

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

G. J. MURPHY.
BALLOT BOX.

No. 593,487.

Patented Nov. 9, 1897.

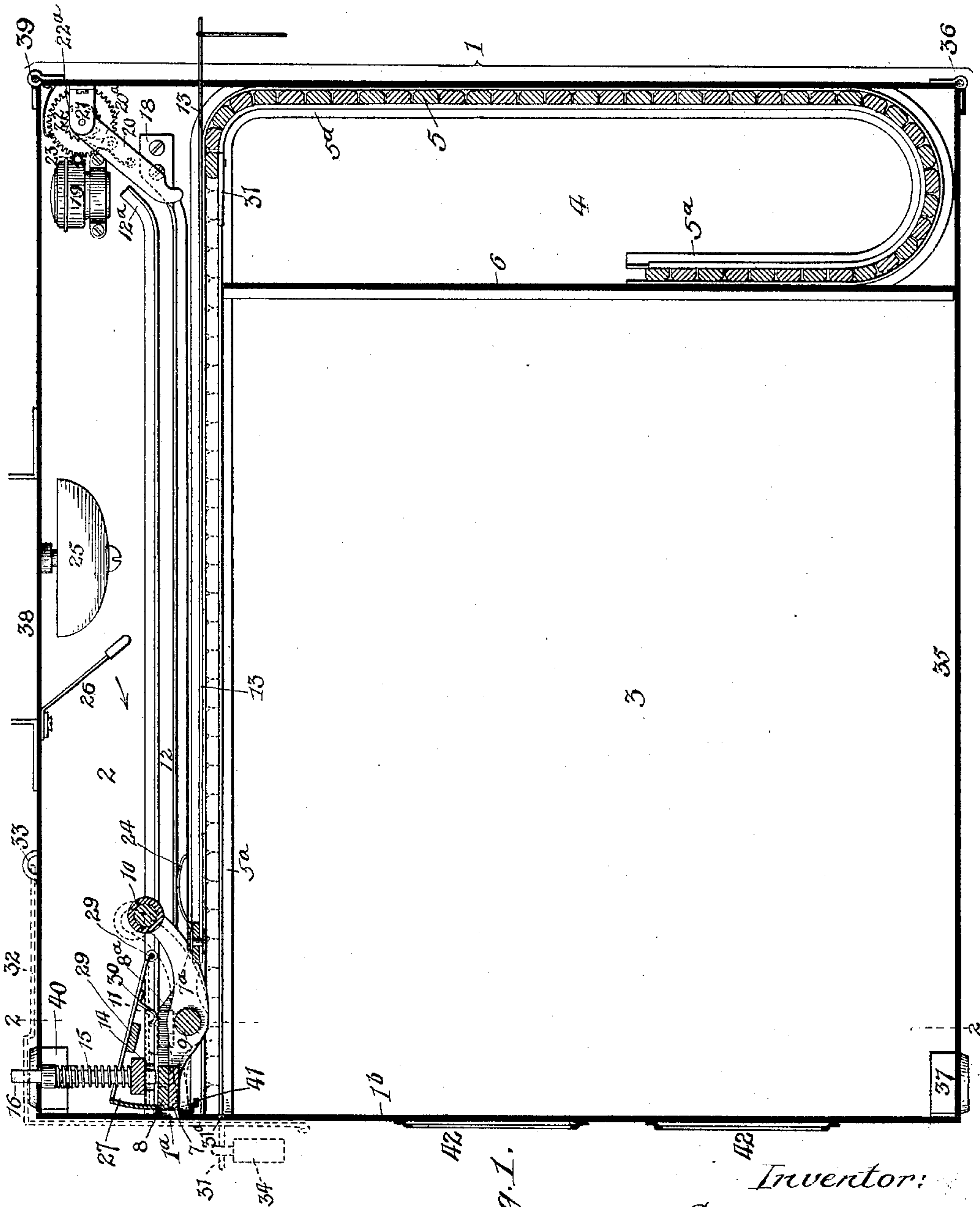


Fig. 1.

