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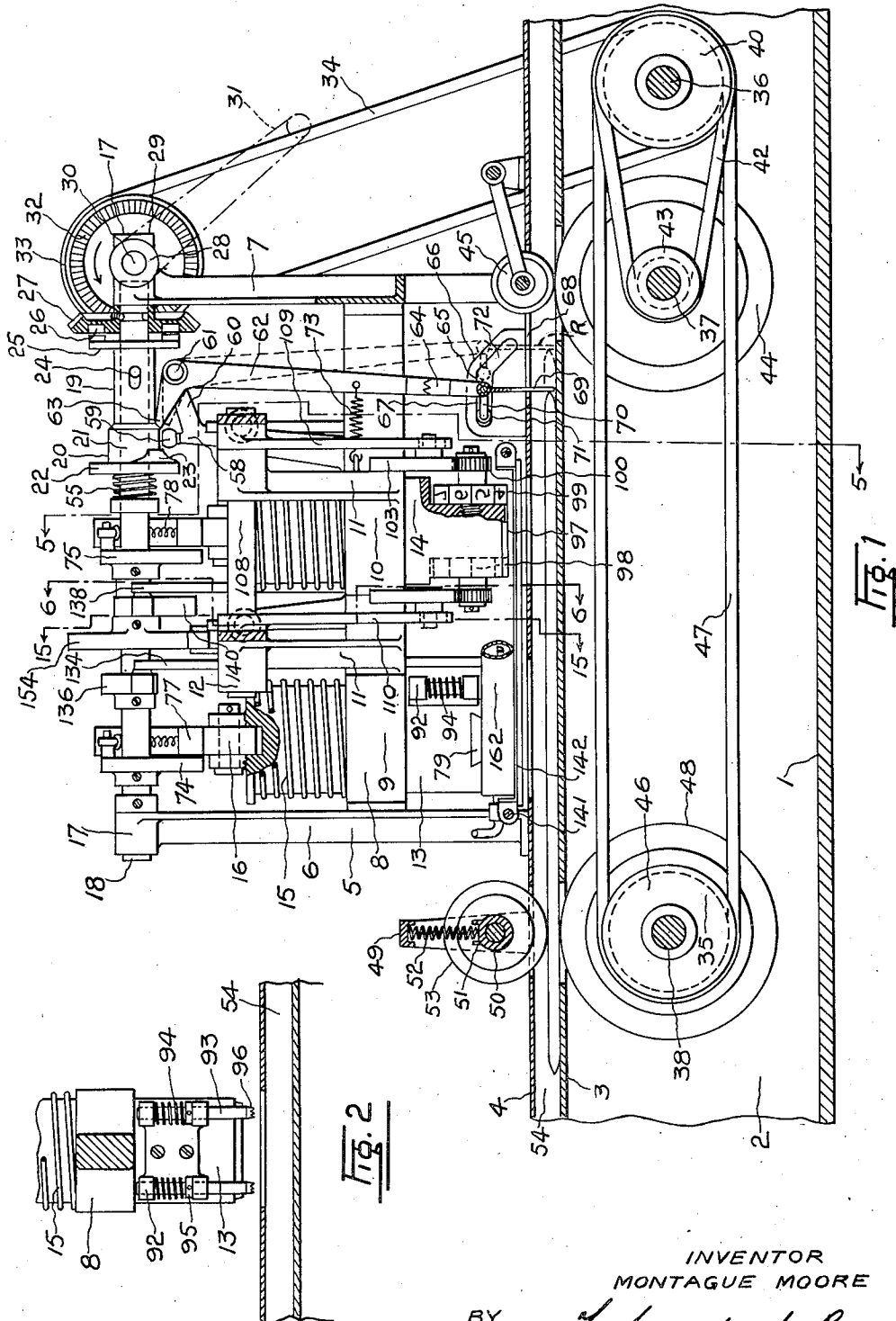
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2,024,944

