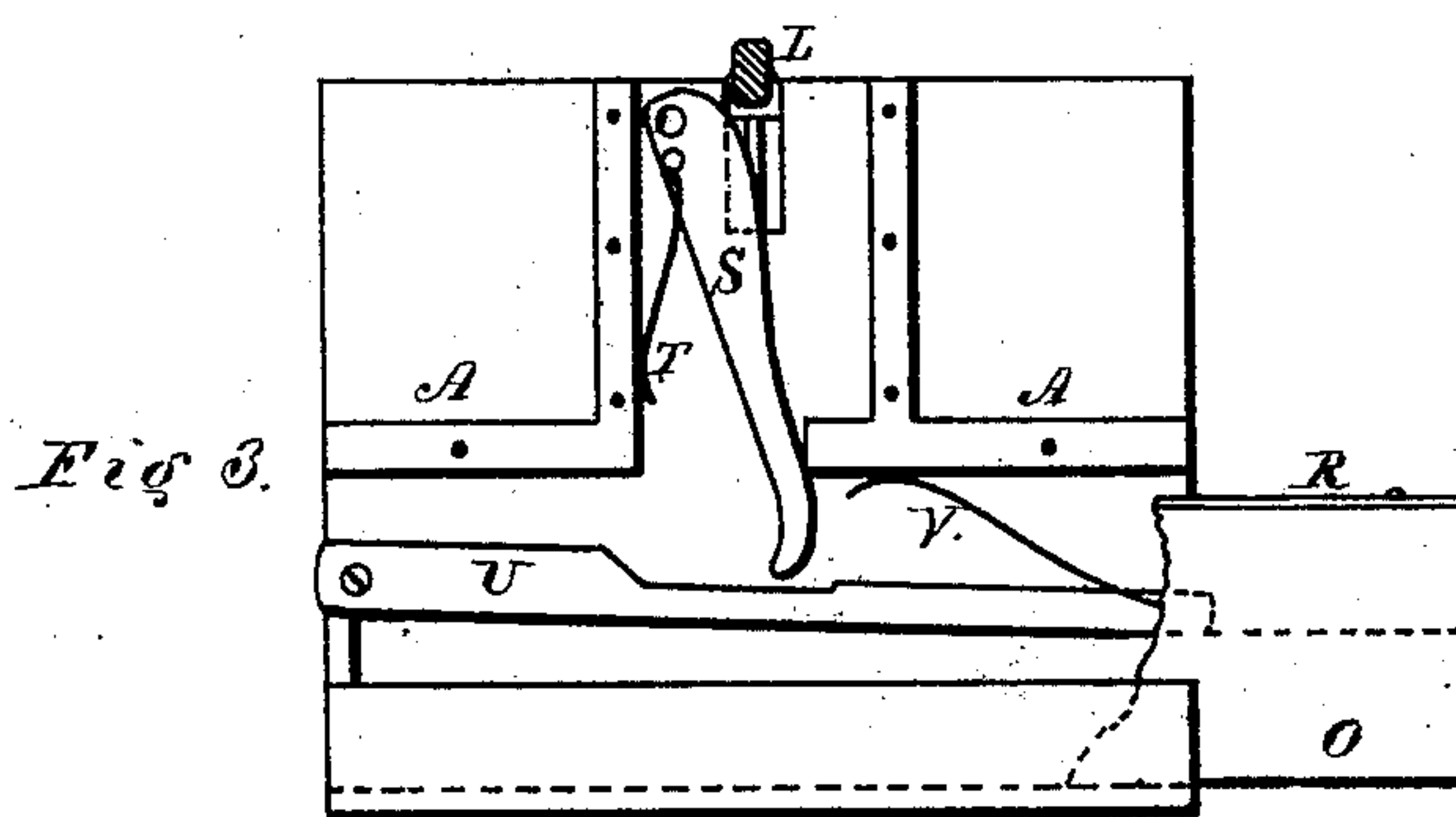
