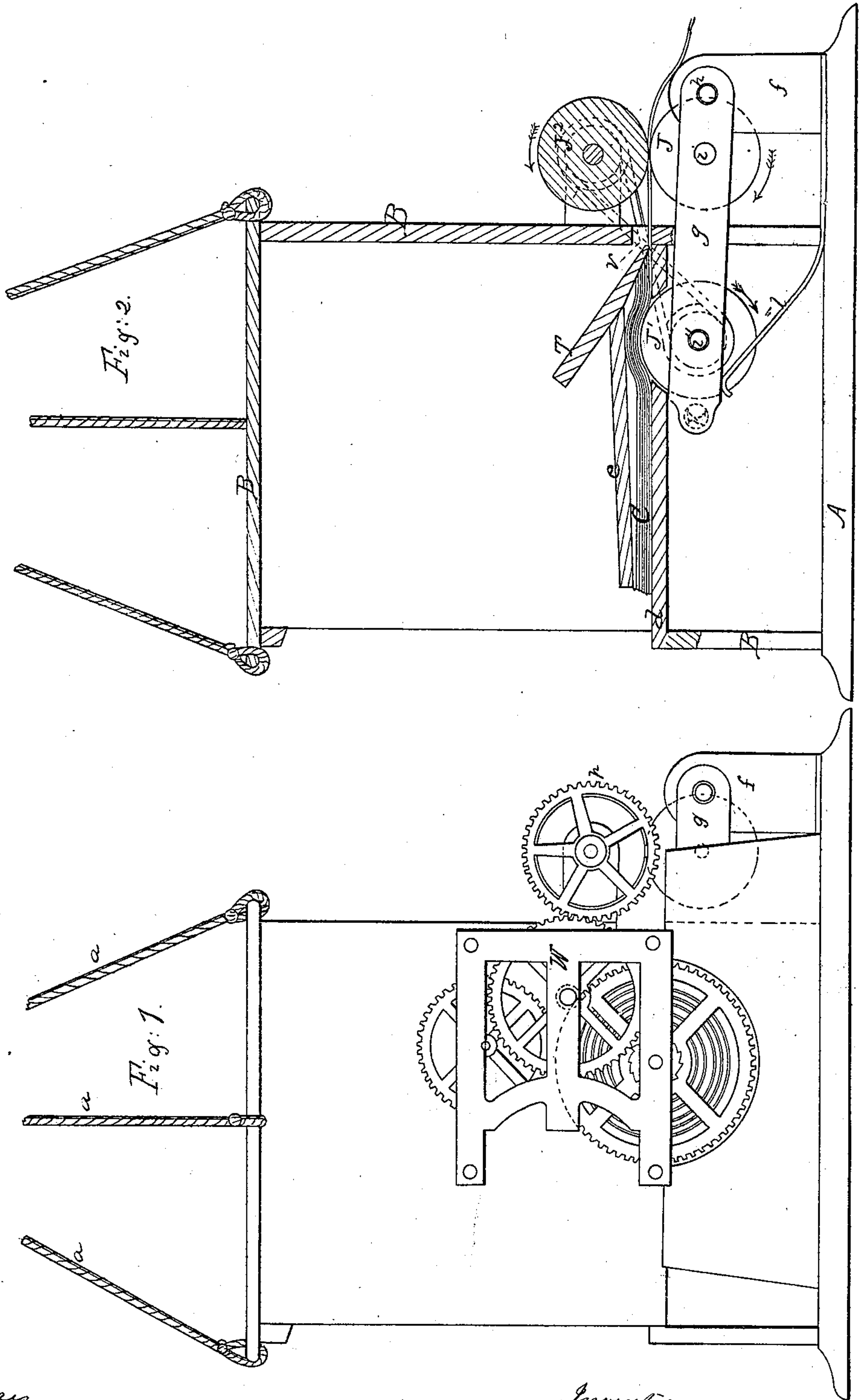


J. H. Pratt Sheet 1. 3 Sheets.
Advertising.
N^o 37,590. Patented Feb. 3, 1863.



Witnesses
Gustav Quilench
D. C. Lawrence

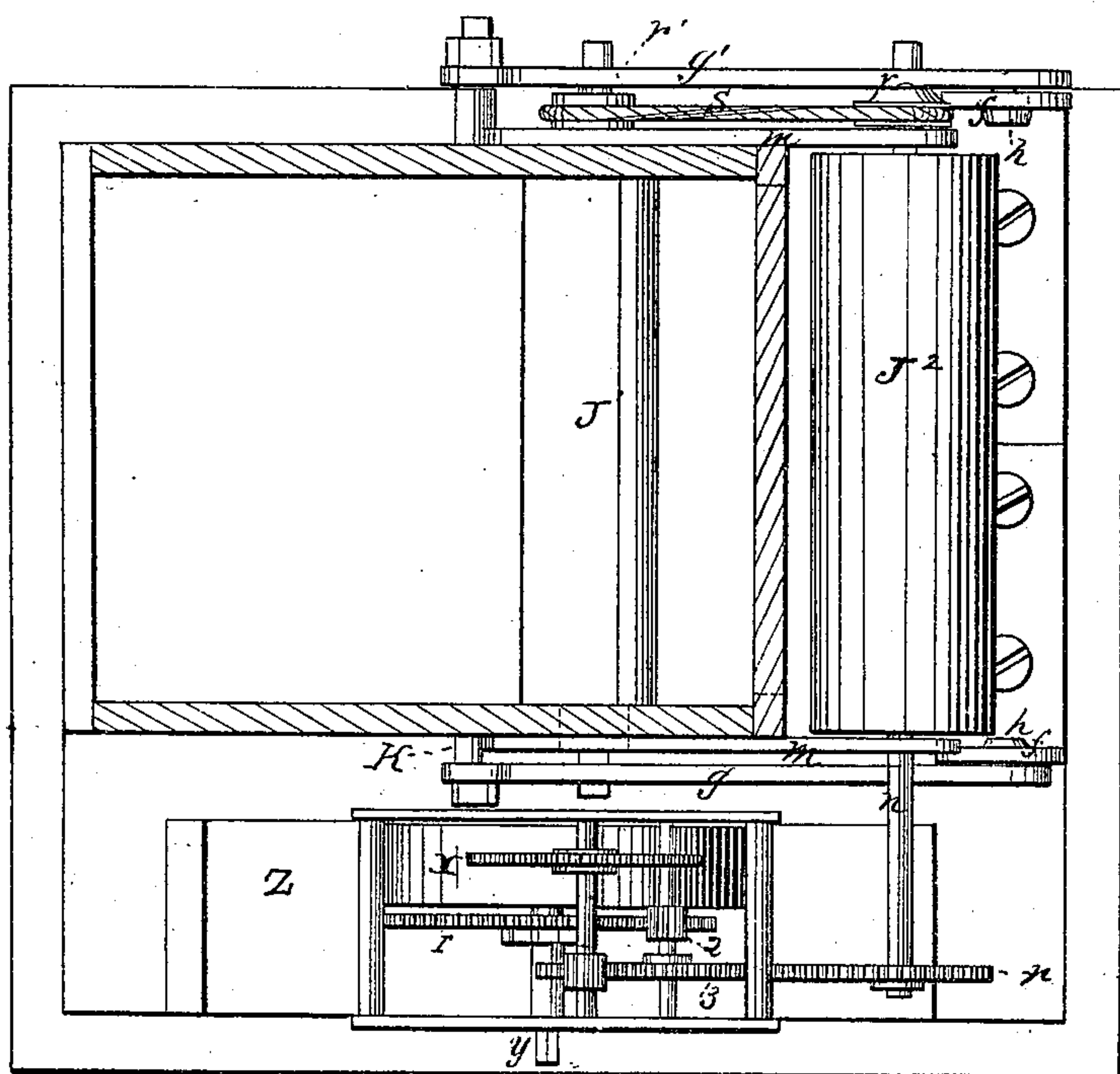
Inventor
Julius H. Pratt
by his Atty;
Mason, Hewick & Lawrence.

J.H. Pratt. Sheet 2. 3 Sheets.
Advertising.

Nº 37,590.

Patented Feb. 3, 1863.

Fig. 3.



Witnesses.

