J. F. GAUNT.

Conductors' Check-Boxes.

No. 139,780. Patented June 10, 1873.

Fig. 2.

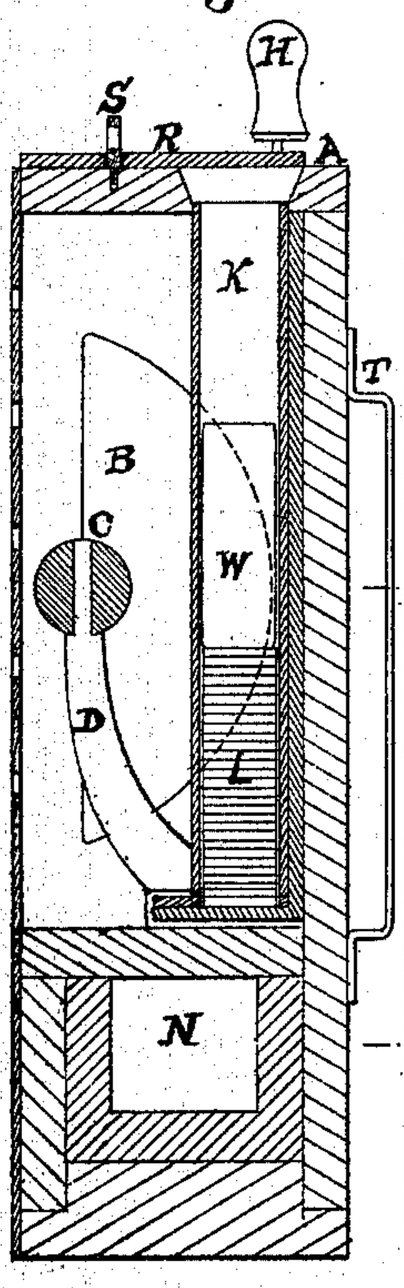


Fig. 1.

