(No Model.)

L. J. WADSWORTH.

ADDRESSING MACHINE.

No. 467,319. Patented Jan. 19, 1892.

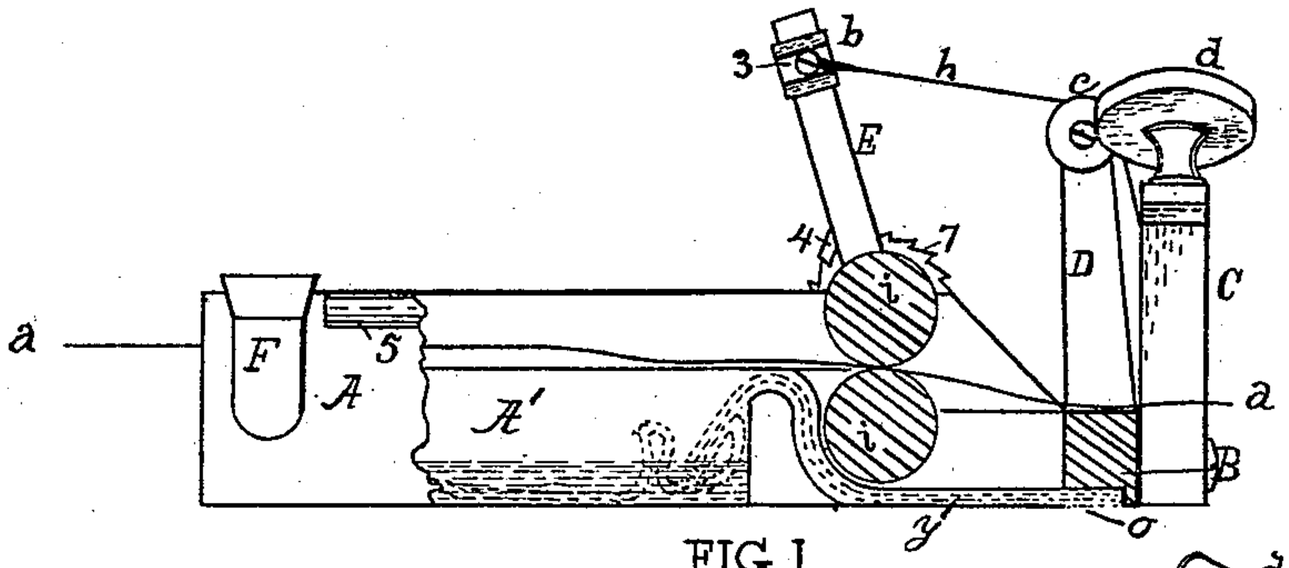

FIG 1

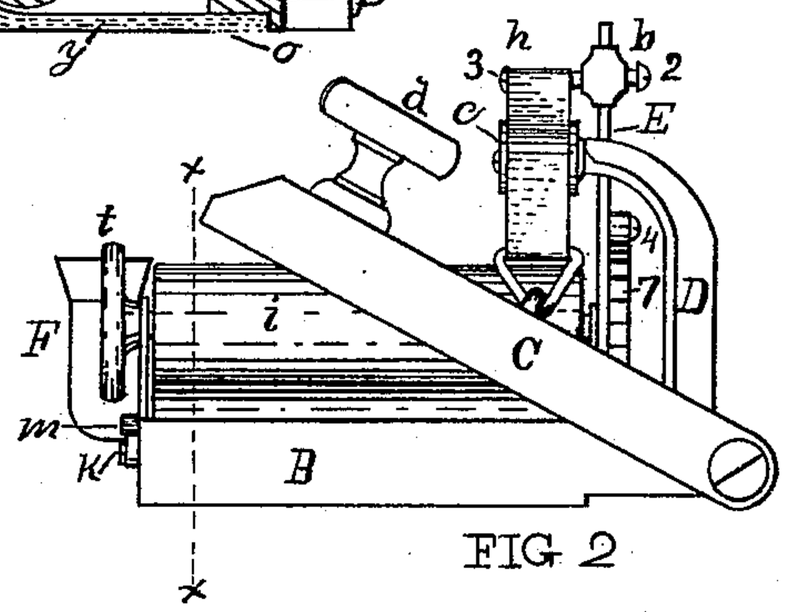

FIG 2

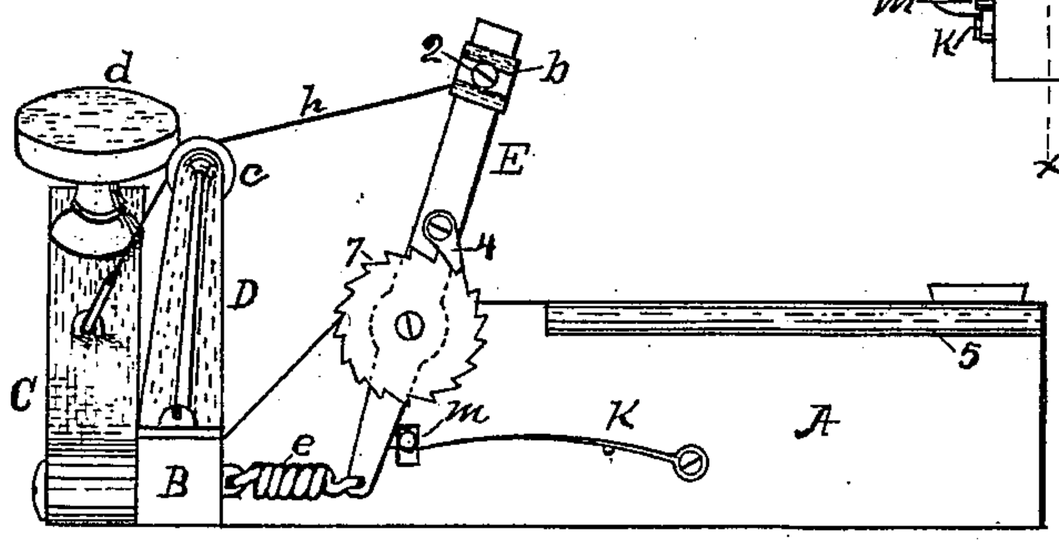

FIG 3

Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LESTER J. WADSWORTH, OF MARSHALL, MICHIGAN, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO ELIJAH BUCK, OF SAME PLACE.

