

No. 737,238.

PATENTED AUG. 25, 1903.

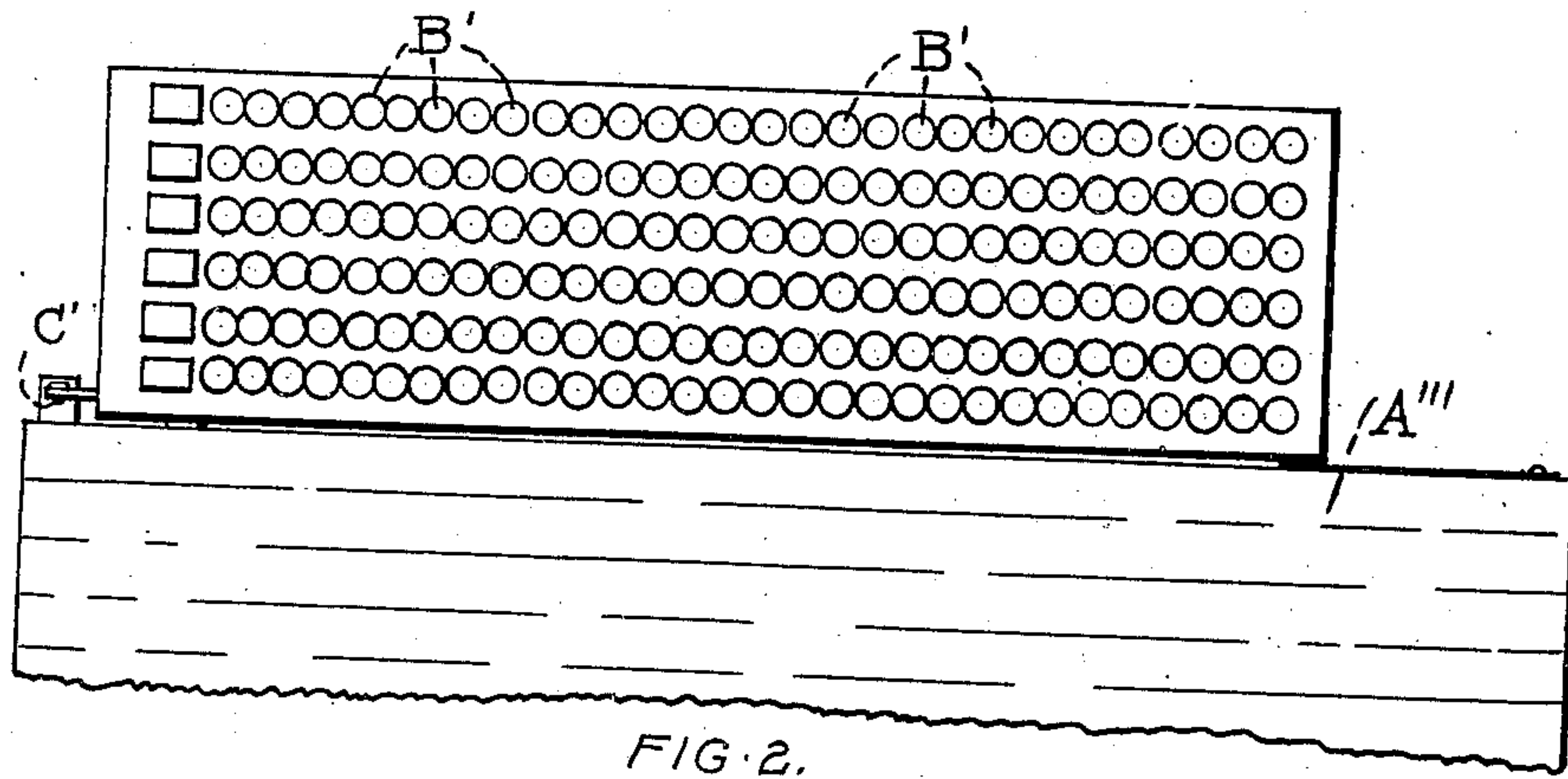