Witnesses:
Murray E. Boyer
Frank E. Bechtold

Inventor:
George J. Murphy
by his Attorneys
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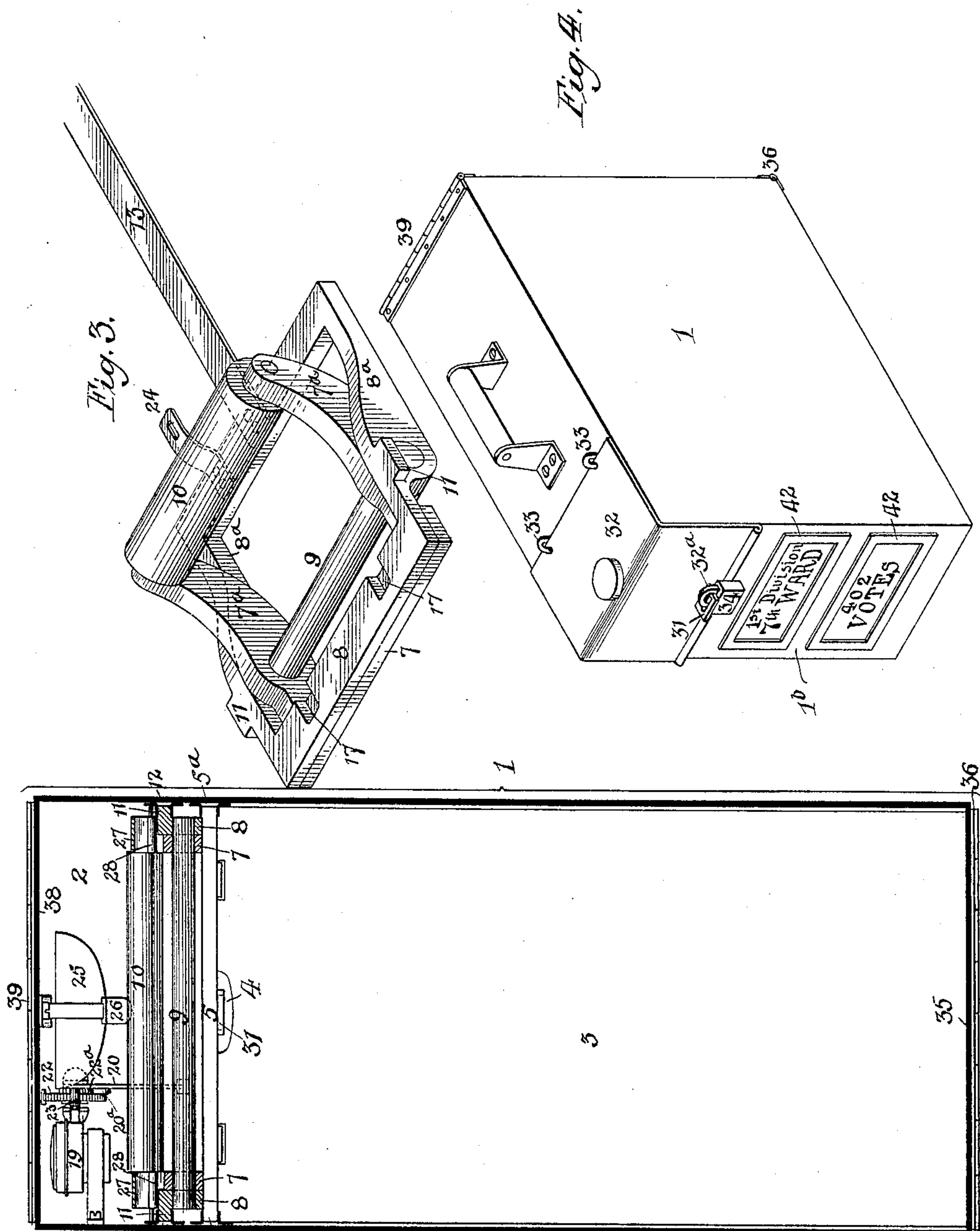
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Fig. 2.

Inventor:

George J. Murphy
by his Attorneys
Howson & Howson

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE J. MURPHY, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

BALLOT-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 593,487, dated November 9, 1897.

Application filed October 19, 1895. Serial No. 566,230. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE J. MURPHY, a citizen of the United States, residing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented certain
5 Improvements in Ballot-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to ballot-boxes; and it consists of improvements in that class of
10 ballot-boxes in which the mechanism for receiving, canceling, depositing, registering, and announcing the deposit of the ballot is concealed from view, so as to render it impossible for any person to tamper with the same.

15 My invention is fully illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of the box, showing the device for depositing the ballot in position for receiving the same. Fig.
20 2 is a vertical section of the ballot-box on the line 2 2, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the device by which the ballot may be deposited in the box; and Fig. 4 is a perspective view, on a reduced scale, of the box.

25 In the first place it may be well to state that the box shown in the accompanying drawings is particularly adapted for large ballots, now commonly used in large cities under the Australian-ballot system and familiarly known as "blanket-ballots." The mechanism employed in this ballot-box, however,
30 may be employed in ballot-boxes adapted to receive smaller ballots without affecting the object of my invention.