POSTAGE METER

Filed Feb. 17, 1933

5 Sheets-Sheet 1



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5 Sheets-Sheet 2

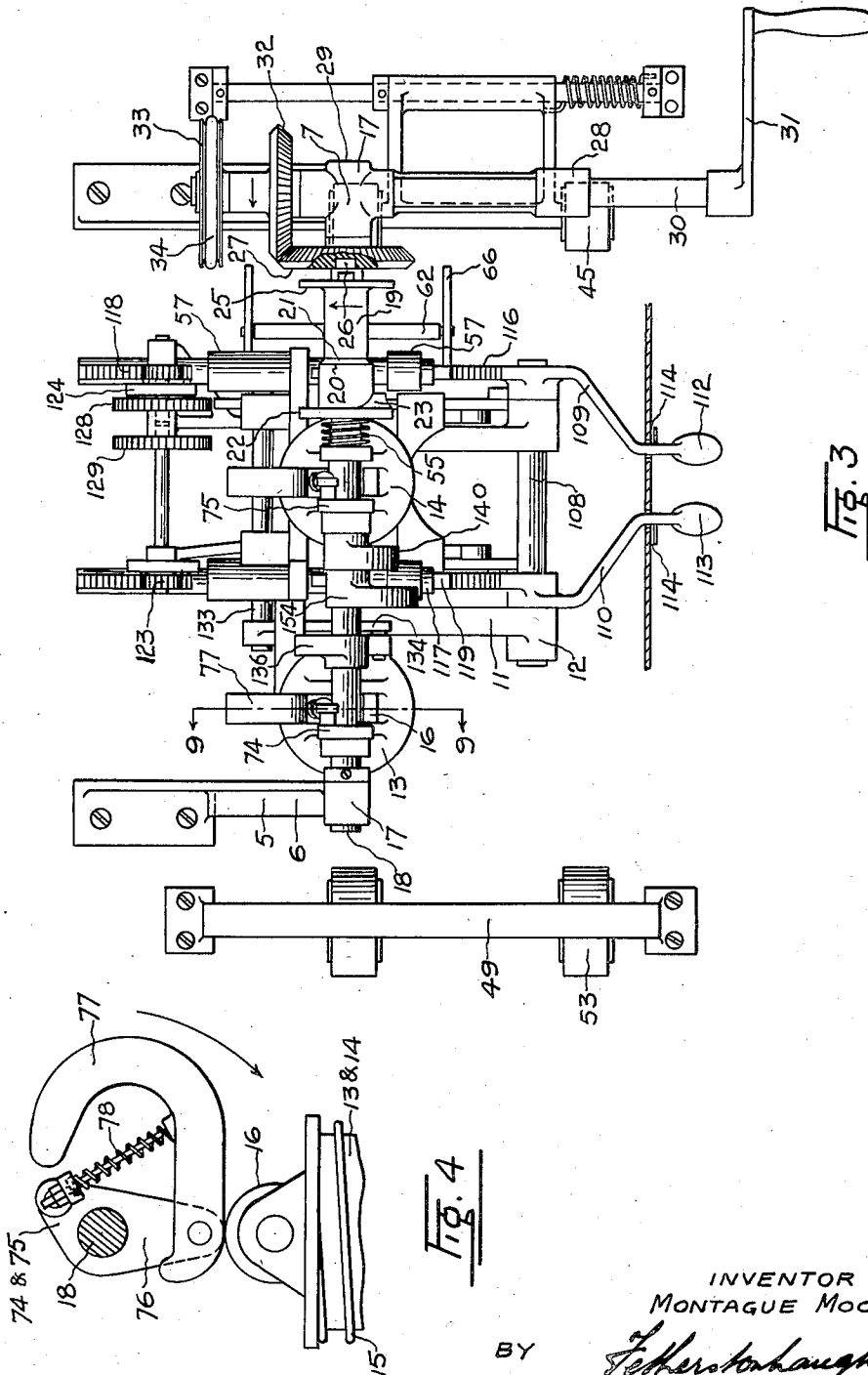


Fig. 3

Fig. 4

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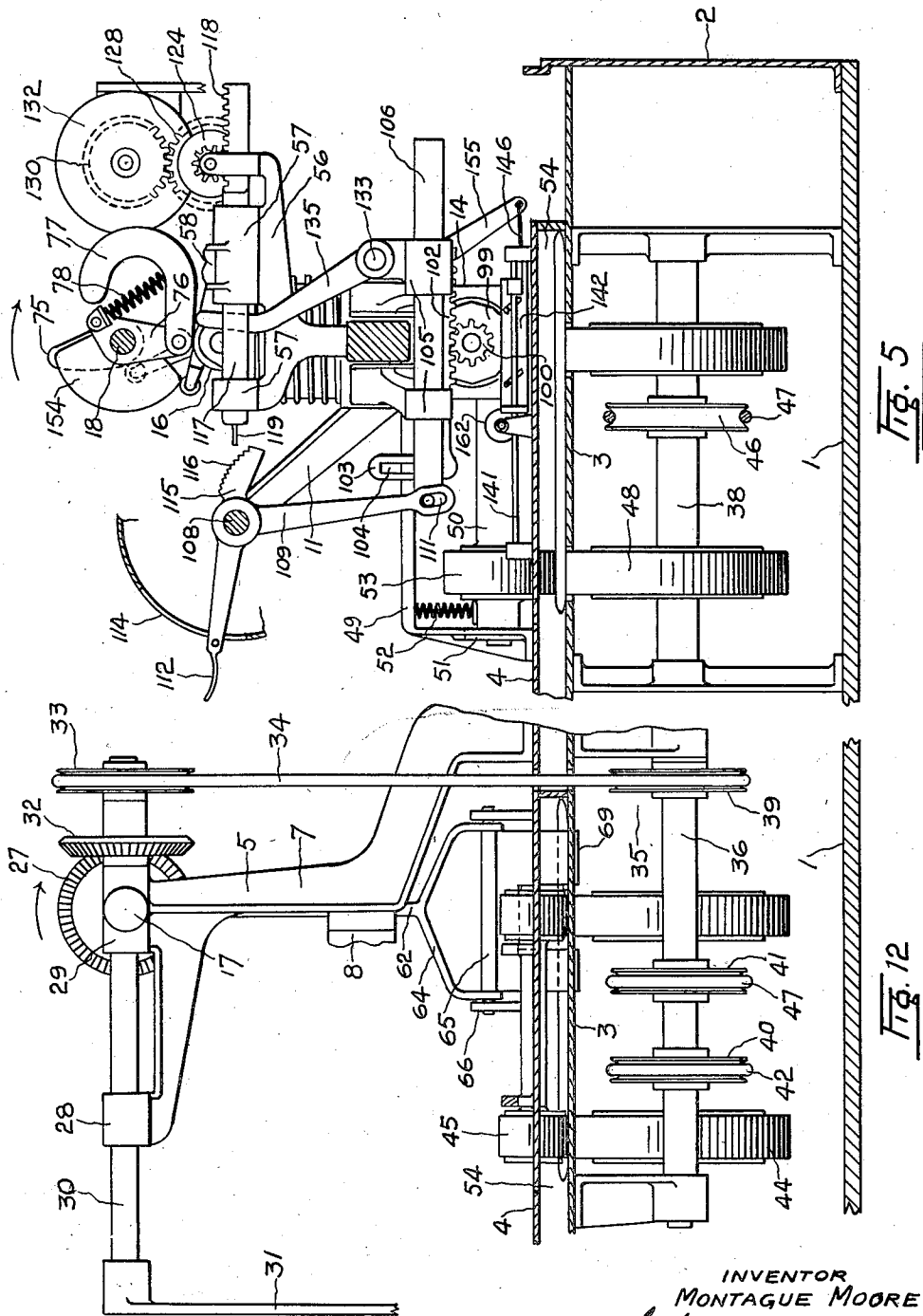
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POSTAGE METER