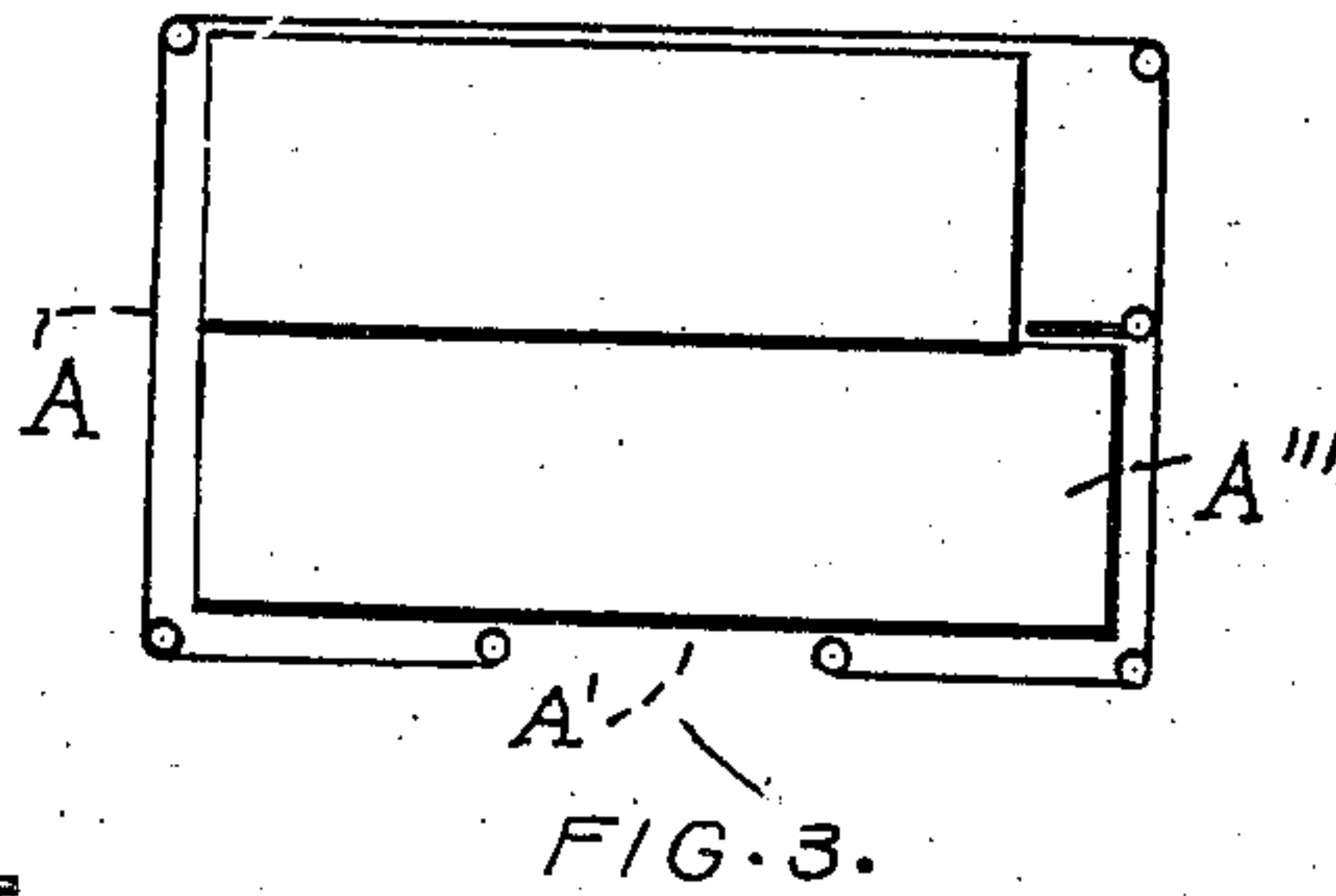
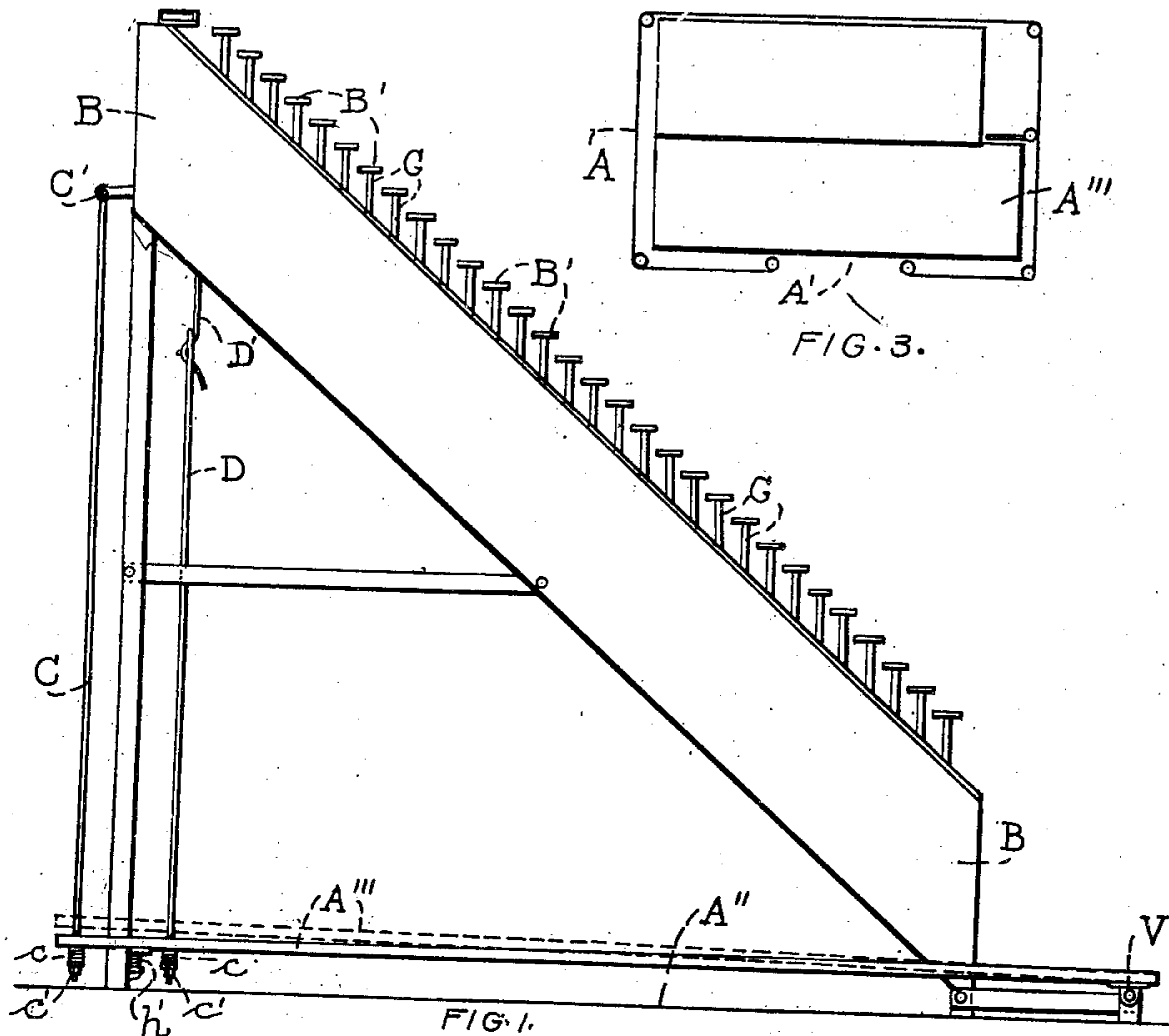
J. T. HOOD.

