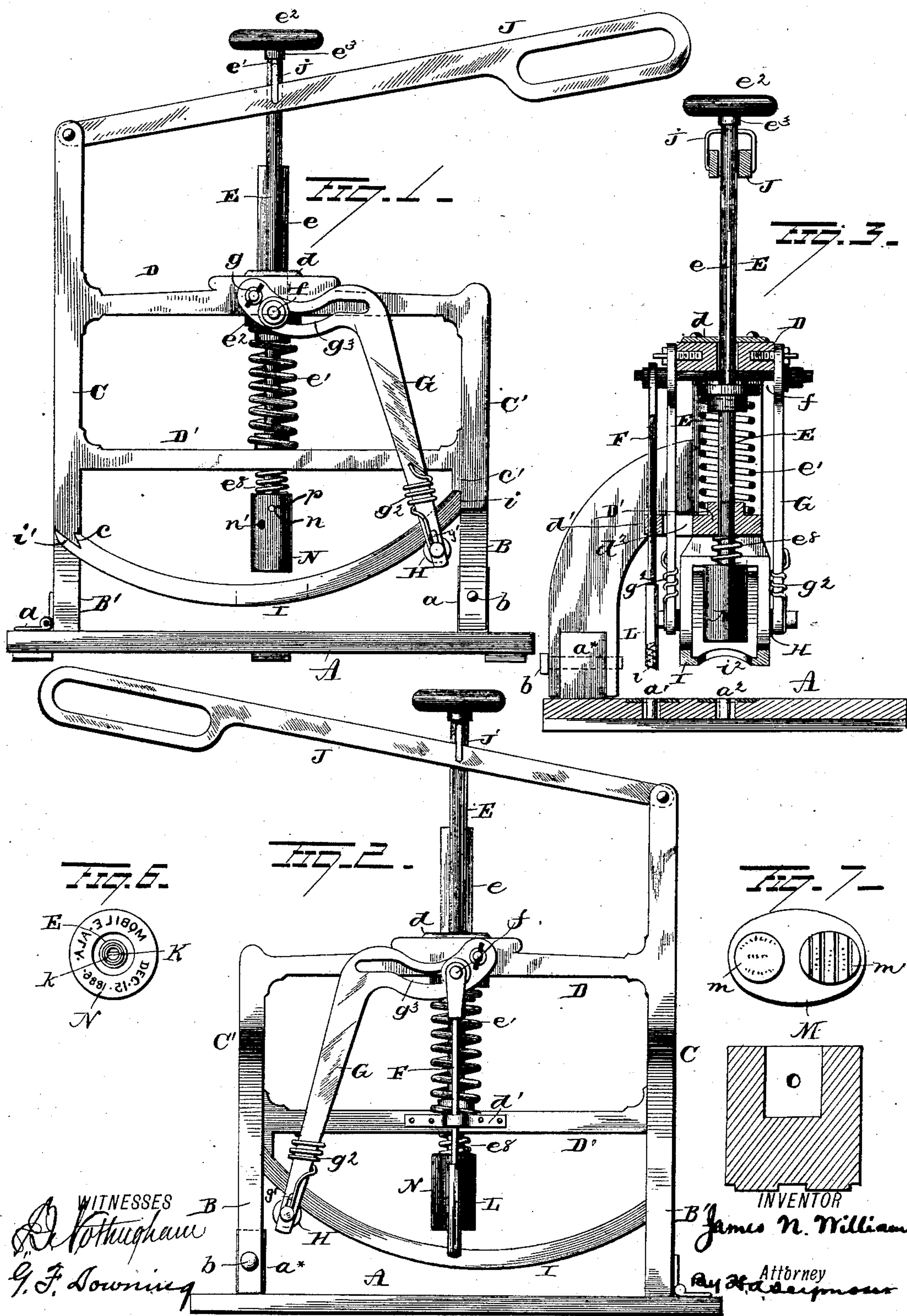


J. N. WILLIAMS.

POSTMARKER AND STAMP CANCELER.

No. 367,487.

Patented Aug. 2, 1887.



