

(No Model.)

C. LUKE.

PREPAYMENT ATTACHMENT FOR METERS.

No. 604,255.

Patented May 17, 1898.

Fig. 1.

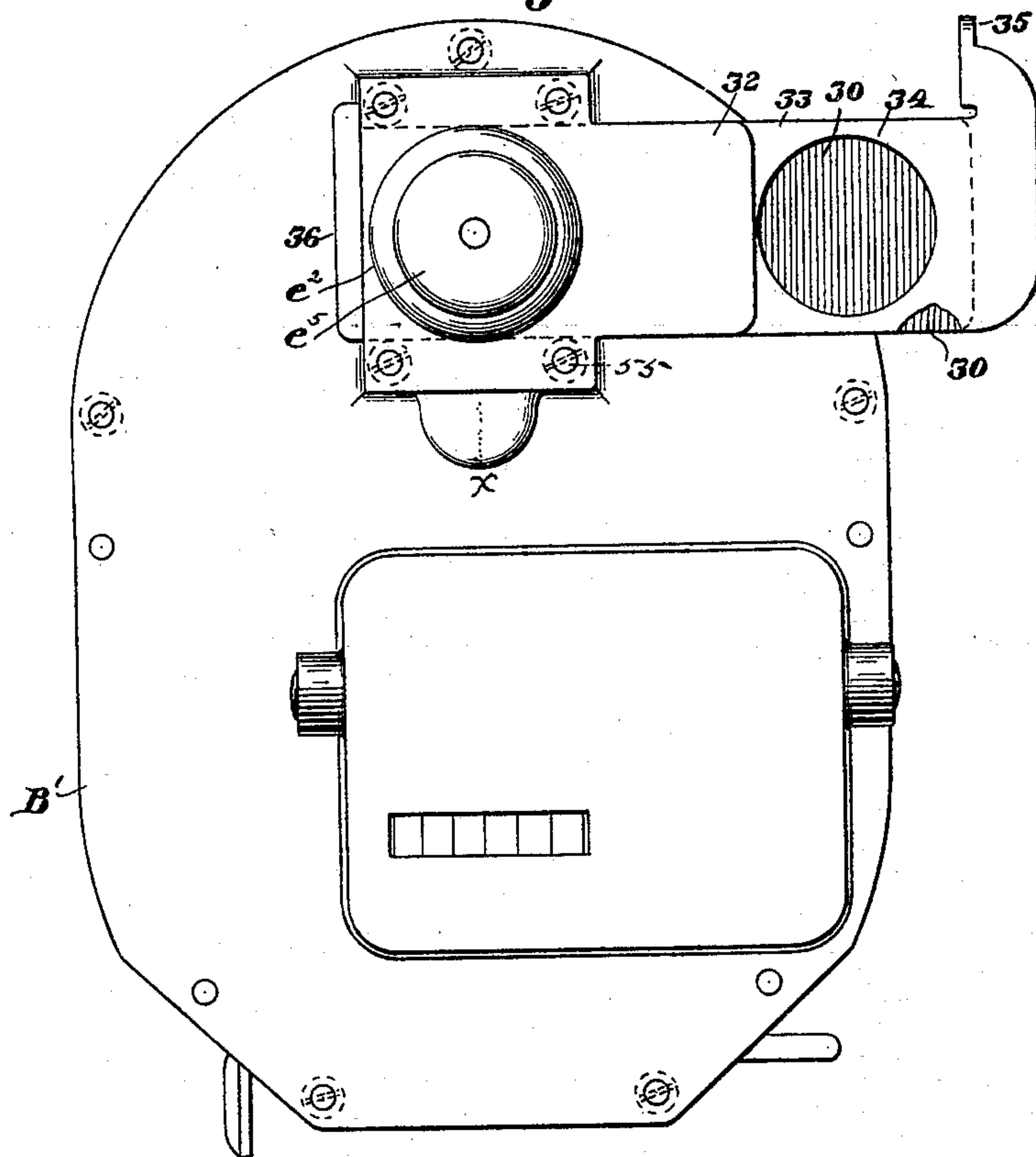


Fig. 2.

