No. 742,275. PATENTED OCT. 27, 1903.

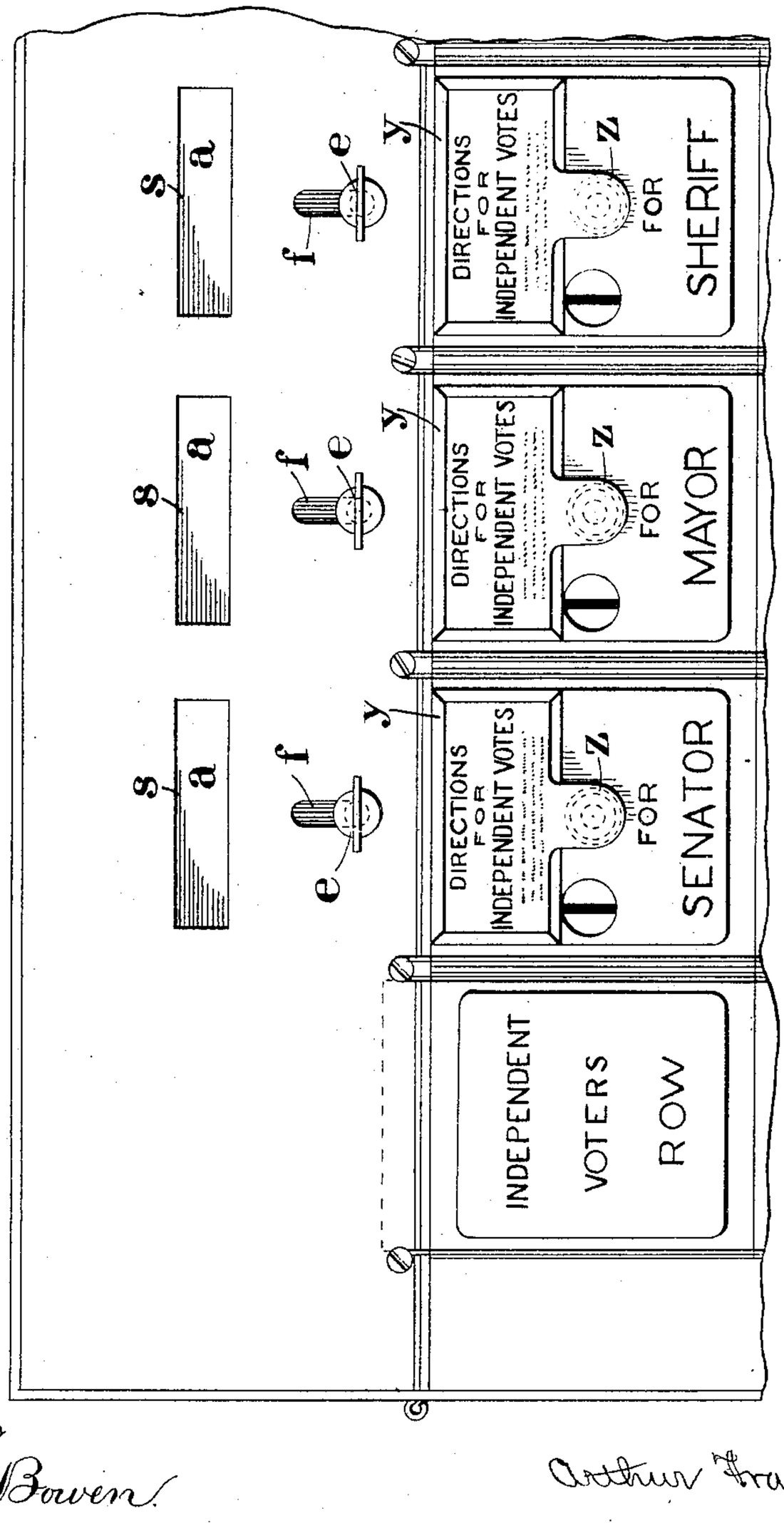
A. F. BARDWELL.

VOTING MACHINE.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 5, 1903.

NO MODEL. 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.



Witnesses
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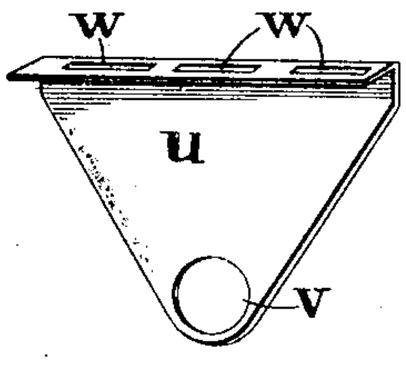
NO MODEL. 2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 5.