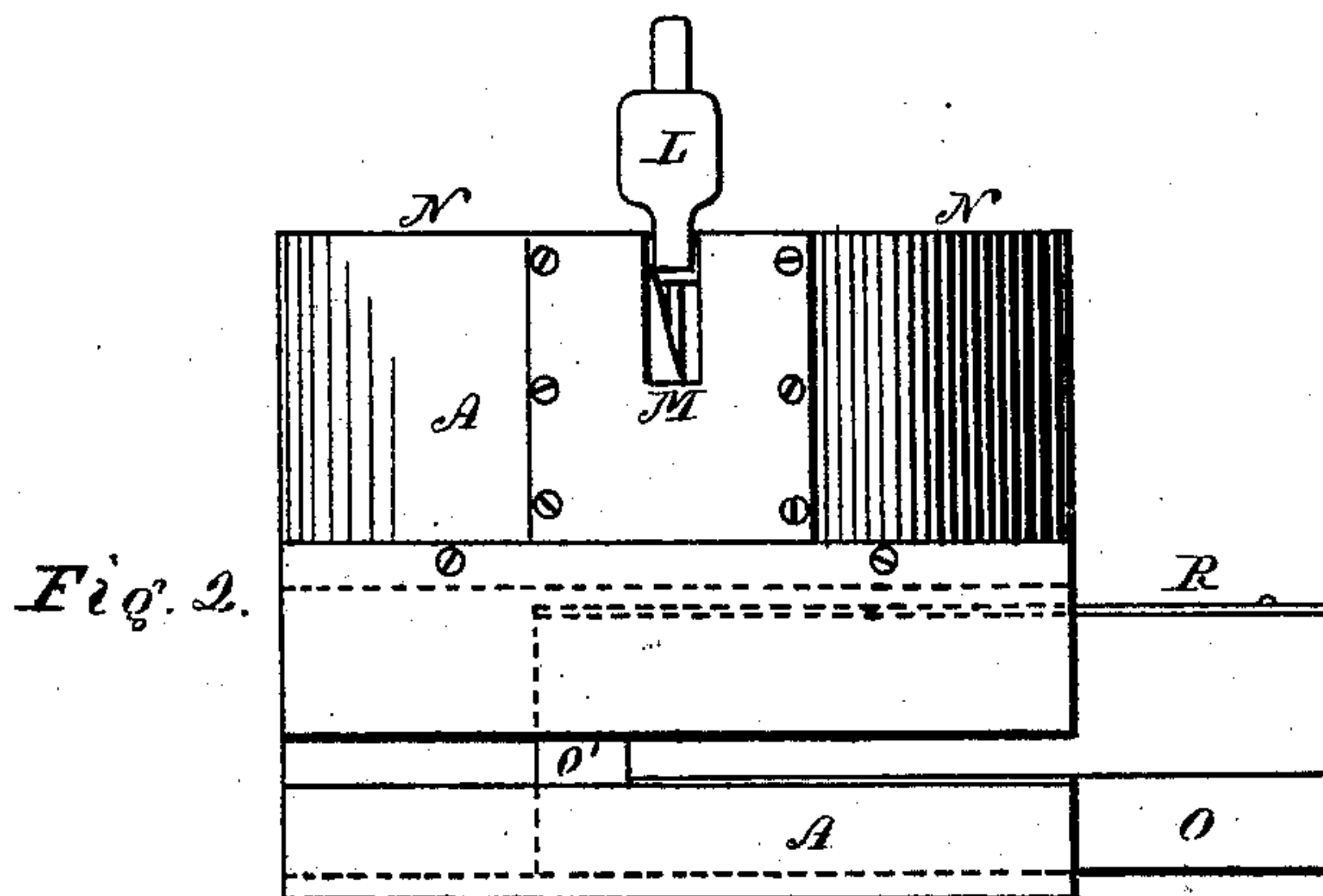