VOTE RECORDING AND VOTER'S NUMBER REGISTERING MACHINE.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 11, 1903.

NO MODEL.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1



WITNESSES:
Wm. Gordon.
Emma Hackel

INVENTOR
Joseph Turner Hood
BY
Eugene Ayres
ATTORNEY

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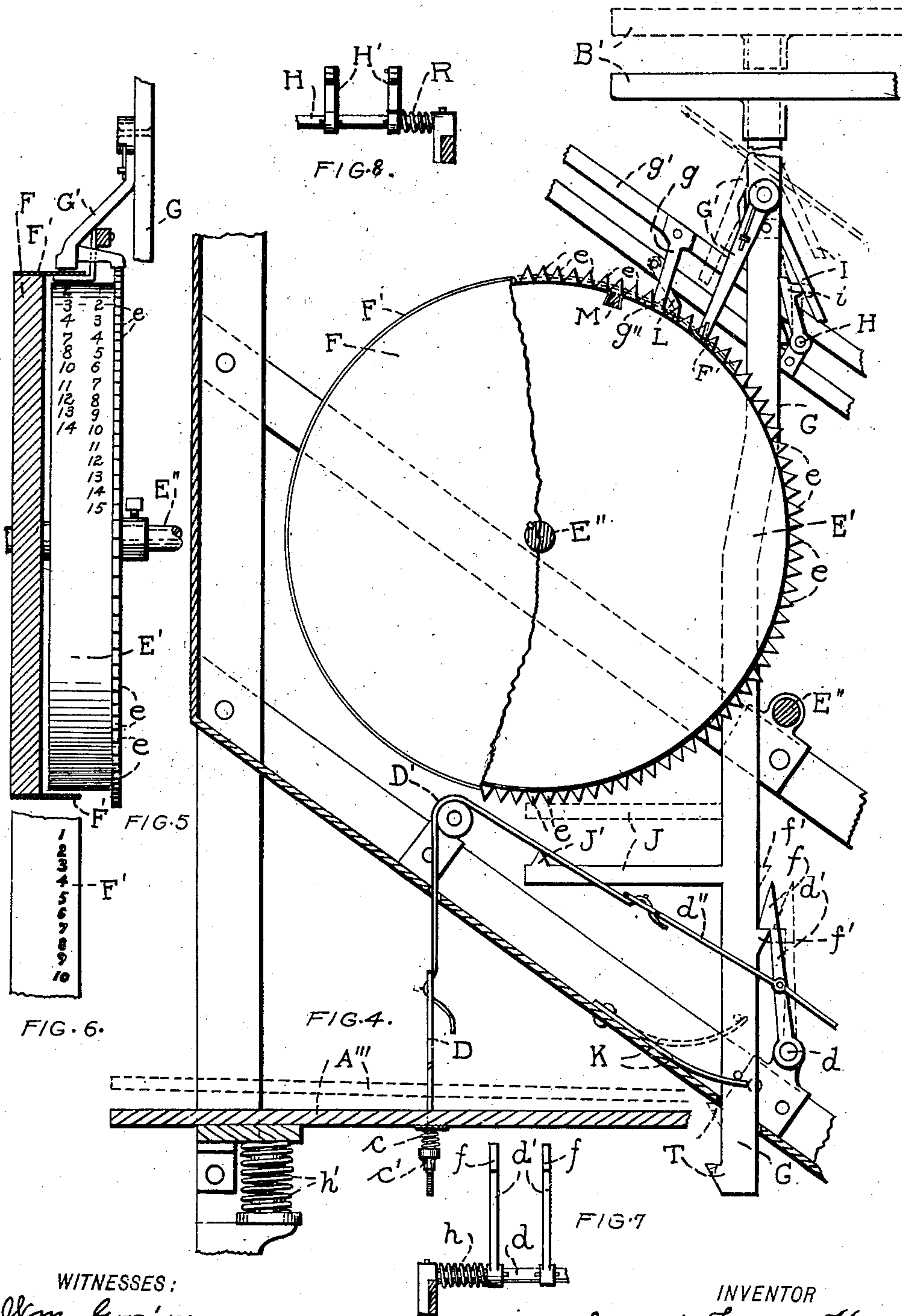
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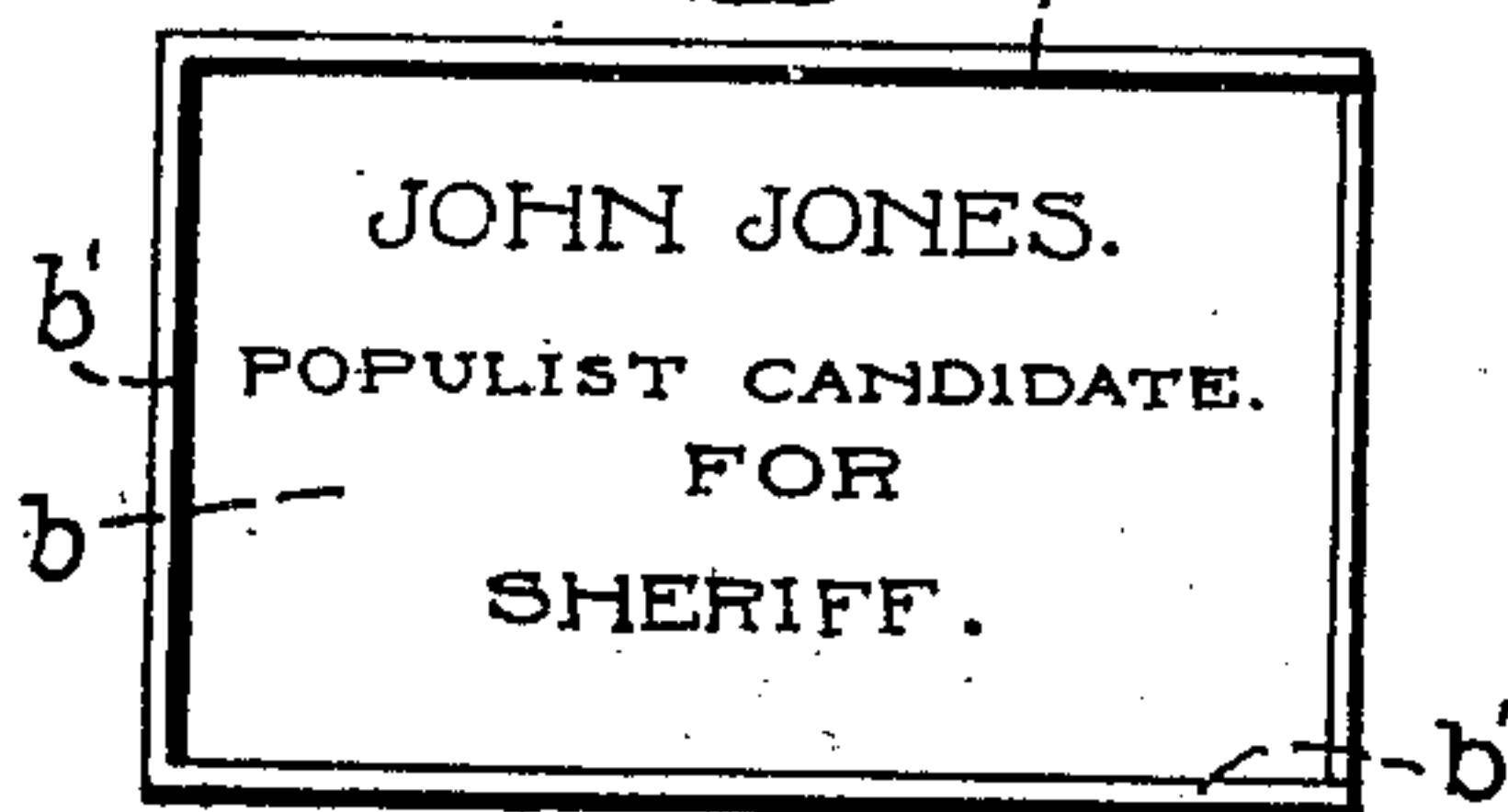
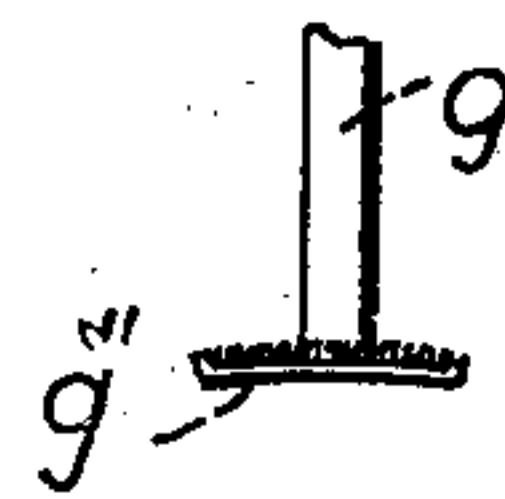
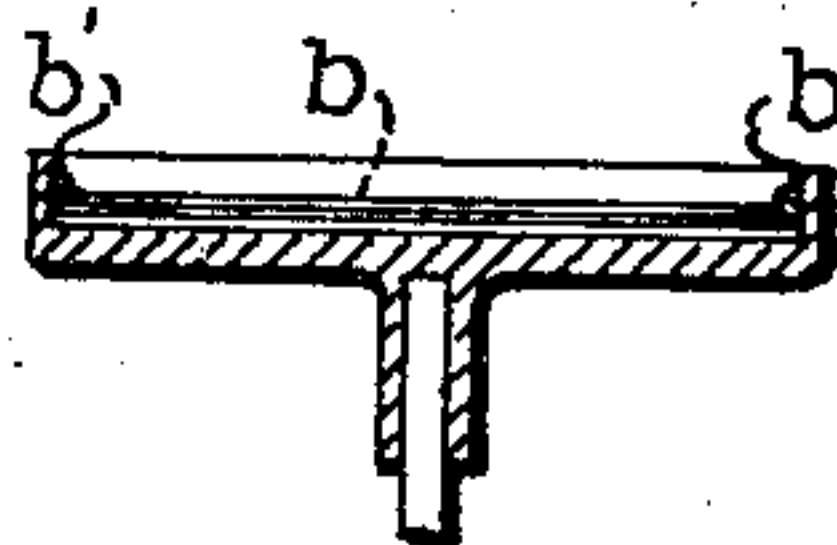
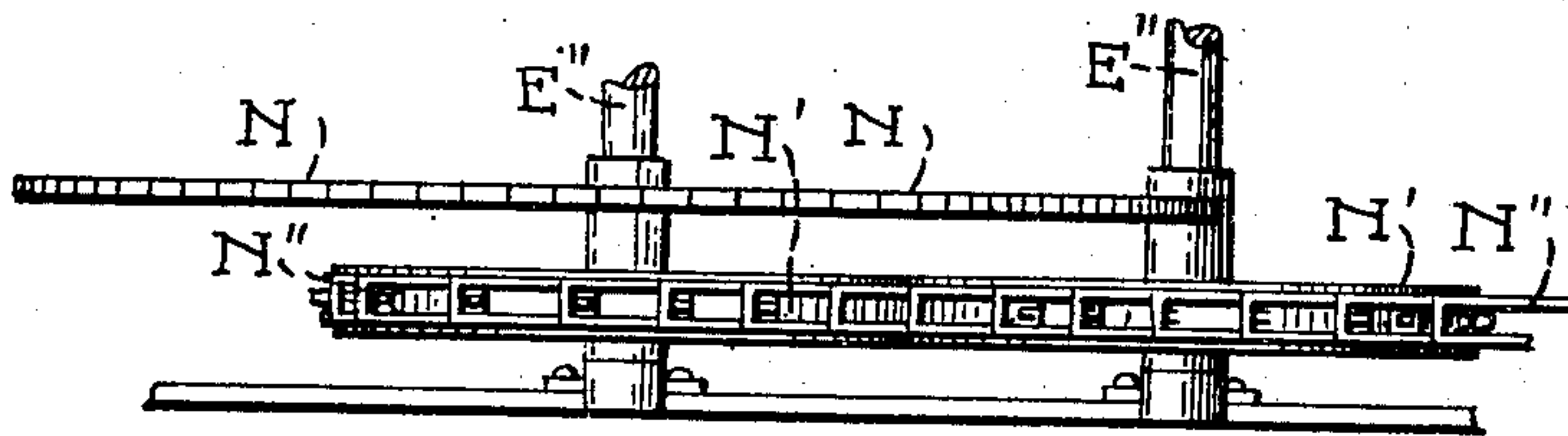