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5 Sheets-Sheet 3



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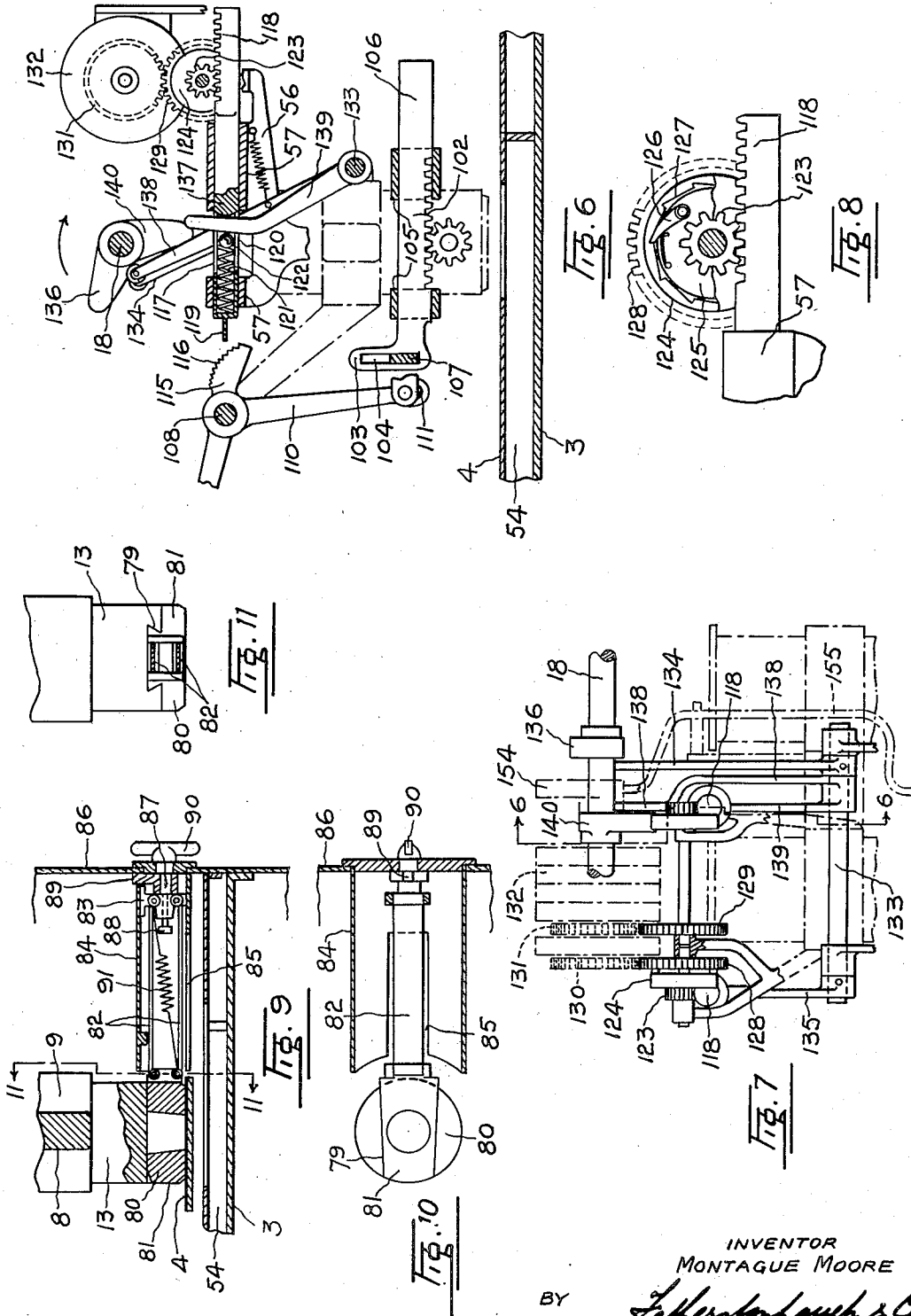
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POSTAGE METER

