No. 701,996. Patented June 10, 1902.

B. H. CALKIN.

STAMP AFFIXER.

(Application filed Sept. 24, 1900.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig. 1.

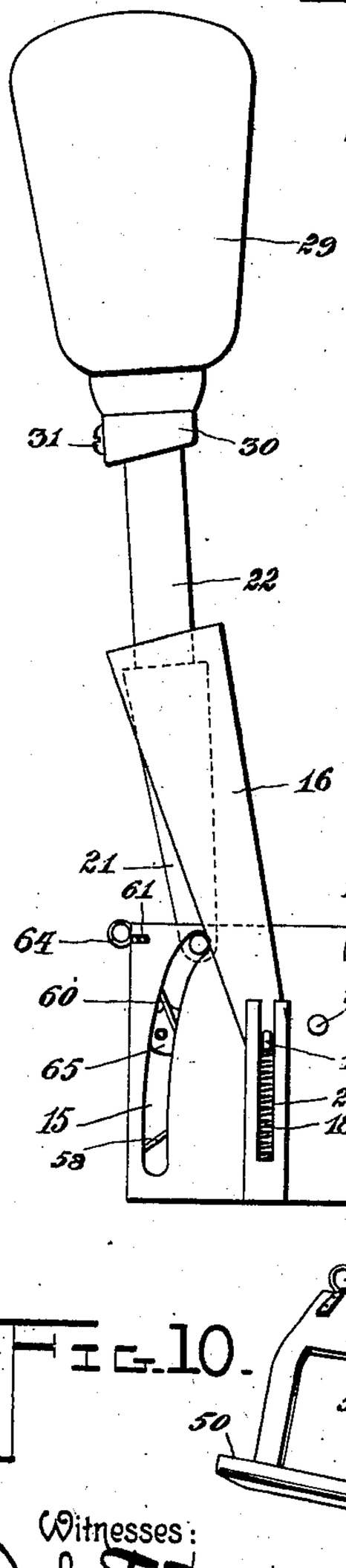

Fig. 2.

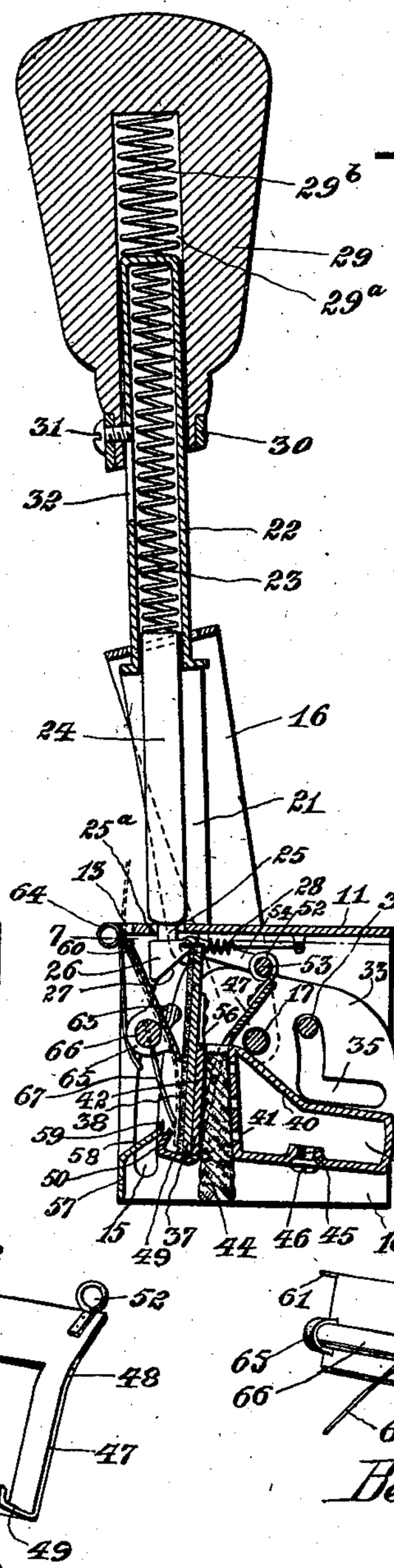

Fig. 3.