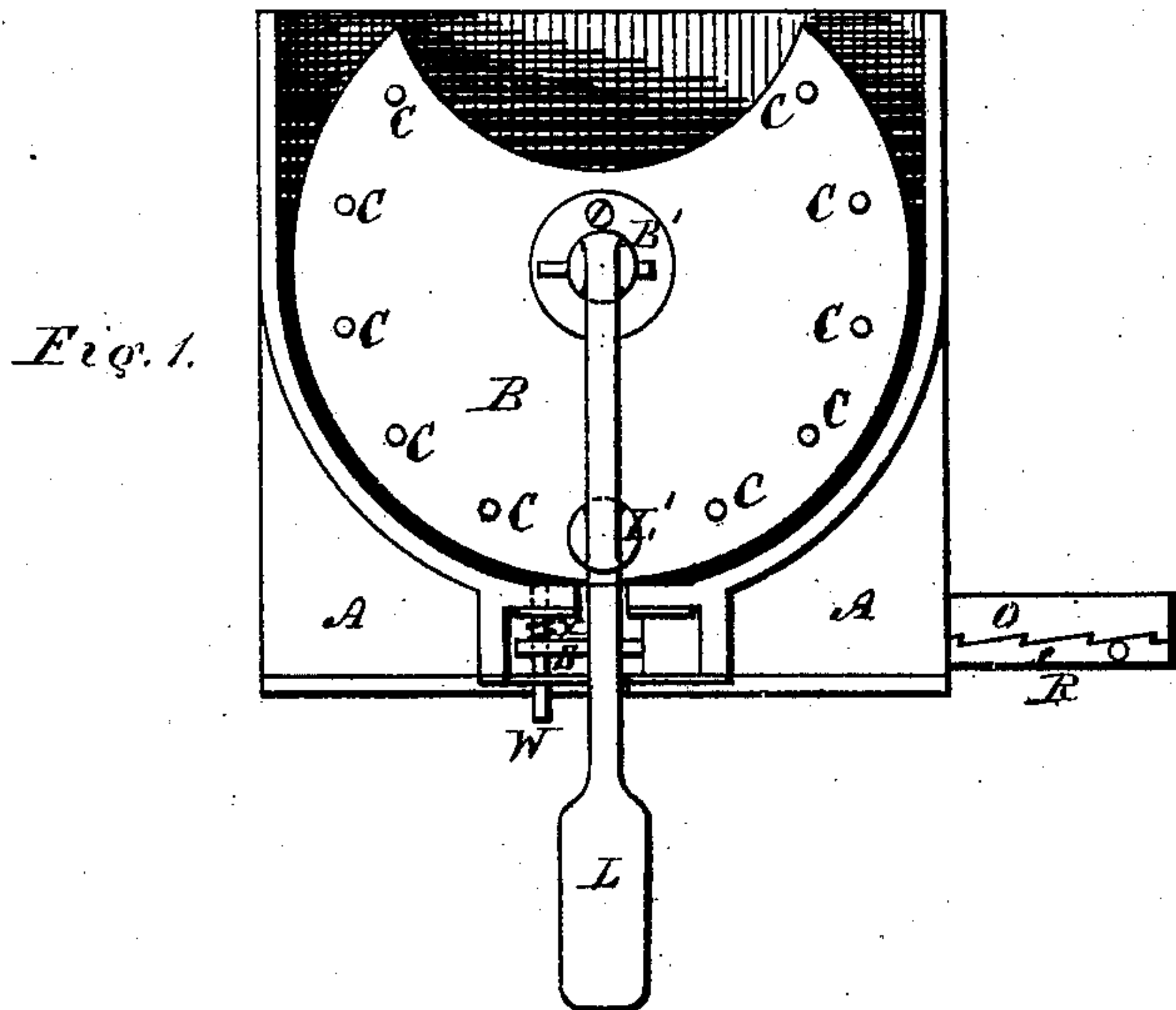