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5 Sheets-Sheet 4



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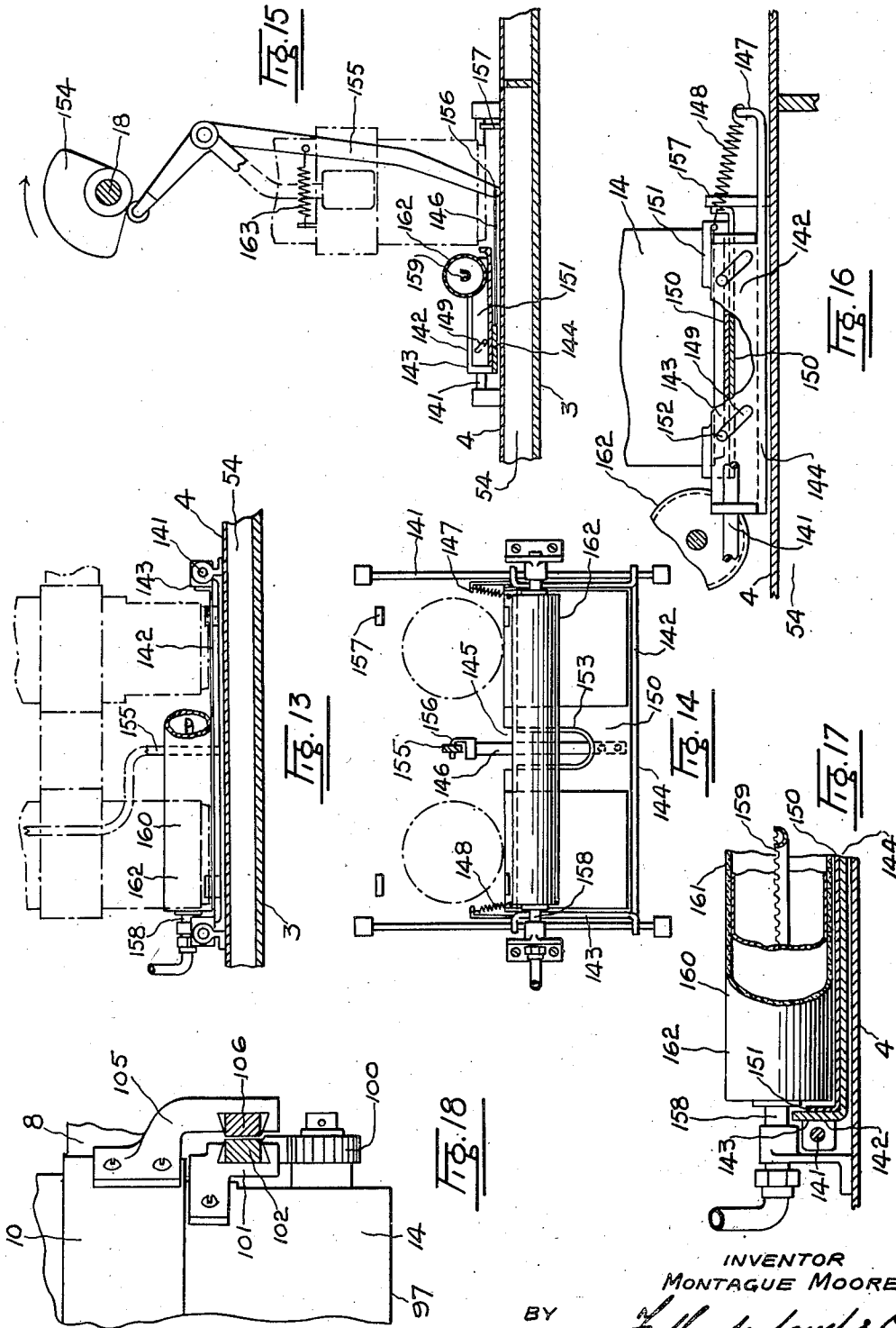
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POSTAGE METER

Filed Feb. 17, 1933

5 Sheets-Sheet 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,024,944

POSTAGE METER

Montague Moore, Burnaby, British Columbia,
CanadaApplication February 17, 1933, Serial No. 657,306
In Canada February 17, 1932

11 Claims. (Cl. 101—91)

My invention relates to improvements in postage meters which are particularly adapted for manual or motor operation and of such simplicity and economy of construction as to render them commercially usable by small business operatives, whose mail output does not normally exceed fifty letters a day.

The objects of the machine are briefly to provide means whereby postage may be applied to mail matter from one to ninety-nine cents as desired; to automatically register the sum of all postage applied; to prevent an impression being made to any piece of mail matter except by the proper use of the machine; to prevent the registering of the machine except when a letter is being imprinted with the postage stamp, and to eject the letter from the machine at a higher speed than that of the letter's entry to the machine.

The invention consists essentially of a feed mechanism, a reciprocating printing head having postage indicia associated therewith, which is capable of being selectively changed to any desired denomination by one or more keys extending from the body of the machine whereby instant changes from one denomination to another may be made during the operation of the machine, and means for registering the sum of all postage applied, as will be more fully described in the following specification and shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of the invention (without cover) and with the bed plate in section.

Fig. 2 is a detail view of the presser foot.

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the invention.

Fig. 4 is a detail view of the cams operating the press plungers.

Fig. 5 is a detail sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 1 showing the postage registering mechanism.

Fig. 6 is a detail sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 1 and the line 6—6 of Figure 7 also showing the postage registering mechanism.

Fig. 7 is a rear detail view showing the postage registering mechanism.

Fig. 8 is a detail view of the ratchet wheel communicating the drive between the operating mechanism and the counter.

Fig. 9 is a sectional view of the removable date stamp taken on the line 9—9 of Figure 3.

Fig. 10 is a plan view of same.

Fig. 11 is a sectional view taken on the line 11—11 of Figure 9.

Fig. 12 is an end view showing the feed mechanism and associated parts only.

Fig. 13 is a detail front view showing the inker.

Fig. 14 is a detail plan view of the inker.

Fig. 15 is a sectional view taken on the line 15—15 of Figure 1.

Fig. 16 is an enlarged side view of the inker and guides.

Fig. 17 is a detail view of the inking roller.

Fig. 18 is an enlarged detail of the postage die operating slides.

In the drawings like characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in each figure.

The numeral 1 indicates a base having outer walls 2, which support a bed plate 3 along which letters are adapted to be moved for postmarking. Suitably supported above the bed plate is a cover plate 4 which serves to support a frame generally indicated by the numeral 5. The frame 5 consists of standards 6 and 7 between which are carried a lateral member 8 which includes a pair of cylindrical guides 9 and 10 and a pair of inclined brackets 11 having bearings 12 at their upper ends. Reciprocatingly mounted in the cylindrical guides 9 and 10 are plungers 13 and 14 respectively, which are surrounded with springs 15 for returning them to their upper or normal position, and the upper end of each plunger carries a roller 16. The plunger 13 is adapted to carry a date stamp, and the plunger 14 is adapted to carry a postage denomination stamp, both of which will be hereinafter referred to.