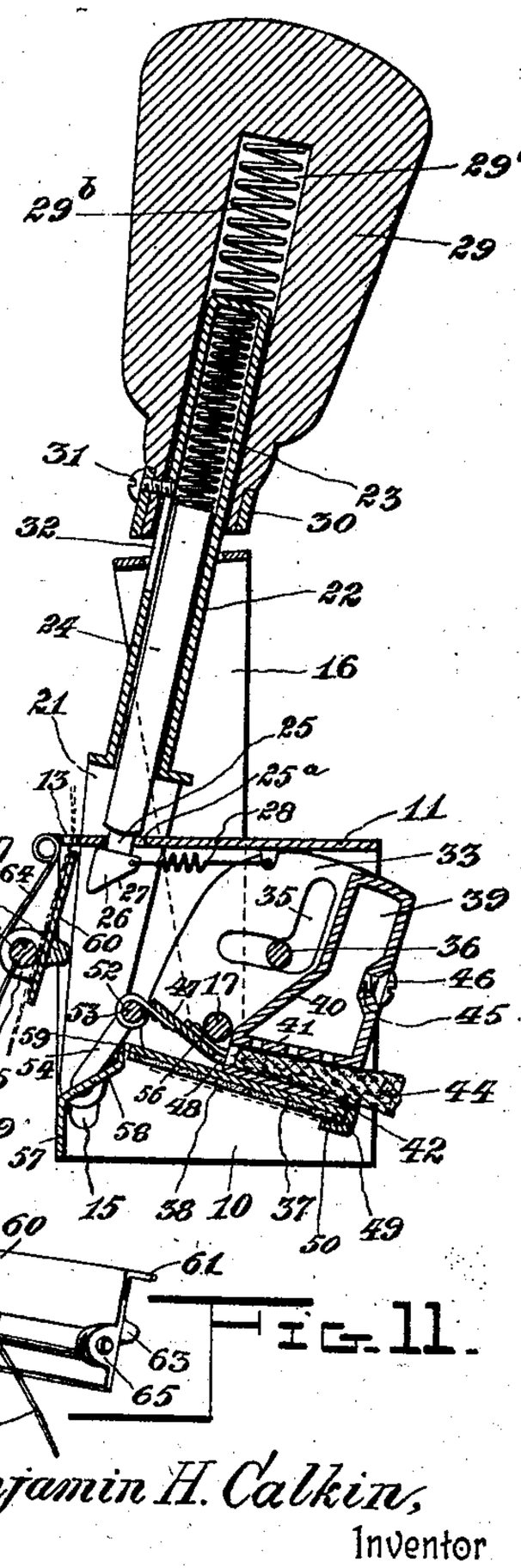

Fig. 10.

Fig. 11.

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(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

FIG. 5.

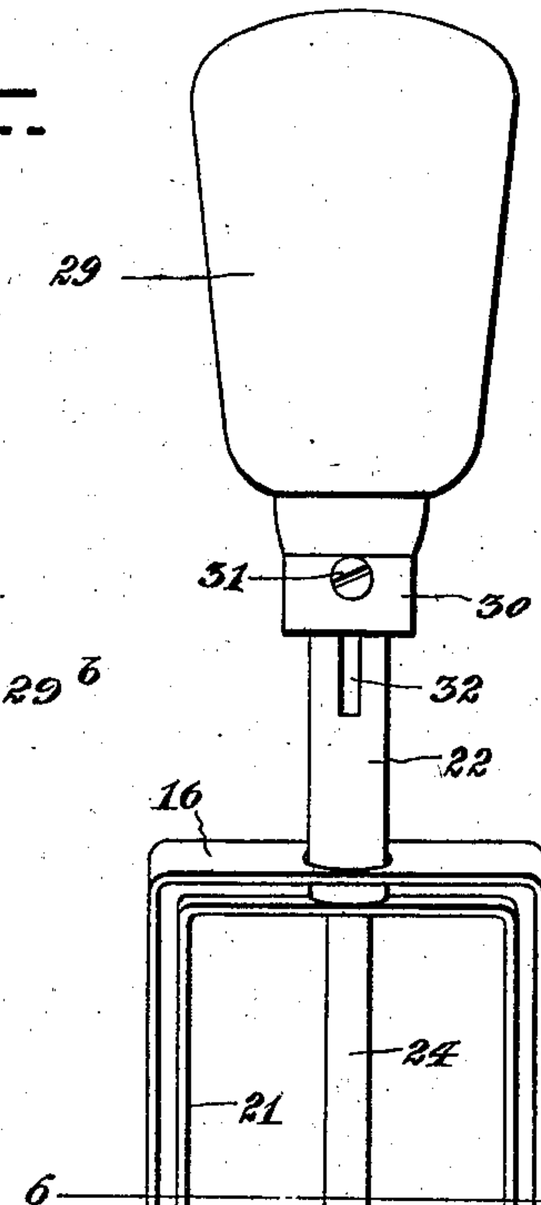


FIG. 6.

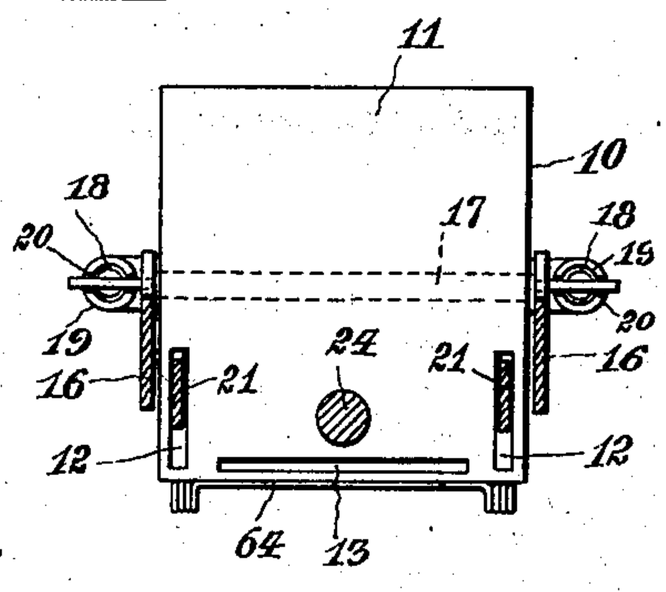


FIG. 4.

