No. 726,779. PATENTED APR. 28, 1903.

A. M. SPAULDING.

VOTING MACHINE.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 29, 1902.

NO MODEL.

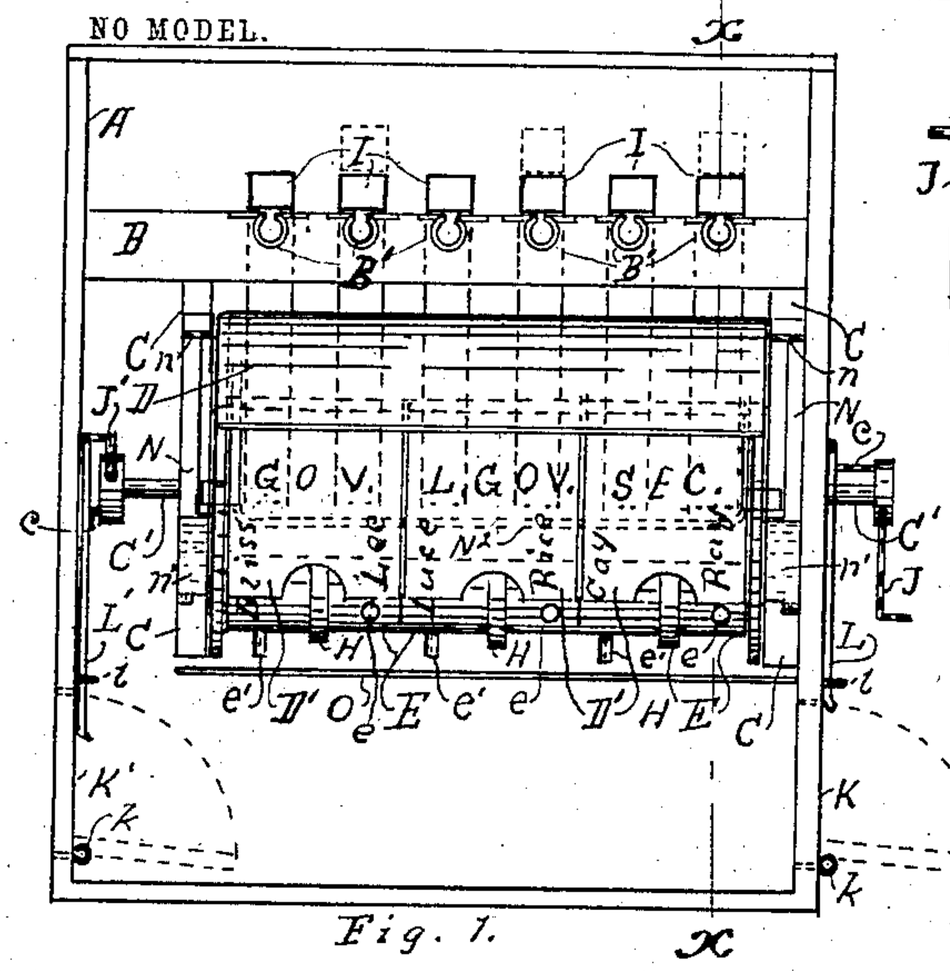

Fig. 1.