(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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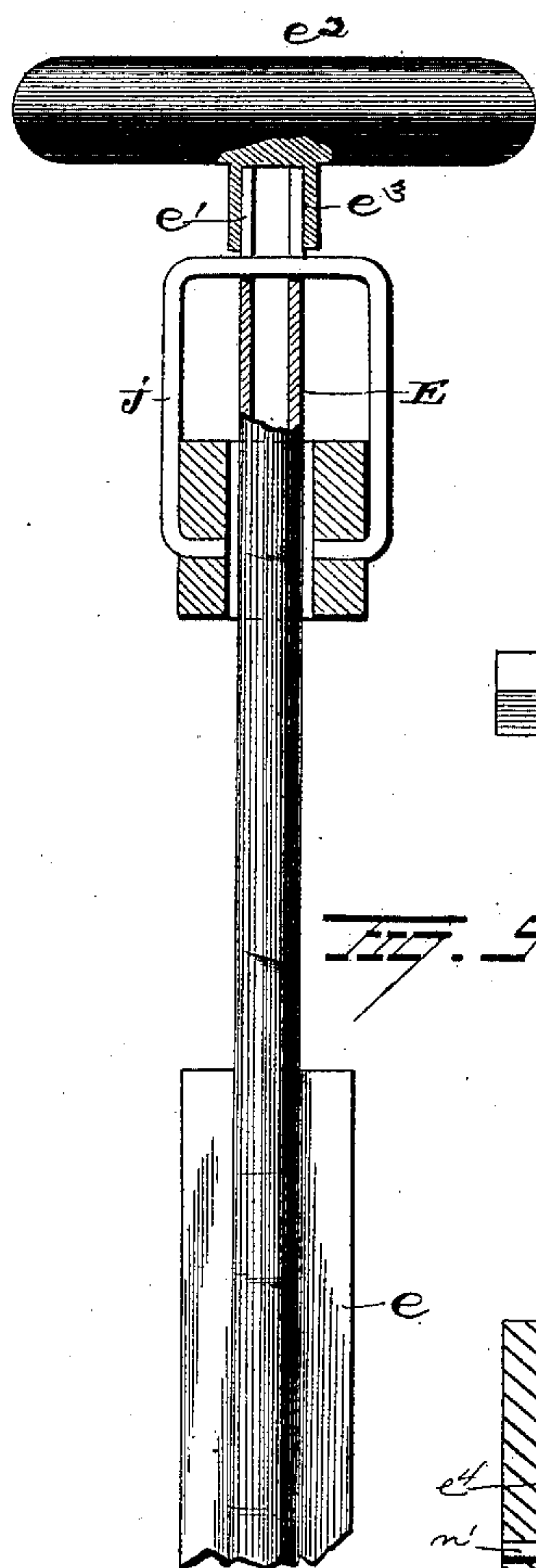
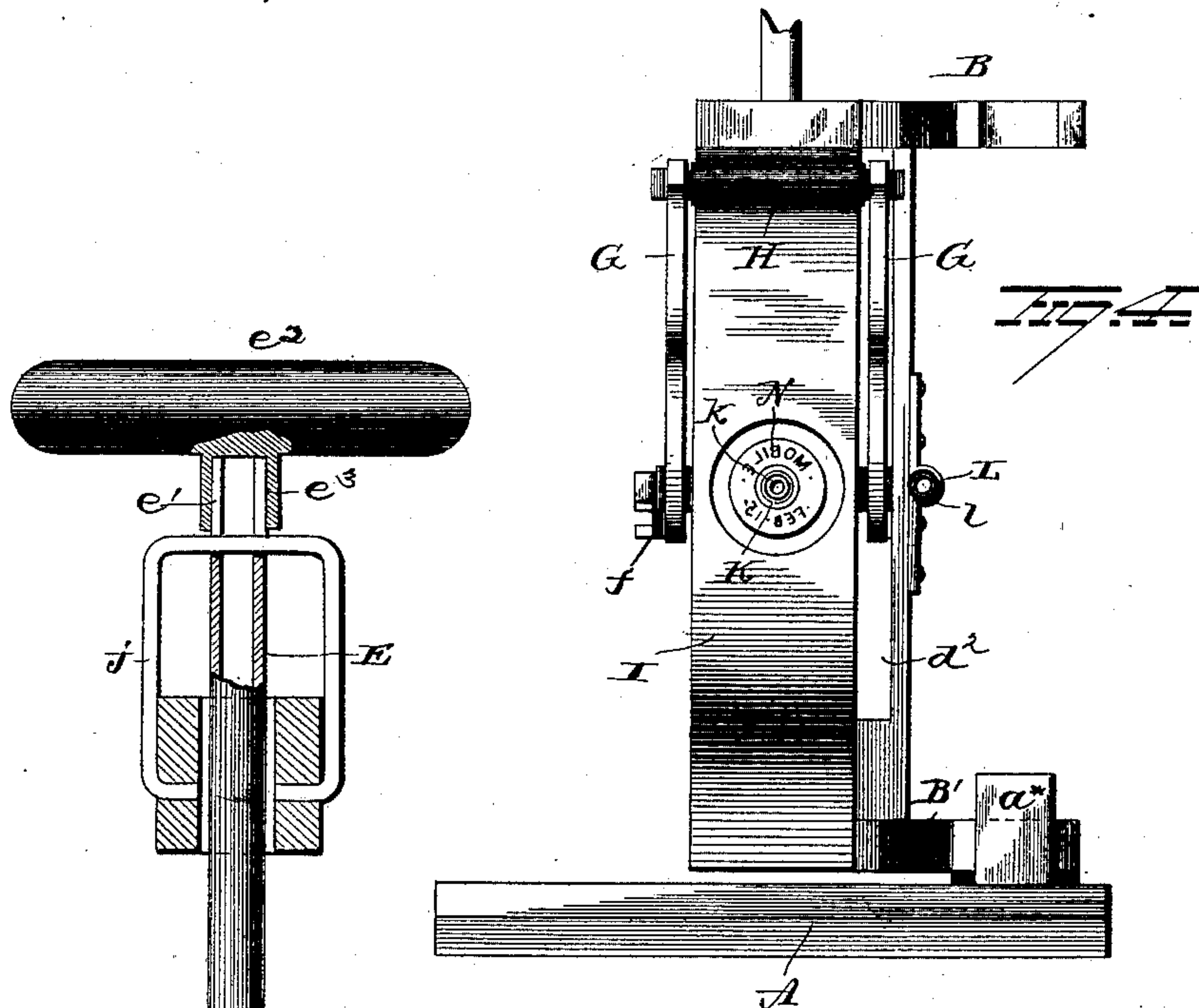