Eustace Dietrich
D. B. Lawrence

Inventor

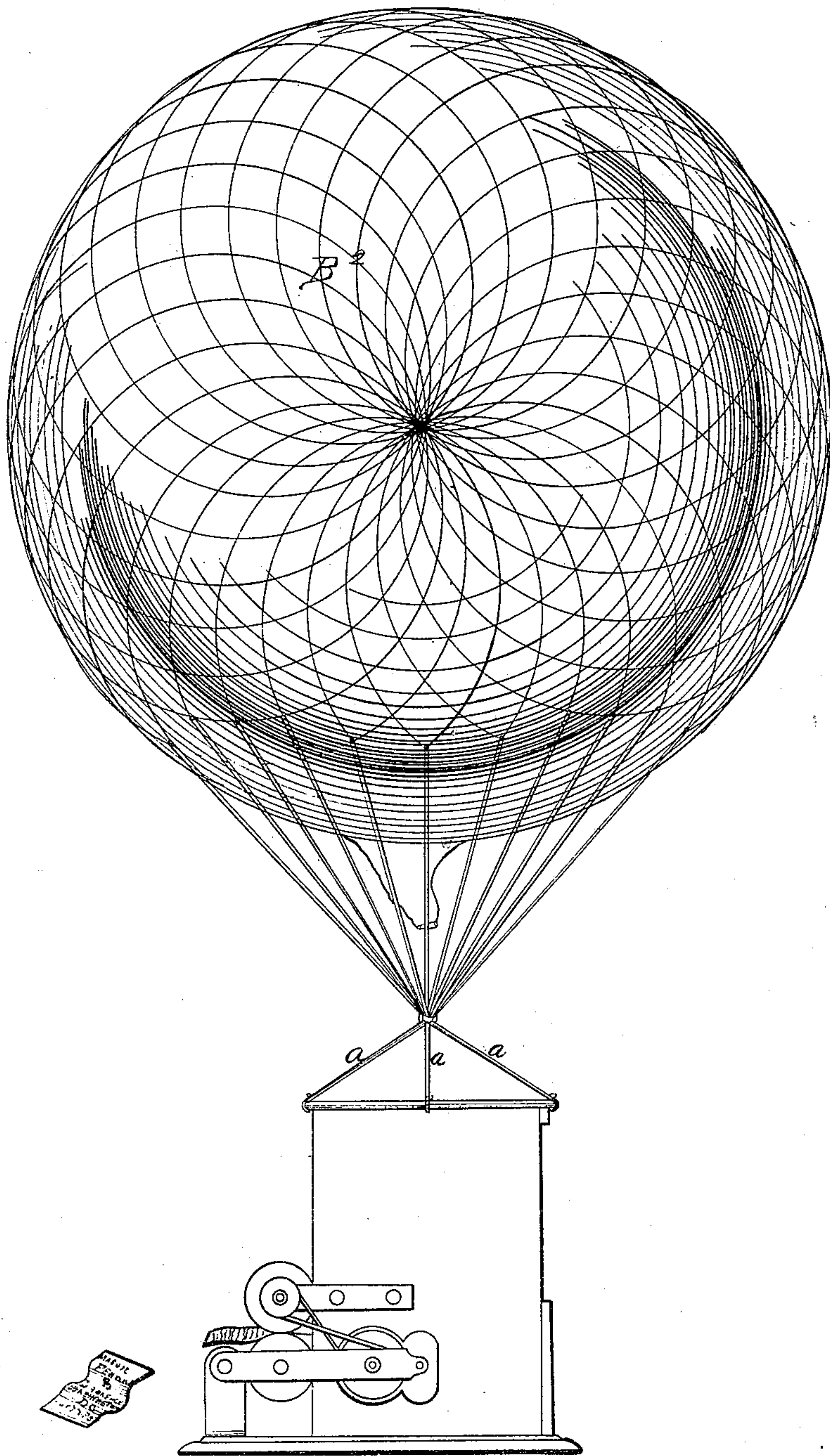
Julius H. Pratt
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Mason Smith & Lawrence

J. H. Pratt Street 3.3 Sheets.
Advertising.

No 37,590.

Patented Feb. 3, 1863.

Fig: 4.



Witnesses
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Wm. H. H. Lamm

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JULIUS H. PRATT, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

NEWS-DISTRIBUTER.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 37,590, dated February 3, 1863.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JULIUS H. PRATT, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Mode of Distributing News Automatically by Balloons; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, like letters in the several figures indicating the same parts, and in which drawings—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improvement, showing the clock-gearing, by means of which movement is imparted to the delivering roller of the machine. Fig. 2 is partly a central section and partly a side view of the same. Fig. 3 is a plan view, and Fig. 4 a view of the side of the machine opposite to that shown in Fig. 1, with the additional view of a balloon attached thereto.