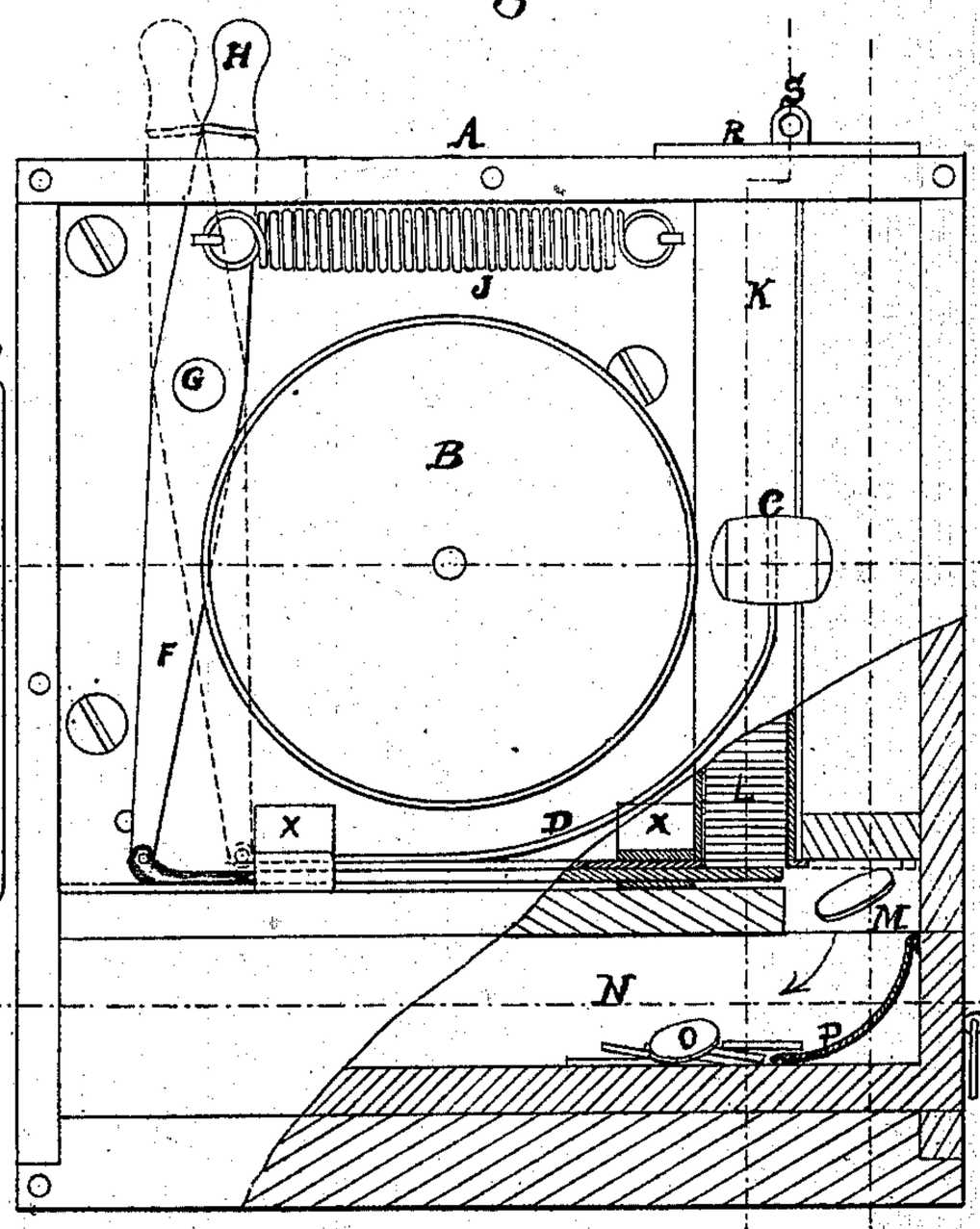


Fig. 3.

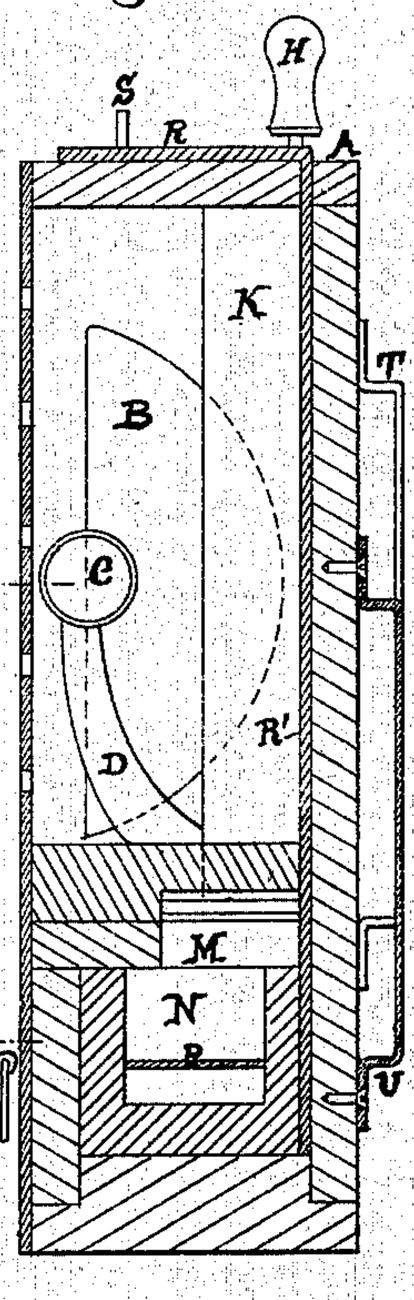


Fig. 6.

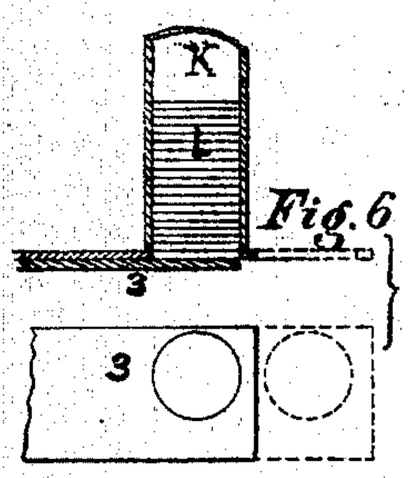


Fig. 4.

