

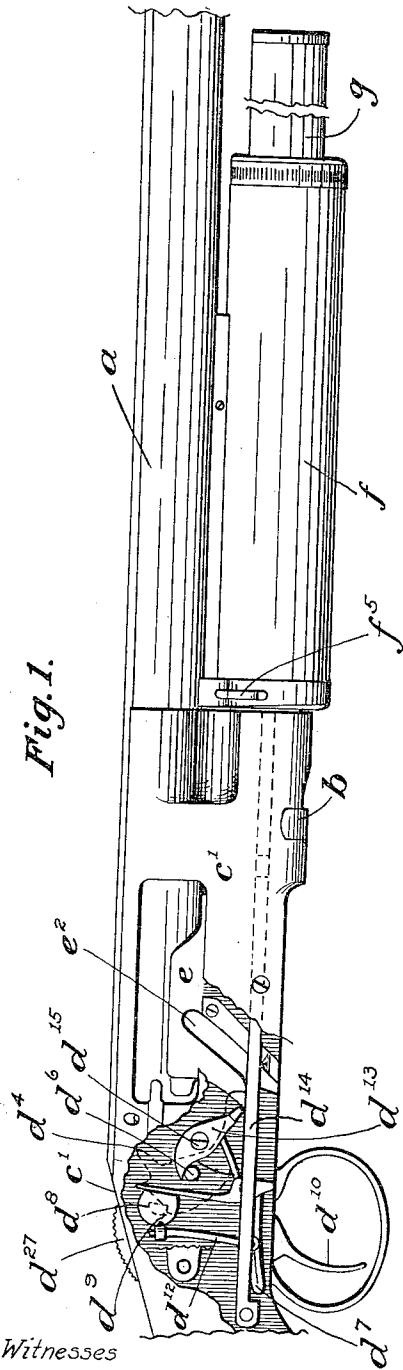
1,013,353.

C. A. YOUNG.
REPEATING FIREARM.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 1, 1907.

Patented Jan. 2, 1912.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.



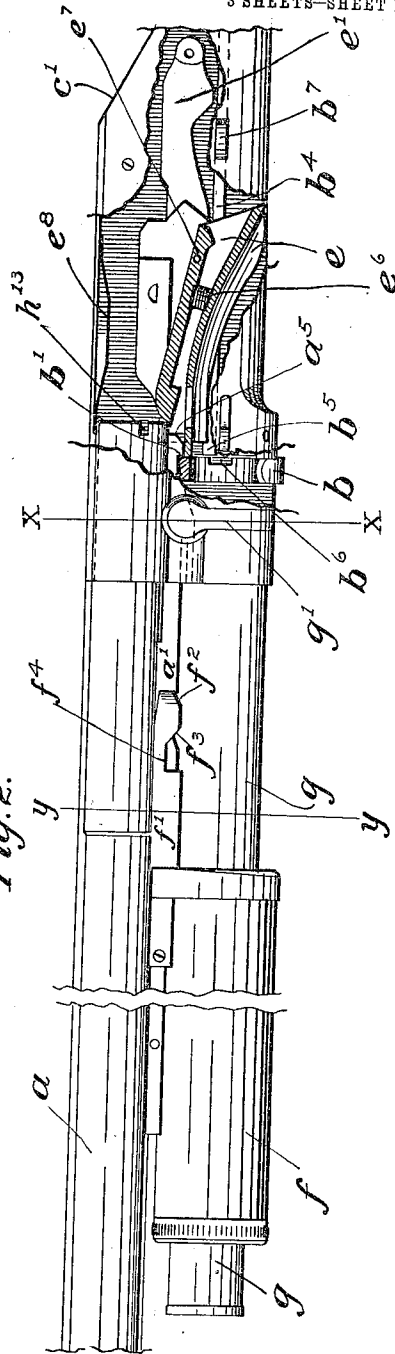
Witnesses

W. H. Christman.
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By

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Fig. 2.