My invention has for its object the distribution of news or intelligence of any nature, which for any cause it is impossible to communicate to the inhabitants of an enemy's country by the ordinary means of conveyance.

As shown in the drawings, A is a platform or foundation, of convenient dimensions, upon which a box-frame, B, is firmly secured, and to both of which the machinery figured in the drawings is attached.

As represented in Fig. 2, the rear of the box B is left open for the insertion of such printed or written matter on sheets of paper C as it is desirable to distribute, the printed or written sheets being laid upon the bottom *d* of said box, as indicated, and thereupon held by a presser-board, *e*. Posts *f f* are attached to the forward portion of the platform A, as shown clearly in Figs. 2 and 3, upon which horizontal arms *g g'* are made to articulate, the latter being pivoted to the former, as at *h*. These arms are made to support the shafts *i i'* of the delivering-rolls J J', and are held in proper relation to each other by a tie-rod, K, as indicated, and said arms with their rolls are caused to maintain a working position with reference to the delivery of the sheets C by means of a pressure-spring, *l*, one end of which is secured to the platform, and the other made to exert an upward pressure against the arm *g*, as represented. Over the delivery-roll J a drive-roll, J², is situated, having its bearings upon

stationary arms *m m*, attached to the sides of the box or frame B. To one end of the axis *n* of the drive-roll J² a cog-wheel, *p*, is secured, and at its opposite end a pulley, *r*, connects with a pulley, *r'*, on the shaft of the delivery-roll J', by means of the cross-band *s*, so that when the machine is in operation the rolls will rotate in the direction of the arrows, Fig. 3, and thus effect the delivery of the sheets C from the interior of the box B, as indicated.

As shown in Fig. 2, the bottom *d* of the box B is cut away, so as to permit the periphery of the roller J' to rise therein and present its entire length in contact with the sheets. This roller J', being composed of india-rubber, or its working-face of that material, when in operation, comes in contact with the bottom sheet of the mass of sheets C, and thus draws forward one of said sheets beneath the stationary guide T and through an opening, *v*, as seen in Fig. 2, at which points the rolls J J² take hold of the sheet and project it from the machine, as represented in Fig. 4. Thus, as one sheet is delivered, the presser *e* causes the succeeding sheet of the mass of sheets C to come in contact with the roll J' until the whole are all thrown from the machine.

To effect the movement of the rolls, clock-work, supported in a frame, W, and composed of cog-wheels and pinions, as at 1 2 3, and actuated by a coil-spring, X, upon a key-shaft, *y*, may be made to connect with the wheel *p* of the drive-roll J², and so, when the same is "wound up," impart the requisite motion. This frame, with the clock-work attached, may be supported upon a block, Z, secured to the foundation A, as indicated.

Having thus constructed my machinery for delivering the news-sheets, I then, to provide for their distribution, secure ropes *a* to the top of the box B in such manner as to keep the same in upright positions when raised in the air by a balloon, B², said ropes connecting with the balloon, as indicated.

It is thus evident that the mechanism I have described, being set in motion just previous to the ascent of the balloon B², will, with a favorable current of air, be carried over a region of country which in any other manner may be inaccessible for the purpose of distributing news to its inhabitants; and that as the balloon moves on the news-sheets will be de-

livered from time to time in its course, and, descending to the ground, thus fall into the hands of persons for whom they were intended.

My invention thus put in practice becomes an automatic distributor of intelligence, which in times of war may be made subservient to the interests of one or the other of the contending parties.

It is apparent that for effecting the delivery of news-sheets for the purpose specified other mechanism may be employed and differing in various particulars from that I have above described. I have described one mode of effecting the delivery of the news-sheets during the flight of the balloon; but I do not wish to confine myself to the particular means I have described for throwing off the sheets, as my

invention in the main consists in the idea of so constructing mechanism that it shall automatically throw off or deliver news-sheets from a balloon during the flight of the balloon through the air.

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

Combining with a balloon mechanism which is capable of throwing off or delivering news-sheets into the air during the flight of the balloon, for the purpose set forth.

JULIUS H. PRATT.

Witnesses:

EDWARD BISSELL,
FRANCIS CARPENTER.