35 In the drawings, 1 represents the box, made preferably of sheet metal, which is divided into three compartments 2, 3, and 4 and has an opening 1^a, through which the ballots may be entered. The compartment 2 contains the
40 mechanism for effecting the reception, cancellation, deposit, and registration of the ballots cast.

3 is the compartment for holding the ballots, and 4 is a compartment for holding the flexible
45 partition 5, which is adapted to separate the compartment 3 from the compartment 2 when the ballot-box is not in use. This flexible partition is shown in this closed position in dotted lines, and in full lines in the compartment 4,
50 into which it is pushed when the ballot-box is to be used, in Fig. 1, being traversed on grooved guideways 5^a in the sides and end of the box,

as shown. This compartment 4 is separated from the compartment 3 by a partition-plate 6, and when not occupied by the flexible partition 5 (when the same has been drawn across
55 the compartment 3 after voting has ceased) is adapted to hold the duplicate registry-slips and other paraphernalia necessary for properly conducting an election. 60

The device for receiving the ballots and by which they may be deposited in the compartment provided for the same, which I term the "ballot-gripper," is shown in Fig. 1 in
65 its normal position to receive a ballot and in perspective view in Fig. 3. It consists of a pair of jaws 7 and 8, pivotally connected together by the pin 9. These jaws are provided with rearwardly-extending frames 7^a and 8^a.
70 The jaw 7 is mounted inside the jaw 8, and its frame is provided with a weight 10, which holds the jaws normally in contact with each other, so that they will grip the ballot and carry it into the box when the ballot-gripper is retracted. The upper jaw 8 is provided
75 with lugs 11, adapted to a way 12 in the side of the box, whereby the ballot-gripper may be traversed back and forth, this traversing being accomplished by means of a rod 13, attached to the frame 8^a of the upper jaw 8. 80

At the front end of the box, extending through the upper jaw of the ballot-gripper and resting upon the lower jaw of the same, is the canceling device, which may consist
85 of an ordinary stamping device, as 14, for printing a mark on the ballot, upheld from engagement with the same by a suitable spring 15. This canceling device is connected to a pin 16, also in engagement with
90 the lower jaw of the ballot-gripper, and by which the same may be depressed, so as to engage the ballot. The pin is so arranged that the ballot-gripper will be opened to receive the ballot before the canceling-stamp can strike the same. To allow for the stamp
95 and pin to engage with the lower jaw of the ballot-gripper, I provide the upper jaw with suitable indentations 17, as shown in Fig. 3.

The jaws 7 and 8 are preferably faced with rubber, so as to insure that the ballot will be
100 carried into the box when the ballot-gripper is retracted. To open the jaws of the ballot-gripper after it has been drawn into the box, so that the ballot may be deposited in the

proper receptacle, I provide the lugs 18, secured to the wall of the box near the rear of the same, so that when the ballot-gripper is retracted the frame 7^a of the lower jaw will
 5 be forced upward by its engagement with said lug, thus opening the jaws of the gripper and allowing the ballot to drop into the box. Instead of this cam 18 the way 12 may
 10 be provided with the curved extension 12^a, into which the lug 11 on the ballot-gripper may enter when retracted.

My registering device consists of any suitable counting mechanism incased in a box 19, secured to the wall of the ballot-box, and
 15 provided with a suitable dial, whereby the mechanism will register a unit each time it is operated. I may say that I have found it expedient to use as a register the ordinary
 20 cyclometer now in use on bicycles and other vehicles. To operate this register, I provide a lever 20, mounted on a shaft 21, on which is secured a gear-wheel 22, engaging with a
 25 pinion 23, directly connected with the registering-train of the cyclometer. On the rear frame 8^a of the upper jaw 8 of the ballot-gripper is a slotted arm 24, adapted to engage with the lever 20 when the said gripper is retracted to deposit a ballot in the box.
 30 When the gripper is moved forward to receive another ballot, this arm 24 carries the lever 20 forward a sufficient distance to register a unit on the dial of the cyclometer, the units thus registered corresponding to the votes cast. The lever 20 is loosely mounted on the
 35 shaft 21 and is provided with a spring-pawl 20^a, engaging with a ratchet-wheel 22^a, secured to the face of the gear-wheel 22. Each time the arm 24 engages with the lever 20 when the ballot-gripper is retracted to deposit a ballot it pushes the said lever back a
 40 sufficient distance for the spring-pawl 20^a to get a fresh grip on the ratchet-wheel 22^a. To announce the deposit of the ballot in the box, I provide a gong 25 and a suitable spring-hammer 26. This hammer is engaged by the
 45 weight carried by the ballot-gripper when it is retracted to receive a fresh ballot and is moved in the direction of the arrow, Fig. 1. When released by said jaw, the tension of
 50 the spring causes it to strike the gong.