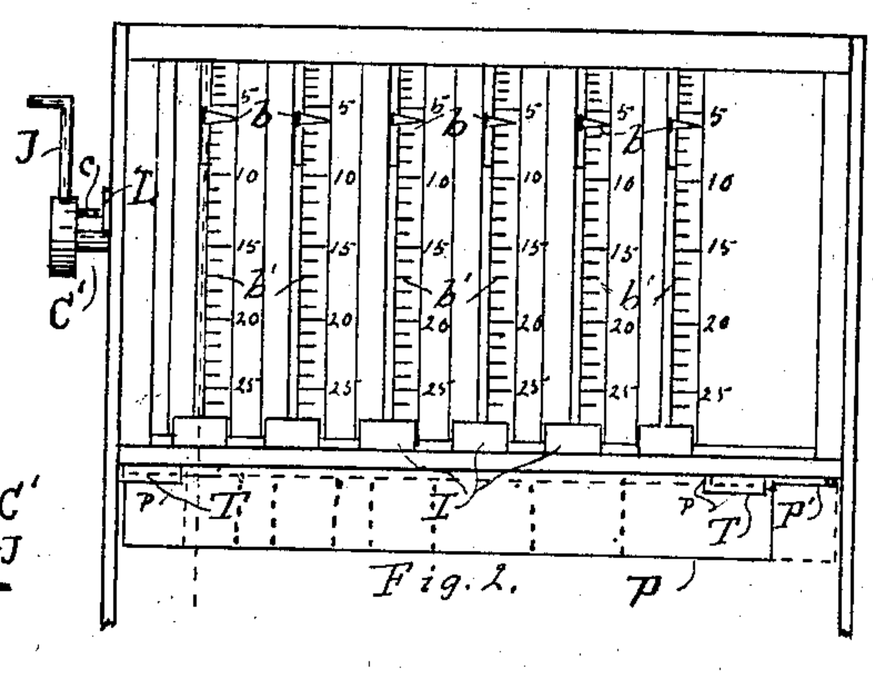

Fig. 2.

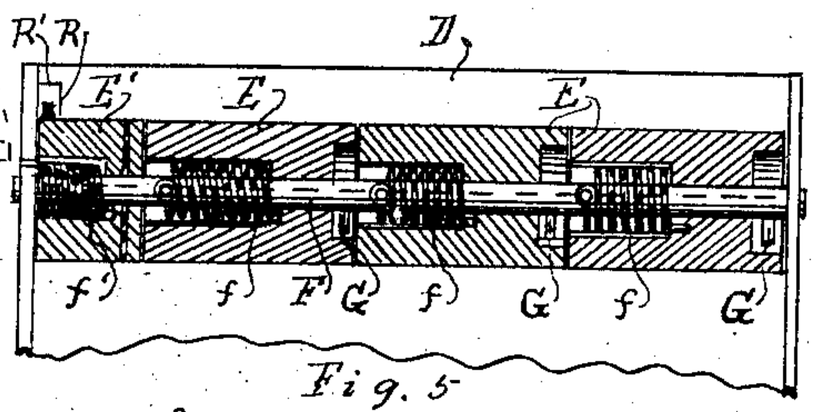

Fig. 5.

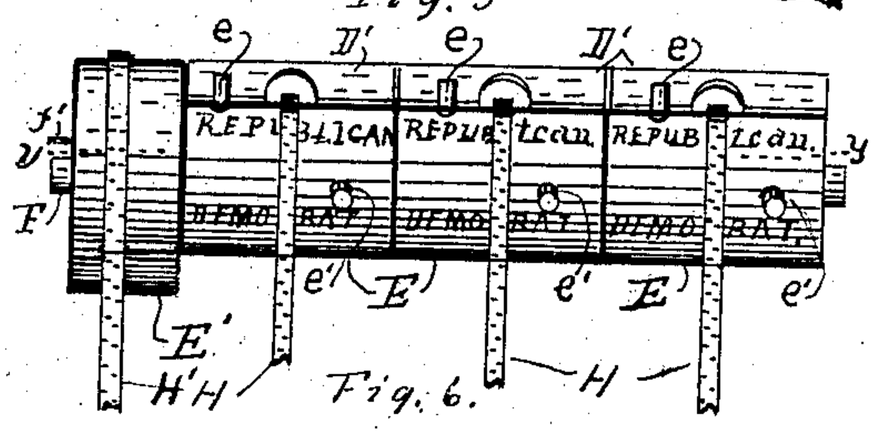

Fig. 6.