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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

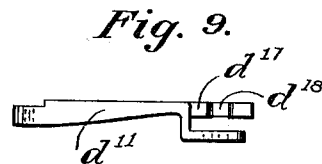
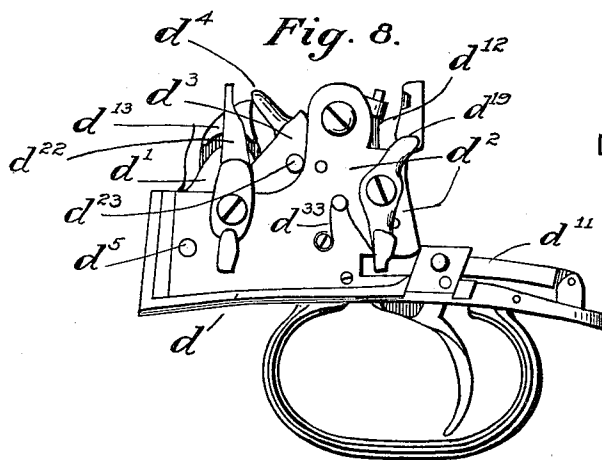


Fig. 10.

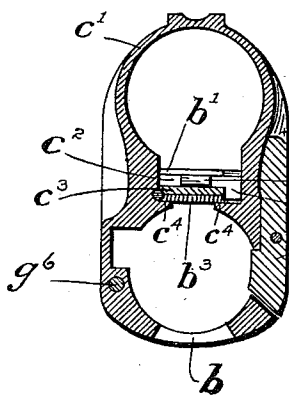


Fig. 11.

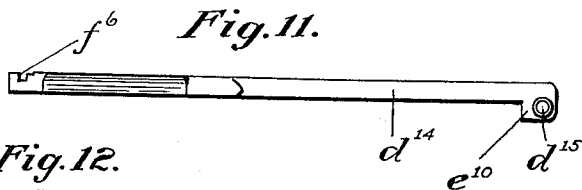


Fig. 12.

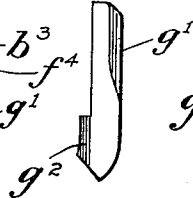


Fig. 13.

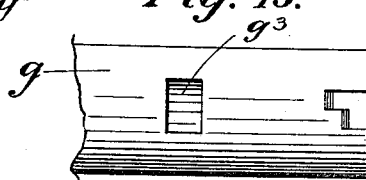


Fig. 14.

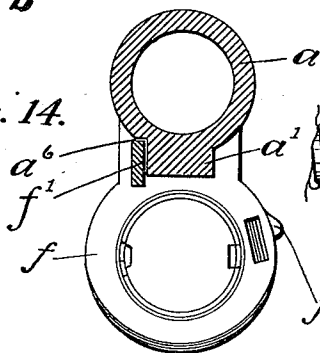
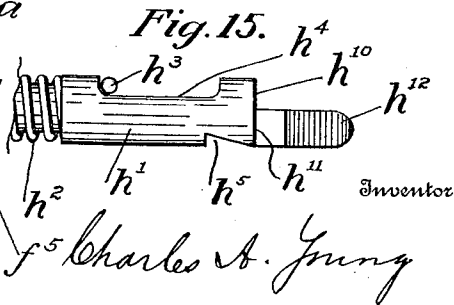


Fig. 15.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES A. YOUNG, OF ENON, OHIO.

REPEATING FIREARM.

1,013,353.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 2, 1912.

Application filed February 1, 1907. Serial No. 355,301.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES A. YOUNG, a citizen of the United States, residing at Enon, in the county of Clark and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Repeating Firearms, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in repeating fire-arms, and it particularly relates to repeating fire-arms of the sliding barrel type.

An object of my invention is to provide an improved construction for knocking down or taking down the gun, and also in this connection to provide improvements in the locking of the barrel and its connected parts, such as the magazine and handle grip, with the breech-block frame.