Fig. 5.

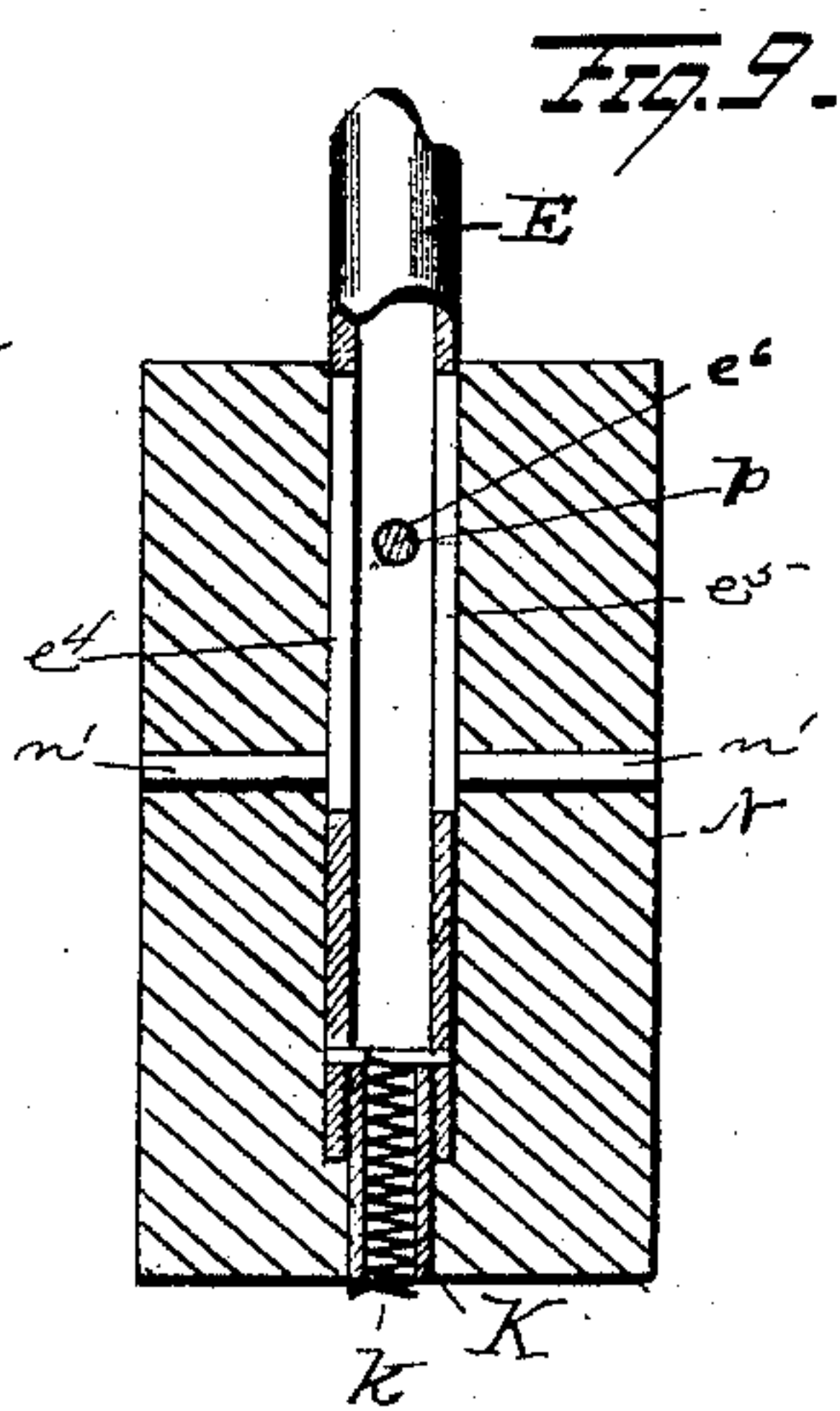


Fig. 9.