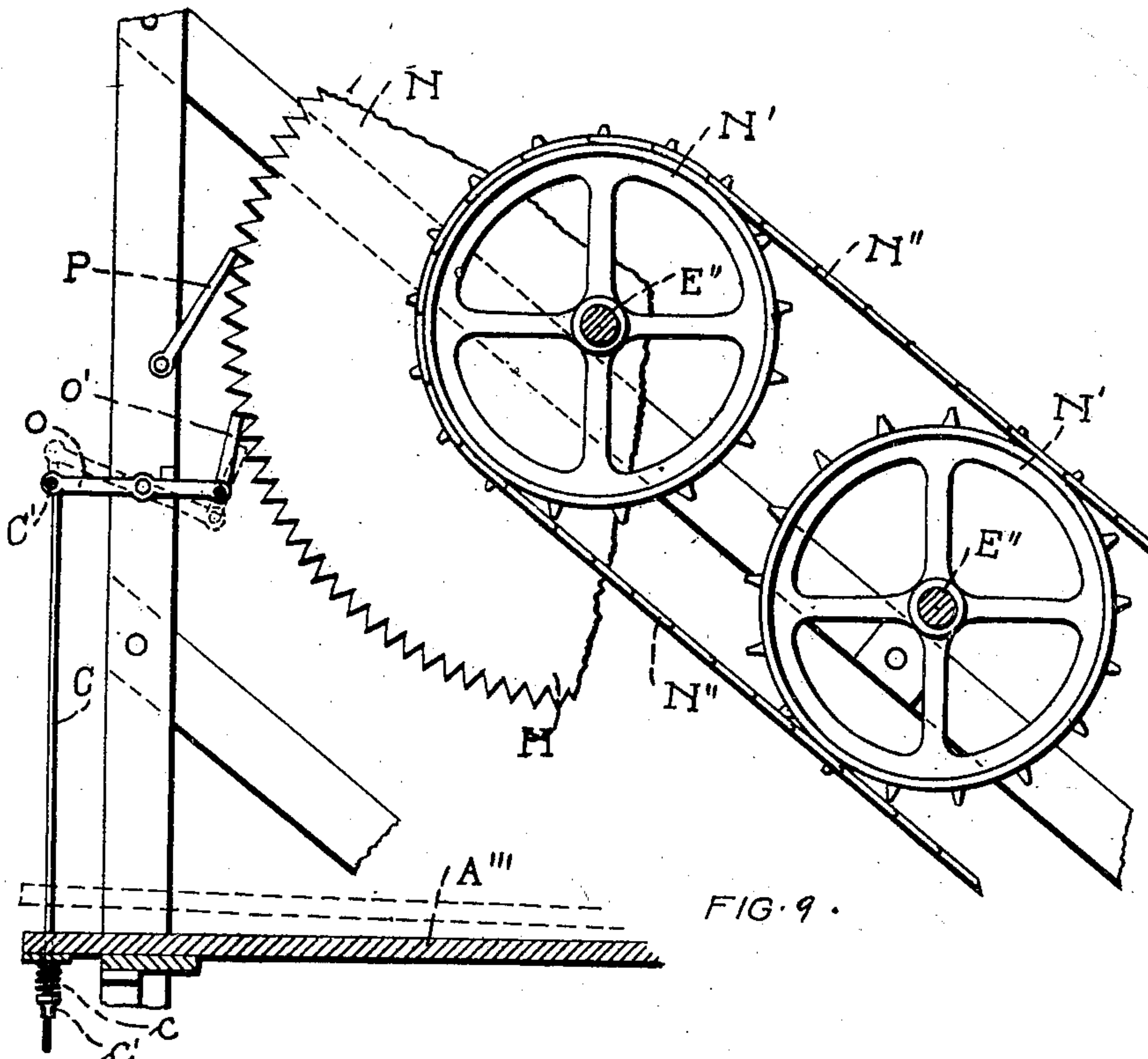
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INVENTOR
Joseph Turner Hood
BY
Eugene Ayres,
ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH TURNER HOOD, OF ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI.