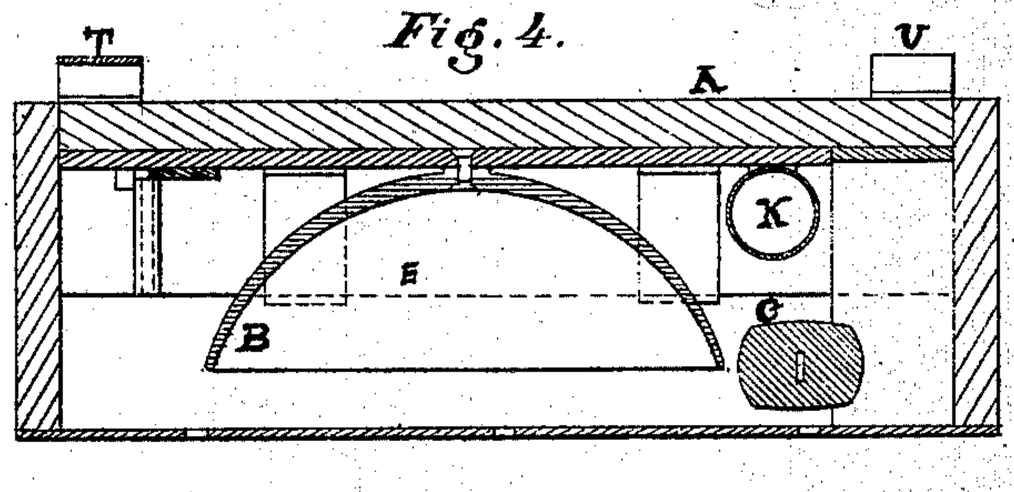
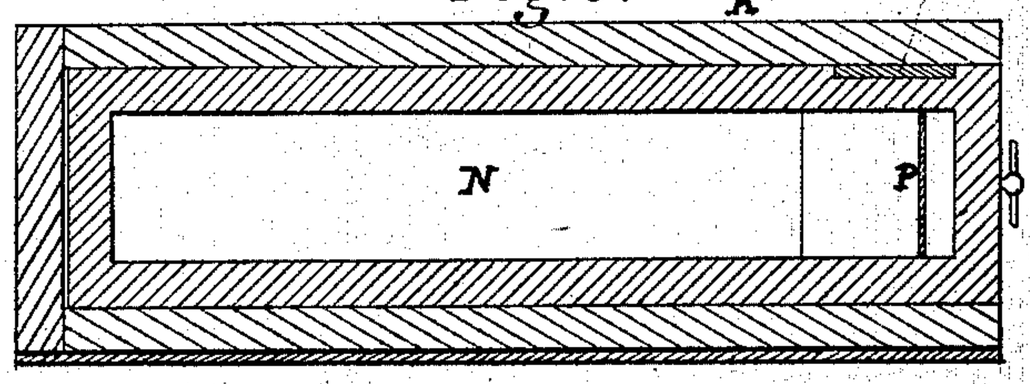


Fig. 5.



Witnesses:

Wm. M. Cooke

Wm. H. Alling

Inventor:

James F. Gaunt

his Attorney

John Cone Jr

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES F. GAUNT, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF HIS RIGHT TO EDWIN B. KNOTT, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN CONDUCTORS' CHECK-BOXES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **139,780**, dated June 10, 1873; application filed December 5, 1872.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES F. GAUNT, of the city of Newark, county of Essex, in the State of New Jersey, have invented new and useful Improvements in Conductors' Check-Boxes; and I do hereby declare that the following specification, taken in connection with the drawings furnished, is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same.

My invention relates to certain combined devices arranged in a box, consisting of a bell, with suitable striking apparatus, in combination with a check-distributing slide, that deposits a check into a receptacle for that purpose at the time the bell is sounded while collecting fares. It relates also to the arrangement of a tube or reservoir, in which the metallic or other checks are placed, together with a bolt, which is for the purpose of following the checks until the last one is deposited, when it locks the slide, preventing the bell from sounding. It is conveniently constructed for being attached to a belt, or may be attached to parts of the clothing, enabling the conductor to have free use of his hands to collect and make change. A knob extending the exterior serves to operate the signal, as well as to deposit checks, by the touch of the finger upon the same.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 represents a front view of my invention, disclosing the inside works, arrangements, &c.; Fig. 2, end sectional view, showing tube or reservoir, with checks and bolt which follows and locks; Fig. 3, end sectional view showing end of check-distributer and other details; Fig. 4, top sectional view, showing tube or reservoir, bell, &c.; Fig. 5, lower section, end view, showing the draw or receptacle for holding the checks, also the groove or niche in which the lock-slide passes which prevents the opening of the same.