At the upper end of the standards 6 and 7 are bearings 17 in which is journaled a cam shaft 18 which is fitted at its forward end with a slidably mounted sleeve 19. The sleeve 19 is provided with an enlargement 20 having a bevel 21 at its intersection with the main portion of the sleeve and a flange 22 at its outer end which is provided on its inner face with a cam projection 23. The sleeve is held against rotation upon the cam shaft 18 by a slot and pin 24 or any other suitable means.

The outer end of the sleeve 19 is provided with a clutch flange 25 which is adapted to engage corresponding clutch elements 26 upon the rear of a mitre gear 27 which is freely rotatable upon the shaft 18, but is held against endwise movement therealong by any appropriate means.

The standard 7 supports a pair of transverse bearings 28 and 29 in which is journaled a drive shaft 30, which is adapted to be driven by a hand crank 31 or any suitable prime mover. The drive shaft 30 is provided with a mitre gear 32 which engages the gear 27 to drive it, and at its rear end it is provided with a pulley 33 from which the

drive is communicated through a belt 34 to the letter feed mechanism generally indicated by the numeral 35.

Journalled transversely below the bed plate 3 are shafts 36, 37 and 38. The shaft 36 is fitted with a pulley 39 driven from the belt 34 and is also fitted with pulleys 40 and 41. The pulley 40 drives through a belt 42 a small pulley 43 on the shaft 37, which shaft is fitted with a pair of friction wheels 44 whose peripheries extend through suitable openings in the bed plate 3 to engage and remove the letters after they have been stamped. Above the plate 4 and operating through suitable openings therethrough are spring pressed dead rolls 45 which bear down upon the letters directly above the friction wheels 44. The pulley 41 drives a pulley 46 and the shaft 38 through a belt 47, thus driving a further pair of friction wheels 48 whose peripheries also project through suitable openings in the bed plate 3 to engage the letters to be stamped.

Further friction wheels will be provided to withdraw letters from a feed tray for delivery to the machine, but as this does not form part of the invention, reference only is made to them.

Mounted on the plate 4 is a frame 49 in which a shaft 50 is journalled in slidably mounted bearings 51, the bearings are downwardly pressed by springs 52, and the shaft is fitted with dead rolls 53 which are complementary to the friction wheels 48, so that letters may be conveyed toward and through the letter slot 54 which is defined between the plates 3 and 4. It will be noticed that the friction wheels 44 run at a higher speed than the wheels 48, so that when a letter has been stamped it is carried out from the machine at a higher speed than that at which it enters. The sleeve 19 is urged by a spring 55 to bring the clutch flange 25 into engagement with the clutch elements 26.

Extending upwards on opposite sides of the cylindrical guide 10 are brackets 56 which carry at their upper ends, side bearings 57, see Figure 5, and on one of these brackets 56 a cranked support 58 is provided, which carries a small vertically mounted roller 59. This roller is adapted to be engaged by the cam 23 on the flange 22 of the sleeve 19 to move said sleeve against its spring 55 and disconnect the drive between the clutch 25 and the clutch 26. A branch 60 extends from the cranked support 58 having a pin 61 at its outer end about which a bell crank 62 is pivotally mounted. This bell crank is so formed at its upper arm as to provide a stop 63 for engaging the bevelled edge 21 of the sleeve 19, thus preventing the spring 55 from moving the sleeve endwise to establish the drive from the shaft 30 to the cam shaft 18. The lower arm of the bell crank 62 is transversely forked as at 64 and carries a pivot pin 65. Adjacent the fork 64 is a pair of spaced lugs 66 having slots 67 carried upon the plate 4. An opening 68 is formed in the plate and through this a trigger 69 extends substantially into contact with the plate 3 so as to be engaged by every letter which passes through the letter slot 54. The trigger 69 consists of a very light member hingedly mounted upon the pivot pin 65 and has secured to it at opposite edges a pair of arms 70 extending horizontally from the upper edge of the trigger fitted with rollers 71 at their extremities, which have their movement in the slots 67. The slots 67 are horizontal at one end and are directed downwardly at their outer end as at 72, the object of which is that when a letter engages the trigger 69 during

its passage through the slot 54 it forces the trigger forwardly. The trigger has its rollers 71 in the horizontal portion of the slots 67 is kept in vertical position and transmits its movement to the bell crank 62. As soon as the rollers enter the inclined portion 72 of the slots the upper arm of the bell crank will have been lowered and the stop member 63 thereon lowered out of contact with the bevel 21 of the sleeve 19, thus allowing said sleeve to move endwise along the cam shaft 18 and cause the clutch elements 25 and 26 to engage that the cam shaft may be rotated. Immediately following this part of the bell crank movement, the letter, still being urged through the slot 54 by the friction wheels will continue to move the trigger, but as the rollers pass downwards along the inclined portions 72 of the slots the trigger will be free to swing about the pivot pin 65, thus allowing the free end of the trigger to be lifted clear of the letter, so that when the letter has been stamped and passed through, the bell crank can be brought back to normal position by the action of the spring 73, when the cam 23 has again drawn the sleeve 19 inwardly to disconnect the drive.

