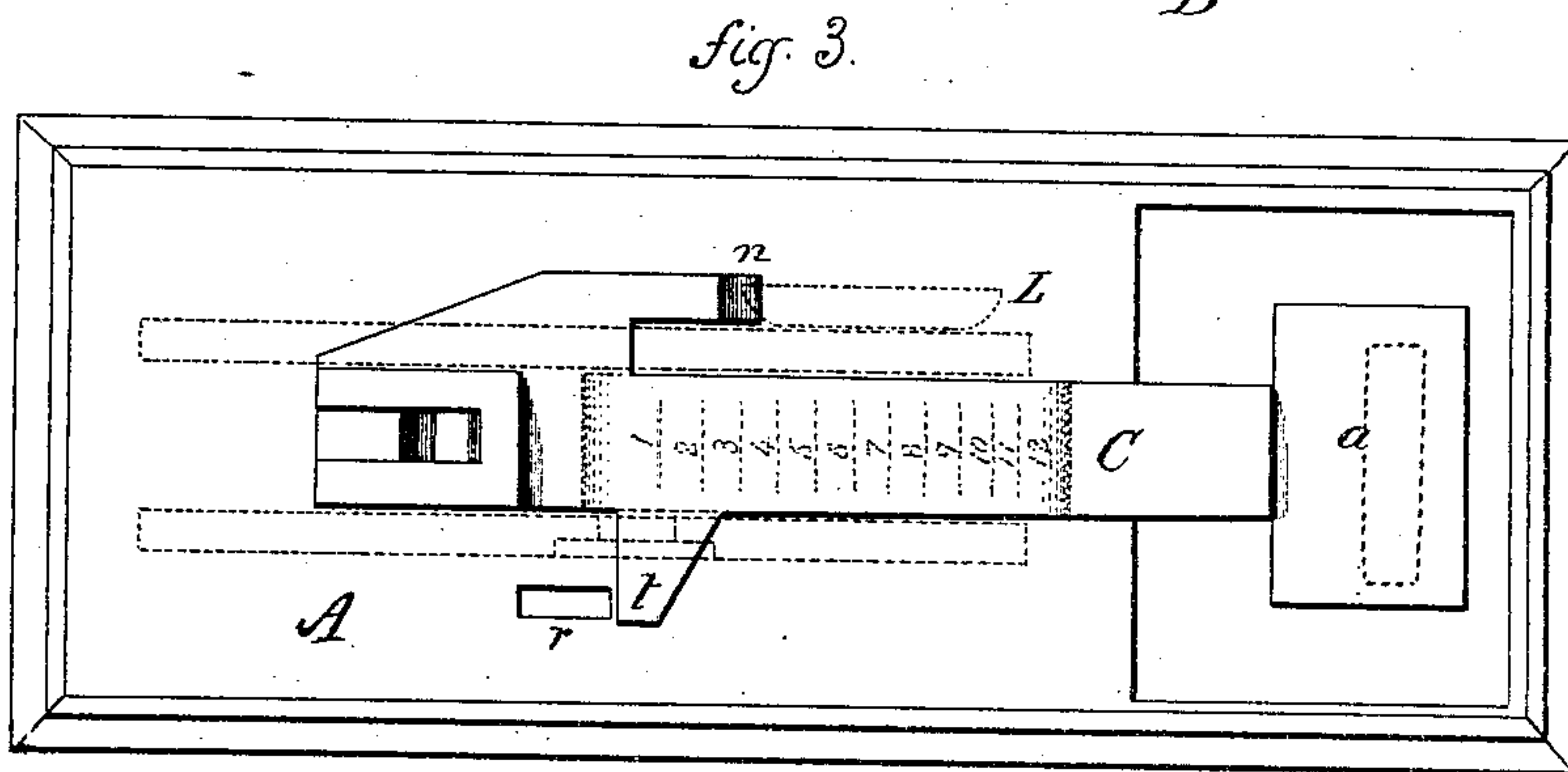