VOTE-RECORDING AND VOTER'S-NUMBER-REGISTERING MACHINE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 737,238, dated August 25, 1903.

Application filed February 11, 1903. Serial No. 142,856. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH TURNER HOOD, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Joseph, in the county of Buchanan and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Vote-Recording and Voters'-Number-Registering Machines; and I do declare the following to be 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The object of my device is to provide a machine by which the entire force of counting clerks and the ordinary ballot and ballot-distributing judges may be dispensed with, in which absolute secrecy of the ballot is secured and ballot-box stuffing prevented, by which an exact record is instantly made of each candidate voted for and the registered number of the person who voted for said candidate.

I accomplish my object by the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the device, showing the rigid and depressible floors, the keys and rod connections between said depressible floor, and the registering and recording mechanism. Fig. 2 is a top view of the machine and the depressible floor, broken away. Fig. 3 is a plan of the machine and booth and its entrance. Fig. 4 is a detail of the mechanism operating the device. Fig. 5 is a cross-section of the registering-wheel and a face view of the recording-wheel, showing the face when covered by a strip of paper that takes the place of an ordinary ballot, said figure also showing a detail of a dog in position to operate on the registering and recording wheels. Fig. 6 is a section of a registering rubber band. Fig. 7 is a detail of a locking device connected with the depressible floor. Fig. 8 is a detail of a locking device having connection with a rod that carries the key. Fig. 9 is a side view of the pawl and sprocket-wheel and chain operating the registering device and having connection with the depressible floor. Fig. 10 is a face view

of the same. Fig. 11 is a vertical section through the center of a key. Fig. 12 is a side elevation of the key. Fig. 13 is a top view of a key, and Fig. 14 is a detail of an inking-pad with an arm shown broken away.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

A represents a booth about five by five feet in size with a single entrance A'. This booth is provided with a rigidly-set lower floor A'' and with a depressible floor A'''. Two or more coiled springs operate at the rear between the depressible and rigid floors, and the depressible floor is connected with the front of the booth by means of two or more hinges. This depressible floor sinks with the voter's weight the instant he enters the booth, thereby bringing into position a registering device and also bringing into position a locking device which precludes the possibility of any voter voting more than once for the same candidate at the same election. The instant the voter steps out of the booth said coiled springs elevate the depressible floor into its normal position.

B is a side of the machine; B' B', the keys of the machine, each of which is adapted to hold a small card containing the candidate's name, office, and party, as indicated by Fig. 13. The face of this key is a flat piece of glass b. This glass is held in position by three edges of the key b' b' crimped, with sufficient room to permit the card to be shoved between the key and the glass.