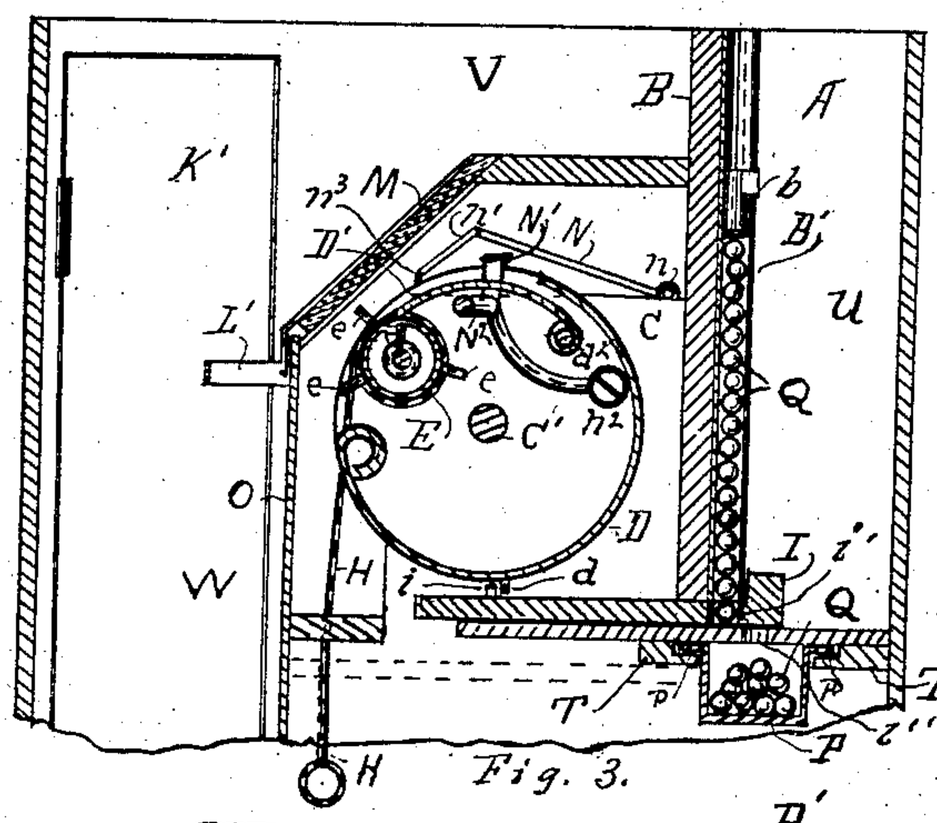

Fig. 3.

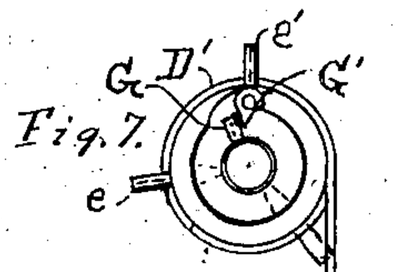

Fig. 7.

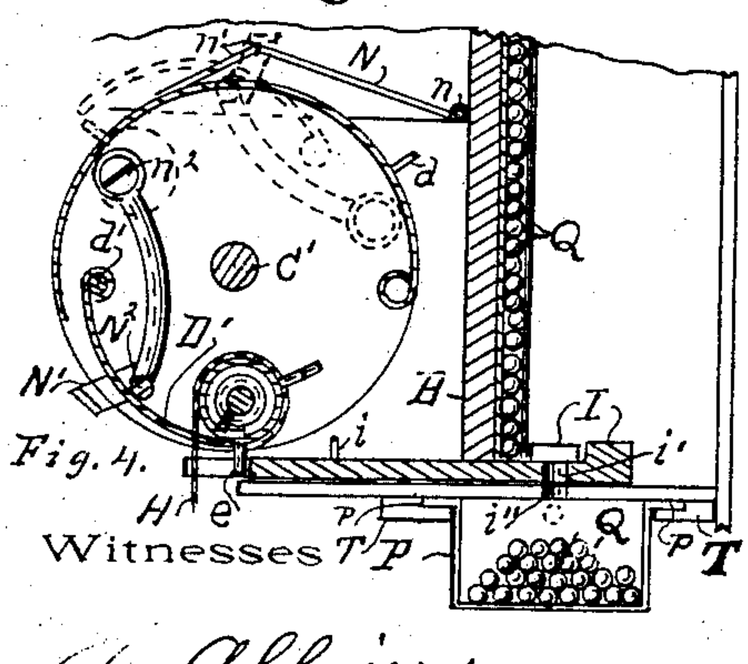

Fig. 4.

