

No. 688,459.

Patented Dec. 10, 1901.

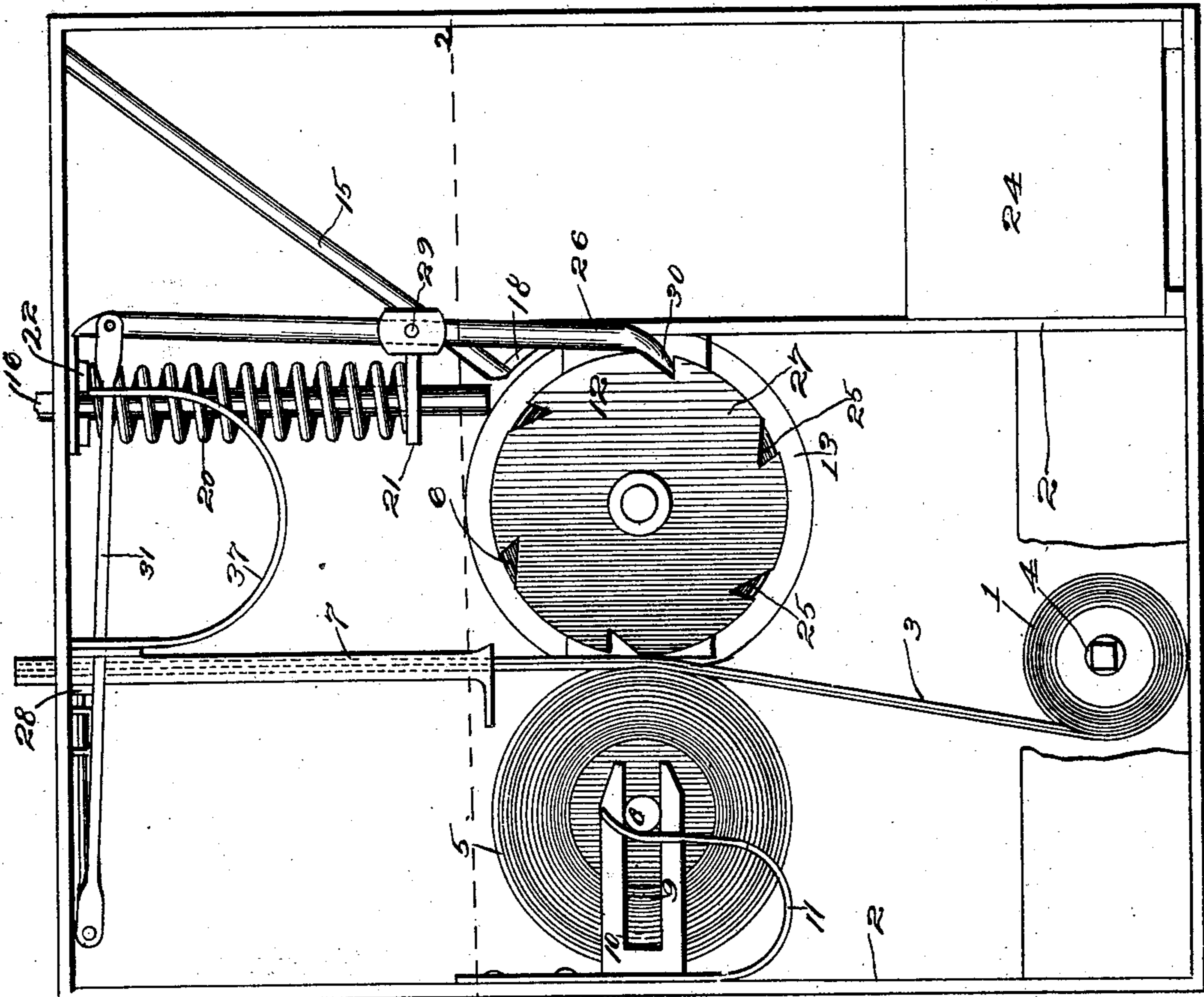