The cam shaft 18 is fitted with two yielding cams respectively numbered 74 and 75 both of which are identical in form and are set to the same timing upon the shaft 18 and consist of a crank member 76, see detail in Figure 4, secured to the shaft and having at its outer end a curved member 77 pivotally connected thereto, which is adapted to engage in passing around with the shaft 18, the roller 16 of the plunger 13 or 14. The member 77 is outwardly pressed by a spring 78 of such strength that it will force the plunger downwardly into printing contact with the letter to be stamped against the action of the plunger spring 15, but will give to any letter of a greater thickness than normal. The plunger 13 is provided at its lower extremity with a tapered dove tail groove 79 and is adapted to detachably carry a stamp 80 bearing the city of origin of the letters to be mailed and type indicative of the date of issue of the postage, the stamp must be removable in order to change the date type and is therefore provided with a tongue 81, see Figures 9, 10 and 11, capable of insertion from the rear of the machine into the groove 79 of the plunger 13. The date stamp 80 is hingedly connected to a pair of parallel links 82 which in turn are connected to a crosshead slide 83 fitted within a rectangular drawer 84 which is provided in its bottom wall with a slot 85 to permit free downward movement of the lower link 82. The drawer and its attached stamp are adapted to be inserted through a suitable opening in the rear wall 86 of the cover of the machine. The drawer is fitted with a spindle 87 which carries the crosshead slide 83 on its inner end and is fitted with a collar 88 to limit the inward movement of the slide therealong. The spindle is fitted intermediate its length with a latch 89 for securing the drawer in position and to form an abutment for the crosshead, so that when the drawer is pushed into closing position the date stamp will be likewise pushed into proper position under the plunger 13, that it may pass freely through a suitable opening in the plate 4. A knob 90 is fitted to the outer end of the spindle 87 by which the latter and its latch 89 are turned.

In order to support the stamp 80 in alignment with its connection on the plunger 13, a tension spring 91 is provided between the upper and lower links 82, which tends to hold the upper of 75

them in contact with the upper wall of the drawer until the stamp is in adjusted position. The insertion of the type into the stamp 80 indicates of date will be made by any appropriate means.

To one side of the plunger 13 a pair of spaced guides 92 are secured, see Figures 1 and 2, in which guides a pair of vertical rods 93, which constitute a pair of presser feet, are slidably mounted. The rods are urged downwardly by springs 94 and are limited in their downward movement by collars 95 which are secured to the rods below the springs, the lower end of each rod is preferably serrated as at 96. The rods or presser feet 93 project normally a slight distance below the date stamp 80, so as to engage a letter and stop its movement along the slot immediately prior to the dating of the letter, which is accomplished by the presser feet engaging the letter in advance of the date stamp, which continues to descend after the feet have reached the letter. The plunger 14 is cut at its base as at 97 to form a postage stamp having such printing as may be determined by the postal authorities. At the sides of the stamp two rotatable printing dies 98 and 99 are mounted, both of which are fitted with pinions 100. Both of these dies bear the numerals 0 to 9 inclusive, which are so arranged about the periphery of the die as to enable any numeral to be printed as may be desired. The numerals on the die 99 represent units of cents postage and the numerals on the die 98 represent tens of cents postage.

Extending from the sides of the plunger 14 are guides 101, see enlarged details in Figure 18, in each of which a toothed rack 102 is slidably mounted, for imparting rotation to the die to dispose a desired numeral in position for printing. This rack is provided at its front end with an extension 103, see Figure 6, having a vertical slot 104. Bracketed out from the sides of the cylindrical guide 10 of the plunger 14 is a pair of guides 105 in each of which a sliding rod 106 is mounted. This rod is provided with a pin 107 which extends into the slot 104 of the extension 103 to the toothed rack 102, so that when the rod 106 is moved endwise the rack 102 is carried with it though the latter is free to move vertically with the plunger.

The brackets 11 and 12 support a fixed shaft 108 and on the ends of this shaft a pair of bell crank levers 109 and 110 are rockingly mounted, the lower arm of each is slotted as at 111 and connects with a sliding rod 106 to impart endwise movement to it. The upper arms of the levers terminate in press keys 112 and 113 respectively, which are adjacent a graduated arcuate scale 114 having cents in units and tens indicated thereon. Suitable means is provided between the press keys and the scale so that the keys may be set and secured in any position. Extending beyond the shaft 108 from the boss of each of the bell crank levers 109 and 110 are quadrants 115 having as many vertical teeth or stops 116 as there are numerals on the dies 98 and 99 all of which stops are regularly spaced from the axis of the shaft. Carried by the brackets 56, see Figures 5 and 6, are hollow plungers 117 each having at its rear end a rack 118 and at its forward end a tongue 119. Each plunger is longitudinally slotted as at 120 and is fitted with a spring 121 and a ball 122 which is urged against the front face of an arm to be hereinafter described.

The racks 118 each mesh with a pinion 123 which is suitably journaled and connected to a

ratchet wheel, generally indicated by the numeral 124, see Figure 8. The ratchet wheels are provided with a disc 125 carrying a pawl 126 which is adapted to engage internal ratchet teeth 127. The outer periphery of the ratchet wheels are provided with gear rings 128 and 129 and these two gear rings mesh respectively with gears 130 and 131 respectively, of a counter or register 132 having a plurality of wheels bearing numerals indicative of dollars and cents. The counter is of any suitable type and the amount indicated thereon is adapted to be increased in response to the turning of the gears 130 and 131, the turning of the gear 130 adding units of cents to the total and the turning of the gear 131 adding tens of cents thereto.

Suitably journaled at the rear of the cylindrical guides 9 and 10 is a shaft 133, see Figure 7, upon which a cam lever 134 and an actuating lever 135 are fixed. The cam lever 134 is spring tensioned to keep its free end in contact with a cam 136 which is mounted upon the cam shaft 18. The free end of the actuating lever 135 passes through the slot 120 of one of the hollow plungers 117 controlling the addition of unit cents to the counter 132, between the ball 122 and the abutment 137.