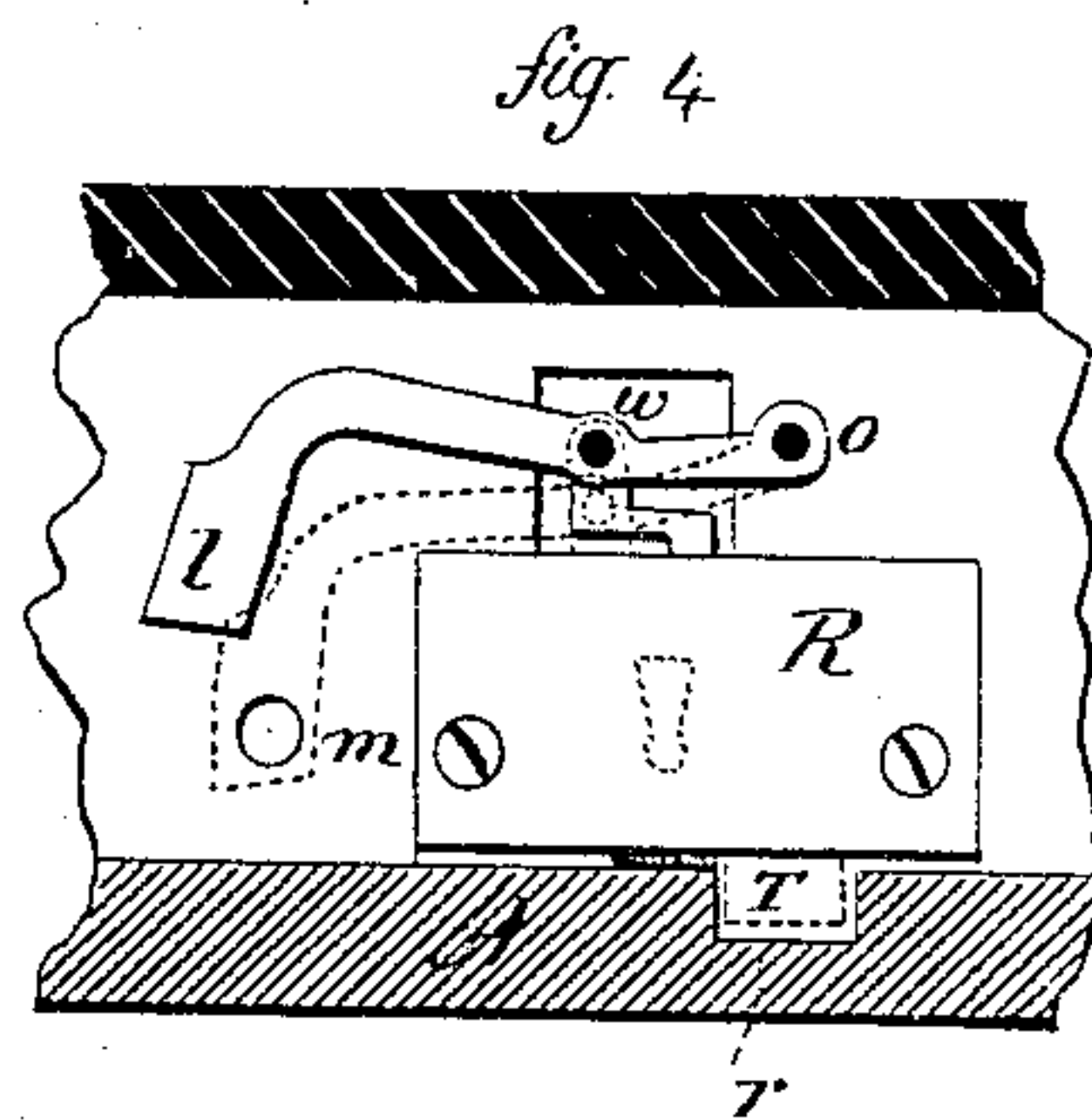
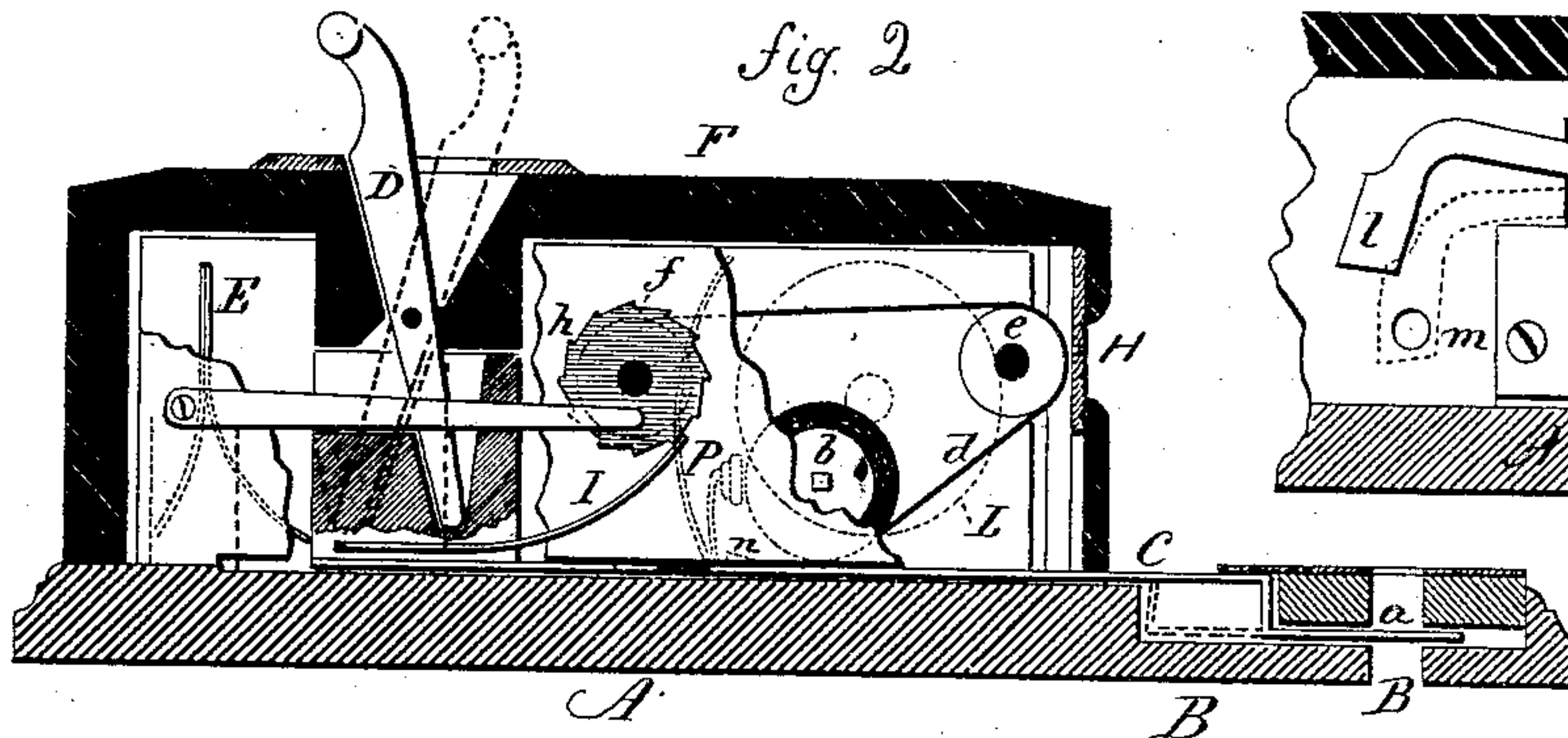