A further object of my invention is to improve the firing mechanism.

A further object of my invention is to provide improvements in the means for feeding the shells from the magazine into the carrier.

A further object of my invention is to improve the operation of the shell carrier.

A further object is to provide improved means for ejecting the shells from the gun.

A further object of my invention is to improve upon some of the constructions set forth in Letters Patent of the United States, No. 676,809, dated June 8th, 1901; No. 709,385, dated September 16th, 1902; No. 713,276, dated Nov. 11th, 1902; and No. 805,695, dated November 28th, 1905.

My invention consists in the constructions and combinations of parts hereinafter shown and set forth in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation, partly broken away, and shown in section, of a gun embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a side elevation partly in section of the opposite side of the gun. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of the same. Fig. 4 is a bottom plan view of the same. Fig. 5 is a detail view of the means for retaining the shells in and feeding them from the magazine. Fig. 6 is a bottom plan view of the carrier. Fig. 7 is a perspective view of one side of the firing mechanism. Fig. 8 is a side elevation of the opposite side of the firing mechanism. Fig. 9 is a detail of the operating lever of the firing mechanism. Fig. 10 is a vertical sectional view on the line $x x$ of Fig. 2, looking toward the rear of the gun. Fig. 11 is a de-

tail view of the cocking rod. Fig. 12 is a detail of the catch or lock for the magazine. Fig. 13 is a detail of a portion of the magazine. Fig. 14 is a vertical sectional view, taken through the barrel on the line $y y$ of Fig. 2, and looking toward the front, the magazine being shown in full lines. Fig. 15 is a detail view of a portion of the ejector mechanism.

Like parts are represented by similar characters of reference in the several views.

The general operation, broadly speaking, of the gun which I have illustrated in the drawings, is shown and described in the prior patents referred to, but may be briefly described here as follows:

a represents the barrel of the gun which is mounted in a breech-block casing or frame, and adapted to slide therein for a limited distance, this sliding operation being effected through the medium of a grip handle, f , connected to the barrel of the gun but adapted to have a limited movement with reference thereto. The magazine, g , is supported by this grip handle and is adapted to be normally locked in the breech-block casing. The barrel, a , and grip handle, f , are also adapted to be locked in the breech-block frame or casing when the gun is in its closed position, and are adapted to be unlocked, either automatically upon the firing of the gun or by the operator. The pivoted carrier, e , is mounted in the breech-block frame or casing, and is adapted to be operated by the opening and closing of the gun to different positions to receive the shells from the magazine and carry them to a point to enter the barrel. After a shell is fired upon the opening of the gun the shell will be automatically ejected by an ejector mechanism. Means are also provided for locking and unlocking the firing mechanism in different stages of its operation.

Knock down feature.—As before stated, the barrel, a , of the gun, is mounted to slide within certain limits upon a breech-block frame, which also carries the other operative parts of the gun. When in its closed position the barrel will fit against the breech-block, c , which is secured in the inclosing casing, c' . This casing, c' , extends forwardly from the breech-block to receive the end of the barrel when the gun is in closed position, and also the magazine, g , the casing being divided near its forward end by a