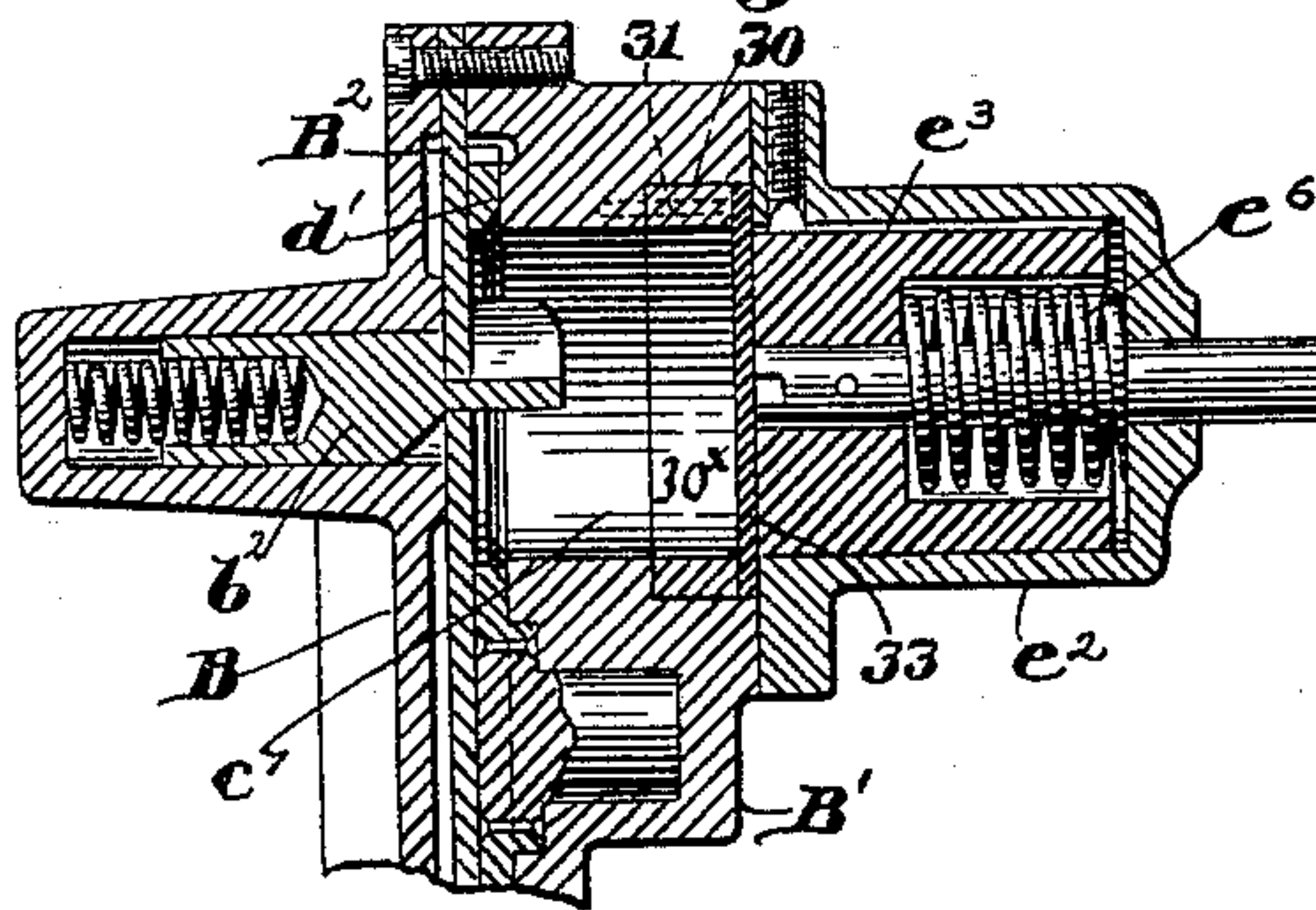
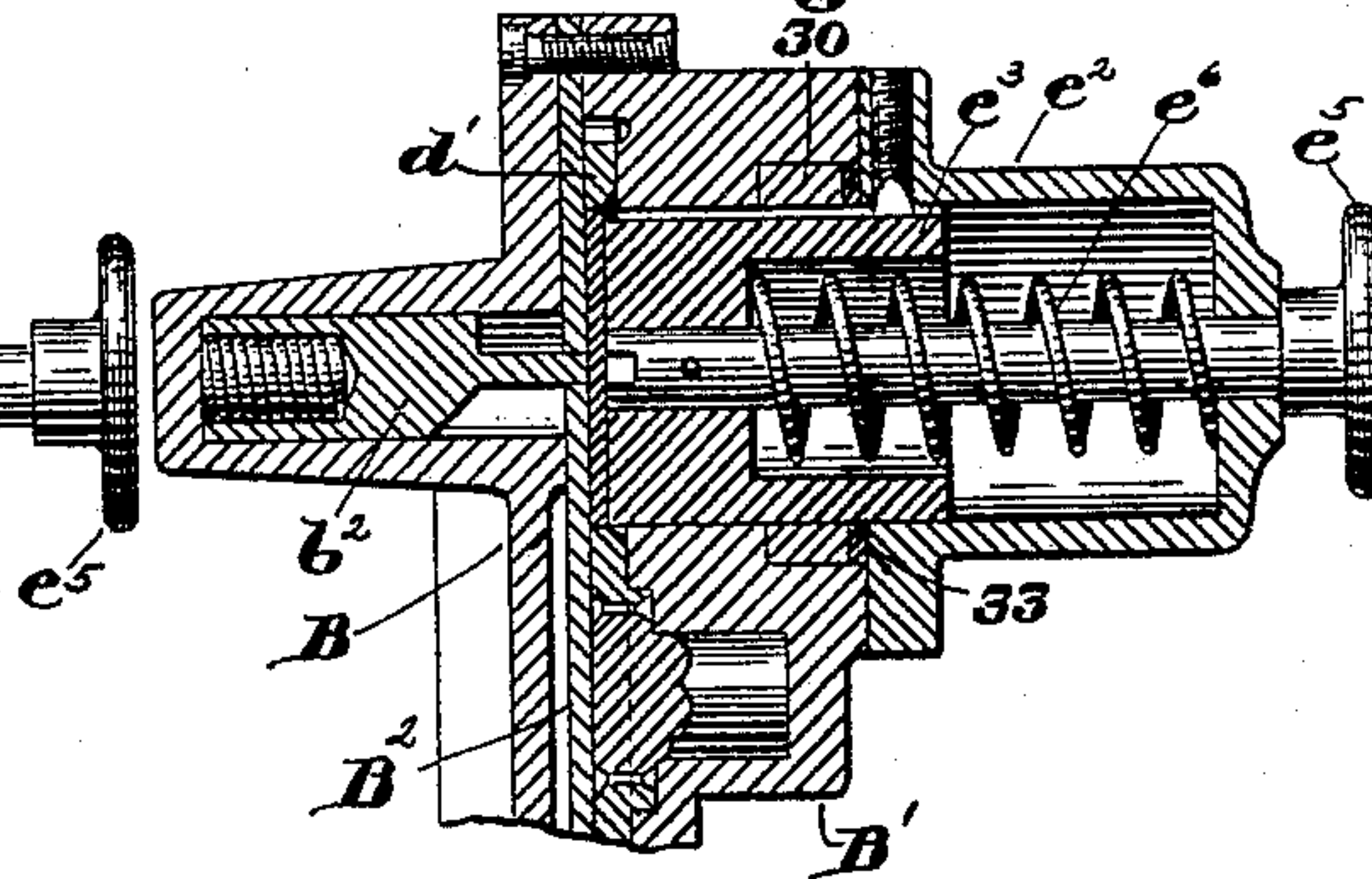