C is a rod connecting the depressible floor to the registering device. It passes through said floor and is provided with a coil-spring c and an enlarged nut c'. This spring is designed to counteract the effect of any unusual jolt or weight on said depressible floor. This rod articulates with the registering device by means of a hinge-joint C'. Rod D and its connection with the depressible floor are identical with rod C; but it is also connected with a locking device, consisting of a shaft d and its detent d', by means of strap D' and is riveted to said strap.

E is a wheel whose face is adapted to contain a slip of paper recording the number of votes. This wheel is metal, preferably about five inches in diameter. It is provided with a smooth face E', about one-half inch wide,

upon and around which passes a slip of paper about one-half inch in width, on one half of which are the consecutive numbers "1" to "100" and the other half of which is left blank, as shown in Fig. 5, for the purpose of receiving from the stamping device the registering number of each voter. Projecting past the face of this wheel E and extending around the wheel are cogs *e e*. This wheel revolves on axle E".

F is a metal wheel with a one-fourth-inch face, to which is attached a printing device F', consisting of a rubber band about nine-sixteenths of an inch wide, on the inner side of which are cast raised consecutive figures "1" to "100," as shown in Fig. 6. About four-sixteenths of an inch of the width of this band and the entire length thereof are taken up with raised figures to be used in stamping the number of each voter. The four-sixteenths of an inch of the remainder of this band is securely fastened to the face of wheel F. About four-sixteenths of an inch of the band containing the raised numbers and the remaining one-sixteenth of an inch extends over the face of wheel F in order that when wheels E and F are brought together side by side the four-sixteenths containing the raised figures will cover the blank one-half inch referred to and shown at the right hand of Fig. 5. Wheel F is stationary upon axle E".

G is rod about three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter, the upper end of which contains a key B' and which passes downward in proximity to wheels E and F entirely through the machine. Attached to rod G is a dog G', as shown in Fig. 5, for the purpose of moving forward cog *e* and a number on the slip of paper on the face of wheel E and which also comes in contact with and presses upon the rubber band on the face of wheel F, the inner side of which band contains the raised figures, which pass over inking device *g* and receive the ink, leaving an impression of each voter's registered number on the blank face of the paper slip opposite the printed number of votes received up to that time by a candidate.

H is a shaft, and H' a detent rigidly attached forming a locking device designed to lock the mechanism of all keys of all candidates for the same office other than the one voted for. This detent accomplishes the locking by being drawn under lug *i* on rod G when key B' depresses rod G and its connecting mechanism, among which mechanism is arm I. By this movement arm I draws detent H' to the locking position under lug *i* of all rods G G, connected with keys B' B', which contain the names of candidates for the same office except the name of the candidate voted for. Shaft H passes horizontally entirely through the machine and is attached at each end to opposite sides of the machine. It is not rigidly fastened, but attached so as to permit a slight movement of said shaft with

its detent when being operated. I, the arm of rod G, projects at such an angle as will bring it into direct contact with its corresponding detent H', thereby operating said locking device when key B', attached to rod G, is depressed.

d is a shaft with rigidly-attached detents *d' d'*, comprising a second locking device designed to hold down keys B' B' when depressed and their connecting mechanism, thus precluding the possibility of a voter voting while in the booth more than once for any candidate for the same office. This shaft extends horizontally entirely through the machine and is parallel to the shaft in the first-described locking device H H'. The ends of shaft *d* are so connected with the sides of the machine as to permit a slight motion, similar to like connection of shaft H with the sides of the machine. Shaft *d* is also connected with every other shaft *d* in the machine, of which there are preferably about thirty, by means of a rod *d''* and is attached by a hinged joint to one *d'* on each shaft. *d'* has a lug *f* on the extreme end away from its shaft which articulates with a like reverse lug *f'* on rod G, so that when key B' and its attendant mechanism are depressed lugs *f* and *f'* are engaged, *d'* and its lug *f* having been brought into proximity of rod G by means of the voter's weight on depressible floor A''' and its connections D D' and *d''*.

J is an arm rigidly attached to rod G, which projects horizontally to a position directly vertical below the center of wheel E and is adapted to contact with cogs *e e* by means of lug J' for the purpose of locking all wheels E E not in use when the keys are in normal position. An inking-arm *g*, carrying pad *g''*, is attached to a rod *g'*, of which rods there is a series running parallel with the machine.

L is a pawl attached to a rod, which is one of a series similar to rods *g' g'* and is designed to counteract any possible reverse motion of wheel E.

M is an aperture in the face of wheel E, into which is fitted a small piece of rubber, which is designed to hold the ends of the strip of paper on the face of wheel E.

h is a coil-spring attached to and acting on shaft *d*, which causes detents *d' d'* to resume their normal position when the weight of the voter is removed from the depressible floor.

h' h' are strong coil-springs operating between the depressible and stationary floors, causing the depressible floor to resume its normal position when the weight of the voter is removed from the floor.

Ratchet-wheel N is attached rigidly to one of the ends of axle E".

N' is one of a series of sprocket-wheels also attached rigidly to the ends of axles E'' and connected by means of an endless chain N'.