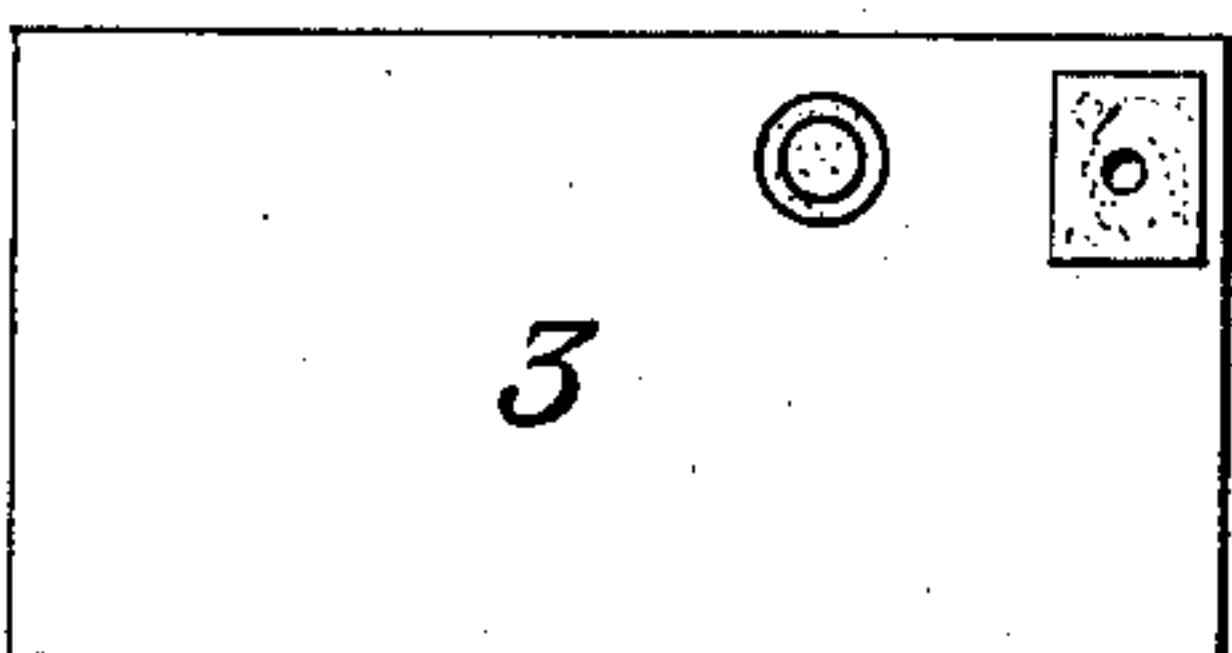
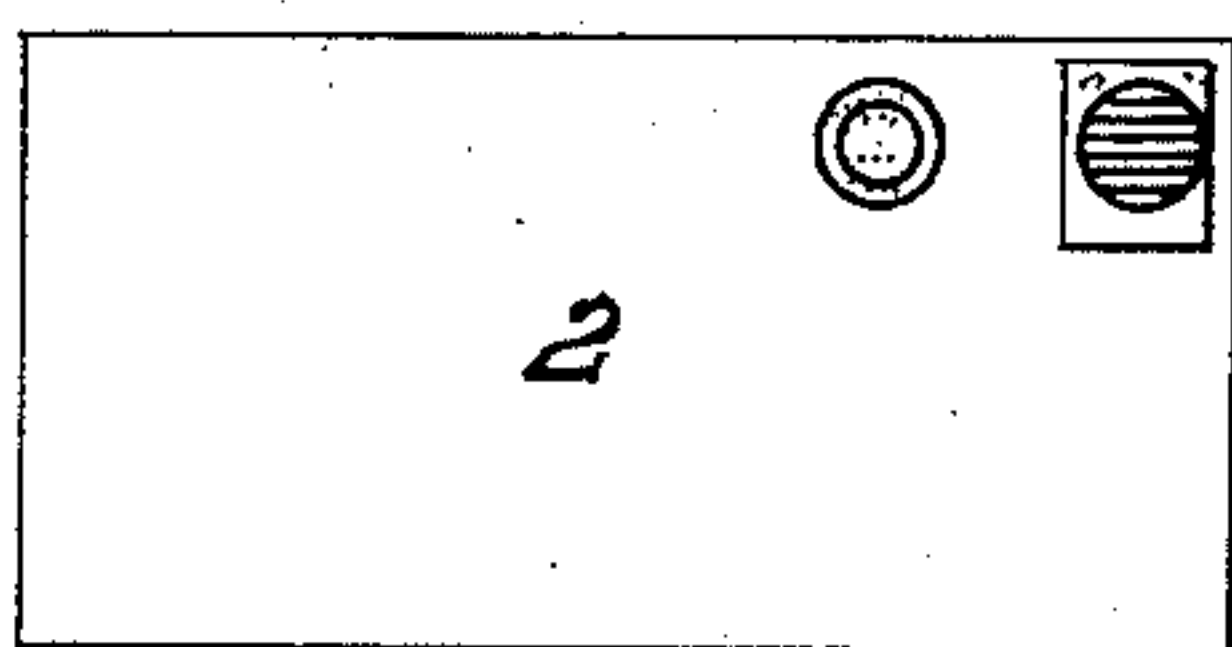