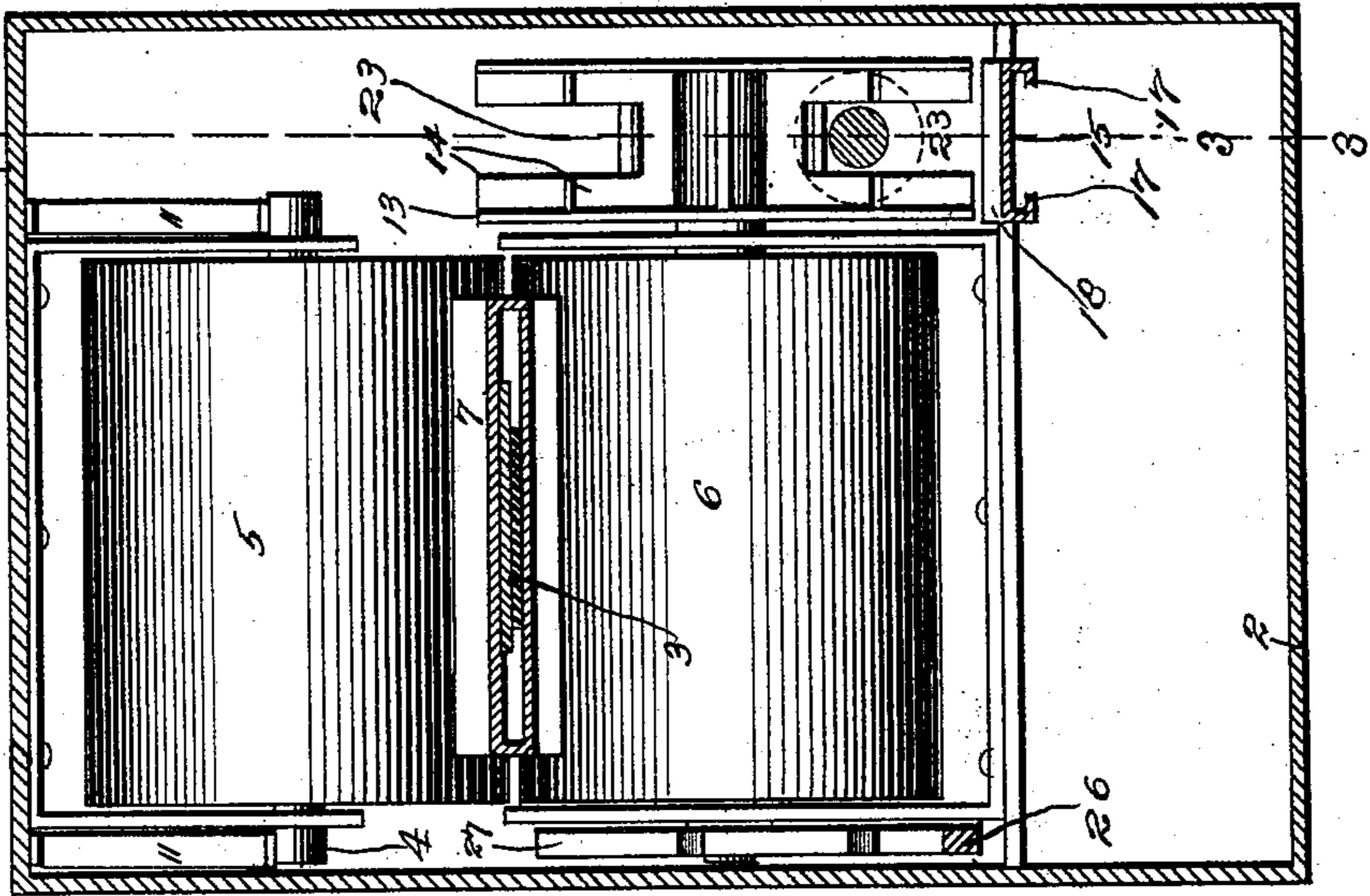
J. B. FENDER.
STAMP VENDING MACHINE.