dividing wall, c^3 , adapted to form with the casing a groove-way, c^2 , to receive a projecting rib, a' , on the lower part of the barrel. The rib, a' , is provided with two cross-grooves, a^2 a^3 , adapted to receive a lock to secure the barrel in its closed position and to provide a stop for the same when the gun is opened. This lock is in the nature of a locking ring, b , extending up through the side walls of the casing, c' , with its upper part, b' , projecting into the groove-way a^2 , and normally spring-pressed into this position by a spring, b^3 , so as to engage in either one of the two cross-grooves of the barrel, the spring being in the nature of a flat spring which is slipped in below the dividing wall of the casing and adapted to rest on ledges, c^4 c^4 , extending in from the sides of the casing. This locking ring, b , is adapted to be locked in its normal locking position when the gun is closed by a spring-pressed detent under the control of the operator. This detent consists of a spring-pressed rod, b^4 , extending in a suitable guide-way in the wall of the casing, with the end, b^5 , adapted to engage a notch, b^6 , in the side of the ring; the rod being provided with a knurled finger piece, b^7 , extended through the casing in convenient position to be pressed by the operator to disengage the detent and unlock the locking-ring, and having a spring, b^2 , to normally press the same forward to locking position. After the locking ring is released, it is adapted to be withdrawn from the cross-groove of the barrel by means of the handle or grip, f , which serves to move the barrel back and forth in the operation of the gun. This operating handle is connected to the barrel in such a way as to permit it to have a limited movement with reference to the barrel before operating the same and it is this limited movement which serves to operate the locking ring to unlock the barrel. The handle or grip itself, however, is also adapted to be locked by this locking ring when the gun is in closed position so long as the detent, b^5 , is in engagement with said locking ring, as will appear from the following description of its operation. The particular manner of connecting this handle or grip to the barrel of the gun need not be described in detail here as it is fully shown and described in my prior patents referred to. The handle has connected thereto a rearwardly extending rod, f' , having formed on the rear end thereof a double cam-faced projection, the cam-faces being indicated by f^2 and f^3 . This rod is adapted to lie along adjacent the bottom rib of the barrel with the upper edge thereof directly under the barrel, which is formed with a straight face at this point, as shown at a^6 in Fig. 14, the lower edge of said rod, f' , projecting slightly below the barrel rib and being

adapted to slide in the channel, f^4 , formed at one side of the groove-way, c^2 (Fig. 10); this construction being one by which any strain brought upon the rod in the performance of its work will be taken up by the barrel and to some extent by the rib, so that the rod, f' , will always be held in its proper working position. In the closed position of the gun, with the locking ring in the cross-groove, a^3 , of the barrel, the cam-face, f^3 , will lie immediately behind said locking ring, said ring extending into the depression, f^4 , of the rod f' . In this position both the barrel and handle will be locked because of the detent, b^5 , engaging the locking ring. As soon as the operator, however, withdraws this detent, (or when said detent is withdrawn by the firing of the gun, as will be explained hereinafter) the handle or grip can be moved outwardly. The first movement thereof, which will be independent of the barrel, will cause the cam-face, f^3 , to depress the locking ring and unlock the barrel, the further movement of the handle causing the barrel to be thrown outwardly until the locking ring engages the cross-groove, a^2 , where it will be locked by reason of the sharp shoulder on the rear side of the groove. The forward side of the cross-groove, a^2 , however, is formed with a beveled shoulder so that as the barrel is returned to closed position this beveled shoulder will force the locking ring downwardly to disengage it from the barrel, the locking ring again engaging with the cross-groove, a^3 , as soon as the barrel reaches its closed position. The cam-face, f^2 , on rod f' serves to depress the ring to permit the cam projection to pass to its locked position at the rear thereof. The detent b^5 , having been once withdrawn from the locking ring, and the barrel opened, will not be permitted to again enter the notch in said ring until the barrel has been again returned to its complete closed position. This is due to the fact that the cross-groove, a^2 , is shallower than the cross-groove, a^3 , so that the locking ring will not be able to assume its normal locking position but will be held slightly depressed from this position so that the notch in this ring will not be brought into alinement with the detent as will be the case when the gun is completely closed with the locking ring engaging the cross-groove, a^3 .

If it is desired to completely remove the barrel from the stock, this may be done by first releasing the magazine, g , by depressing the spring-pressed catch, g' , and drawing the magazine outwardly. This magazine normally closes a cut-away portion, c^5 , in the lower part of the casing, so that when said magazine is withdrawn the finger of the operator may be inserted to draw the catch, b , downwardly and thus release the barrel. The rear end of the projecting rib,

a' , on the bottom of the barrel is beveled or cam-shaped, as shown at a^5 , so that upon again inserting the barrel in the slot, (the detent, b^5 , having first been withdrawn by the operator,) this cam, a^5 , will engage the locking ring and force it downwardly and permit the rib to pass over the same, whereupon the gun can be again completely closed in the manner before described, the magazine being also pressed in so that its catch, g' , will engage it and hold it in its normal position.