O is a lever for the purpose of operating pawl O', which pawl operates wheel N when the voter steps into the booth upon the depressible floor. Wheels N N' and endless

chain N'' having thus been acted upon move all wheels F forward the distance of one number, which number corresponds with the voter's registry-number.

5 P is pawl designed to prevent any reverse movement of wheels N N' and endless chain N''.

R is a coiled spring acting upon shaft H and detents H' H'', causing said detents to resume their normal position when key B' is released and assumes its normal position.

K is a flat spring serving to raise and hold keys B' B' and their mechanism in position.

15 T is a lug to prevent said keys going higher than their normal position.

V V are hinges to the depressible floor.

In voting the voters are admitted into the booth singly in the order in which their names are registered on the accompanying poll-books. Stepping into the booth the voter's weight acting upon the depressible floor through rod C, hinge-joint C', lever O, pawl O', wheels N and N', and endless chain N'' moves wheel F forward one number, which

25 number corresponds to his registered number as shown by the poll-book. This weight upon the depressible floor also acting upon rod D, strap D', and rod d'', shaft d and detent d' spring into position, and the voter with

30 his fingers presses down the key B', containing the name of the candidate he desires to vote for. By this pressure the key B' is forced about a half-inch below its normal position and held in that position by lug f, engaging lug f'. In this movement arm I presses detent H' from its normal position into contact with and under lug i. Dog D' being thus depressed comes in contact with cog e and moves it forward one cog and one number.

40 By the same movement printing device F', having previously passed over inking-pad g'', was depressed upon the blank side of the slip of paper on the face of wheel E, leaving an impress of the voter's registered number

45 opposite the total number of votes received by that candidate up to that time. The operation following the pressure upon key B' must be repeated for each candidate voted for. Upon the voter leaving the booth the

50 depressible floor resumes its normal position by means of springs h' h', and detents d' d' also resume their normal position, and keys B' B' are likewise brought into normal position by means of spring K. The machine is

55 then ready for the next voter to enter the booth.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

60 1. In a vote-recording and voter's-number-registering device the combination with the registering and recording wheel provided with cogs, of a key, a rod carrying said key, a dog attached to said rod and adapted to engage with said cogs and a rubber band with

65 which it contacts and upon which it presses leaving an impression of the voter's number,

a slip of paper covering the face of the recording-wheel and upon which the number is impressed, said mechanism being designed to feed the record-receiving mechanism and complete the operation of printing the voter's number upon the record-receiving mechanism, substantially as described and for the purpose specified.

2. In a vote-recording and voter's-number-registering machine the combination with a voting-booth of a stationary floor and a depressible floor and its supporting-springs, the sprocket and ratchet wheels having axle connection with the registering-wheel and the rod having connection with the depressible floor and its lever and pawl through which the registering-number is moved forward one number each time the floor is depressed, the keys and their rods adapted to be depressed by the voter, the recording-wheel and the dog by which it is moved forward one number, and the rubber band with which said dog contacts and leaves the impress of that voter's number as it appears on the poll-book, the pawl to prevent a reverse movement of the recording-wheel, the arm attached to the rod carrying the key and its corresponding detent and lug adapted to lock the rods carrying the keys of all candidates for the same office not voted for, the detent having connection with the depressible floor and the rod and strap by which connected and the lug upon the key-rod with which it engages when said key-rod is depressed, and the spring adapted to elevate the rod and key to their normal position thus adjusting the machine for the next voter, substantially as described.

3. In a vote-recording and voter's-number-registering device the combination with the registering and recording wheel, of the rubber band on the face of said registering-wheel containing raised figures and the dog having connection with the key-rod adapted to contact with said rubber band and leave an impression of the voter's number and the slip of paper on the face of the recording-wheel upon which said impression of the number is made, substantially as shown and for the purpose specified.

4. In a vote-recording and voter's-number-registering device the combination with the key and its rod, of the arm and its corresponding detent and the lug upon the rod and with which said detent engages, the same being adapted to lock the rods carrying the keys of all candidates for the same office not voted for, all substantially as set forth.

5. In a vote-recording and voter's-number-registering machine the combination with the key and its rod, of the depressible floor and its springs, of the shaft and its spring and detent, of the lug on said rod with which said detent contacts and forms a locking device and the rod and strap by which said detent has connection with said depressible floor, said floor and mechanism being designed to

operate the above-mentioned locking device, substantially as described and for the purpose specified.

6. In a vote-recording and voter's-number-
5 registering machine the combination of a depressible floor, the connecting-rod, its lever and pawl, the ratchet-wheel engaged by said pawl, the sprocket-wheels and their chain and the wheels and rubber bands adapted to
10 be moved forward automatically as the floor depresses one number of the printing device, all substantially as set forth.

7. In a vote-recording and voter's-number-
registering device the combination with a
15 vertically-set rod and its key of the spring

attached to the rod near its base adapted to raise and retain said rod and key in position when the rod-lug is released from its detent-lug engagement, and the lug at the bottom of said rod to assist in preventing said rod and key being carried above their normal position, substantially as described and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOSEPH TURNER HOOD.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM GORDON,
ANDY B. KERR.