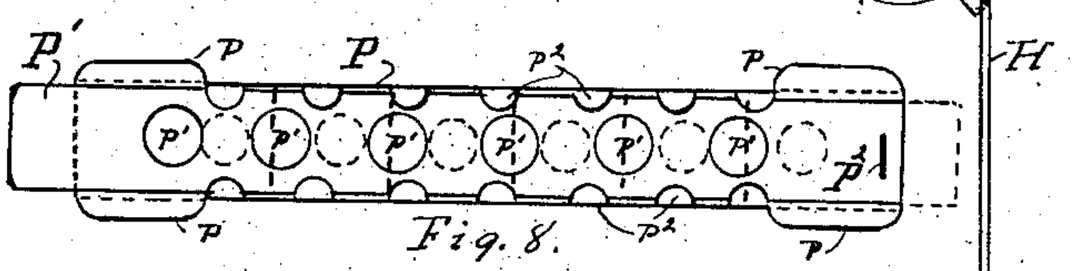

Fig. 8.

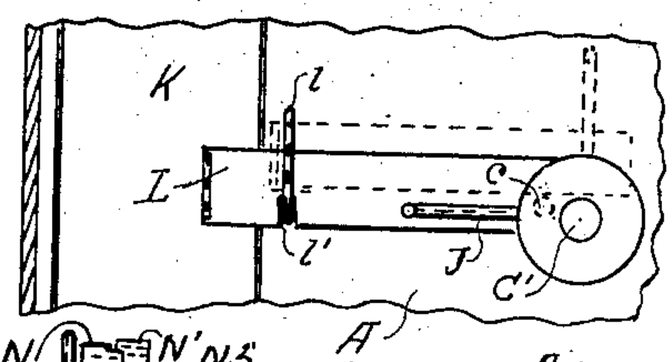

Fig. 9.

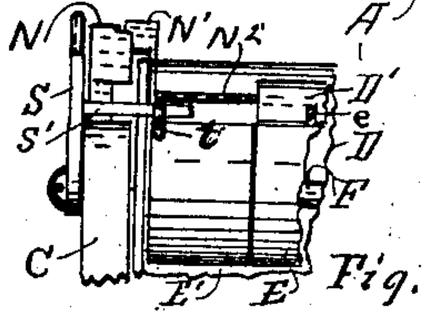

Fig. 10.

Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALMON M. SPAULDING, OF NEW ERA, MICHIGAN.

VOTING-MACHINE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 726,779, dated April 28, 1903.

Application filed December 29, 1902. Serial No. 137,018. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALMON M. SPAULDING, a citizen of the United States, residing at New Era, in the county of Oceana and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Voting-Machines, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in voting-machines for use at general, State, and county, or municipal elections; and its objects are, first, to provide a machine that will accurately and invariably record each and every vote cast; second, to provide a machine that may be easily and readily adjusted for voting either a straight ticket or a split ticket at the will of the voter; third, to provide a voting-machine with which it will be impossible for a voter to repeat or otherwise tamper with the ballots cast or to be cast; fourth, to provide for correcting errors before casting the ballot and at the same time to render it impossible to manipulate the machine after the ballot has been cast and while the voter is yet in the booth, and, fifth, to provide a voting-machine with which the register of votes may be instantly and accurately read by the returning-board as soon as the indexes are exposed to view and that will deposit and hold ballots in store for recount in case of disputed elections. I attain these objects by the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a top plan of the machine with the cover or roof removed. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the upper portion of the machine with the front removed to disclose the ballot-tubes and their indexes. Fig. 3 is a sectional end elevation of the machine on the line $x\ x$ of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is the same, showing the cylinder in position for registering the vote. Fig. 5 is a longitudinal section of the voting-sleeves on the line $y\ y$ of Fig. 6. Fig. 6 is an elevation of the same, showing a large pulley for actuating the shaft for voting a straight ticket and the manner of designating the several parties upon the adjustable voting-sleeves. Fig. 7 is an end view of the same. Fig. 8 is a plan of the ballot-depository removed from the machine with the receiving-apertures closed and the cover locked to place. Fig. 9 is a section of the side of the booth, showing the door secured and locked by the locking-latch; and Fig. 10 shows a lever attachment for manipulating the voting roll and sleeves for voting a straight ticket.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