Freely mounted upon the shaft 133 is a cam lever 138 and an actuating lever 139, the cam lever being spring tensioned to hold it in contact with a cam 140 upon the shaft 18 and the free end of the actuating lever 139 engaging, in the manner above described, the plunger controlling the addition of tens of cents to the counter.

The cams 136 and 140 are set at substantially 120 degrees apart, so as to time the movement of the two plungers, that the units addition can be completed before the addition of tens to the total on the counter. The tension on the cam levers 134 and 138 is such as to not only hold the levers in contact with their cams but to move the plungers 117 associated with them and actuate the counter also.

Mounted above the bed plate 4 are two transversely arranged rods 141 slidably carrying an inking tray 142 having side walls 143 and a bottom wall 144, see Figures 13 to 17 inclusive. A medial portion of said bottom wall is provided with a gap 145 at the base of which a light spring connecting rod 146 is secured. Extending from the rear of the tray are two projecting lugs 147 which are eyed to receive the ends of a pair of tension springs 148. The side walls 143 of the tray 142 are each provided with parallel slots 149, see Figure 16, which are inclined downwardly to the rear of the tray at approximately 45 degrees. An inking pad 150 having side walls 151 is carried in the tray by pins 152 secured to the side walls 151 and extending into the slots 149. The base of the inking pad is cut away as at 153 in a similar manner to the bottom wall 144 of the tray 142 so as to afford free movement of the connecting rod 146. The springs 148 are connected at their inner end to the rear edge of the inking pad 150 and serve to draw it rearwardly and downwardly into contact with the bottom wall of the tray. Mounted upon the cam shaft 18 is a cam 154 which operates a suitably journaled bell crank 155 the lower end of which is pivotally attached to the spring connecting rod 146 as at 156.

A pair of upstanding stops 157 are provided for the purpose of arresting the rearward movement of the inking pad 150, so that the final rearward movement of the inking tray 142 due to the swing of the bell crank 155 actuated by the cam 154 will

cause the inking pad to be raised by virtue of the pins 152 riding up the inclined plane defined by the slots 149, thus bringing the inking pad into inking contact with the postage and date stamps 97 and 80.

A tubular shaft 158 extends lengthwise above the normal position of the inking tray, which is cut away on its upper side intermediate its ends as at 159 and is connected at one end with a suitable source of ink supply. Journalled upon the shaft is a perforate cylinder 160 having a felt covering 161, thus constituting an inking roll 162. This inking roll is adapted to be engaged by the inking pad each time said pad is withdrawn from the stamps by the spring 163, which keeps the upper free end of the bell crank 155 in contact with the cam 154, so that ink falling from the open shaft 159 will saturate the inking roll 162 with ink, and in turn will moisten the inking pad 150.

Having thus described the several parts of my invention, I will now briefly explain its operation.

It will be assumed that the drive shaft 30 is continually rotating.

A letter is fed into the slot 54 between the friction wheels 48 and the dead rolls 53, which carries it forwardly or to the right of Figure 1. When the entering end of the letter strikes the trigger 69, it moves said trigger to the right, the trigger remaining in alignment with the bell crank 62 until it reaches the position shown in dotted line as at R. By this time the stop 63 of the bell crank 62 becomes disengaged from the bevel 21 of the enlargement 20 of the sleeve 19, thus allowing the spring 55 to come into action and move the sleeve to establish a driving connection between the shaft 30 and the cam shaft 18 and setting said shaft in motion. The subsequent thrust upon the trigger causes it to swing upon the pin 65 to allow the letter to pass beneath it as soon as it has been impressed with postage. Assuming that thirty three cents postage is to be applied to each letter the keys 112 and 113 are each depressed to read 33 on the scale. The movement of the bell crank levers 109 and 110 will move their respective sliding rods 106 to the right, see Figure 6, and impart rotation through the toothed racks 102 to the pinions 100 and their dies 98 and 99 to set them to print the selected numerals. Coincident with the movement of the bell crank levers 110 the quadrants 115 are raised, thus disposing the third from the end of the teeth 116 in alignment with the tongues 119 of the plungers 117.

The rotation of the shaft 18 will cause the units cam 136 to swing its lever 134 and the actuating lever 135 to thrust the plunger 117 of the units counter back until its tongue engages the tooth 116 of the quadrant 115 of the units key 112 when the plunger movement will be arrested, the continued movement of the actuating lever 135 merely serving to compress the plunger spring 121.

When the free extremity of the cam 136 has passed the upper end of the cam lever to allow the latter to return to normal position, the actuating lever 135 also returns and when its free end engages the abutment 137 of the plunger it moves said plunger to the right as in Figure 6, thus rotating the pinion 124 and increasing the total registered on the counter by three. Obviously the return rotation of the pinion 123 results only in a slippage of the pawl 126 and the rotation of the disk 125, so that no change takes place on the counter.

As soon as the units plunger has finished on its counting stroke or movement to the right, the

cam 140 starts to swing its cam lever 138 and the actuating lever 139 to operate the plunger 117 controlling the addition of tens of cents.

The operation of the parts in the train controlling tens is identical with those previously described, so that additional description is not deemed necessary, but the tens are added after the units movement has been completed, so that accurate addition is obtained.