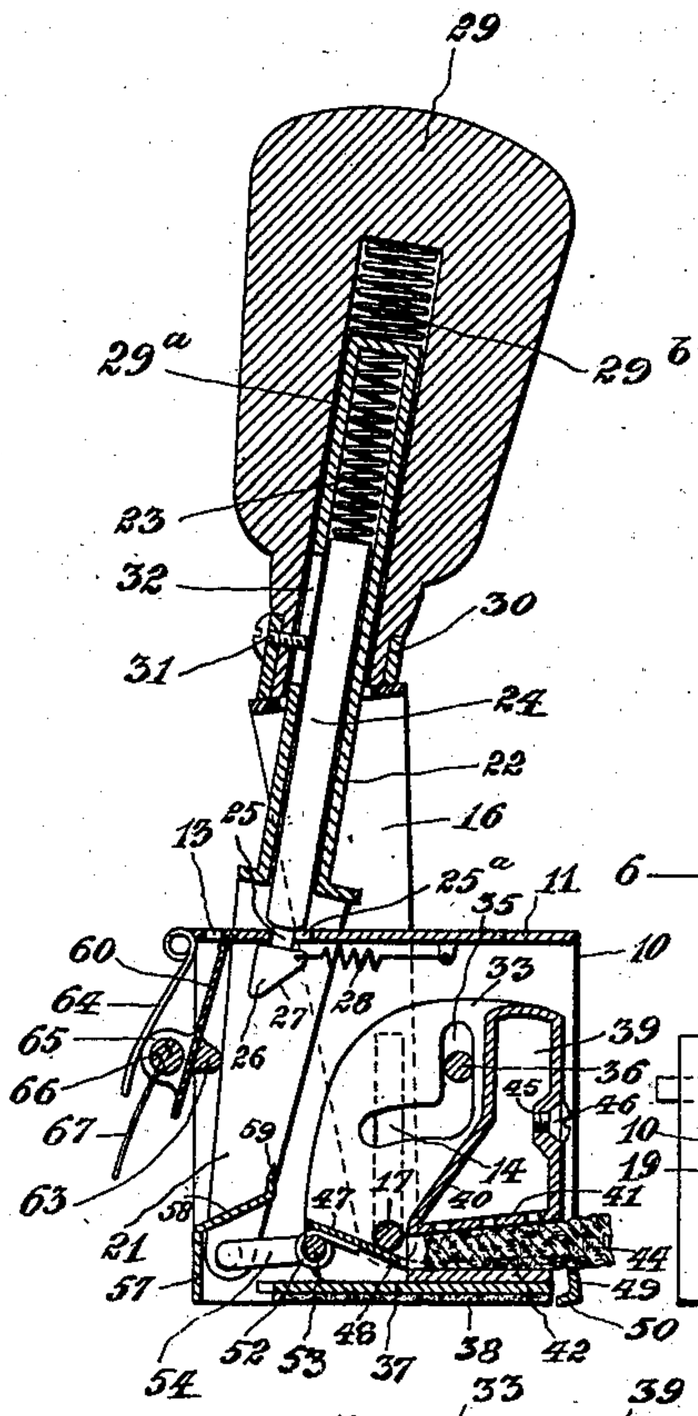


FIG. 7.

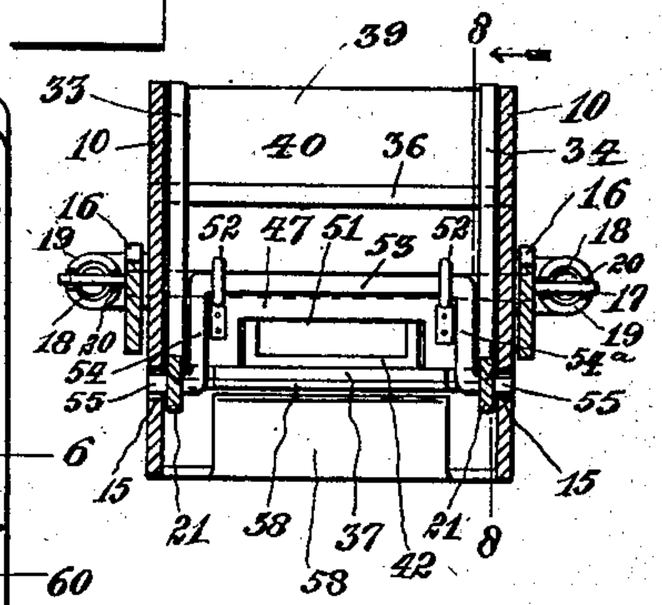


FIG. 8.

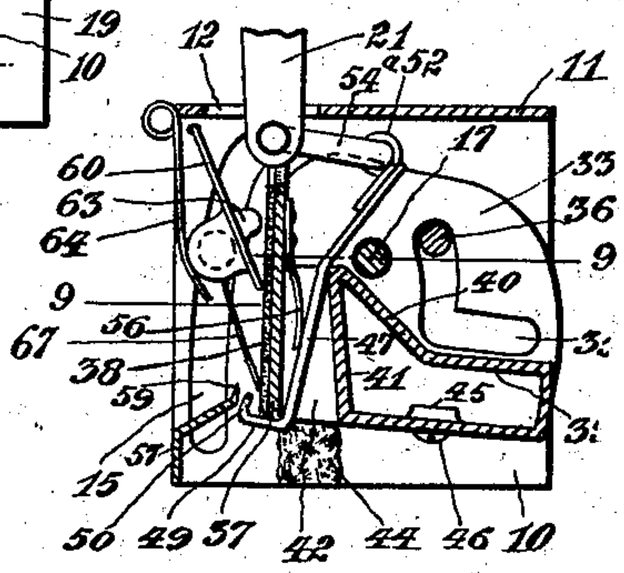
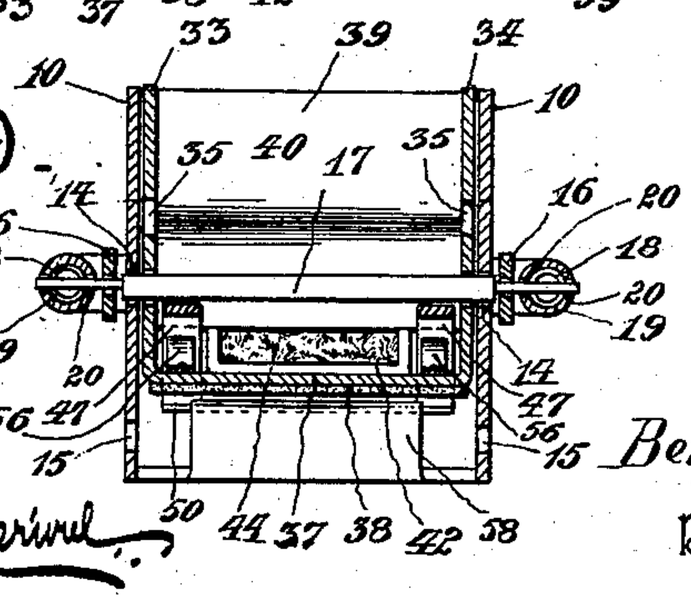


FIG. 9.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN H. CALKIN, OF MONTREAL, CANADA.