A represents the inclosing booth, which is divided by the partitions B and C into practically three compartments—viz., U, V, and W. The front compartment U contains a series of tubes B′ for the reception of the balls or ballots Q and has a weight b in each tube, said weights each having an index-finger projecting through slots in the fronts of the tubes to the indexes b', as indicated in Fig. 2, to indicate upon the index the exact number of ballots cast for each candidate voted for at any election. During the casting of ballots the compartment U is closed, so that no one has access to it either to see the position of the index-fingers to ascertain the condition of the ballots or to interfere with or manipulate the ballots or weights.

Below each of the tubes B′ is a slide I, arranged when in its normal position to stand so that the aperture h' will register with the tubes, so that a ballot will drop from the tube into the aperture, and when the slides are thrown forward, as indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 1 and the section-lined slide in Fig. 4, this aperture is carried forward to register with the aperture i'' through the floor of the compartment, so that the ballot will drop through into the receptacle P, as indicated in Fig. 4. The receptacle P is divided into several compartments corresponding with the number of tubes, as indicated by the dotted cross-lines in Figs. 2 and 8, so that the ballots dropped from each tube are kept separate from all the others, thus keeping an exact register of all the ballots cast for each candidate. This receptacle is provided with a sliding cover P′, which is held to place by the ears p^2 and is provided with apertures p' for the passage of the ballots. When the receptacles is in place in the machine, the cover is slid back to the position indicated by the dotted lines to the right of Fig. 8, so that the

aperture p' will register both with the apertures i'' in the floor of the compartment U and with like apertures through the top of the receptacle, (indicated by the dotted circles between the apertures p' in the cover P′ in Fig. 8.) This receptacle is supported to the lower surface of the floor of the machine by the ears or lugs p engaging the lugs or slides T in such a manner that it cannot be removed from the case or machine except by sliding it endwise, as indicated by the dotted lines to the right of Fig. 2, which slides the receptacle and cover to the relative positions shown in Fig. 8, closing all of the apertures in the receptacle and locking the cover to place by a lock, (indicated at P^2,) so that the ballots cannot be removed until the receptacle has been placed in the hands of the proper officials having the key to the cover.