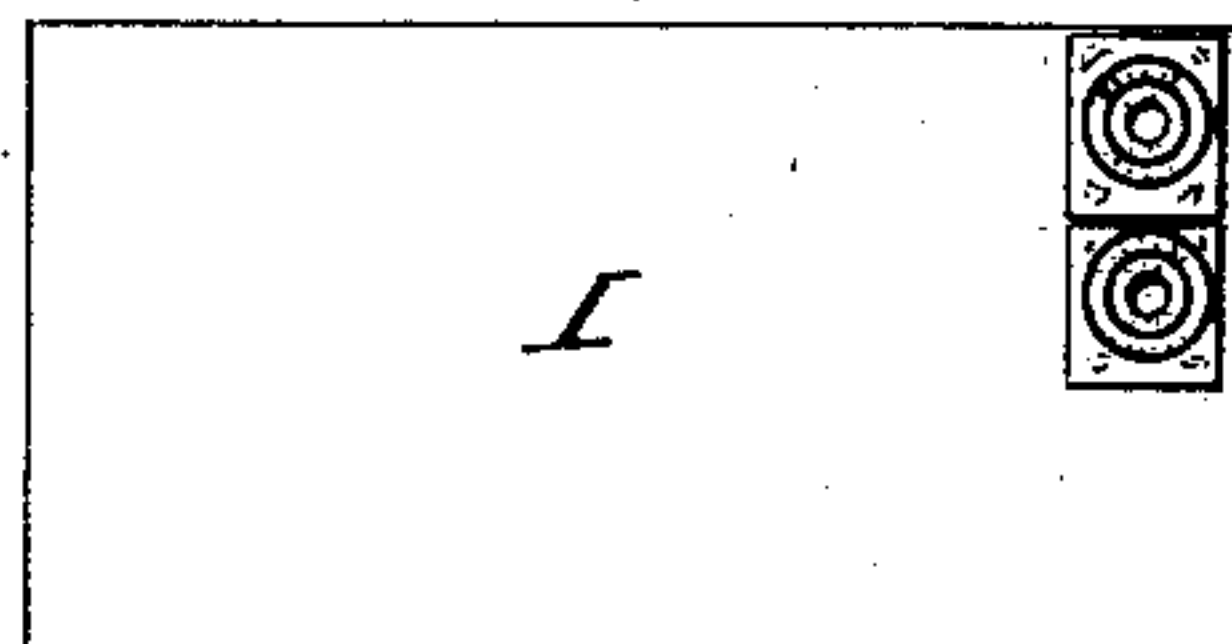