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Perforating-Stamp.  
No. 220,984. Patented Oct. 28, 1879.



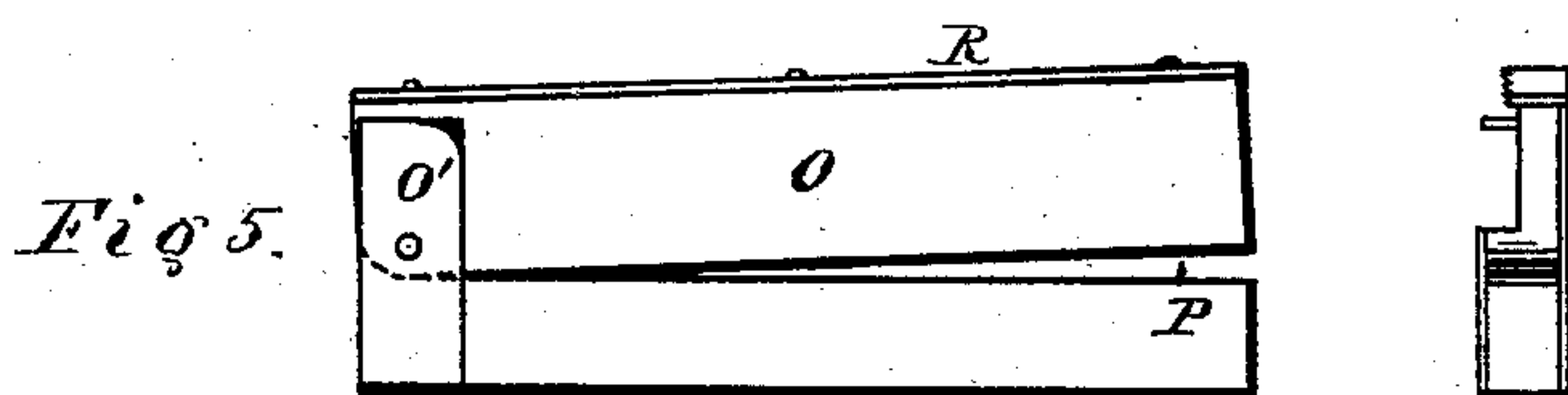