STAMP-AFFIXER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 701,996, dated June 10, 1902.

Application filed September 24, 1900. Serial No. 30,914. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN HOVEY CALKIN, a subject of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, residing in the city and district of Montreal, Province of Quebec, Canada, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stamp-Affixers; and I do hereby declare that the following is 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 improvements in stamp-affixers by which postage-stamps may be easily and rapidly applied to mail-matter by the simple operation of pressing the implement upon a letter or the like.

One object of the invention is the provision of a simple implement which includes in its organization means for moistening a letter over the spot where a stamp is to be affixed, means for cutting the stamps individually from a strip or row, such severance of each stamp being effected automatically during the period of carrying or moving it to the affixing position, and means for pressing the severed stamp firmly upon the moistened spot on the envelop, all of said devices being operable in due order and automatically by the simple application of pressure to the handle of the implement.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a stamp-gripper and an actuating device adapted to shift the position thereof at the initial movement of the parts, whereby the gripper pulls or draws the stamp positively in a downward direction until it shall have been severed from the next stamp on the strip by the action of a cutter mechanism. The actuating device for the gripper positively retains the same in its operative position in order to prevent loosening of its hold on the stamp until the latter shall have been severed, and this actuating device permits the gripper to have an idle play as the pressure-platen reaches a position where it may press the stamp in place, such idle play of the gripper permitting it to move backward and release the stamp owing to contact of one edge of the gripper with the letter.

Further objects of the invention are to provide an improved stamp-feeding device adapted to yield automatically to the movement of the pressure-platen as the latter moves downward and to return to its normal position in like manner, to provide means by which a moistening-pad may be kept in a saturated condition so as to be ready for use, and to so arrange the several coöperating devices that a fixed cutter may be employed in connection with the pressure-platen.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will appear in the course of the subjoined description, and the novelty in the combination of devices and in the construction and arrangement of parts will be defined by the claims.

In the drawings hereto annexed and forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved stamp-affixer, illustrating the parts in their normal position. Fig. 2 is a central vertical sectional elevation through the improved stamp-affixer and with the parts in a position corresponding to Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a similar vertical sectional view showing the position of the parts when the handle is partially depressed and with the pressure-platen in such relation to the cutter as to sever one stamp from the strip or length of consecutive stamps. Fig. 4 is another vertical section through the implement of Figs. 1 to 3, inclusive, illustrating the position of the parts when the gripper is thrown back to its idle position and the pressure-platen is in the act of forcing a stamp upon the moistened spot of an envelop. Fig. 5 is a front elevation of the stamp-affixer in the position shown by Fig. 1. Fig. 6 is a sectional plan view, the plane of the section being indicated by the dotted line 6 6 on Fig. 5. Fig. 7 is another sectional plan view in the plane below the head of the stand, as indicated by the dotted line 7 7 on Fig. 2. Fig. 8 is a vertical sectional view in the plane of the dotted line 8 8 on Fig. 7 looking in the direction of the arrow and showing certain of the operating parts more clearly. Fig. 9 is a transverse section in the plane of the dotted line 9 9 on Fig. 8. Fig. 10 is a detail perspective view of the stamp-gripper removed from the implement. Fig. 11 is a detail perspective view of the stamp-slide, also detached from the implement.

The same numerals of reference denote corresponding parts in each of the several figures of the drawings.

In carrying my invention into practice I employ a stand 10, which is provided with a head or top plate 11, said stand in its general construction resembling the part used in an ordinary hand-stamp. The head of the stand is provided near its side edges and adjacent to its front edge with short slots 12, and it is furthermore provided at a point between the slots 12 with the elongated stamp-feed slot 13, the latter being at right angles to the slots 12. The sides of the stand are provided with vertical parallel slots 14, adapted to accommodate the arbor for the outside auxiliary yoke of the implement, as will presently appear, and these side plates of the stand are, furthermore, provided with the curved guide-slots 15, which are arranged in substantially vertical positions for the reception of the cranks, which are connected with the stamp-gripper and are actuated by the inside main yoke, the same to be hereinafter more clearly described.

The outside yoke 16 is arranged to straddle the sides of the stand, and to the free end of this yoke is attached the slidable arbor 17, which passes through the slots 14 in the sides of the stand and has its end portions arranged to be seated upon the retracting-springs 18, the latter being of the coiled variety and contained within the tubular housings 19, as shown more clearly by Figs. 5, 6, 7, and 9 of the drawings. The housings 19 are secured in any suitable way to the outside of the stand and in positions alongside of the slots 14 in the side of said stand, each housing being provided with a vertical slot 20, which is coincident with the slot 14 in the adjacent side of the stand, whereby the arbor 17 is adapted to pass through the slots of the stand and the slots of the housings, so that it will play in a perpendicular path under pressure of the yoke 16.