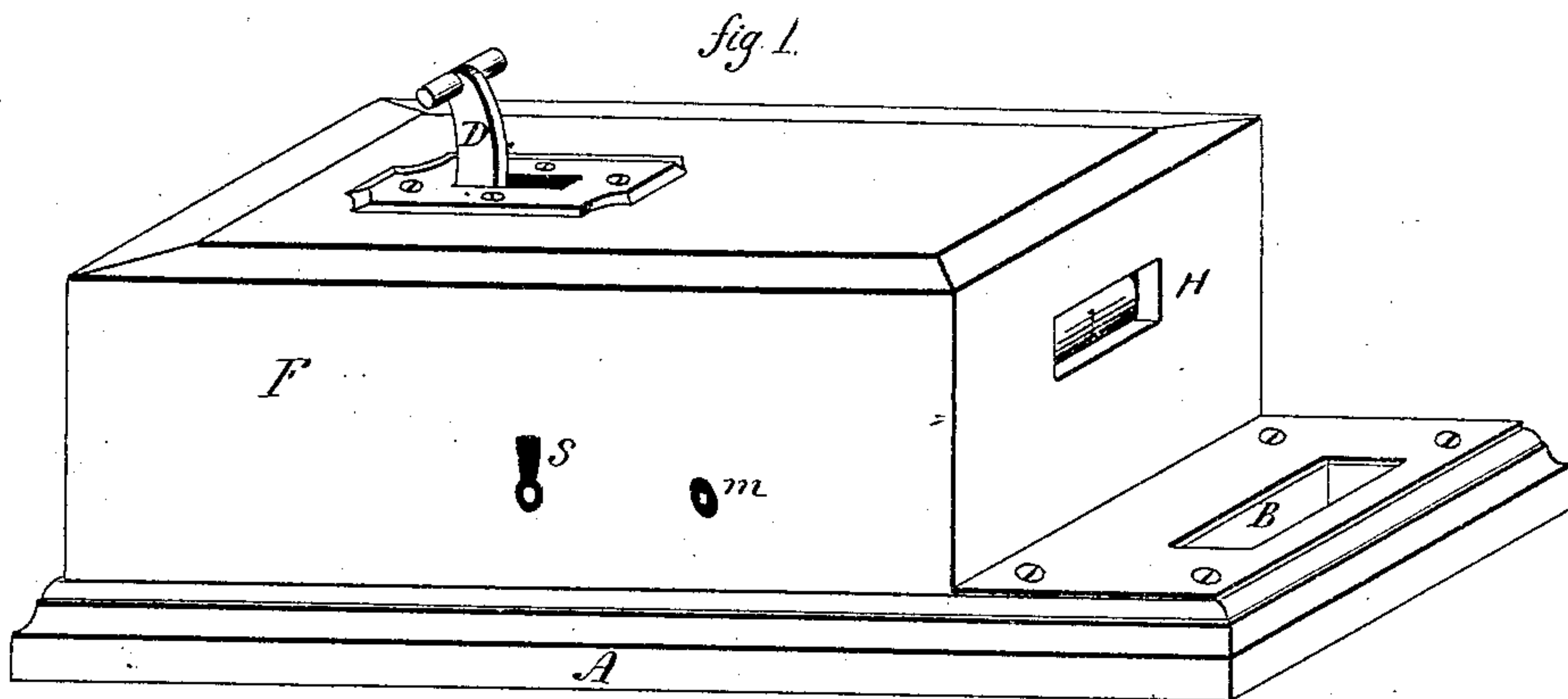