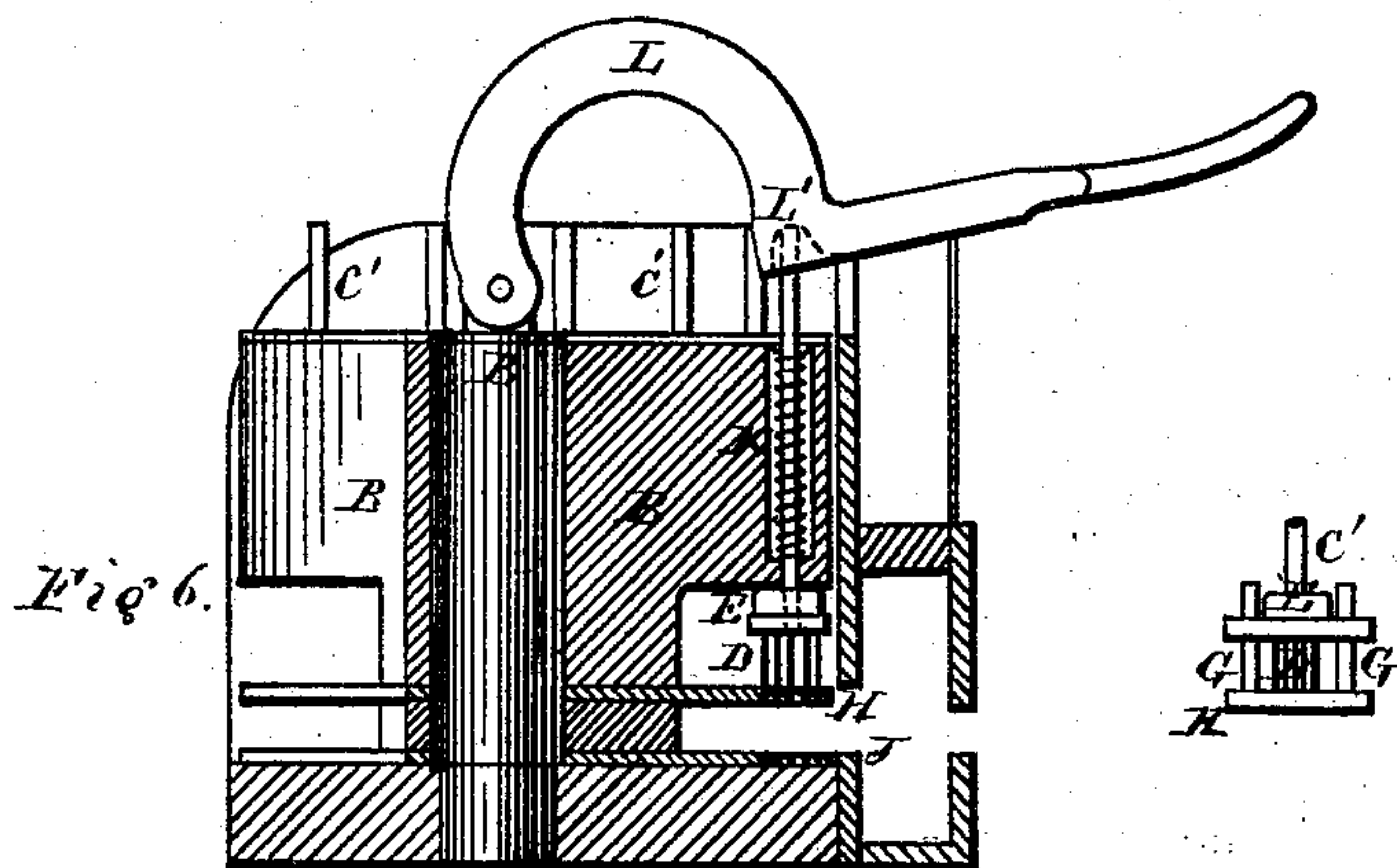
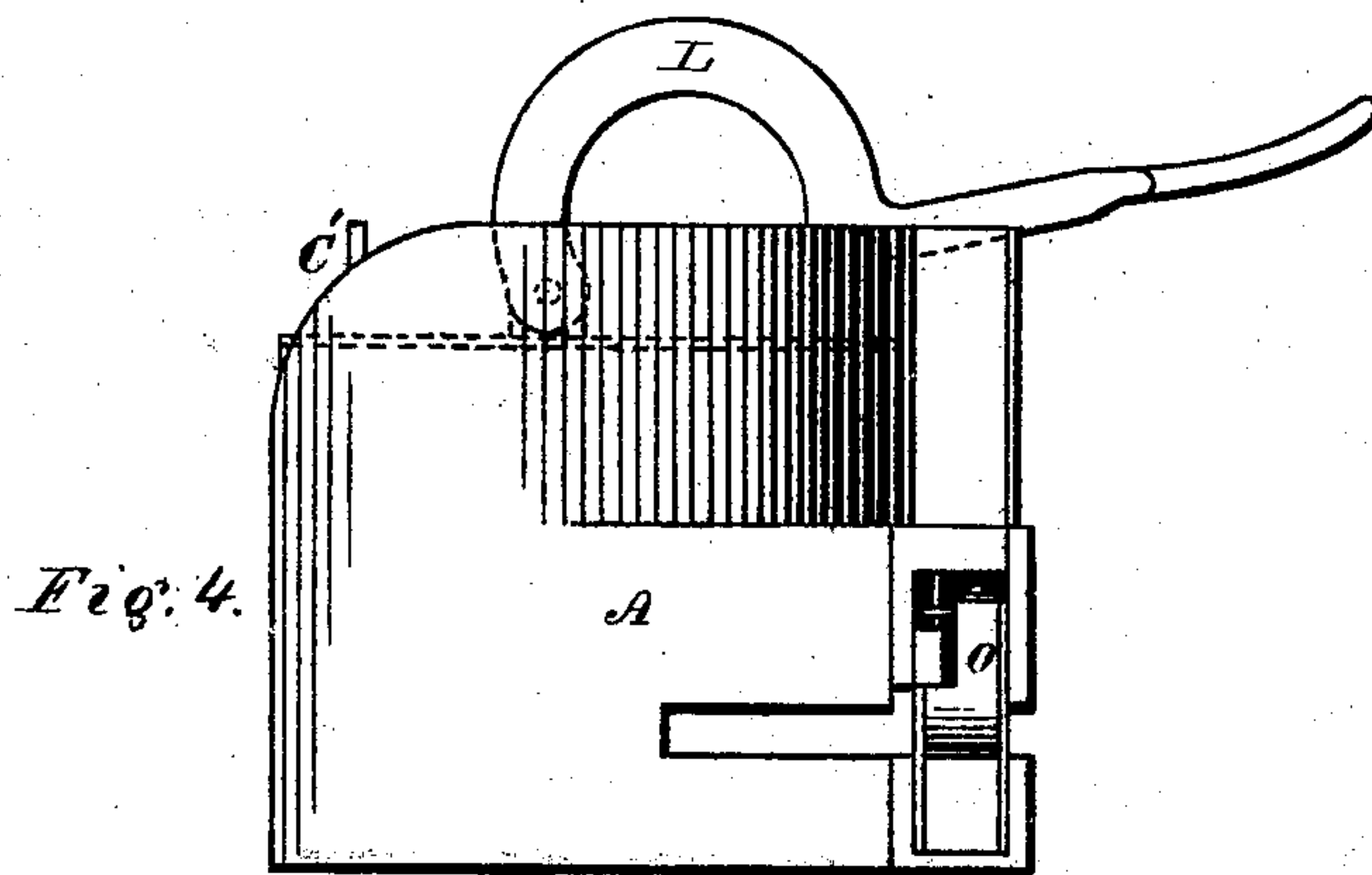
Witnesses.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