To prevent the deposit of a fraudulent ballot, it is necessary that the aperture through which the ballots are entered be closed as soon as the ballot is within the box. I accomplish
 55 this by providing the door 27, pivoted at 28 and provided with a weight 29, which will cause it to fall as soon as the ballot-gripper is retracted. To raise the door, the cam 30 is placed on the under side of the same, with
 60 which the ballot-gripper will engage when it is presented at the front of the box for a new ballot.

When the voting has ceased, the flexible partition 5 may be drawn into place, separating the compartment 2 from the compartment
 65 3. This may be accomplished as follows: On the end of this flexible partition is an aper-

tured handle 31, which projects through the opening 31^a in the box when the flexible partition is in place. This handle may be secured
 70 by a suitable padlock, as shown in Fig. 4. To move this partition-plate out of the way, so that the box may be used, and to bring it into its proper place again when the voting has
 75 ceased, I use a suitable hooked rod adapted to be inserted in the slot 31^a in the front of the box and engage with the apertured handle 31 on the end of the flexible partition. To inclose or cover the slot 1^a in the box where
 80 the ballots are entered, I use a cover-plate, as 32, hinged at 33, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1, which is also adapted to cover the mechanism for opening the jaws of the gripper and the device for canceling the ballot. This cover-plate has a slot 32^a, through which
 85 may project the handle 31 on the end of the flexible partition, so that the padlock 34 (shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1) when secured thereto will lock both the flexible partition 5 in place and the cover-plate 32.
 90

In order that the ballots may be examined after they have been deposited in the box, the bottom 35 of the same is hinged at 36, as shown, and a suitable lock 37 is secured to
 95 said bottom, so that it may be fastened to the front 1^b of the box.

The top 38 of the box, which conceals the operating mechanism, is also hinged at 39 and is provided with a lock 40, by which it may
 100 be fastened to the front 1^b of the box.

The box should be provided with cards on its front face indicating the division and ward in which the ballots it contains have been cast, as well as the number of votes, and for the
 105 purpose of holding these cards I provide the pockets or frames 42.

The operation of my improved ballot-box is as follows: The cover-plate 32 is first removed, and this releases the canceling device and the pin for opening the jaws to receive the
 110 ballot. The flexible partition-plate is pushed out of the way by means of a suitable hooked rod, as above mentioned, and the box is then in condition to receive the ballot. By pushing down on the pin 16 the lower jaw of the
 115 gripper is depressed, after which the ballot may be inserted. By continuing this movement of the pin 16 the canceling-stamp is pushed down far enough to engage the ballot against the lower jaw of the gripper and stamp
 120 the same, the jaw being supported by a suitable ledge 41 on the wall of the box. After the ballot has been engaged by the gripper the rod 13 is retracted, so as to carry the ballot into the receptacle provided for the same,
 125 the lugs 18 on the side of the box causing the jaws 7 and 8 to open to permit this. The gripper having been retracted the full distance in the box, the slotted arm 24, carried by the gripper, engages with the lever 20, connected to the registering mechanism, and when
 130 the gripper is returned for another ballot this lever 20 is operated substantially as has been described. The spring-hammer of the gong

has also been engaged by the weight 10 as the gripper has been retracted, and when the weight has passed the same the gong is struck. As may be seen, the mechanism for manipulating my ballot-box is very simple and is entirely concealed from view and locked against the machinations of any dishonest election officers.

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

1. In a ballot-box, the combination of the receptacle for receiving the ballots, a gripping device for depositing the ballots in said receptacle, and means for traversing said gripping device to and fro in the box.

2. In a ballot-box, the combination of the receptacle for receiving the ballots, a gripping device for depositing the ballots in said receptacle, said gripping device having portions adapted to ways in the walls of the ballot-box, and means for traversing said gripping device so as to draw the ballots into the box.

3. In a ballot-box, the combination of the receptacle for receiving the ballots, a gripping device for depositing the ballots in said receptacle, said gripping device having portions adapted to ways in the walls of the box, and a rod connected to said gripping device whereby it may be drawn into the ballot-box.

4. The combination in a ballot-box, of the receptacle for receiving the ballots, a sliding gripping device adapted to carry the ballot so that it may be deposited in said receptacle and a flexible partition dividing the receptacle for the ballots from the device for depositing the same.

