been severed, and a spring to return the parts to the normal position after the stamp has been affixed.

7. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, means associated with said plunger for moving said moistening device over the surface to which the stamp is to be fixed, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means for locating the strip of stamps so that the end one will be severed exactly along its line of perforations comprising a table over which the strip of stamps passes, a series of light spring strips which press the end stamp upward, a hinged member having a cross-bar with projections adapted to engage the perforations between adjacent stamps so as to correctly position the end one, a lever connected to the hinged member and adapted to be engaged by a pin on the plunger so as to disengage the projections from the perforations during the feeding of the stamps but which is released so that the projections engage in the perforations and position the strip of stamps during the operation of severing the end one.

8. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, comprising a water tank having at its forward end a downwardly projecting wick adapted to be maintained in a moist condition by the water in the tank, a hinged lever having a tongue projecting into the path of a pin upon the plunger, a link connection between the end of the lever and the water tank, guides upon which the water tank may slide, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means for locating the strip of stamps so that the end one will be severed exactly along its line of perforations comprising a table over which the strip of stamps passes, a series of light spring strips which press the end stamp upward, a hinged member having a cross-bar with projections adapted to engage the perforations between adjacent stamps so as to correctly position the end one, a lever connected to the hinged member and adapted to be engaged by a pin on the plunger so as to disengage the projections from the perforations during the

feeding of the stamps but which is released so that the projections engage in the perforations and position the strip of stamps during the operation of severing the end one.

9. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, comprising a water tank having at its forward end a downwardly projecting wick adapted to be maintained in a moist condition by the water in the tank, a hinged lever having a tongue projecting into the path of a pin upon the plunger, a link connection between the end of the lever and the water tank, guides upon which the water tank may slide, a spring or springs adapted to press upon the water tank as it is drawn forward so as to maintain the wick in contact with the surface to be moistened and an inclined or cam surface upon the underside of the tank to raise the wick when the tank is returned to its normal position, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means for locating the strip of stamps so that the end one will be severed exactly along its line of perforations comprising a table over which the strip of stamps passes, a series of light spring strips which press the end stamp upward, a hinged member having a cross-bar with projections adapted to engage the perforations between adjacent stamps so as to correctly position the end one, a lever connected to the hinged member and adapted to be engaged by a pin on the plunger so as to disengage the projections from the perforations during the feeding of the stamps but which is released so that the projections engage in the perforations and position the strip of stamps during the operation of severing the end one.

10. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, comprising a water tank having at its forward end a downwardly projecting wick adapted to be maintained in a moist condition by the water in the tank, a hinged lever having a tongue projecting into the path of a pin upon the plunger, a link connection between the end of the lever and the water tank, guides upon which the water tank may slide, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means for locating the strip of stamps so that the end one will be severed exactly along its line of perforations comprising a table over which the strip of stamps passes, a series of light spring strips which press the end stamp upward, a hinged member having a cross-bar with projections adapted to engage the perforations between adjacent stamps so as to correctly position the end one, a lever connected to the hinged member and adapted to be engaged by a pin on the plunger so as to disengage the projections from the perforations during the feeding of the stamps but which is released so that the projections engage in the perforations and position the strip of stamps during the operation of severing the end one.

11. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, comprising a water tank having at its forward end a downwardly projecting wick adapted to be maintained in a moist condition by the water in the tank, a hinged lever having a tongue projecting into the path of a pin upon the plunger, a link connection between the end of the lever and the water tank, guides upon which the water tank may slide, a spring or springs adapted to press upon the water tank as it is drawn forward so as to maintain the wick in contact with the surface to be moistened and an inclined or cam surface upon the underside of the tank to raise the wick when the tank is returned to its normal position, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means for locating the strip of stamps so that the end one will be severed exactly along its line of perforations comprising a table over which the strip of stamps passes, a series of light spring strips which press the end stamp upward, a hinged member having a cross-bar with projections adapted to engage the perforations between adjacent stamps so as to correctly position the end one, a lever connected to the hinged member and adapted to be engaged by a pin on the plunger so as to disengage the projections from the perforations during the feeding of the stamps but which is released so that the projections engage in the perforations and position the strip of stamps during the operation of severing the end one.

12. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combinatiton a plunger, a moistening device, means associated with said plunger for moving said moistening device over the surface to which the stamp is to be fixed, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means associated with said plunger for severing said stamp, comprising a knife slidably mounted on the side of a block secured on the end of the plunger, springs on the block which normally press the knife downward thereon, shoulders at each side of the knife and stops upon the frame of the machine against which the knife contacts so as to arrest its downward movement before it

reaches the surface to which the stamp is to be affixed while it allows the block to continue downward to press the stamp onto the moistened surface.

13. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, comprising a water tank having at its forward end a downwardly projecting wick adapted to be maintained in a moist condition by the water in the tank, a hinged lever having a tongue projecting into the path of a pin upon the plunger, a link connection between the end of the lever and the water tank, guides upon which the water tank may slide, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means associated with said plunger for severing said stamp, comprising a knife slidably mounted on the side of a block secured on the end of the plunger, springs on the block which normally press the knife downward thereon, shoulders at each side of the knife and stops upon the frame of the machine against which the knife contacts so as to arrest its downward movement before it reaches the surface to which the stamp is to be affixed while it allows the block to continue downward to press the stamp onto the moistened surface.

14. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, means associated with said plunger for moving said moistening device over the surface to which the stamp is to be fixed, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means associated with said plunger for severing said stamp, comprising a knife slidably mounted on the side of a block secured on the end of the plunger, springs on the block which normally press the knife downward thereon, shoulders at each side of the knife and stops upon the frame of the machine against which the knife contacts so as to arrest its downward movement before it reaches the surface to which the stamp is to be affixed while it allows the block to continue downward to press the stamp onto the moistened surface.

15. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, means associated with said plunger for moving said moistening device over the surface to which the stamp is to be affixed, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means for locating the strip of stamps so that the end one will be severed exactly along its line of perforations comprising a table over which the strip of stamps passes, a series of light spring strips which press the end stamp upward, a hinged member having a cross-bar with projections adapted to engage the perforations between adjacent stamps so as to correctly position the end one, a lever connected to the hinged member and adapted to be engaged by a pin on the plunger so as to disengage the projections from the perforations during the feeding of the stamps but which is released so that the projections engage in the perforations and position the strip of stamps during the operation of severing the end one, means associated with said plunger for severing said stamp, comprising a knife slidably mounted on the side of a block secured on the end of the plunger, springs on the block which normally press the knife downward thereon, shoulders at each side of the knife and stops upon the frame of the machine against which the knife contacts so as to arrest its downward movement before it reaches the surface to which the stamp is to be affixed while it allows the block to continue downward to press the stamp onto the moistened surface, said plunger being movable into a position in which it presses the stamp on to the surface to which it is to be fixed.

16. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, means associated with said plunger for moving said moistening device over the surface to which the stamp is to be fixed, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means associated with said plunger for severing said stamp, said plunger being movable into a position in which it presses the stamp on to the surface to which it is to be fixed, means for operating a counter once for each stamp affixed by the machine, and a full stroke device to insure a complete operation of the plunger for each time the counter operating means is actuated, comprising a perforated end to the hinged plate, a spring adapted to engage either under or over the V-shaped end so as to maintain the plate in a position to bind on the plunger if the stroke is not completed, and means for tilting the plate at the end of each stroke.

17. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, comprising a water tank having at its forward end a downwardly projecting wick adapted to be maintained in a moist condition by the water in the tank, a hinged lever having a tongue projecting into the path of a pin upon the plunger, a link connection between the end of the lever and the water tank, guides upon which the water tank may slide, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for mov-

ing said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means associated with said plunger for severing said stamp, said plunger being movable into a position in which it presses the stamp on to the surface to which it is to be fixed, means for operating a counter once for each stamp affixed by the machine, and a full stroke device to insure a complete operation of the plunger for each time the counter operating means is actuated, comprising a perforated V shaped end to the hinged plate, a spring adapted to engage either under or over the V-shaped end so as to maintain the plate in a position to bind on the plunger if the stroke is not completed, and means for tilting the plate at the end of each stroke.

18. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, means associated with said plunger for moving said moistening device over the surface to which the stamp is to be fixed, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, said means comprising a swinging arm having a fixed jaw, a movable jaw hinged thereto, springs adapted to maintain the movable jaw in the open or closed position, a tail-piece to the movable jaw adapted to contact with an abutment so as to close the jaws upon the end of the strip of stamps when the plunger is in the raised position, a lever connected to the swinging arm and adapted to be actuated by the descending plunger to cause the swinging arm to draw the end stamp to a position to be severed, a stop against which the tail-piece of the movable jaw contacts to release the grippers when the stamp has been severed, and a spring to return the parts to the normal position after the stamp has been affixed, means for operating a counter once for each stamp affixed by the machine, and a full stroke device to insure a complete operation of the plunger for each time the counter operating means is actuated, comprising a perforated V shaped end to the hinged plate, a spring adapted to engage either under or over the V-shaped end so as to maintain the plate in a position to bind on the plunger if the stroke is not completed, and means for tilting the plate at the end of each stroke.

19. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, means associated with said plunger for moving said moistening device over the surface to which the stamp is to be fixed, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means for locating the strip of stamps so that the end one will be severed exactly along its line of perforations comprising a table over which the strip of stamps passes, a series of light spring strips which press the end stamp upward, a hinged member having a cross-bar with projections adapted to engage the perforations between adjacent stamps so as to correctly position the end one, a lever connected to the hinged member and adapted to be engaged by a pin on the plunger so as to disengage the projections from the perforations during the feeding of the stamps but which is released so that the projections engage in the perforations and position the strip of stamps during the operation of severing the end one, means for operating a counter once for each stamp affixed by the machine, and a full stroke device to insure a complete operation of the plunger for each time the counter operating means is actuated, comprising a perforated V shaped end to the hinged plate, a spring adapted to engage either under or over the V-shaped end so as to maintain the plate in a position to bind on the plunger if the stroke is not completed, and means for tilting the plate at the end of each stroke.

20. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, means associated with said plunger for moving said moistening device over the surface to which the stamp is to be fixed, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means associated with said plunger for severing said stamp, comprising a knife slidably mounted on the side of a block secured on the end of the plunger, springs on the block which normally press the knife downward thereon, shoulders at each side of the knife and stops upon the frame of the machine against which the knife contacts so as to arrest its downward movement before it reaches the surface to which the stamp is to be affixed while it allows the block to continue downward to press the stamp onto the moistened surface, means for operating a counter once for each stamp affixed by the machine, and a full stroke device to insure a complete operation of the plunger for each time the counter operating means is actuated, comprising a perforated V-shaped end to the hinged plate, a spring adapted to engage either under or over the V-shaped end so as to maintain the plate in a position to bind on the plunger if the stroke is not completed, and means for tilting the plate at the end of each stroke.

21. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, means associated with said plunger for moving said moistening device over the surface to which the stamp is to be fixed, means

for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means associated with said plunger for severing said stamp, said plunger being movable into a position in which it presses the stamp on to the surface to which it is to be fixed, a safety locking device comprising a hollow ended screw mounted in the casing and adapted to be engaged over the end of a pin projecting from the plunger so as to lock same in position, and a spring pressed lever adapted to engage behind a collar on the hollow ended screw to prevent it being disengaged unless the casing is unlocked and opened.

22. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, comprising a water tank having at its forward end a downwardly projecting wick adapted to be maintained in a moist condition by the water in the tank, a hinged lever having a tongue projecting into the path of a pin upon the plunger, a link connection between the end of the lever and the water tank, guides upon which the water tank may slide, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means associated with said plunger for severing said stamp, said plunger being movable into a position in which it presses the stamp on to the surface to which it is to be fixed, a safety locking device comprising a hollow ended screw mounted in the casing and adapted to be engaged over the end of a pin projecting from the plunger so as to lock same in position, and a spring pressed lever adapted to engage behind a collar on the hollow ended screw to prevent it being disengaged unless the casing is unlocked and opened.

23. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, means associated with said plunger for moving said moistening device over the surface to which the stamp is to be fixed, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, said means comprising a swinging arm having a fixed jaw, a movable jaw hinged thereto, springs adapted to maintain the movable jaw in the open or closed position, a tail-piece to the movable jaw adapted to contact with an abutment so as to close the jaws upon the end of the strip of stamps when the plunger is in the raised position, a lever connected to the swinging arm and adapted to be actuated by the descending plunger to cause the swinging arm to draw the end stamp to a position to be severed, a stop against which the tail-piece of the movable jaw contacts to release the grippers when the stamp has been severed, and a spring to return the parts to the normal position after the stamp has been affixed, a safety locking device comprising a hollow ended screw mounted in the casing and adapted to be engaged over the end of a pin projecting from the plunger so as to lock same in position, and a spring pressed lever adapted to engage behind a collar on the hollow ended screw to prevent it being disengaged unless the casing is unlocked and opened.

24. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, means associated with said plunger for moving said moistening device over the surface to which the stamp is to be fixed, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means for locating the strip of stamps so that the end one will be severed exactly along its line of perforations comprising a table over which the strip of stamps pass, a series of light spring strips which press the end stamp upward, a hinged member having a cross-bar with projections adapted to engage in the perforations between adjacent stamps so as to correctly position the end one, a lever connected to the hinged member and adapted to be engaged by a pin on the plunger so as to disengage the projections from the perforations during the feeding of the stamps, but which is released so that the projections engage in the perforations and position the strip of stamps during the operation of severing the end one, a safety locking device comprising a hollow ended screw mounted in the casing and adapted to be engaged over the end of a pin projecting from the plunger so as to lock same in position, and a spring pressed lever adapted to engage behind a collar on the hollow ended screw to prevent it being disengaged unless the casing is unlocked and opened.

25. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, means associated with said plunger for moving said moistening device over the surface to which the stamp is to be fixed, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means associated with said plunger for severing said stamp, comprising a knife slidably mounted on the side of a block secured on the end of the plunger, springs on the block which normally press the knife

downward thereon, shoulders at each side of the knife and stops upon the frame of the machine against which the knife contacts so as to arrest its downward movement before it reaches the surface to which the stamp is to be affixed while it allows the block to continue downward to press the stamp onto the moistened surface, a safety locking device comprising a hollow ended screw mounted in the casing and adapted to be engaged over the end of a pin projecting from the plunger so as to lock same in position, and a spring pressed lever adapted to engage behind a collar on the hollow ended screw to prevent it being disengaged unless the casing is unlocked and opened.

26. A stamp affixing machine comprising in combination a plunger, a moistening device, means associated with said plunger for moving said moistening device over the surface to which the stamp is to be fixed, means for carrying a strip of stamps, means associated with said plunger for moving said strip so that the end stamp is located over the surface to which it is to be applied, means associated with said plunger for severing said stamp, said plunger being movable into a position in which it presses the stamp on to the surface to which it is to be fixed, means for operating a counter once for each stamp affixed by the machine, and a full stroke device to insure a complete operation of the plunger for each time the counter operating means is actuated, comprising a perforated V-shaped end to the hinged plate, a spring adapted to engage either under or over the V-shaped end so as to maintain the plate in a position to bind on the plunger if the stroke is not completed, and means for tilting the plate at the end of each stroke, a safety locking device comprising a hollow ended screw mounted in the casing and adapted to be engaged over the end of a pin projecting from the plunger so as to lock same in position, and a spring pressed lever adapted to engage behind a collar on the hollow ended screw to prevent it being disengaged unless the casing is unlocked and opened.

ALFRED WILLIAM SMITH.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."