This voting-machine is operated as follows: The large drum D is supported upon the shaft C′, which in turn is journaled into or upon the side supports C in such a manner that the drum may be readily revolved. I also journal a shaft F to the ends of the drum D, near the periphery of the drum, and mount thereon a series of sleeves E E and a pulley E′. The pulley E′ is securely attached to the shaft F, so that it cannot be revolved without revolving the shaft. I place a coiled spring f' within this pulley, one end of which is attached to the pulley or the shaft and the other end is attached to the end of the drum, so that the rebound of the spring will always carry the shaft back to its normal position, with the pin R against the stop R′. (See Fig. 5.) I provide the shaft F with a series of pins G, one for each sleeve that engage the stops G′ in the sleeves E, so that these sleeves will be actuated by and made to revolve with the shaft F for the purpose of arranging the machine for voting a straight ticket, to be hereinafter more fully described. I place in each of the sleeves E a coiled spring f, one end of each of which is connected with the sleeve and the other end with the shaft, so that they hold the stops G′ normally in contact with the pins G, so that they must revolve with the shaft F for the purpose hereinbefore stated; but by reason of the open space in the ends of sleeves each sleeve may be operated independent of the shaft or of the other sleeves for the purpose of arranging to vote a split ticket, as follows: Each of the sleeves E has as many radiating pins e e' as there are tickets in the field or candidates for the offices represented by the respective sleeves. Thus if there are two parties in the field, as indicated in Fig. 6, there would be two pins upon each sleeve. If there were three or more parties to be represented, additional pins would be placed accordingly. When the sleeves are in their normal position upon the shaft, with the stops G′ against the pins G, all the candidates names in each party-ticket are in a direct line, so that all that will be necessary to vote a straight ticket will be to turn the shaft F to the proper position by means of the belt H′, the lever S, or otherwise acting upon the pulley E′, as and with the effect hereinbefore suggested. The position of the shaft of sleeves to vote for the candidates desired is determined by the adjustable stops D′, against which the pins representing the candidates to be voted for must rest. One end of these stops is pivoted to the drum D by means of a shaft d^2 or other suitable device, and the other end rests upon the sleeves E, practically as shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, so that the pins e or e', designed to actuate the slides I that represent the candidates to be voted for, will be held against the stops by the springs f and f' in position, so that when the drum D is carried around to the position represented in Fig. 4 the proper pins e or e' will come in contact with the back ends of the proper slides I and slide them forward until the apertures i' and i'' register, as and for the purpose hereinbefore stated, and when the drum is turned back to its normal position (indicated in Figs. 1, 3, and 4,) the cleat d will engage the pins i and draw the sleeves I back to normal position, so that the apertures i' will register with the tubes B′ and receive from them additional ballots ready for the next voter. To vote a split ticket, the sleeves E must be manipulated independent of the shaft F or of each other by pulling upon the belts or cords H until the desired pins e or e', &c., are brought to bear upon the stops D′, when the drum D is to be manipulated the same as when voting a straight ticket. When the drum D is revolving back from the position shown in Fig. 4 to its normal position, that shown in Fig. 3, the slide N′ engages the upper surface of the incline N and travels up to the point n', at which point the trip N^2, which passes under the stops D′, raises the stops high enough so that the pins e or e' may pass back under them and the sleeves and shaft F return to their normal position. This incline N is pivoted to the support C, as at n, and the support N^2 is pivoted to the ends of the drum D, as at n^2. When the lever S is used to actuate the shaft F, it is pivoted to the support C and has an arm B′, that extends over and engages the pin t on the pulley E′, (see Fig. 10,) or the attachment may be made in any other available way.

The drum D and its several attachments are inclosed in a case having a glass front M, so located that the voter can easily see the office, candidates, and party names, the office and candidates names being placed upon the stops D′ and the party names being placed upon the sleeves E in position to clearly indicate the pins e or e', that represent the several parties and candidates to be voted for, as indicated in Figs. 1 and 6. The drum should be placed at a proper height for the voter to easily and conveniently see the candidate and party names and at the same time

have the ends of the straps H and H′ perfectly accessible and in position to be conveniently operated.

K represents the door where the voter enters the booth to vote, and K′ is the door through which he leaves the booth. The latch L, that secures the door K, is pivoted to the crank J in such a way that when the drum D is in its normal position, as in Fig. 3, the door K can be opened and the voter may enter the booth to vote, and at the same the latch L′ so secures the door K′ that it cannot be opened until the drum D is thrown around to the position indicated in Fig. 4 for casting the ballot, when the latch L′ will be drawn back, and the door K′ is free to open for the egress of the voter; but the door K will be securely locked by the latch L, so that it cannot be opened until the drum is again turned back to normal position, which can only be done by the guard on the outside by disengaging the notch l' from the staple l. (Shown in Fig. 9.) The latch L′ has an exactly similar locking device, hidden by the partition O in Fig. 3. The door K should open outward and the door K′ should open inward, as indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 1.