A, frame or box; B, bell; C, hammer; D, arm connecting the hammer to the slide; E, slide forming the check-distributer; F, the lever connecting with the slide E, striking-apparatus, &c.; G, bolt or pin serving as the fulcrum of the lever F; H, knob of the lever; J, spring for working the lever and its connections; K, tube or reservoir in which are deposited hard checks; L, checks in position; M, opening or passage for the checks to the drawer or receptacle N; N, drawer; O, checks; P, incline to carry the checks from the delivery, to prevent choking, &c.; R, part of the strip which serves as a cover for the opening of the tube K, as well as to lock the drawer N; S is an eye or loop for connecting the padlock for securing the cover and drawer in their places; T and U, loops through which the belt-strap is arranged; V, niche or groove in the drawer N for the passage of the slide R, which serves as a lock-bolt.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, I will describe its construction and operation more fully in detail.

The box or case A is made of wood, although metal will generally serve better, made by casting or formed from sheet metal by the usual means. The bell may be of the ordinary kind, with a suitable hammer connected with the slide or check-depositor, the same being actuated by the lever by pulling the knob H. The slide E is made of a suitable width and thickness, the end which conveys the check being rounded out, forming a half-circle which corresponds with the diameter of the check. The spiral spring actuates the lever to which the slide is connected, causing it to recede to place when pulled by the conductor. The hammer, as shown in the drawings, is attached to the sliding check-depositor. Suitable guides are provided for the support of the slide, indicated at X X. I have employed a metallic round tube for the check-reservoir, although other materials and forms will serve the purpose equally well. This is arranged vertically in the case. Secured in position at its opening or top, extending downward in close proximity to the partition which separates the drawer from the inner portion of the case, leaving sufficient space to allow the check-distributer to work freely (see Figs. 1 and 3.) The slide is kept in position by the spiral spring to receive and hold in readiness for depositing a single check at a time. By placing the finger upon the knob H and slightly

pulling in opposite direction to the action of the spring, the bell is sounded and the single check is deposited in the drawer, when it at once recedes to its position for another operation. The checks should be slightly thicker than the slide, and should be of any hard material, preferring those made from sheet metal. The bolt which is placed at the top of the checks follows down the same until the last one is deposited, when it takes the place of one, and being thicker cannot be deposited or removed; thus the slide is prevented from working and the bell remains silent until unlocked and again arranged for operation. In some cases it may be considered well to adopt a spiral spring with a piece of metal attached at least double the thickness of a check, secured to that part which follows the check downward. This is to prevent the removal of the bolt by reversing the position of the box. A cap, cover, or face, provided with small holes for the sound to escape, incloses the inside works, secured to the case by screws or other convenient means. The locking device, which serves as a cover to the reservoir and a bolt to lock the drawer, is made of sheet metal, bent at the top of the case and extending downward, as shown in the drawings in Figs. 1, 2, and 3, into a niche or groove in the drawer, as provided and shown in Fig. 5, at V. Thus the reservoir and drawer are securely closed by attaching a lock to the eye on the top, indicated at S.

I would remark that I am enabled to place two or more tubes or reservoirs in the case, allowing the slides to work side by side, using one bell for both, or to use two bells of different tones, one representing whole tickets or fares and the other halves.

I am aware of the existence of registers for a similar purpose, having dials, bells, gears, ratchets, &c., with full and half-fare indicators, ticket receptacles, &c.; but, having thus described my invention, I do not claim, broadly, a conductor's register, irrespective of its arrangement and combination; but

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

1. The combination of case A, knob and lever H and F, spring J, check-distributing slide E, hammer C, bell B, reservoir K, receptacle N, lock R and R′, as and for the purposes substantially as herein set forth.

2. The combination of case A, lever F, spring J, slide E, reservoir K, drawer N, lock-bolt R and R′, substantially as herein described and for the purpose set forth.

3. The combination of case A, lever F, spring J, check-depositing slide E, hammer C, bell B, reservoir K, follower-bolt W, drawer N, substantially as herein described and for the purposes set forth.

4. The combination and arrangement of all the above-named parts together, as and for the purposes herein described and shown.

5. In combination with a reservoir and check-depositor E, with its actuating devices and receptacle N, the checks, as and for the purpose hereinbefore described.

In testimony that I claim the above I have signed my name before two witnesses on this, the 13th day of November, A. D. 1872.

JAMES F. GAUNT. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

JOHN DANE, Jr.,

EDWIN B. KNOTT.