(Application filed Mar. 8, 1901.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig. 2.



Witnesses

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Fig. 1.

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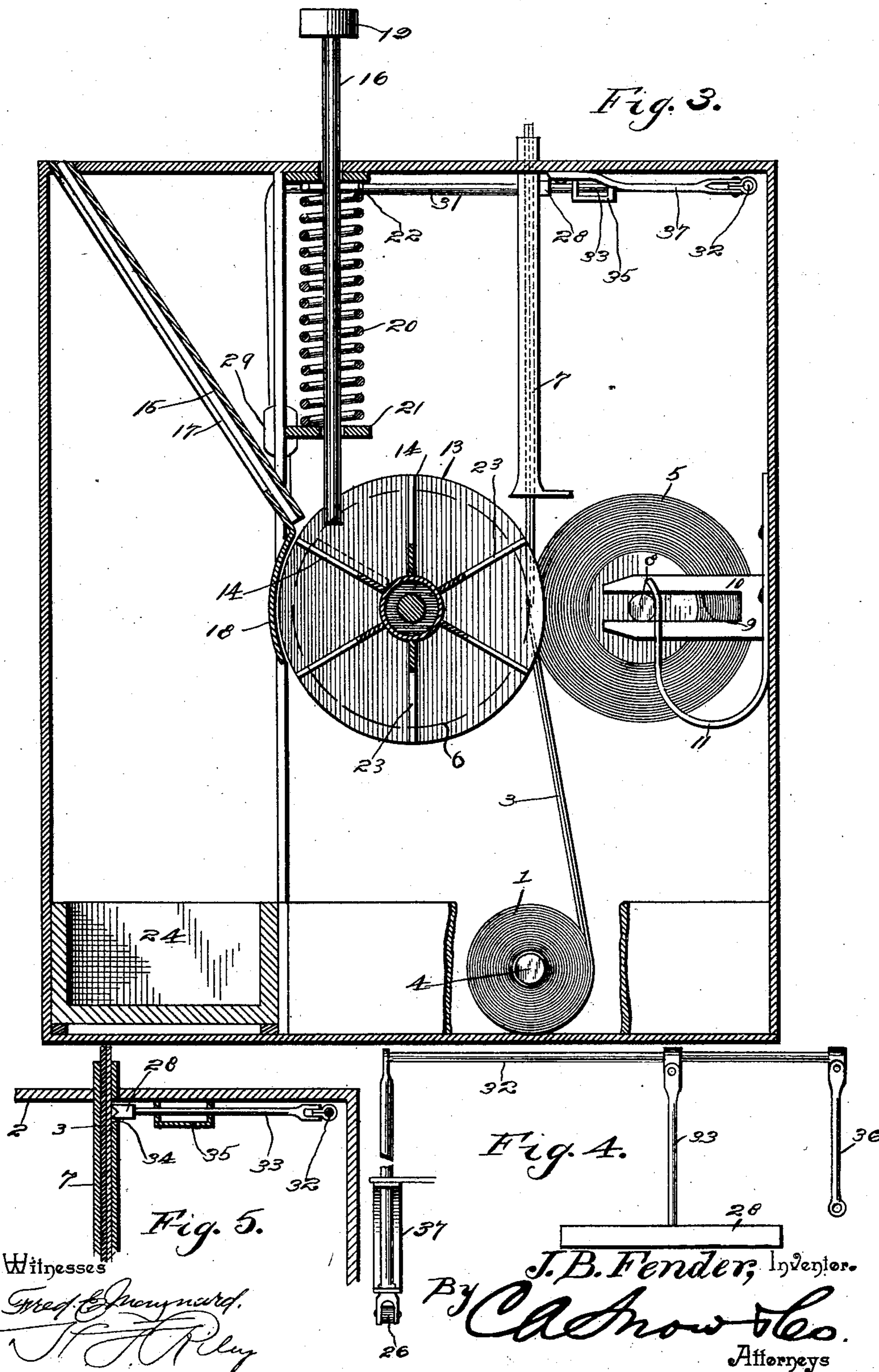
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN BROWN FENDER, OF BRECKENRIDGE, TEXAS.

STAMP-VENDING MACHINE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 688,459, dated December 10, 1901.

Application filed March 8, 1901. Serial No. 50,380. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN BROWN FENDER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Breckenridge, in the county of Stephens and State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Stamp-Vending Machine, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to improvements in stamp-vending machines.

The object of the present invention is to improve the construction of coin-operated vending-machines and to provide a simple and comparatively inexpensive one designed for selling postage-stamps and capable of operation only by a coin of the proper denomination and adapted when properly operated to feed a stamp to the operator.

The invention consists in the construction and novel combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the claims hereto appended.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a portion of a stamp-vending machine constructed in accordance with this invention. Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional view on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view of the same on the line 3 3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a detail sectional view illustrating the manner of mounting the clamp for engaging the stamps. Fig. 5 is a detail view of the stamp-clamp.