The cover P′ of the receptacle P should be of a proper length to just fill the distance between the walls of the booth, as shown in Fig. 2, and the receptacle P should be enough shorter so that when it is inserted and slid to the left to engage the lugs T the apertures i'' through the floor of the compartment U, p' through the cover P′ of the receptacle, and those through the top of the receptacle (represented by dotted circular lines between the apertures p' in Fig. 8) will exactly register; but when the receptacle is slid to the right to remove it from the machine the apertures through the cover and into the receptacle will be closed, as in Fig. 8.

If in arranging the sleeves E for voting a split ticket the voter has passed one or more of the candidates he desires to vote for and has placed the pins representing candidates he does not wish to vote for against the stops, he can correct the mistake by raising the latch L′ and throwing the drum D around from its normal position until the slide N′ passes the point n^3 on the incline N, when the drum must be returned to its normal position, in which case the slide N′ passes up over the incline, raising the trip N^2, and with it the stops D′, so that the pins e or e' may return to their normal position, and the sleeves E may be again arranged to form the ticket desired to be voted by the voter. To illustrate: If a man desired to vote for the Republican governor and the Democratic secretary of state and in the manipulation of the strap H′ he has set the sleeves for the straight Republican ticket, it is evident he cannot return the sleeve representing the Democratic secretary, as the pin G in contact with the stop G′ precludes the possibility of the sleeve turning back. In this case the voter should turn the straight Democratic ticket, this being the first to arrange itself before the stops D′, and then carry the Republican governor's sleeve to position by pulling upon the strap H, that controls the proper sleeve, and so on to the end of the ticket, and if there are several tickets in the field and the voter wishes to split extensively he should draw only the first straight ticket in line and arrange all other individual candidates to position by manipulating the individual sleeves representing the candidates to be voted for, or, if preferable, the springs f may be made sufficiently long and flexible to allow the sleeves E to be revolved around far enough to return to the candidate desired without the necessity of returning the shaft F to its normal position. This may be accomplished by the use of the pivoted stop G′ (shown in Fig. 7) or by any of the ordinary application of the pawl-and-ratchet or other well-known appliances for actuating mechanism of this character, as and for the purpose stated.

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

1. In a voting-machine, an inclosing booth, vertical ballot-tubes slotted and indexed, horizontal transfer-slides beneath said tubes, an actuating-drum, actuating-sleeves journaled upon said drum, radiating pins upon the sleeves, pivotal stops upon the drum engaging said pins, and holding them in position to engage the transfer-slides substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a voting-machine, an inclosing booth, vertical ballot-tubes within said booth, said tubes slotted and indexed, horizontal transfer-slides beneath said tubes and having apertures registering with said tubes, a divided receptacle beneath said slides and having apertures arranged to register with the apertures in said slides, an adjustable and self-locking cover upon said receptacle, a revoluble actuating-drum, revoluble actuating-sleeves journaled in said drum, actuating-springs connected with said sleeves, actuating-pins radiating from said sleeves, stops pivoted to the drum in position to engage the pins, an adjusting-trip and inclines arranged to disengage the stops from the pins, an actuating-cleat d on the drum and corrresponding pins i on the slides, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a voting-machine, an inclosing booth, vertical ballot-tubes in said booth, horizontal transfer-slides beneath said tubes and having apertures arranged to register with the tubes, a divided receptacle beneath said slides and having apertures arranged to register with the apertures in the slides an actuating-drum, an actuating-shaft and sleeves journaled upon said drum, pins upon the sleeves and corre-

sponding stops pivoted to the drum, a trip and actuating-inclines upon the drum, a shaft supporting the drum, cranks upon said shaft, entrance and exit doors to the booth, latches eccentrically pivoted to the cranks and supported in position to automatically lock the respective doors at opposite positions of the drum, an actuating-cleat upon the drum and corresponding pins upon the slides, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

Signed at Grand Rapids, Michigan, December 24, 1902.

ALMON M. SPAULDING.

In presence of—

ANDREW ALLGIER,

ITHIEL J. CILLEY.