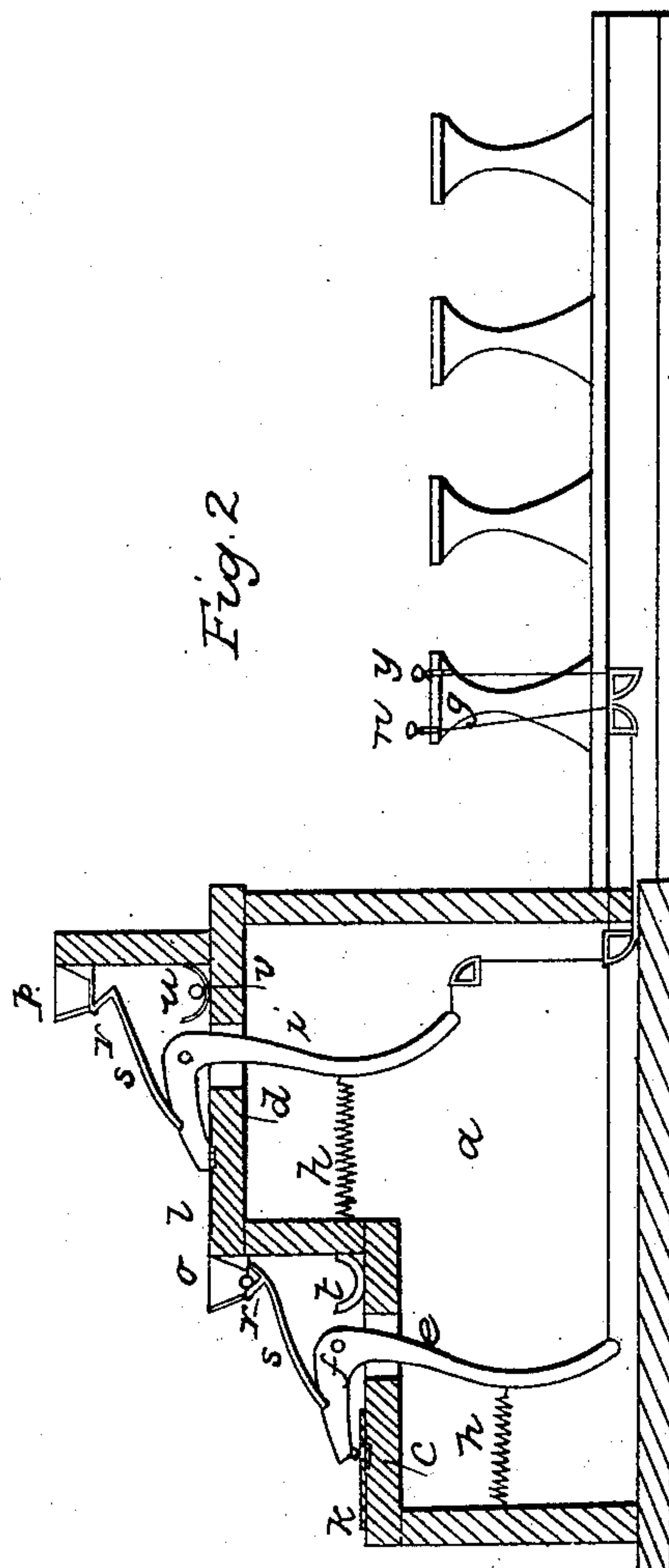
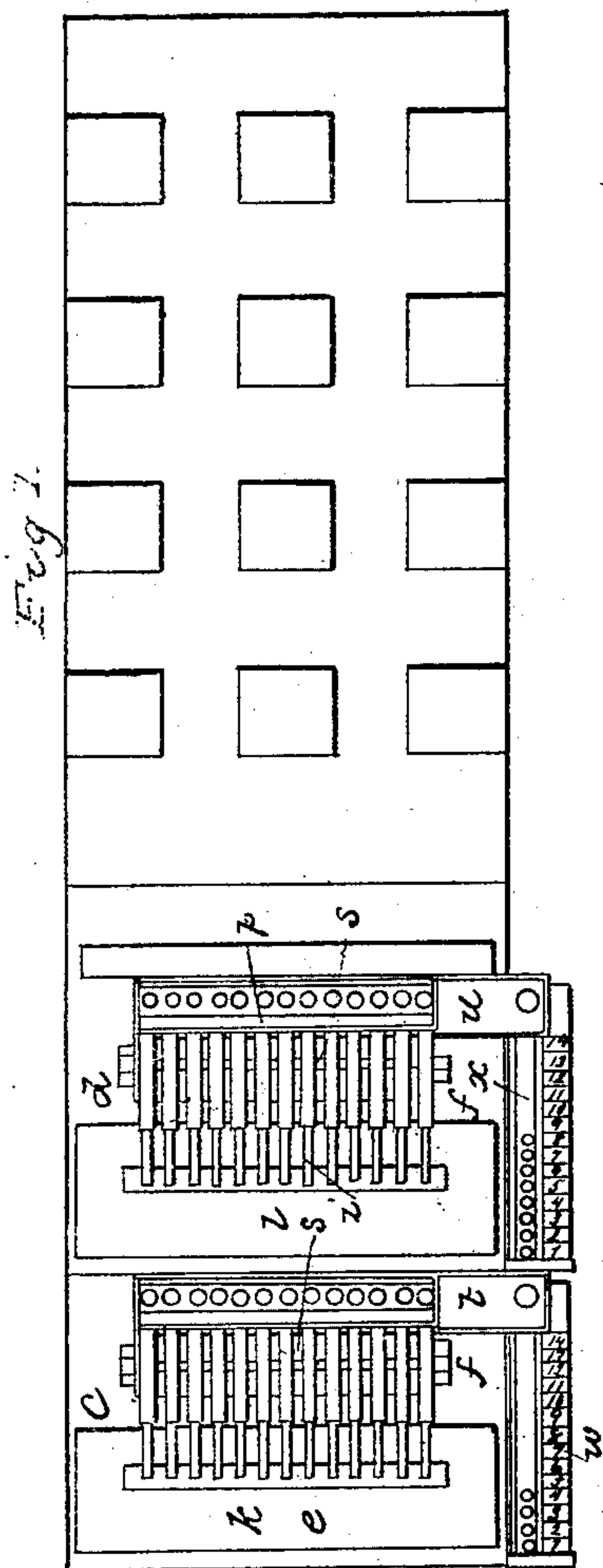