Fig. 8.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES NELSON WILLIAMS, OF MOBILE, ALABAMA.

POSTMARKER AND STAMP-CANCELER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 367,487, dated August 2, 1887.

Application filed February 18, 1886. Serial No. 192,369. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES NELSON WILLIAMS, of Mobile, in the county of Mobile and State of Alabama, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Postmarkers and Stamp-Cancelers; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to machines for impressing the postmarks upon mail-matter and for canceling the stamps thereon; and the object of my invention is to produce a machine which shall be capable of impressing the postmark either upon the envelope or its stamp and also of canceling the stamp, either by perforating the same or by making a canceling impression thereon in ink.

To the above purpose my invention consists in the peculiar construction and arrangement of the ink-distributor, the devices for actuating the main rod, the peculiar and novel form and arrangement of the supporting-frame, and of the perforating-cutters, all as hereinafter described and claimed.

In order that my invention may be fully understood, I will proceed to describe it with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of my improved machine, looking at the front of the same. Fig. 2 is a similar view of the same, looking at its back. Fig. 3 is a transverse vertical section of the same. Fig. 4 is a rear elevation of the frame tilted upon its hinge, the working parts being removed. Fig. 5 is a detached view of the upper part of the main rod, the lever for operating said rod, and the knob for the latter; Fig. 6, views in elevation of the dating-stamp and cutter; Fig. 7, views in elevation and section of a modification showing a dating and canceling stamp. Fig. 8 illustrates portions of envelopes dated and canceled by my improved machine; and Fig. 9 is a view in section showing the manner of securing the stamp to the main rod.

In the said drawings, A designates the base of the machine-frame, and B B', two curved standards rising from the rear part of the base.

C C' designate two vertical frame-pieces formed upon or suitably secured to the upper ends of the standards B B' and connected together by the horizontal sections D D', as shown. The standard B' is joined at its lower end to the base A by a hinge, *a*, while the lower end of the standard B is connected by a removable pin, *b*, to a vertical lug, *a**, upon the standard-base A, the arrangement being such that by drawing out the pin *b* the entire upper portion of the frame may be tilted laterally upon the base A, for the purpose to be hereinafter described.

E designates the main rod, which extends vertically through the horizontal pieces D D' and has a feather, *e*, to prevent any rotation of said rod, a plate, *d*, having an orifice corresponding in form to the rod and its feather, being secured to the frame-piece D to insure the proper action of the rod. A spring, *e*', surrounds the rod E and is interposed between the frame-piece D' and a collar, *e*², upon said rod, said spring serving to hold the rod in elevated position. A cross-bar, *f*, passes transversely through rod E and extends laterally beyond the cross-piece D.