The main inside yoke 21 lies within the outside yoke 16, as clearly shown by the several figures of the drawings and more particularly by Fig. 5. The arms of this yoke 21 pass through the slots 12 in the stand-head, so that on the depression of the yoke said arms thereof will play within or between the sides of the stand 10, whereby the inside yoke is operatively disposed with relation to the pressure-platen and the gripper of the implement. The inside yoke has a tube 22 secured firmly to the head thereof, in which tube is contained a repressing-spring 23, which finds a seat at its upper end against a closed end of the tube, while the lower end of said spring is seated in a resistance-stem 24, the latter extending at its lower end below the head of the yoke and being loosely mounted on the head of the stand. This stem may be supported loosely by any suitable means; but as one way of attaining this end I have shown the stem as provided with a reduced pintle 25, which is loosely fitted in an opening 25^a of the stand-head, (see Figs. 2, 3, and 4,) and this pintle is provided at its lower extremity with a hoof 26, the latter being disposed below the stand-head and being of larger diameter than the opening 25^a, so as to prevent the stem 24 from moving vertically either up or down, while at the same time said stem 24 is capable of a limited back-and-forth movement in a substantially horizontal direction for the purpose which will hereinafter appear. This hoof is formed at its rear side with an inclined face 27, which is adapted to bear against the upper edge of the pressure-platen when the latter is in its normal upright position, as shown by Fig. 2, and this stem 24 is drawn in a forward direction, so as to assume, with the two yokes and the handle, the upright position (indicated by Figs. 1 and 2) through the medium of the retracting-spring 28, the latter being secured at one end to the hoof 26 and at its other end to the stand-head, as shown more clearly by Figs. 3 and 4.

The implement is provided with a suitable handle 29, which is formed with an internal socket 29^a, which opens through the lower end of the handle and which socket is adapted for the reception of the inside yoke-tube 22 and a repressing-spring 29^b, which is seated upon the tube 22 and which tends normally to lift the handle to a raised position and within the limits of the slots 32. The lower portion of the handle is provided with a metallic collar 30, which is held thereon by a screw 31, the inner end of which passes into the slot 32, which is formed in the tube 22 of the inside yoke, whereby the handle 29 is loosely fitted on the tube 22 and it is capable of a slidable movement on said tube and independently thereof within the limits of the slot 32. The two springs 23 29^b differ in strength, so that the spring 29^b will tend to hold the handle in such a raised position that its collar 30 will normally be free from the head of the outside yoke 16, even when the handle is partially depressed to the position shown by Fig. 3, whereby the handle may be forced down a certain distance, as shown by Fig. 3, so as to compress the spring 23 for the depression of the inside yoke 21 without permitting the collar of said handle to engage with the head of the outside yoke.

It is to be observed that the two yokes are separately or independently mounted, while the handle and the parts associated with the yokes and the handle are so disposed that one yoke may be actuated by the handle independently of the other yoke within certain limits; but this handle is also adapted for the operation of said other yoke in order to complete the operation of the parts, notably with the pressure-platen, by which the stamp may be affixed to a piece of mail-matter.

The pressure-platen employed in my invention is indicated by the numeral 37, and this platen is carried by or movable with the invertible cam-slotted plates 33 34, which also carry the liquid-receptacle 39. The plates 33

34 lie within and close to the sides of the stand, and they are connected by the pressure-platen 37 and the liquid-receptacle 39, so as to insure the simultaneous movement of these parts in the operation of the stamp-affixer. Said carrier-plates are provided with the coincident cam-slots 35, having the contour shown by Figs. 2, 3, 4, and 8, through which cam-slots passes the fulcrum-pin 36, which is fixed in the sides of the stand, whereby the cam-slotted plates are adapted to turn around said fulcrum-pin. The platen lies at the front edge of the carrier-plates in the normal position of the parts, as shown more clearly by Figs. 2 and 8, and this platen has its active or working face provided with a cushion 38, which may be in the form of a layer of rubber or other soft material that is cemented or otherwise united to the pressure-platen, so as to cover practically the whole face of the platen which is exposed to view.

The liquid-receptacle 39 lies between and is united to the carrier-plates, said receptacle lying to the rear of the pressure-platen. (See Figs. 2 and 8.) The receptacle is provided with an inclined top wall 40 and a perforated front wall 41, and these parts of the receptacle are so disposed that when the parts numbered 33 34 are in their normal raised positions the receptacle will assume the inclined relation of Figs. 2 and 8, whereby the water contained in the receptacle will fall away from the saturatable moistening-pad. The perforated wall 41 of the receptacle lies parallel to and just in rear of the pressure-platen, thus leaving a space between said platen and the receptacle. In this space is arranged a yoke 42, which is shown more clearly by Fig. 9, said yoke being of less length than the width of the platen or receptacle. The yoke 42 forms a space for the reception of the pad 44, which is adapted to be forced tightly into the yoke, as shown by Figs. 2, 3, and 4, so that the pad will be confined within the yoke 42 and against the perforated wall 41 and the liquid-receptacle, whereby on the inversion of the plates 33 34 and the platen 37 the receptacle 39 will be carried to the inverted position (shown by Figs. 3 and 4) and the water will be permitted to flow from the receptacle into the pad. This operation takes place very quickly in order to limit the amount of water which will escape from the receptacle to saturate the pad, the latter being made of sponge compressed to a suitable condition, or it may be made of any other suitable absorbent material. It is evident that the pad 44 may be extended or carried into the receptacle 39 by forming a suitable opening in the wall 41, thus making provision for the reception of a portion of the saturated pad inside of the receptacle, whereby the necessity for a constant supply of unconfined liquid is obviated. The receptacle 39 is furthermore provided with a filling-port 45, which is adapted to be closed by a screw-plug 46, thus making provision for renewal of the liquid-supply in the receptacle for the saturatable pad thereof.