The catch, g' , for the magazine consists of a pivoted lever located in the side wall of the casing, c' (Fig. 10) the lower end of the catch being normally adapted to stand in the path of the magazine but beveled on its forward side, as shown at g^2 (Fig. 12) to permit the magazine to pass it. When the magazine has reached the limit of its rearward movement, this lower end of the catch will engage an opening, g^3 , located directly in the wall of the magazine (Fig. 13) and retain it in its closed position.

Firing mechanism.— d represents the base and d' d^2 (Fig. 7) upwardly extending supports thereon upon which the mechanism is supported. d^3 is the hammer having formed integrally thereon the firing pin, d^4 , the hammer being pivoted at d^5 between the two supports d' d^2 . The hammer is held in its cocked position against the tension of the main spring d^7 (Fig. 1) by the sear d^8 . This sear is in the nature of a round rod or pin extending across between the supporting frames d' d^2 , flattened on one side, and adapted when in one position to present an obstruction to the shoulder d^9 on said hammer (shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1) in which position it is normally held by a spring, d^{30} , bearing on its flat surface. By swinging this sear in its bearings in the supports (against the tension of its spring) through the medium of the trigger, d^{10} , acting upon the lever, d^{11} , which is connected to said sear by the rod, d^{12} , the flattened surface of the sear will be brought into position to release the hammer to effect the firing. By this construction I have provided a sear which can not be jarred or sprung from its proper position since it will be seen that no lateral movement is permitted by reason of the manner of supporting the same in the frame, the only way of releasing the hammer being by rotating the sear in its bearings by operating the trigger. It will be further seen that the sear will be locked against the tension of the main spring for the reason that when the hammer is cocked the rod, d^{12} , will rest against the base portion, d , so that any tendency of the main spring to rotate the sear in its bearings will be resisted by this rod. I have provided different points of connection on the lever, d^{11} , for the rod, d^{12} , (shown in Fig. 7) to

vary the pull on the trigger. The hammer is cocked by the cocking-lever, d^{13} , operated upon by the cocking-rod, d^{14} , which is connected to the handle or grip, f , through the medium of a spring-pressed latch, f^5 , in said grip engaging a notch, f^3 , in the end of the rod, the connection being such that the rod may be readily detached when the gun is to be knocked down. After the gun is fired, the grip or handle, upon being moved outwardly to open the gun, will cause the friction roller, d^{15} , on the end of the rod, d^{14} , to engage the lever, d^{13} , the upper part of which, engaging the laterally-projecting pin, d^6 , of the hammer, will retract the hammer until it is engaged and retained by the sear. The cocking lever is pivoted above its center, as shown at d^{32} , and there is a small spring, d^{16} , adapted to assist in holding the lever in a straight up and down position to be readily engaged by the cocking-rod. As soon as the operation of cocking has been completed, the friction roller and cocking-rod will pass on beyond the cocking lever to perform a further operation, as will be later on explained, but upon their return movement the cocking-lever will permit the same to pass in a way which will be readily understood. The object of this operation of the cocking-lever and rod is to distribute the work of the cocking-rod, by first performing the operation of cocking and then passing on by to perform its further operation, which is to operate the shell carrier. I have provided for this firing mechanism two sets of locks, one being to lock the mechanism against action under all conditions and being under the control of the operator only, and the other being to lock the mechanism only at such times as the gun is in an open position, or until it has become completely closed, and being designed to operate either automatically or by the operator. This last-mentioned locking device is controlled by the rod, d^4 , which operates the lock or detent for the locking ring, b , for the barrel and handle; this rod being designed, when the gun is in closed position, to hold the lock for the firing mechanism in inoperative position, but adapted, as soon as the gun is opened, to permit the lock to go to locking position.