JAMES P. NORTON, OF PORTLAND, AND JONATHAN RAMSEY, JR., OF WEST MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT.

## IMPROVEMENT IN PERFORATING-STAMPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **220,984**, dated October 28, 1879; application filed September 23, 1878.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, JAMES P. NORTON, of Portland, in the county of Middlesex and State of Connecticut, and JONATHAN RAMSEY, JR., of West Meriden, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Perforating-Stamps; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, whereby a person skilled in the art can make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

Like letters in the figures indicate the same parts.

Our invention relates to stamps for perforating figures or characters upon checks, notes, drafts, &c., so that the number of dollars denoted upon the face of the same can be inefaceably marked, and thereby prevent any alteration of their value.

Our invention consists in the construction and arrangement of the mechanism that will be hereinafter described.

In accompanying drawings on two sheets, Figure 1 is a top view of our improved stamp. Fig. 2 is a front view of the same. Fig. 3 is a front view of the stamp with the front plates removed to show the interior parts. Fig. 4 is a side view of the improved stamp. Fig. 5 is the carrier which holds the check or other paper while being punched. Fig. 6 is a section through one of the stamping-punches. Fig. 7 shows the characters punched.

A is the fixed frame which supports the working parts. B is a revolving block, turning upon a center at B', as shown in the drawings. It is of a circular form, with a part of the rear cut away. It can, however, form a complete circle, if desired. This block rotates in a suitable recess in the frame A, as shown in the drawings.

C C are stamps or punches arranged around the circumference of the block B. Their construction is more particularly shown in Fig. 6, which shows one of the punches in section. These punches or dies have a central stem, which extends upward through the top of the block B, for the purpose of pressing down and operating the punch.

The punch or die for each figure or character is composed of a number of round wires arranged in the form of the character, and firmly set in the head E, from which the stem C' passes up through the block B. These wires are shown at D in Fig. 6.

H is a fixed plate in the rotating block B, through which are holes, which serve as guides for the wires D.