Like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

1 designates a stamp-receiving roll journaled in suitable bearings of a frame 2 and designed to be mounted in a casing containing a series of stamp-vending machines, so that stamps of different denominations may be sold; but as the stamp-machines for the sale of stamps of different denominations will be constructed exactly the same a description and illustration of one machine only will be necessary. The stamp-roller is designed to receive a roll of stamps arranged in the form of a strip or ribbon and designed in practice to be reeled on the roll 1 with the oiled paper with which the stamps are usually shipped. The shaft 4 of the roll 1 is squared at one end for the reception of a crank for enabling the roll to be readily ro-

tated for winding up the strip or ribbon 3. The strip or ribbon of stamps pass upward between a pair of feed-rolls 5 and 6, which feed the stamps upward through a supply-chute 7 to the exterior of the machine. The feed-roller 5, which is preferably covered with oiled paper, is mounted on a shaft 8, arranged in bearing-slots 9 of brackets 10 and engaged by springs 11, which force the feed-roll 5 toward the feed-roll 6 to secure the necessary frictional engagement. The springs, which are substantially U-shaped, are secured to the frame 2, and their inner sides are free to force the feed-roll toward the front of the machine. The other feed-roll 6 is mounted on a shaft which carries a combined cam and ratchet wheel 12 and which also carries a coin-receiving wheel 13. The coin-receiving wheel or drum 13 consists of a pair of disks or heads and radial plates or supports 14, adapted to be brought successively beneath a coin-chute 15, and a depressible push-bar 16. The coin-chute, which extends downward from the top of the machine, is arranged at its upper end in a suitable slot, and it is preferably constructed of a strip of metal having its longitudinal edges folded or bent inward to form grooves or ways 17 for the reception of the edges of the coin. The space between the side flanges of the coin-chute will permit a coin smaller than one of the proper denomination to fall through, so that such a coin will not effect an operation of the machine, and as a coin larger than the coin-chute cannot be introduced in the same it will be apparent that the machine can be operated only by a coin of the proper denomination. The coin-chute is provided at its lower end with a depending guard 18, arranged at the periphery of the coin-receiving drum or wheel and adapted to retain a coin on the radial coin supports or plates until the drum has been rotated a sufficient distance to operate the machine.

The depressible push rod or bar, which is provided at its upper end with a suitable button or head 19, is normally supported in an elevated position by a spiral spring 20, arranged upon a bracket or support 21 and engaging a pin 22 of the push bar or rod. When a coin has been deposited in the chute 15 and has assumed the position illustrated in dotted

lines in Fig. 3 of the accompanying drawings, it will lie directly beneath the lower end of the push rod or bar and partially cover one of the slots 23 of the coin-receiving drum or wheel, whereby when the push rod or bar is depressed the said drum or wheel will be partially rotated and will actuate the mechanism for feeding the stamps. When a coin is not in the drum or wheel, the push rod or bar will when moved downward pass through the slot of the adjacent radial plate or support and will not actuate the wheel or drum. The slots 23 extend inward from the outer ends of the radial supports of the coin-receiving drum or wheel, and when the push rod or bar is depressed and engages a coin it will carry the latter downward to a point beyond the lower end of the guard 18, so that the said coin will be released and caused to fall into a suitable receptacle 24.

The coin-receiving drum or wheel is fixed to the shaft of the feed-roll 6 at one end of the latter, and the said feed-roll is partially rotated when the machine is operated, and the stamps will be fed upward through the delivery-chute. The combined ratchet and cam wheel 12 consists of a disk provided at its periphery with a series of inwardly-tapered recesses 25, forming shoulders to be engaged by a locking-lever 26, and providing a series of cams 27, adapted to engage the said lever 26, whereby the latter is oscillated to release a stamp-clamp 28. The lever 26, which is fulcrumed between its ends at 29, is provided at its lower end with an inwardly-extending tube 30, which engages the combined ratchet and cam wheel 12 and which normally projects into one of the recesses thereof, as clearly illustrated in Fig. 1 of the accompanying drawings. When the feed-roll 6 and the wheel 12 are partially rotated, the cam lying above the engaging lower end of the locking-lever engages the inwardly-extending tube 30 and swings the lower arm of the lever outward or forward and carries the upper arm of the lever backward or inward. The inward or backward movement of the upper arm of the lever reciprocates a connecting-rod 31, which extends rearward to a transverse lever 32, fulcrumed at one end and connected at an intermediate point with a stem 33 of the stamp-clamp 28. The stamp-clamp 28, which is arranged at an opening 34 of the rear wall of the delivery-chute, is provided with a longitudinal groove forming engaging upper and lower edges which are adapted to effectually prevent a stamp from being drawn out of the delivery-chute surreptitiously. The stem 33 of the stamp-clamp is arranged in a suitable guide 35, and the transverse lever 32, which is disposed horizontally, is fulcrumed on a suitable support 36. The locking-lever, which is arranged in an upright position, is maintained in engagement with the combined ratchet and cam wheel by a substantially U-shaped spring 37, which has one of its ends connected with the rod 31 adja-