L. VAN ALSTYNE.  
REGISTERING BALLOT-BOXES.

No. 194,882.

Patented Sept. 4, 1877.



Witnesses:  
J. H. Channing  
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J. M. S. Case



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LAWRENCE VAN ALSTYNE, OF SHARON, CONNECTICUT.

## IMPROVEMENT IN REGISTERING BALLOT-BOXES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 194,882, dated September 4, 1877; application filed February 20, 1877.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LAWRENCE VAN ALSTYNE, of Sharon, in the county of Litchfield and State of Connecticut, have invented a new Improvement in Registering Ballot-Boxes; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1, a perspective view; Fig. 2, a longitudinal section; Fig. 3, a horizontal plan, and in Fig. 4, a detached view.

This invention relates to a device for registering the number of ballots which may be passed into a ballot-box; and it consists in the mechanism producing such registration, as more fully hereinafter described, and recited in the claim.

A represents the base of the apparatus, which is practically the top of the ballot-box, provided with an aperture, B, through which the ballots are introduced to the box below. A thin slide, *a*, is arranged to cut off or close this aperture B. This slide is connected to an arm, C, which extends back into connection with the lever D, so that by forcing the lever forward, as indicated in broken lines, Fig. 2, the slide *a* will be drawn back to open the aperture B, and when the lever is released the spring E serves to force the slide back and close the aperture.

The mechanism is inclosed by a case, F. Within this, on a roll, *b*, a flexible strip, *d*, is wound, and, passing over a roll, *e*, is attached to a roll, *f*, on the end of which is a ratchet, *h*. The roll *e* is arranged before an aperture, H, in the case, so that the surface of the strip passing the roll is exposed at said aperture. This aperture is protected by a glass covering or otherwise. On the arm C a spring-pawl, I, is arranged, as seen in Fig. 2, so that when the slide is drawn back it will pass freely over the teeth of the ratchet; but when the slide is returned it will impart to the roll *f*, through the ratchet *h*, a partial rotation, and wind onto the roll *f* a portion of the strip *d*. On that side of the strip *d* which is exposed to the aperture H a series of marks or

figures are arranged, so that each movement of the roll *f* will present the next succeeding mark or figure to the aperture H; hence, when the slide is withdrawn by the box-tender to introduce the ballot, the closing of the aperture after such depositing will register one, and, so continuing, each successive opening for depositing a ballot will be registered by the strip *d*.

In order to sound an alarm when the slide is withdrawn, so as to prevent fraudulent opening of the box, and corresponding fraudulent register, a bell, L, indicated in broken lines, Figs. 2 and 3, is arranged within the case, and a hammer, P, arranged to strike that bell as the slide is drawn back, the hammer indicated also in broken lines, Fig. 2, a projection, *n*, on the slide serving that purpose.

The strip *d* is wound onto the roll *b* by the introduction of a key through a key-hole, *m*, so as to be set for each new use of the box.

To lock the box when the balloting ceases, or when it may be required, a lock, R, is arranged upon the case, with the key-hole S opening outward, and so that the bolt T will shoot downward into a cavity, *r*, in the base, as seen in Figs. 3 and 4, and directly in rear of an arm, *t*, projecting from the slide C. This will prevent the slide being drawn back.

To cover the winding key-hole *m* a plate, *l*, on one arm of a lever is hung upon a stationary fulcrum, *o*, and attached to the bolt above the lock, as at *w*, (see Fig. 4,) so that when the bolt is thrown down to lock the slide C it at the same time brings the plate *l* over the key-hole, as seen in Fig. 4, thus securely locking the box to prevent tampering either with the box or the register.

I claim—

The combination of the aperture in the base, the slide for closing said aperture, lever and spring for operating said slide, a recording-strip intermittingly moved by the movement of the said slide, with a lock which simultaneously locks the slide and covers the key-hole for winding the strip, substantially as specified.

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Witnesses:

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