A short distance below H is another fixed plate, J, in which is a series of holes corresponding to the wires D, into which the ends of the wires enter when pressed down, and form cutting-dies to perforate a paper introduced between H and J.

In the block B is a recess, in which is the spiral spring K, operating upon the stem C' to raise the die after it has been depressed to punch the paper.

In moving up and down the punch is guided by the slides G, which pass through suitable openings in the head E.

The wires D are made of different sizes in each character, as shown in Fig. 7, for the purpose of giving a distinctive arrangement which cannot be altered to any other figure or character.

It will be observed that the larger perforations are differently arranged in each figure, and cannot be changed to suit those of any other figure.

L is a handle for operating the punches. It is hinged to the block B at the center, and extends forward over the top edge of the frame A.

At L' it is furnished with a cup or recess which fits upon the upper end of either of the stems C' of the punches, so that when the forward end of the handle or lever L is pressed down it depresses the punch and perforates the check or other paper placed under it.

When in the proper position for pressing down the punch, the lever L enters into a slot, M, in the forward part of the frame. In other positions it rests upon the top edge, N, of the frame.

O is a slide or carrier for holding the check to be punched. It moves in suitable grooves across the front of the stamp, and is carried to the left the distance of one figure each time the handle is depressed by mechanism which



will be described. This carrier is made in two parts, opening slightly upon a hinge at O', as shown in Fig. 5, and is furnished with a point, P, for holding the paper when closed. Other devices for holding the paper in the carrier can also be used.

The top of the carrier is furnished with a ratchet or notched plate, R, into which engages the pawl-lever S. This lever is moved to the left by the handle L passing down through the slot M. This motion carries the carrier O forward one notch each time the handle is depressed. When the handle is again raised, the spring T returns the lever S, and passes it over the next tooth of the ratchet, ready to be again moved forward by the next movement of the handle.

U is a bar, which is pressed down against the carrier O by means of the spring V, so as to hold it in place and give it sufficient friction to prevent its being moved out of place by the operation of the ratchet and pawl which moves it forward.

The lever or pawl S is attached to the pin W, which extends through the front plate of the frame, and which is held in its forward position by means of the small spiral spring X, in which position the pawl is engaged with the ratchet R. By pressing in the pin W the pawl is moved back out of the teeth of the ratchet, so as to disengage it and allow of the carrier being moved back to its extreme right position for the insertion or removal of a check or other paper to be stamped. A long pin, extending out beyond the teeth of the ratchet at its end, catches against the pawl and stops the carrier in this last-named position.

The operation of our invention is as follows: The pin W is pressed in and the carrier moved to the right. The paper is then inserted in the carrier. The handle L is then placed upon that one of the punches which makes the dollar-mark or other character desired, and turned

to the middle, where it is stopped by the slot M. The handle is then pressed down until the ends of the wires forming the cutting-die perforate the paper. The handle is then raised, when the spring K raises the die. The handle is then removed from the punch and placed upon that for the next character desired, and again turned to the center, rotating the block B and bringing the punch into position as before. It is then pressed down by the handle, which, in passing down the slot M, operates the pawl S and moves the carrier O one notch, so that the punch will penetrate a new part of the paper at a short distance to the right of the previous character punched. In this manner as many characters as are wished for can be successively made, automatically, by simply operating the punches by means of the handle.

What we claim as our invention is—

1. The combination of the handle L, swinging both horizontally and vertically, pivoted to the independently-rotating center block, B', with a rotating block, B, provided with spring punches or dies, and the guiding-frame A, having the single slot M, whereby the punches are brought in any desired order to an exact position, substantially as herein described.

2. The carrier O, composed of two bars hinged at one end, O', and provided with holding-points, in combination with a ratchet-propelling mechanism and a series of punches, substantially as herein described.

3. The combination of the handle L, the lever S, disconnected from said handle, the ratchet R, carrier O, and the releasing-pin W, constructed and arranged as described, for operating the carrier O, substantially in the manner set forth.

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