From the description given before it will be seen that the operation of releasing the hammer is performed in part through the medium of the lever, d^{11} . This lever, d^{11} , has extending forwardly therefrom, a projection, d^{17} , having at its center a depression, d^{18} (Fig. 9). Pivoted to the outer side of the support, d^2 , is a lever, d^{19} , having at its lower end a laterally-projecting pin, d^{20} , the lower portion of the lever being normally spring-pressed to the rear by a spring, d^{23} , so as to bring the pin, d^{20} , above the projection, d^{17} , to the rear of the depression, d^{18}

d^{18} , therein, in which position it will be seen the lever, d^{21} , will be locked from upward movement. Now, the detent operating rod, b^4 , has formed at the extreme end thereof a projection, d^{21} , (Fig. 3) in front of which the lower part of the lever, d^{19} , stands. In the normal position of this rod, b^4 , or in that position which it assumes when the gun is closed (it being spring-pressed forward to lock the locking ring) it will hold the lever, d^{19} , against the tension of its spring in a position to bring the pin, d^{20} , thereon over the depression in the projection, d^{17} , and thus unlock the firing mechanism by unlocking the lever d^{21} . Upon operating the rod, b^4 , either by the finger piece, b^7 , or by the operation of firing (which latter operation will be explained a little later) and opening the gun, it will be seen that the projection on the rod, b^4 , will be withdrawn so that the lever, b^{10} , will move under the influence of its spring to again lock the firing mechanism, until such time as the gun is again completely closed. I have further provided means for unlocking the barrel and its grip or handle so soon as the firing mechanism is operated, and this operation will automatically lock the firing mechanism. Pivoted to the frame piece, d^2 , is a lever, d^{22} , the upper part of which stands in a position to be engaged by a laterally-projecting pin, d^{23} , on the hammer, and the lower part of which stands between two projections, d^{24} , on the rod b^4 . When the gun is fired, the lower part of this lever, d^{22} , will thus be caused to move rearwardly, moving with it the rod, b^4 , which will not only unlock the locking-ring for the barrel and grip but will also permit the lever d^{19} to move to its locking position for the firing mechanism.

The operator's lock to lock the gun under all conditions is designed to throw the lever, d^{19} , to the opposite limit of its movement so as to bring the pin, d^{20} , above the projection, d^{17} , on the opposite side of the depression therein, as shown in Fig. 3. This is accomplished by a projecting piece, d^{26} , in the wall of the casing, having a finger piece, d^{27} , on the outside of the casing. This projection has extended therethrough and projecting on each side thereof a pin, d^{29} , and there is secured to the casing on each side of the projection two spring levers in connection with which the pin operates to hold the projection in two different positions of adjustment. When the projection is moved to the rear, which is the safe position, it will contact the lever, d^{19} , and throw the pin, d^{20} , to the other side of the depression, and hold it there. In this position of the lever it will not be affected by any movement of the rod, b^4 , for the reason that the lower part of the lever is thrown out of the range of action of the projection on the end of the rod, b^4 .