One of the important features of my invention is the stamp-gripper disposed in coöperative relation to the pressure-platen and having suitable operative connection with the inside main yoke 21, to be actuated partly by the latter and partly by suitable springs. This gripper is in the form of a plate 47, which is shown in detail by Fig. 10, said plate having an angle or bend 48 at a point intermediate of its length. At one edge the plate is bent at an angle to form the flange 49, and this plate is furthermore bent to provide the gripper-lip 50. Furthermore, the angular bent gripper-plate is formed with an opening or slot 51, which removes a suitable portion and skeletonizes the plates, so as to form two side bars, as shown by Fig. 10, and said gripper-plate is provided at its edge opposite to the flange 49 with the eyes 52. This slotted and bent gripper-plate is arranged for its side bars to pass through the spaces provided between the pressure-platen, the front wall of the receptacle 39, and the pad-receiving yoke 42, the flange 49 of said gripper-plate resting against the lower edge of the pressure-platen, while the lip 50 of the gripper-plate lies in advance of the cushion 38 on the pressure-platen. Furthermore, the inclined portion or bend 48 of the gripper-plate is adapted in the normal position of the parts (shown by Figs. 2 and 8) to rest against the upper angle or corner of the receptacle 39, which is formed by the juncture of the walls 40 41 of said receptacle. The operative connection between the gripper and the yoke 21 is obtained by the employment of a shaft 53, which is provided with the cranks 54 54^a, the arrangement of these parts being shown more clearly by Fig. 7. The shaft 53 extends across the upper edge of the gripper-plate, so as to fit loosely in the eyes 52 thereof, while the cranks 54 54^a extend from the gripper-plate toward the free terminals of the yoke 21, said cranks terminating in the studs or pintles 55, which loosely pass through the arms of the yoke 21 and are slidably received in the curved guide-slots 15, provided for their reception in the sides of the stand 10. As shown more clearly by Figs. 8 and 9, I employ two springs 56, arranged to bear against the gripper-plate, each spring being attached to the rear side of the pressure-platen and having its free end bowed toward the gripper-plate, so as to bear against one side bar formed by the slot 51 therein. In the normal position of the handle and the yokes the plates 33 34 are drawn into positions shown by Figs. 2 and 8 for the pressure-platen to occupy an upright position, whereas the gripper-plate 47 occupies a slightly-inclined position, with its flange 50 out of contact with the cushioned face of the pressure-platen. This is due to the fact that the crank-shaft assumes an inclined position between the eyes 52 and the terminals of the yoke 21, which

permits the springs 56 to force the gripper-plate in a backward direction, so that the angle 48 of said gripper-plate is seated against the angle or corner of the receptacle 39, the latter serving to limit the repression of the gripper-plate under the action of the springs 56, so that the gripper-lip 50 is not in engagement with the pressure-platen. This arrangement of the parts provides for the reception of an edge of the stamp between the gripper-lip 50 and the cushioned face of the pressure-platen, and immediately following the initial movement of the pressure-platen and the co-acting parts, due to the application of pressure upon the handle 29, the crank-shaft, under influence of the yoke 21, pulls the gripper-plate away from contact with the angle or corner of the receptacle 39 and allows the springs 56 to force the gripper-plate in a rearward direction, so as to make its lip 50 firmly grip the stamp. This firm engagement of the gripper with the stamp is obtained during the period of inversion of the plates 33 34, the pressure-platen, and the receptacle 39, such inversion of the parts being due to the continued application of the pressure upon the handle to make the parts assume the positions shown by Figs. 3 and 4 successively. As the pressure-platen is turned downward toward the position shown by Fig. 3, the lip 50 and the platen 37 retain the stamp and draw on the strip of stamps, so as to make that stamp which is to be affixed lie across the cushioned face of the platen, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 3, and as the upper edge of the platen clears a knife 57 the stamp is cut or severed at the proper line, so that the severed stamp will be disposed on the under face of the platen 37. Now on the continued depression of the handle the collar 30 rides against the outside yoke, so as to depress the latter against the energy of the springs 18, thereby giving the final downward movement to the pressure-platen and making the parts assume the position shown by Fig. 4. In the cutting position of the implement (shown by Fig. 3) the gripper holds the stamp, owing to the fact that the crank-shaft pulls on the gripper-plate; but when the parts change position, owing to the action of the handle on the yokes, the crank-shaft is brought to the substantially horizontal position shown by Fig. 4 and the gripper is released, so that it is free to have a limited idle movement, which permits the bent edge of the gripper to press against the piece of mail-matter and to be forced upward to the position shown by Fig. 4 as the platen 37 is forced downward to its final working position, whereby the stamp is released and pressed firmly upon the moistened spot of the envelop, while the gripper automatically disposes itself out of the path of the pressure-platen. When the hand-pressure is removed from the handle, the springs 23 29^b become active to force the yokes in the upward direction and return the operating parts to the position indicated by Figs. 1, 2, 5, and 8, and during this upward movement of the platen and the gripper the latter assumes the position where its lip 50 is free from the cushioned face of the pressure-platen, thus enabling the free edge of another stamp to be inserted between said lip 50 and the platen.

It should be remarked that the end of the moistening-pad 44 projects below the bottom wall of the receptacle 39 and in position to sweep across the face of a piece of mail-matter at the spot where the stamp is to be affixed thereto, whereby the letter or the like is moistened on the initial movement of the implement preliminary to the operation of cutting the stamp and pressing the same upon the moistened spot.

The knife 57 is secured to the stand across the latter and adjacent to the lower termini of the guide-slots 15, said knife having an inclined portion 58 and formed with a doubly-inclined cutting edge which terminates in the crest 59. The inclined portion of this knife disposes the cutting edge thereof very close to the path of the upper edge of the pressure-platen on the depression and inversion thereof, as hereinbefore described, whereby the stamp is drawn down by the gripper and the platen, so that it will be drawn across the edge of the knife and will be severed as the edge of the platen clears the edge of the knife, as shown by Fig. 3.