ADDRESSING-MACHINE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 467,319, dated January 19, 1892.

Application filed March 27, 1891. Serial No. 386,724. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LESTER J. WADSWORTH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Marshall, in the county of Calhoun and State of Michigan, have invented new and useful Improvements in Addressing-Machines, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to that class of addressing-machines which require a long and narrow strip of paper which has previously been gummed upon one side and the addresses printed upon the other. So far as I am aware it has heretofore been the custom to moisten the gummed side of the paper before the address is cut from the strip, as described in Letters Patent to C. C. Doten, No. 206,303, dated July 23, 1878. I have adopted the plan of wetting the article on which the address is to be placed, and the gummed paper remains dry until it is pressed upon it, when the gum is softened by the moisture and secures the address to it.

My invention consists of the means whereby I accomplish this, and also that part of the device by means of which the paper bearing the addresses is automatically fed out as each address is cut off.

In the accompanying drawings, which are a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a side elevation, partially in section, through *x x*, Fig. 2. Fig. 2 is a view of the front end, and Fig. 3 is a view of the side opposite to that of Fig. 1.

Like letters and figures refer to the same parts in the several views.

I construct the body A of the machine of sheet metal. Within said body and back of the rollers *i i* is left a space A′ for water. This space I call a "reservoir," and it is charged through the flaring tube F. A throat *y* from the reservoir passes beneath the rollers *i i* and terminates in an opening *o* in the bottom of the machine beneath the stationary blade B of the shears. As shown in section, Fig. 1, a wick shown by double broken line extends from the reservoir through the throat to the opening *o*. The water is taken up by capillary attraction and by means of the wick is carried to the opening *o*. Wool felt is thought best for this wick. My experience shows that a more even feed is secured when the reservoir contains a sponge of nearly its own dimensions.

To moisten a spot on an article where an address is to be placed, it is only necessary to place the machine with the opening *o* on the spot and the wick will impart the necessary moisture to cause the gummed paper to adhere. A strip of this gummed paper is shown in Fig. 1 at *a a*. The feed-rollers *i i*, between which this paper passes, have their bearings in the side of the body of the machine. The journals of the lower roller extend through slots *m*, Fig. 3, to receive the pressure from the spring *k*, which forces it upward, causing the paper to be held firmly between the rollers, so that when the rollers are made to turn the paper is moved forward. Attached to the journal of the upper roller is a ratchet-wheel 7, which is made to rotate by means of the pawl 4, carried on the lever E. Said lever is actuated in one direction by the spring *e* and in the other by the motion imparted by the operator to the moving blade *c* of the shears, as will be more fully explained. A head *b* is fitted to the upper portion of said lever. Attached to this head is a tape or narrow band *h*, which runs over the pulley *c* and is secured to the moving blade of the shears by link and staple. The position of the pulley *c* in reference to the moving blade is of much importance. As the spring *e*, acting through the lever E and tape *h* raises the blade against the pressure of the fingers of the operator, the blade *c* is drawn slightly against the stationary blade B, thus materially assisting in the cut, whereas if the pulley was directly above the blade this tendency would not appear.

The operation of the feed is as follows: When the blade C is pressed down by the operator to detach the address on the protruding end of the gummed strip *a a*, the upper end of the lever E is brought forward and the pawl 4 drops into a notch in the wheel 7, and as the pressure is relieved the spring acting upon the lever causes the rollers to turn as the blade rises. The head *b* may be moved on the lever and its distance from the lever's pivot changed, and thus regulate the amount of feed, as required, as when the head is near

the pivot on which the lever turns the same motion of the blade C will cause the lever to move through a greater arc.

To operate the machine, put only a small amount of water in the reservoir, insert the strip of paper bearing the addresses between the feed-rollers, and, by means of the thumb-wheel *t*, feed the strip forward until the first address extends beyond the edge of the stationary knife. By pressing the machine gently upon the paper to be addressed a spot is moistened by the wick, as before described. Draw the machine back, and when the address is directly over the spot bring the blade down, and as the address is sheared off the broad surface of the under side of the blade causes the address to be pressed upon the dampened paper. The action of the spring *e* causes the blade to rise, and also actuates the feed-rolls, as before explained. Postage-stamps and gummed labels may be used in the same manner.

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

In an addressing-machine of the character described, the combination, with the movable cutting-blade and the standard D, having the pulley *c*, of the rollers *i i*, the bottom one of which is supported upon the spring *k*, lever E, having the movable head *b*, said head being connected with the blade C by means of the cord *h*, a pawl and ratchet located on said lever, and a spring *e*, connecting the lower end of the lever with the stationary blade, all combined and operating as described.

LESTER J. WADSWORTH.

Witnesses:
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