Upon the rear end of the rod *f* is pivoted the auxiliary rod F, which extends downward toward the base A and serves to perforate the postage-stamps, as hereinafter described, the movements of this rod being guided and controlled by a strap, *d'*, upon the frame-piece D'.

Upon each side of the frame-piece D is pivoted at *g* an oscillating I-shaped arm, G, the rear end of which passes through a slot, *d*², in the frame-piece D', in order that the oscillating movements of said arms may be properly guided and controlled. At their lower ends these arms G carry a horizontal inking-roll, H, the ends of which work in slots *g*' in the arms G. This roll H is drawn upward against an ink-distributor, I, to be hereinafter more fully described, by springs *g*², surrounding the lower ends of arms G and secured to said arms and to the ends of the roll. At their upper portions each arm G is formed with a curved slot, *g*³, as shown, and through these slots extends the cross-rod *f* of the main rod E. It will thus be seen that when the main rod is depressed or raised it carries the auxiliary rod F with it through the medium of the cross-rod *f*, and

that said cross-rod, acting upon the curved slots g^3 of the arms G, causes said arms to oscillate back and forth between the standards B B'. The distributor I is of curved or segmental form, and is attached removably to the lower ends of the vertical frame-pieces C C'. As shown, this removable attachment of the distributor is as follows: A cleat, c' , is formed or secured to the lower inner part of the piece C', and the corresponding end i of the distributor is beveled off to enter beneath the cleat and against the inner side of the piece C'. The lower end of the frame-piece C is beveled, as shown at c , and the corresponding end of the distributor is formed with a V-shaped channel, i' . Thus by inserting the end i beneath the cleat c' the opposite end i' of said distributor may be sprung upon the lower end, c , of frame-piece C, and the distributor will sustain itself in this position by virtue of its own spring action. An aperture, i^2 , is formed through the middle of the distributor to permit the passage of the lower end of rod E.

The frame-piece C extends upward beyond the upper terminus of the piece C', and to the upper end of frame-piece C is hinged one end of a lever, J, which extends across the top of the machine. This lever carries midway of its length a link or bail, j , which enters a notch, e' , in the upper end of rod E. A knob, e^2 , having a socket, e^3 , fits upon the upper end of rod E, as shown. By means of this construction the rod E may be actuated either by the lever J or directly by the hand applied to the knob e^2 . In the latter event the lever J may be thrown out of action by first removing the knob and throwing the lever over beyond piece C.

The lower end of rod E is hollow, and is formed with two oppositely-disposed longitudinal slots, e^4 e^5 , and also with two oppositely-disposed holes, e^6 , the purpose of which slots and holes will presently appear. Into the lower end of this rod E is screwed a hollow perforating-cutter, K, the cutting-edge of which is beveled off or chisel-shaped, as shown. Within this cutter is placed a spiral spring, k , which extends normally somewhat out of its socket, as shown, the purpose of this spring being, when the rod is depressed, first, to hold the envelope for the proper action of the cutter, and then, as the rod is raised, to expel the clipping.

Upon the lower end of the auxiliary rod is screwed a tubular perforating-cutter, L, the cutting-edge of which is also of chisel shape, and which also contains a spring, l , similar in form and operation to the spring k of the cutter K. The base A is provided with two dies, a' a^2 , each of which consists of a stud projecting upward into an aperture in a plate secured upon the base, as shown, the die a' being for the cutter of the main rod and the die a^2 being for the cutter of the auxiliary rod.

M designates the stamp which impresses the postmark in ink upon the envelope, and which also cancels the stamp by an impression in ink.

For these purposes the lower face of the stamp is formed with a raised dating-surface, m , and with a raised canceling-surface, m' , as shown. The body m^2 of this stamp is tubular to receive the lower end of the rod E, and is formed with oppositely-disposed holes to receive a pin, p , which attaches the stamp to rod E, by passing also through its holes e^6 , similar to the manner shown in Fig. 9 for securing the stamp M rigidly to the main rod. It may be stated here that when this stamp M is in use the cutter L should be removed from the auxiliary rod F, though such removal is not absolutely necessary, the cutter L, however, not being used.