A strip of stamps may be coiled on a reel or led through a suitable tube at the option of the skilled constructor; but as these parts are not contemplated by this invention it has not been considered necessary to illustrate them. The stamp-strip is presented to the platen and the gripper by a movable stamp-slide 60, which is arranged at the front side of the stand and is hung or pivoted at its upper edge thereto, as at 61. This stamp-slide is provided on its rear side with a lug or lugs 63, arranged to ride against the side edges of the yoke 21 on the descent of the latter; but on the elevation of the yoke the stamp-slide is forced to an inwardly-inclined position by means of the springs 64, which are suitably mounted on the stand and press against the lugs 65 of the stamp-slide, in which lugs is mounted a roller 66. The strip of stamps is adapted to pass between the stamp-slide and its roller, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 2, and this stamp is forced by the fingers 67 against the cushioned face of the pressure-platen. The fingers 67 are preferably attached to the roller 66, so as to diverge from each other and to lie on opposite sides of the crest 59 on the cutting edge of the knife. On the descent of the inside yoke 21 the stamp-slide is forced outward to the position shown by Figs. 3 and 4 by the lugs 63 riding against the yoke, thus making the stamp-slide self-clearing with respect to the other operating parts of the implement. When the stamp is severed by the parts assuming the position shown by Fig. 3, a free edge of the stamp-strip projects be-

yond the stamp-slide, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 3, and on the upward withdrawal of the main yoke 21 from the stamp-slide the latter is returned by its springs 64 to the position shown in Fig. 2, at which time the fingers 67 press the protruding end of the stamp-strip past the crest of the knife and into proper position for engagement by the lip of the gripper.

Although I have described the implement as a means for affixing labels, it will be understood that it may also be used to affix any label or equivalent device preferably having one face coated with a mucilaginous film or other adhesive. It is also to be understood that parts of the invention may be used without the whole.

From the foregoing description it will be understood that I employ a pivoted guide which has sometimes been referred to as the "stamp-slide," said guide being disposed in the path of the platen and yieldable with respect thereto. This guide or stamp-slide is provided with a feed-slot 13, through which the stamp or label is adapted to be fed.

It is thought that the operation and advantages of this invention will be readily understood from the foregoing description, taken in connection with the drawings.

Changes within the scope of the appended claims may be made in the form and proportion of some of the parts, while their essential features are retained and the spirit of the invention is embodied. Hence I do not desire to be limited to the precise form of all the parts as shown, reserving the right to vary therefrom.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new is—

1. A device of the character described comprising a platen, a cutter, means for guiding or directing a label-strip close to said cutter, a gripper mounted on the platen to coöperate therewith, and means for actuating the platen and the gripper, as and for the purposes described.

2. A device of the character described comprising a frame, a cutter, a movable affixing-platen, a gripper carried by the platen, means for opening the gripper as the platen is pressed to an affixing position, and a moistener having means adapted to supply moisture to a surface prior to the application of a stamp or label, as and for the purposes set forth.

3. A device of the character described comprising a suitable frame, a platen, a cutter disposed adjacent to the path of the platen and above the affixing position thereof, a gripper mounted on said platen to coöperate therewith and adapted to travel with the same, means for opening the gripper at two periods of its travel with the platen, and a moistener, substantially as set forth.

4. A device of the character described comprising a suitable frame, a platen, a cutter, a gripper mounted on said platen and movable therewith through certain parts of the travel of the latter, means for closing the gripper as the platen approaches the cutter, means for releasing the gripper prior to the adjustment of the platen to its affixing position, and a moistener, substantially as set forth.

5. A device of the character described comprising a suitable frame, a movable affixing-platen, a cutter, means for directing or guiding a label-strip close to said cutter, a gripper movable with the platen and occupying a closed relation thereto as it recedes from the cutter, whereby the platen and gripper coöperate to draw the label-strip, means for releasing the gripper prior to the platen assuming an affixing position, and a moistener, substantially as set forth.

6. In an affixing implement, the combination with a movable pressure-platen, and means for actuating the same, of a gripper mounted on said platen and movable therewith, and a gripper-actuating mechanism to open the gripper with relation to the platen on the elevation of the latter and to keep the gripper closed on the descent of said platen, substantially as described.

7. In an affixing implement, the combination with a movable pressure-platen, and means for actuating the same, of a gripper loosely mounted on the platen and adapted to rise and fall therewith, means for closing the gripper on its descent with said platen, and means to positively open the gripper on the elevation of the platen, said means coöperating with the gripper-closing means to positively hold said gripper in the closed condition during certain periods of its movement with the platen, substantially as described.

8. In an affixing implement, the combination with a pressure-platen, and actuating means therefor, of a gripper connected with said platen to travel therewith, a cranked shaft connected with the gripper, means for actuating said shaft, and a retractor for the gripper, substantially as described.

9. In an affixing implement, the combination with a pressure-platen, and an actuating means therefor, of a flanged gripper, a yoke, a crank-shaft connected to said yoke and to the gripper, and springs acting against the gripper, substantially as described.

10. In an affixing implement, a pressure-platen provided with a receptacle and with a moistening-pad, and a gripper loosely fitted between said receptacle and the platen to be connected thereto for inversion with the parts, combined with a platen-actuating device arranged to invert the platen on its downward travel, and a gripper-actuating mechanism operable to hold the gripper operative during such inversion of the platen and to release the gripper at the period of pressing the platen upon the work, substantially as described.