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PREPAYMENT ATTACHMENT FOR METERS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 604,255, dated May 17, 1898.

Application filed December 31, 1897. Serial No. 664,820. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES LUKE, of Milford, county of New Haven, State of Connecticut, have invented an Improvement in Prepayment Attachments for Meters, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like letters and figures on the drawings representing like parts.

10 In the practical use of prepayment attachments for gas-meters and for vending or supplying other articles after the deposit of a coin in the apparatus much difficulty has been experienced, due to the fact that the
15 possessor of the attachment manages to tamper with the coin used to start the attachment, thus making it possible for the attachment of a gas-meter to deliver more gas than should be delivered from the supply of coin
20 put into the meter.

This invention has for its object to provide means whereby the coin used to start the attachment for the meter or other article to which it is supplied cannot be withdrawn
25 after the same has been put into the attachment, and any coin having become effective to actuate the meter may effect the delivery of only just the proper amount of gas called for by the particular coin.

30 To this end I have provided the attachment with a coin-feeder having an opening just large enough in diameter to receive the particular coin to be used in the meter, said feeder being also of a thickness just equal to
35 the thickness of said coin and working between plates fitting it closely, so that said coins may be put into the attachment one at a time and so that a bent coin which might clog the operation of the machine cannot be
40 introduced. The coins fed into the attachment are taken one after another automatically from a coin-chamber and made to do their work and then discharged.

45 Figure 1, in front elevation, shows a prepayment attachment of usual construction provided with my coin-feeder; Fig. 2, a section in the line x , Fig. 1; and Fig. 3, a like section with the feeder pushed, the section showing the coin in the coin-carrier.