N designates the stamp which is to be used in impressing the date upon the postage stamp simultaneously with the cancellation by the perforating-cutter K on the rod E, or for impressing the postmark upon the envelope while the stamp is canceled by the cutter L on rod F. This stamp is tubular throughout, and has a pair of oppositely-disposed holes, n , (shown in Fig. 1,) and also a pair of similarly-disposed holes, n' , (shown in Figs. 1 and 9.) These holes are to receive the pin p , which, when inserted into the upper holes, n , is passed through the holes e^6 of rod E. In this event it will be readily seen that the stamp extends rigidly so far below the cutter K of rod E that said cutter becomes inoperative. Thus the stamp N merely impresses the postmark upon the envelope, and the stamp is perforated by the cutter L on the auxiliary rod F. When it is desired to impress the postmark upon the stamp and at the same time to perforate the latter for cancellation, the pin p is inserted into the lower pair of holes, n' , of the stamp N and through the slots e^4 e^5 of rod E, a spring, e^8 , being interposed around rod E, between the upper end of the stamp and the frame-piece D', to hold the stamp downward. It will thus be seen that when the rod E is depressed the lower end of the stamp will first strike the postage-stamp and impress the postmark thereon, the stamp being provided at its lower end with suitable characters arranged in annular form for the purpose. The perforator K will now protrude beyond the lower end of stamp M and perforate the postage-stamp. When the machine is being used in this manner, the cutter L is preferably removed from the auxiliary rod F. The results of these various adjustments of the machine will be readily understood by reference to Fig. 8, in which envelope 1 shows the result of canceling and dating by stamp M alone; envelope 2 shows the result of canceling and dating by stamp N and cutter L, and envelope 3 shows the result of canceling and dating by stamp N and cutter K.

The distributor I supplies ink from its lower face to roller H, and it will be seen that this roller travels twice over the distributor before each inking of the stamp M or N, so that the latter are thoroughly inked and a clear impression is certain to be given.

When the distributor is to be supplied with

ink, or any adjustment of the machine is to be made, such operation is facilitated by tilting the supporting-frame upon its hinge. The peculiar beveled or chisel-like form of the perforating-cutters enables them to operate by shearing or drawing cut, so that the perforation is made clean and without any liability of tearing the paper. This form of the cutters also facilitates the expulsion of the clippings by the internal springs of the cutter.

The peculiar curvature of the standards A A' permits the letters or other mail-matter to be fed in a continuous line one after the other to the machine, instead of being fed separately, thereby economizing time and increasing the capacity of the machine.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a postmarking and canceling machine, the combination, with a frame and a vertically-sliding rod mounted therein, the said rod carrying a cutter and provided with slots and perforations, of a stamping-block adapted to be secured both rigidly and loosely to said rod, substantially as set forth.

2. A vertically-moving rod mounted in a suitable supporting-frame and carrying a perforating-cutter upon its lower end and slotted and perforated at said end to receive either a fixed or sliding stamping block, substantially as described.

3. A vertically-moving rod mounted in a suitable supporting-frame and constructed to receive a cutting or stamping device, in com-

bination with a pivoted operating-lever detachably connected to said rod, whereby the latter may be operated either by lever-power or directly by hand, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination, with a suitable supporting-frame and an ink-distributor extending across the same, of a vertically-moving rod mounted in said frame and passing centrally through the distributor, and a pair of oscillating arms slotted to receive a cross-bar upon the sliding rod and carrying an inking-roll in contact with the distributor, substantially as described.

5. A postmarking machine having the supporting-frame for its working parts hinged upon a base or bed in such manner as to tilt laterally, substantially as set forth.

6. A postmarking and canceling machine having the supporting-frame for its working parts provided with a pair of standards, one of which is hinged to a base-plate and the other detachably connected thereto, whereby said frame can be tilted laterally and secured in upright position, substantially as described.

7. The sliding rod E, having split or notched upper end, and a knob, e^2 , in combination with lever J, having link j to detachably connect the lever and rod, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES NELSON WILLIAMS.

Witnesses:

CHAS. ESCHERICH,
ASHBEL HUBBARD.