11. In an affixing implement, the combination with a pressure-platen, an actuating means therefor and a gripper, of a stamp-slide pivotally mounted adjacent to the path

of the platen and yieldable to the movement of the latter, a cutter and means for normally holding the stamp-slide in the path of the platen and in position to supply stamps or labels to the same, substantially as described.

12. In an affixing implement, the combination with a pressure-platen and an actuating means therefor, of a hinged feed-plate provided with a guide-face and with fingers for a stamp or label, a cutter adjacent to the path of the fingers, and retractors for said feed-plate, substantially as described.

13. In an affixing implement, the combination of a pressure-platen, an actuating means therefor, a gripper movable with the platen and disposed in gripping relation thereto, gripper-actuating means to hold the latter in active relation to the platen during the descent thereof and operable to release the gripper on the final period of movement of the platen, a stamp-slide normally in the path of the platen, means for yieldably holding the stamp-slide in place, and a cutting device arranged to sever one stamp or label from a strip during the period of descent of the platen and the gripper, substantially as described.

14. In an affixing implement, the combination of a platen, an auxiliary yoke connected therewith, a gripper on the platen, a main yoke having a tube, a cranked shaft between the main yoke and the gripper, a handle, a resistance-stem, and the springs, substantially as described.

15. In an affixing device, a pressure-platen, and a gripper mounted loosely and in coöperating gripping relation to the platen, combined with means for giving reciprocating movement to the platen, and gripper-actuating devices arranged to positively hold the gripper in operative relation to the platen during the descent thereof and to release the gripper from its operative position at the final period in the downward travel of the platen, as set forth.

16. In an affixing device, the combination of a pressure-platen, a gripper movable with and in coöperating gripping relation to said platen, a platen-actuating device, and a gripper-actuating device to hold the gripper in operative relation to the platen during the descent thereof, said gripper-actuating device being operable to release the gripper at the final downward travel of the platen and thereby allow the gripper to be thrown out of operative position by the resistance offered by the surface upon which the label or other device is to be affixed, as set forth.

17. In an affixing device, the combination with a stand, a pressure-platen, and a hand-yoke connected to said platen, of a gripper cooperating with said platen, and another yoke having operative connection with the gripper, said yokes being operable with the platen and the gripper to depress the parts simultaneously and to keep the gripper closed until the platen reaches its affixing position, whereby the strain or pressure on the gripper is relaxed prior to the final downward thrust on the platen and said gripper is free from the stamp or label, as set forth.

18. In a stamp-affixing device, a pressure-platen, a gripper connected loosely thereto and disposed normally in coöperating relation therewith, and a retractor-spring acting against the gripper, combined with means for primarily actuating the platen, and means for actuating the gripper at the same time that the platen is made to rise and fall, said gripper-actuating means opening the gripper at the initial period of its descent with the platen, then closing the gripper into coöperative relation to the platen as the parts continue their downward movement, and finally releasing the gripper at the final period in the descent of the platen, substantially as described.

19. In an affixing device, the combination with a pressure-platen, and means for actuating the same, of a gripper, a gripper-actuating mechanism, a pivoted stamp-slide normally disposed in the path of the platen, and a spring for yieldably holding the stamp-slide in position and permitting it to clear itself on the descent of the platen, substantially as described.

20. In an affixing device, the combination of a stand, a movable affixing pressure-platen, a gripper, means for actuating said pressure-platen and the gripper, a cutter mounted on the stand and having a crest-formed cutting edge disposed adjacent to the path of said platen, and a stamp-slide mounted on the stand for yieldable movement relative to the path of the platen and to the cutter, substantially as described.

21. In an affixing device, the combination of a stand, a movable affixing pressure-platen, a gripper, actuating devices for the platen and the gripper, a crest-formed cutter mounted on the stand adjacent to the path of the platen, a stamp-slide, and retaining-fingers carried by the stamp-slide and disposed on opposite sides of the crest in the cutting edge of said cutter, substantially as described.

22. In an affixing device, the combination of a pressure-platen, a gripper coöperatively related to the platen, yokes having separate connections with the platen and the gripper to actuate the same simultaneously as set forth, and a yieldable hoof disposed in the path of the platen and adapted to engage therewith on its return upward movement to normal position, substantially as described.

23. In an affixing device, a pressure-platen provided in rear of its working face with a receptacle having the inclined and perforated walls and arranged to normally assume an upright position wherein the liquid contents of the receptacle lies away from the perforated wall, and a pad against the perforated wall, combined with a gripper, and means for actuating the platen and the gripper, substantially as described.

24. In an affixing device, a pressure-platen

having a receptacle and a pad in rear of the active surface thereof, and a gripper loosely confined between the platen and the receptacle and provided with an element in opposing relation to the platen's active face to cooperate therewith in gripping the article to be affixed, combined with devices for actuating the gripper and the platen, a stamp-slide, and a cutter, substantially as described.

25. In a device of the character described, the combination with a movable affixing-platen, and means for actuating the same, of a gripper movably connected to the platen and held in normal closed position by a retractor, means arranged to guide a label-strip to the gripper and platen in the raised position of the parts, a cutter, and devices disposed in coöperative relation to the gripper for opening the same while in the raised position and for giving like movement to said gripper when depressed with the platen below said cutter.

26. In a device of the character described, the combination with a platen, and means for actuating the same, of a yieldable guide having means actuated by the platen-operating devices, whereby the guide is positively thrown out of the path of the platen during certain periods in the movement of the latter, substantially as described.

27. In a device of the character described, the combination with a platen, and means for actuating the same, of a pivoted guide disposed in coöperative relation to the platen-actuating devices and provided with a chute through which a stamp or label is adapted to be fed, substantially as described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two witnesses.

BENJAMIN H. CALKIN.

Witnesses:
J. A. MARION,
T. MYNARD.