cent to the upper end of the lever 26; but any other suitable form of spring may be employed for this purpose. When the coin-receiving drum or wheel is partially rotated by the depressible push rod or bar, the front feed-roll is positively rotated sufficiently to feed the stamp out of the delivery-chute, and the stamp-clamp is automatically released by the cam and ratchet wheel. The upright lever performs the double function of locking the combined cam and ratchet wheel against retrograde rotation and of actuating the stamp-clamp.

It will be seen that the stamp-vending machine is exceedingly simple and inexpensive in construction, that it is capable of being operated only by a coin of the proper denomination, and that the feeding devices and the stamp-clamp are simultaneously operated by the depression of the push bar or rod.

What I claim is—

1. In a machine of the class described, the combination of an upright delivery-chute provided adjacent to its outer end with an opening, a stamp-clamp operating through the opening and arranged to engage the stamps, feed-rolls located beneath the chute and adapted to feed the stamps upward, the combined cam and ratchet wheel connected with one of the feed-rolls having notches forming cams and providing shoulders, and a lever connected with the stamp-clamp and engaging the combined cam and ratchet wheel and locking the feed-rolls against backward movement, said lever being also arranged to be actuated by the cams, whereby the stamp-clamp will be moved away from the stamps when the feed-rolls are operated, substantially as described.

2. In a machine of the class described, the combination of an upright delivery-chute, a stamp-receiving roll located beneath the delivery-chute, feed-rolls arranged at a point between the stamp-roll and the delivery-chute, one of the feed-rolls being spring-actuated, a stamp-clamp located near the outer end of the delivery-chute and arranged to engage the stamps, a lever connected with the stamp-clamp, and the combined cam and ratchet wheel engaged by the lever, whereby the feed-rolls are locked against backward movement, said wheel being also arranged to engage and actuate the lever to withdraw the clamp when the feed-rolls are operated, substantially as described.

3. In a machine of the class described, the combination of an upright delivery-chute, a reciprocating stamp-clamp, feed-rolls located beneath the chute, the combined cam and ratchet wheel having notches forming cams and providing shoulders, a transverse lever connected with the stamp-clamp, an upright lever engaging the said wheel to lock the rolls against backward movement and adapted to be actuated by the cams when the feed-rolls are operated, a rod connecting the levers, and a spring holding the upright lever in engage-

ment with the said wheel and maintaining the clamp normally in engagement with the stamps, substantially as described.

4. In a machine of the class described, the combination of a delivery - chute, feeding mechanism, a sliding clamp located near the mouth of the delivery-chute, a lever connected with the sliding clamp and arranged horizontally, a cam-wheel connected with the feeding mechanism, an upright lever engaging the cam-wheel and arranged to be oscillated by the same, and connections between the levers, substantially as described.

5. In a machine of the class described, the combination of a frame, provided with a guide, an upright delivery - chute provided at one side with an opening, a sliding stamp-clamp located at the said opening and provided with a stem arranged in the guide, a transverse lever connected between its ends with the stem and fulcrumed at one end, an upright lever connected with the transverse lever, feeding mechanism, and a cam-wheel con-

nected with the feeding mechanism and engaging the upright lever, substantially as described. 25

6. In a machine of the class described, the combination of a frame, a delivery - chute, feed-rolls, a combined cam and ratchet wheel connected with the feed - roll and provided with notches, a lever engaging the combined cam and ratchet wheel, and locking the feed-rolls against backward movement and adapted to be thrown outward by the said wheel, a stamp-clamp located adjacent to the delivery-chute and connected with the said lever, and means for operating the feed-rolls, substantially as described. 30 35

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses. 40

JOHN BROWN FENDER.

Witnesses:

J. B. LUCIUS,
E. W. ALLEN.