Magazine stop mechanism.—The maga-

zine, g , as in my former patents, is provided with a long coil spring adapted to press the shells rearwardly so that a shell may be fed into the carrier, e , each time the gun is opened. The stop mechanism consists of two spring-pressed catches, g^4 g^5 , located in the walls of the casing on opposite sides of the magazine at the rear end thereof, the ends of these catches being normally spring-pressed into the path of the shells in said magazine. The catch, g^4 , is designed to be operated by the movement of the carrier upon the opening of the gun, and the catch, g^5 , by the movement of the grip-handle upon the closing of the gun, the catch, g^5 being located slightly in advance of the catch g^4 . Starting with the gun open, the catches will be in the position shown in Fig. 5, with the catch, g^5 , engaging the rim of the rearmost shell in the magazine, and the catch, g^4 , in engaging position for this shell. As soon as the barrel is completely closed the grip will engage the end of the rod, g^6 , which contacts at its other end with the catch, g^5 (the catch and the end of the rod having cam-faces for this purpose,) depressing this catch and permitting the rim of the shell to pass the same where it will be held by the catch, g^4 , (Fig. 4) in a position to be released and enter the carrier when the gun is again opened and the carrier depressed. As soon as the gun begins to open, the grip being removed from the rod, g^6 , will permit the catch, g^5 , to again spring inwardly to engage the next succeeding shell, which movement of the catch, g^5 , will force the rod, g^6 , outwardly, and the carrier will contact with the catch, g^4 , to force it from engagement with the rearmost shell and allow the shell to be pushed into the carrier. g^7 is a spring-pressed pawl adapted as soon as the catch, g^5 , is depressed and the shell released to spring in front of the rim of the shell and retain it, so that the shell will not be affected by any recoil of the gun upon firing. The catch, g^5 , is formed with a projecting part, g^8 , extending through a slotted hole in the side of the casing, and provided on the outside of the casing with a lateral projection, g^9 . By this construction, all strain upon the spring of the catch, g^5 , due to the tension of the magazine spring will be taken up by the casing.

Carrier.—The carrier, e , is pivoted to the casing by the arm, e' , and is adapted to be moved into its different positions by the cocking-rod; the friction roller on the end of said rod being adapted to enter an inclined slot, e^2 , on the side of the carrier for this purpose. As the rod is moved rearwardly by the closing of the gun, the carrier will be thrown up, moving the shell carried thereby to a position to enter the end of the barrel, and will be held in this position by a spring-pressed catch, e^3 , engaging with the projecting portion, e^4 , of the

casing. As the gun is again opened, this spring-pressed catch will be pressed inwardly by the portion, e^{10} , on said cocking rod, just as the friction roller thereon enters the inclined slot, and the carrier will be permitted to drop until arrested by the upper end of the slot contacting with the friction roller, which will be at the limit of the outward movement of the grip handle.

The carrier during its downward movement will contact, as before stated, with the spring-pressed catch, g^4 , which will permit a shell to be deposited in the carrier. The carrier is provided with a movable bottom, e^5 , the forward portion of which is normally spring-pressed upward by the spring, e^6 , the rear part of the movable bottom being pivoted to the walls of the carrier at e^7 . Located in the upper part of the casing above the carrier is a flat spring, e^8 , secured at its forward end so that it is adapted to be sprung out of the way by the barrel when it is closed. When the gun is opened and the carrier is moved upwardly, the shell carried by the carrier will be held between the spring-pressed bottom of the carrier and this spring, e^8 , in alinement to enter the barrel as it is closed, the spring-pressed bottom being adapted in this position of the carrier to lie in a plane parallel with the lower part of the opening of the barrel with the side walls of the carrier extending up around but out of the path of the barrel. Located below the breech-block is a forwardly-extending projection, e^9 , adapted to form a stop for the shell as it is ejected from the magazine into the carrier, the end of the rib of the barrel being formed with a slot to accommodate this projection when the barrel is closed. As the barrel closes the beveled end of the rib on the bottom of the barrel will contact the movable bottom of the carrier and throw the same down out of the path of the barrel. By having the spring-pressed latch on the side of the carrier, the carrier will always be held positively in proper position for the shell to enter the barrel, which would not be the case if the carrier was spring-pressed into position, as has been the practice heretofore.