S. HUFFMAN.
Voting Machine.

No. 12,886.

Patented May 15, 1855.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAML. HUFFMAN, OF CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO HUFFMAN & KAY.

MODE OF INDICATING THE NUMBERS OF THE YEA AND NAY BALLS IN MACHINES FOR TAKING VOTES IN LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 12,886, dated May 15, 1855.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL HUFFMAN, of Charleston, in the county of Coles and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Machines for Taking and Recording Votes in Deliberative Bodies which I Denominate a "Legislative Telegraph"; and I hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a plan or top view of the machine about half size, and several desks or tables on a reduced scale for the purpose of illustration, and Fig. 2 a longitudinal section of the same.

The indicating letters refer to the same parts in the different figures wherever they occur.

The nature of my invention consists in a mode of recording votes on sheets of paper previously printed with the name of each voter thereon, each of whom makes an impression opposite to his own name by means of a lever actuated by himself from his seat, combined with an apparatus which simultaneously releases a ball, and allows it to pass into a transparent tube provided with a scale, divided into spaces equal to the diameter of a ball, and numbered upward from the bottom by which the votes will be permanently recorded and the result ascertained at a glance by the presiding officer in the manner hereinafter described.

The following is a description of the machine as shown in the drawing *a*, is a box or case having its top divided into two portions (*c* and *d*) one elevated higher than the other, the lowest one *c* with its appurtenances being used in the present instance for recording votes in the affirmative and the other (*d*) for those in the negative.

The bent levers *e*, are used for voting in the affirmative they have their fulcrums upon the rod *f*, which passes through the series and are each connected by wires from their lower extremities, and suitable cranks with knobs (*g*) upon the desks *g*. Upon the upper ends of the levers are projecting steel dies of any desirable pattern fitting into corresponding matrices upon *c*. The springs *n* elevate the upper portions of the levers when the knobs are released.

The levers *i* are formed and arranged in a similar manner upon *d* communicating with the knobs *n*, and are used for voting in the negative one is shown in Fig. 2 with the die forced into its matrix by the elevation of the knob *n*.

Upon *c* and *d* are placed metal plates (*k* and *l*) supported at the ends at a sufficient elevation to admit of a sheet of paper being passed under them. They are provided with slots to allow the dies to act upon sheets of paper with the names of the voters previously printed thereon in a column at a distance from one another corresponding to that between the dies.

Above *c* and *d* are fixed troughs *o* and *p* perforated with a hole opposite to each of the levers of a suitable size to admit of the passage of a small ball. These holes are partially closed by valves *r*, hinged at their forward edges and connected by rods *s* with the upper portions of the levers. In each of the holes resting upon its valve is placed a small ball *v*. When the machine is not in operation the valve is closed sufficiently to prevent its passage but when the lever is in the position of *i*, the valve is opened further, and allows the ball to fall into a conductor (*t*, or *u*) slightly inclined which guides the ball into a vertical or inclined tube (*w* or *x*) which may be made of glass or other transparent material or of metal with an opening extending its whole length somewhat narrower than the diameter of the balls, the bore of the tubes should fit the balls loosely. The tubes are provided with scales divided into spaces equal to the diameter of the balls and should be numbered upward commencing at the bottom, thereby indicating the number of balls in either tube. A slide or valve at the bottom of each tube affords means of removing the balls after the vote is taken.

A bolt or other contrivance may be used to prevent the knobs from being pulled by any other than the voter to whom the desk belongs during his absence, which bolt may be placed in a drawer or otherwise under lock and key.

A ball being placed in each of the holes in the troughs *o*, and *p*, resting upon the valves, and sheets containing the names of all the voters being placed under the plates with their margins under the dies, the op-

eration of the machine is as follows. When
the question is put each voter pulls one of
the knobs *n* or *y* this acts through the cranks
and wires upon its corresponding lever, the
5 die makes its impression upon the sheet op-
posite his name, the valve being opened at
the same instant by its connecting rod re-
leases a ball which falling into one of the
conductors passes into the tube connected
10 therewith. All having voted (which may
be done in a few seconds) the presiding
officer can by inspecting the scales, and
noting the number at the top of the upper
ball, at once declare the result of the vote,
15 the marked sheets may be read off if re-
quired, and afterward be bound up as a
permanent record.

What I claim as my invention, and de-
sire to secure by Letters Patent is—

The use of transparent tubes or their 20
equivalents provided with index scales for
the purpose of showing the number of votes
on either side of a question by indicating
the number of balls which have passed into
each tube substantially in the manner herein 25
set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto
signed my name this tenth day of February
1855.

SAMUEL HUFFMAN.

In the presence of—

CHAS. EVERETT,
JOHN L. SMITH.