50 In the drawings, B' represents the front

plate of a prepayment attachment; B, the back plate; B², a dividing-wall separating said plates, and d' a rotating coin-carrier supposed to be part of a toothed wheel of usual construction, it having a series of pockets to
55 receive one of a series of coins in succession.

The front plate has connected to it a hollow cap e^2 , in which is located a plunger e^3 , the stem of the plunger being extended out through said cap and provided with a knob
60 e^5 , said stem being surrounded by a suitable spring e^6 , which acts normally to move the said plunger toward the said wheel.

The back plate B has a portion within which is received the shank of a locking device b^2 ,
65 said locking device acted upon by a spring entering and being free to work in a slot made in the dividing-wall, said locking device being shown as standing within a pocket of the coin-carrier in Fig. 2, the place it will occupy
70 when coin is absent from said coin-carrier, the locking device being pushed back into its inoperative position by a coin whenever a coin is in the pocket of the coin-carrier, as shown in Fig. 3. This locking device is used
75 to restrain the movement of the coin-carrier when coin has been excluded from the attachment.

The front plate has a chamber c^7 , in which may be applied in a pile any desired number
80 of coins, the plunger acting upon one side of the coin or pile of coins to keep it or them pressed toward the coin-carrier, so that one after another of said coins may enter the pockets of the coin-carrier as the latter in its
85 movements comes opposite the said chamber c^7 .

Coöperating with the devices so far described there has usually been employed a coin-feeder of a thickness equal to substantially the thickness of the coin used, and with
90 such a feeder it is possible to put a coin into the hole in the feeder, which was made to slide back and forth in a suitable groove in the face-plate under the said plunger, and
95 connect a wire with the coin, letting the plunger act on the coin, pushing it into the coin-carrier far enough to push back the locking device to start the carrier, and then to
100 pull out the plunger by hand and withdraw

the coin, pulling on the wire. To obviate this action, I have provided the groove in the front plate with a stationary table or coin-rest 30, it having at its inner end a hole 30^x, (see Fig. 2,) opposite the chamber c⁷, the opposite end of said rest being extended for a considerable distance beyond the cap e², a suitable pin, as 31, retaining the said table stationary. I have also added to the cap e² an extension or guard 32, it overlapping the table for some distance from the foot of said cap and from the opening 30^x in said rest and the chamber c⁷. This cap e² is held in place by suitable screws, as 55, Fig. 1, and between this cap and its extension or guard 32 on one side and the face of said rest I have applied a coin-feeder 33, which is of a thickness only equal to the thickness of the coin to be used, and said coin-feeder has a through-and-through hole or opening 34 of a diameter equal to the diameter of the coin to be used. This coin-feeder has at one end a finger-piece 35 and at its opposite end a projecting shoulder or stop-piece 36, and said feeder is free to slide from the position shown in Fig. 1, where the opening 34 is located properly to receive the coin to be used, to the left, viewing Fig. 1, far enough to put the coin in said opening immediately in line with the plunger, so that said plunger may act on said coin and push it through the opening 30^x of the rest into the chamber c⁷.

By employing a coin-feeder of a thickness just equal to the thickness of the coin to be used and by making the space between the face of the rest and the inner end of the cap also just equal to the thickness of the coin-feeder a bent coin cannot be put into the opening and be passed into the position opposite the plunger to be acted on by the plunger and transferred by it either into the chamber or directly into the pocket of the coin-carrier, as shown in Fig. 3. So, also, it will be under-

stood, by putting one coin at a time into the apparatus, that when said coin has been acted upon by the plunger and started from the opening of the feeder the feeder cannot be withdrawn and with it the coin.

The coin put into the opening bears against the rest and is slid over the same as the feeder is pushed into position, and, further, by reason of making the feeder of just the thickness of the coin to be used and causing it to slide with a closer fit between the table on the one side and the guard and cap on the other side, it is not possible to attach a string or a wire to a coin, put it in the feeder, and let the coin be used to start the coin-carrier; nor is it possible for one to introduce a wire and push back the locking device to start the coin-carrier and let the gas be delivered.

The thickness of the feeder will always be just equal to the thickness of the coin to be used, and by making the table detachable it may be changed and another of a different thickness substituted for it.

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

In a prepayment attachment, a front plate having a coin-chamber, a coin-carrier, a detachable table fitted to said front plate, a cap fixed to said front plate, and a coin-feeder having a through-and-through opening and fitted to slide snugly between said table and said cap, and means to remove a coin from said feeder into said coin-carrier, substantially as described.

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

CHARLES LUKE.

Witnesses:

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GEORGE T. BRISTOL.