5. The combination in a ballot-box of a receptacle for the ballots, means for depositing the ballots, a flexible partition dividing the depositing mechanism from the receptacle for holding the ballots, a compartment for holding the flexible partition, and ways upon which said partition may be traversed.

6. The combination in a ballot-box, of the receptacle for the ballots, the gripping device comprising jaws mounted so as to be free to move back and forth in the box, and means for opening and closing the jaws to receive and grip the ballots.

7. The combination in a ballot-box, of the gripping device for carrying the ballot into the box, and a spring-controlled pin for separating the jaws of the gripper so that it may engage the ballot.

8. The combination in a ballot-box, of the receptacle for the ballots, a gripping device for depositing the ballots in said receptacle, ways in the sides of the box upon which the gripping device may be traversed, and a cam or lug in the rear of the box adjacent to said ways, for separating the jaws of the ballot-gripper so that the ballot may drop into the box.

9. The combination in a ballot-box of the receptacle for the ballots, a gripping device movable to and fro in the box, and serving to

draw in and deposit the ballots, means for operating the gripping device at the forward end of its travel so as to cause it to grip the ballot, and provision for opening the gripping device at the inner termination of its travel in order to release the ballot.

10. The combination in a ballot-box of the receptacle for receiving the ballots, a gripping device for depositing said ballots, means for operating the jaws of the gripping device, and a canceling-stamp connected to such jaw-operating device.

11. The combination in a ballot-box of the receptacle for the ballots, a gripping device movable to and fro in the box and serving to deposit the ballots therein, and mechanism operated by said movable gripper for registering the deposit of the ballots.

12. The combination in a ballot-box, of the receptacle for the ballots, a movable gripping device for depositing the ballots therein, registering mechanism, a lever for operating said mechanism, and a slotted arm carried by the gripping device and adapted to engage with said lever and operate the registering mechanism.

13. The combination in a ballot-box, of the receptacle for the ballots, a gripping device for depositing the ballots therein, a registering device adapted to be operated by said gripping device, and a gong for announcing the deposit of the ballots, operated by the ballot-gripper as it is retracted to receive a new ballot.

14. In a ballot-box of the character described, a gripping device for effecting the deposit of the ballots in the box, consisting of a pair of pivoted jaws connected together by a suitable pin, and adapted to be drawn into the box to deposit the ballot by any suitable means, said jaws being normally held in engagement with each other by a weight mounted on the lower jaw.

15. In a ballot-box of the character described, a gripping device for effecting a deposit of the ballots, consisting of a pair of pivoted jaws suitably connected together and adapted to be traversed in the box so as to deposit the ballot, said jaws being faced with rubber or other suitable substance in order that the ballot may be securely held while being drawn into the box, the jaws being held in engagement with each other by a suitable weight carried by the lower jaw.

16. The combination with a ballot-box of the character described, having an aperture in the front of said box through which the ballots may be entered, of a ballot-gripping device movable to and fro in the box, and means for closing said aperture after the ballot has been drawn through the same.

17. The combination with a ballot-box of the character described, having an aperture in the box through which the ballots may be entered, of a ballot-gripping device movable to and fro in the box, and a pivoted weighted door for closing said aperture, said door be-

ing adapted to be raised to open the aperture by the ballot-gripper, when the same is presented at the front of the box for a new ballot.

18. The combination with a ballot-box of the character described, having an aperture in the box through which the ballots may be entered, of a ballot-gripping device movable to and fro in the box, a pivoted weighted door for closing said aperture, and a cam on said door whereby the same may be raised when the ballot-gripper is presented at the front of the box for a new ballot.

19. The combination of a ballot-box having a series of compartments, with a hinged top plate and a hinged bottom plate, and a flexible partition for dividing the said compartments.

20. The combination with a ballot-box having a series of compartments, of a flexible partition for separating said compartments, said partition consisting of a series of slats or strips mounted upon flexible belts.

21. In a ballot-box of the character de-

scribed, a gripping device adapted to traverse within the box so as to effect the deposit of the ballots therein, said gripping device consisting of a pair of jaws pivotally connected together, and means for holding said jaws in engagement with each other.

22. The combination in a ballot-box, of the receptacle for the ballots, the gripping device by which said ballots may be deposited in the box, ways upon which said gripping device may be traversed, said ways being adapted to hold the jaws of the gripping device in contact with each other so that the ballot will be carried into the box, and means for opening said jaws.

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

GEORGE J. MURPHY.

Witnesses:

MURRAY C. BOYER,
JOS. H. KLEIN.