Ejector.—Located at one side of the breech-block is the extractor, h , constructed in the usual way to spring in front of the rim of the shell when the barrel is closed and extract it when the barrel is opened. On the opposite side of the breech-block is the ejector, h , (Fig. 15) which consists of a pin or rod projecting through a channel cut in the breech block, and normally spring-pressed forward by a spring, h^2 ; a pin, h^3 , projects from the side of the casing into a groove, h^4 , in the ejector, so as to limit its movement in either direction. Formed in the ejector is a notch, h^5 , adapted to be engaged by a detent, h^6 , (Fig. 3) connected

to a lever, h^7 , having a spring, h^8 , adapted to normally hold the detent in engagement with the ejector so as to retain the ejector in inoperative position. In the operation of opening the gun this lever is adapted to be contacted by a projection, h^9 , on the carrier to withdraw the detent and permit the ejector to spring forward to eject the shell, the operation being so timed that the carrier will strike the lever after the barrel has been removed sufficiently to leave room for the ejection of the shell. When the barrel is returned it will contact the shoulder, h^{10} , on the ejector and return it to a position to be again engaged and held by the detent. The shoulder, h^{11} , in the closed position of the gun will lie immediately back of the rim of the shell, and the beveled portion, h^{12} , will project close up along the wall of the breech-block casing, the barrel being cut away, as shown at h^{13} , (Figs. 2 and 3) to accommodate the beveled portion h^{12} .

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In a gun, a firing mechanism comprising a pivoted operating lever, a pivoted locking lever having a laterally-projecting pin extending over said operating lever, a depression in said operating lever to receive said pin, and means controlled entirely by the operator for throwing said pin to one side of said depression to lock said operating lever, and means controlled by the operator or by the firing mechanism for throwing said pin to the opposite side of said depression, substantially as specified.

2. In a firing mechanism for a gun, a pivoted operating lever, a depression in said lever, a pivoted locking lever having a laterally-projecting pin adapted to normally stand over said depression when the gun is in closed position, and means operated by the firing mechanism to throw said pin to one side of said depression to lock said mechanism, substantially as specified.

3. In a gun, a firing mechanism, a movable part with a shoulder thereon having a main spring connected thereto, a rotatable sear supported at each side of said movable part and adapted to engage said shoulder, a trigger having a connection with said sear to rotate the same to disengage it from said shoulder, the connection between said trigger and sear having a limited movement in one direction to form a stop or lock for said sear against the tension of the main spring, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

4. In a repeating firearm, a sliding barrel, a movable shell carrier located at the rear end of said barrel, means operated by the closing of the barrel for moving said carrier to a position to feed a shell to said barrel, and a latch for positively retaining the carrier in this position until the barrel is again

opened, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

5 5. In a repeating firearm, a sliding barrel, a movable shell-carrier located at the rear
10 end of said barrel, devices operated by the closing of the barrel for moving said carrier to a position to feed a shell to said barrel, a spring-latch on said carrier adapted to secure the carrier in this position, and means
15 for tripping said latch upon the opening of the barrel, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

20 6. In a repeating firearm, a sliding barrel, a movable shell carrier located at the rear
15 end of said barrel, an inclined slot in said carrier, a rod connected with said barrel adapted to operate in said slot to move said carrier from one position to another, a spring-pressed latch on said carrier to hold
20 same in one of its positions, and means on said rod for disengaging said latch, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

25 7. In a repeating firearm, a sliding barrel, a movable shell carrier to feed shells to said barrel, and a pivoted spring-pressed bottom
in said carrier, said bottom being adapted to stand, when said carrier is in feeding po-

sition, in alinement with the bottom of the opening in said barrel when the same is open and being adapted to be depressed by said barrel out of the path of same, substantially as and for the purpose specified. 30

8. In a repeating firearm, a sliding barrel, a movable shell carrier for feeding shells to said barrel, a pivoted spring-pressed bottom
35 in said carrier, said bottom being adapted to stand, when said carrier is in feeding position, in alinement with the bottom of the opening in said barrel when the barrel is open, and being adapted to be depressed by
40 said barrel out of the path of the same, and a flat spring above said carrier between which and the said spring-pressed carrier bottom the shells are adapted to be held, said spring
45 being adapted to be pressed out of the path of said barrel when it is closed, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of January, 1907.

CHARLES A. YOUNG.

Witnesses:

CHAS. I. WELCH,
CLARA GALLAGHER.

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