Simultaneously with the commencing of the registering movement the cam 154 starts to impart movement through the lever 155 to the inking tray 142 which during periods of rest is under the plungers 13 and 14, thus preventing any access to the date and postage stamps from below. During the periods of rest, the inking pad 150 is in contact with the stamps, so that as motion is imparted to the lever 155, the tray is first lowered from contact with the stamps and is then withdrawn from under them, to be returned after the plungers 13 and 14 have been reciprocated and are about to come to rest in their normal retracted position. As soon as the inking tray 142 is clear of the plungers 13 and 14, the cams 74 and 75 force these plungers downwards through the bed plate 4 to impress the date and postage on the letter, which is brought to rest by the presser feet 93. If the letter is relatively thick, the spring 78 attached to the member 77 of the cams, will give, so that the throw of the plungers will be reduced.

When the plungers are returned to their normal position and the presser feet removed from contact with the letter, the letter is again permitted to move in a forward direction, its initial movement swinging the trigger beyond the dotted line position shown in Figure 1 as at R, so that the letter may be engaged between the dead rolls 45 and the friction wheels 44, which being rotated at a greater peripheral velocity than the friction wheels 48 will discharge the letter rapidly. When the entire length of the letter has passed beneath the trigger, the latter assumes its vertical position and the spring 73 tends to move the bell crank 62 to normal position, which normal position is attained as soon as the cam 23 through engagement with the roller 59 has forced the sleeve 19 against the spring 55, so that the stop 63 can engage the bevel 21, thereby disconnecting the drive between the drive shaft 30 and the cam shaft 18.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. A postage meter comprising a base having a letter slot, a plunger adapted for reciprocatory movement above the slot, a postage indicating stamp carried by the plunger, a drive shaft, means for feeding a letter through the slot, and means when the letter is in position under the stamp for effecting a drive from the drive shaft to the plunger to impress the stamp upon the letter, and a spring mounted presser foot carried by the plunger for arresting the letter immediately prior to impressing the stamp upon it.

2. In a postage meter having a driven shaft and a cam, a plunger provided with a stamp for impressing postage upon a letter, a plate adapted to support the letter to be impressed, said cam being adapted to depress the plunger into printing engagement with the letter as the shaft is rotated, said cam being provided with resilient means whereby the stroke of the plunger is limited by the thickness of the letter to be impressed.

3. In a postage meter having a driven shaft and a cam, said cam comprising a plate, a cam

arm pivotally connected to the plate, means for resiliently urging the cam arm radially outward, a plunger adapted to be depressed by the cam, a stamp at the base of the plunger for impressing postage upon the letter when the shaft is rotated, and means for supporting the letter below the plunger.

4. In a postage meter having a reciprocable plunger fitted with a stamp for impressing postage upon a letter, a base having a slot through which the letter is adapted to be carried, said base having an aperture through which the stamp is adapted to pass into printing contact with the letter, an inking device normally closing the aperture and being adapted for removal prior to the movement of the plunger, said inking device comprising a movable slide carrying an inking pad, and means as the slide is brought to rest for raising the inking pad into contact with the stamp.

5. In a postage meter having a reciprocable plunger fitted with a stamp for impressing postage upon a letter, a base having a slot through which the letter is adapted to be carried, said base having an aperture through which the stamp is adapted to pass into printing contact with the letter, an inking device normally closing the aperture and being adapted for removal prior to the movement of the plunger, said inking device comprising a movable slide carrying an inking pad, and means as the slide is brought to rest for raising the inking pad into contact with the stamp in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the plunger and stamp.

6. In a postage meter enclosed within a casing and having a plunger fitted with a date stamp for impressing upon a letter, a base having a slot through which the letter is adapted to pass for impressing, means for detachably connecting the stamp to the plunger, and means for withdrawing the stamp from the casing to change the date thereof, said means including a crosshead slide and a pair of links hingedly connected to the slide and the stamp.

7. In a postage meter enclosed within a casing and having a plunger fitted with a date stamp for impressing upon a letter, a base having a slot through which the letter is adapted to pass for impressing, means for detachably connecting the stamp to the plunger, said means extending to the exterior of the casing and to support the

stamp whereby it is capable of reciprocating with the plunger, said means being an integral and operative element of the postage meter.

8. In a postage meter enclosed within a casing and having a plunger fitted with a date stamp for impressing upon a letter, a base having a slot through which the letter is adapted to pass for impressing, means for detachably connecting the stamp to the plunger, said means comprising a slide carried within the casing, a pair of pivotally mounted parallel links secured at one end to the slide and at the other end to the stamp whereby the stamp is free to reciprocate with the plunger, said means being hingedly connected to the casing.

9. In a postage meter adapted to be sealed by proper authorities and privately used by an operator, a reciprocable plunger, a stamp upon the plunger for impressing postage paid upon a letter, said stamp having a die indicating different monetary denominations, means for setting the die to impress a desired monetary denomination, said means including a key extending to the exterior of the meter, said key being accessible for setting by the operator.

10. In a postage meter having a reciprocable plunger, a stamp upon the plunger for impressing postage paid upon a letter, a rotatable die carried by the stamp having figures indicating different monetary values, a pinion upon the die, a rack engaging the pinion and movable transversely of the stroke of the plunger, said rack being carried in guides extending from the plunger, and means for imparting endwise movement to the rack and for permitting it to reciprocate with the plunger.

11. In a postage meter having a reciprocable plunger, a stamp upon the plunger for impressing postage paid upon a letter, a rotatable die carried by the stamp having figures indicating different monetary values, a pinion upon the die, a rack engaging the pinion and movable transversely of the stroke of the plunger, said rack being carried in guides extending from the plunger, and means for imparting endwise movement to the rack and for permitting it to reciprocate with the plunger, said means including a slotted extension to the rack and an endwise movable rod having a pin engaging the slot of the extension, and means for imparting endwise movement to the rod.

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