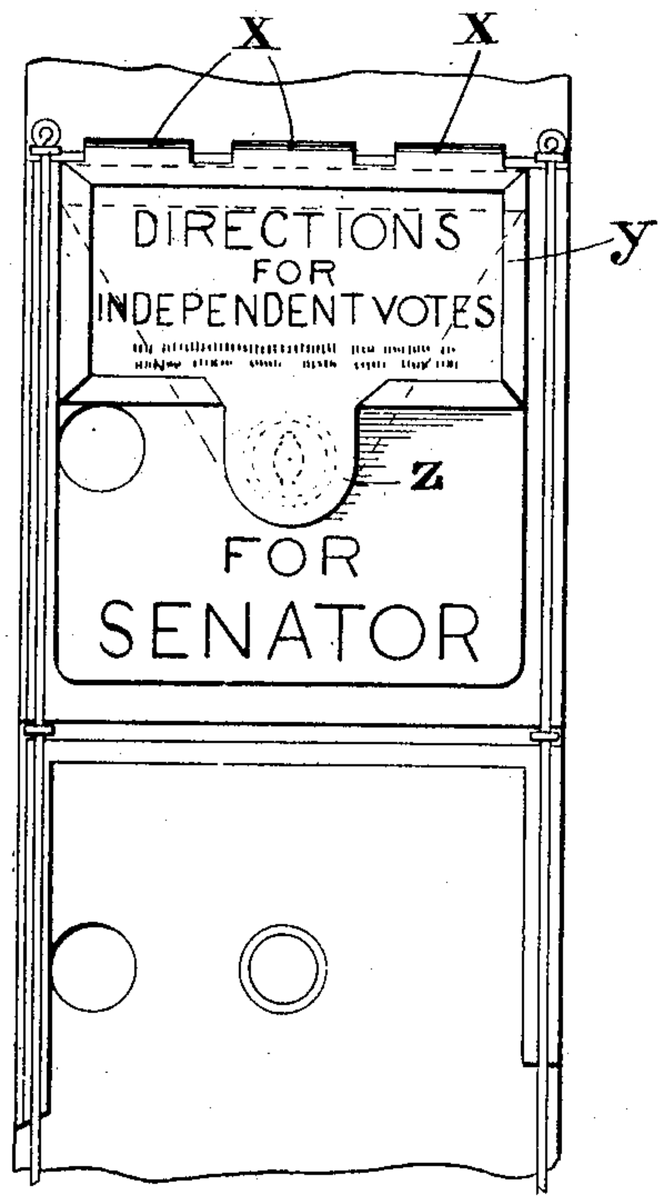
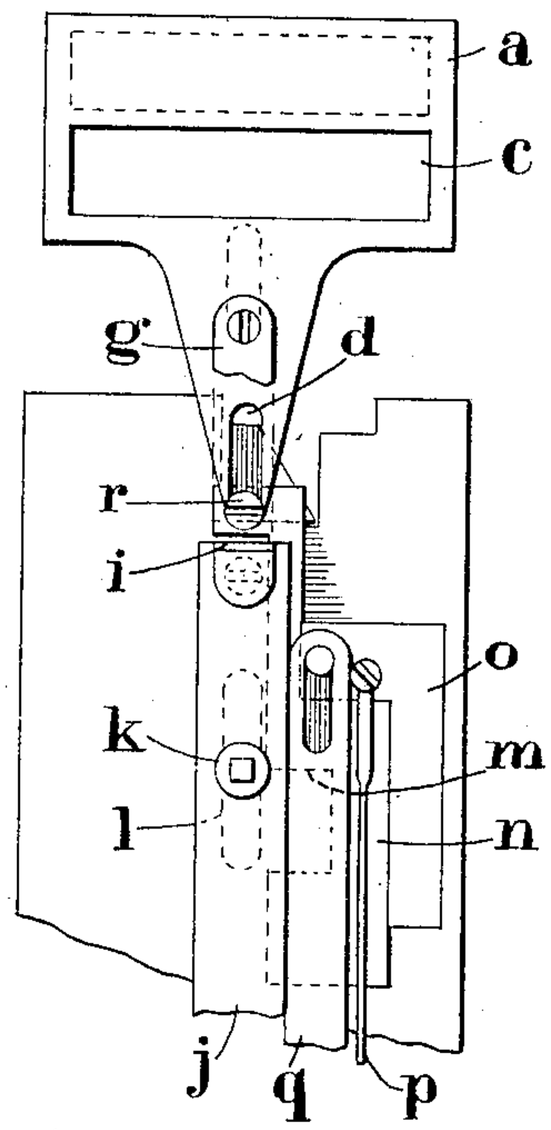


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.



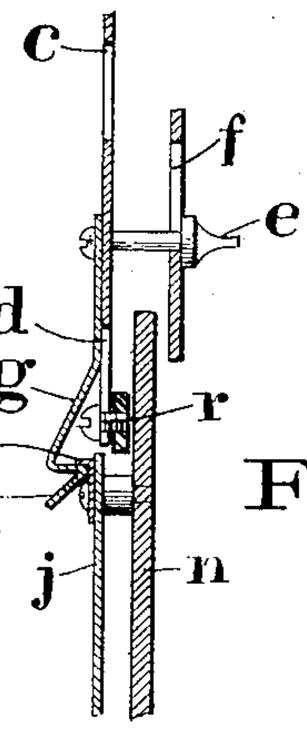


Fig. 4.

Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ARTHUR FRANCIS BARDWELL, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO FREDERICK ALBERT BARDWELL, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

VOTING-MACHINE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 742,275, dated October 27, 1903.

Original application filed November 21, 1902, Serial No. 132,349. Divided and this application filed June 5, 1903. Serial No. 160,225. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARTHUR FRANCIS BARDWELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Voting-Machines, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to improvements in devices for enabling a voter who does not wish to vote for any of the candidates nominated for a given office and who desires to cast a vote for a candidate whose name does not appear on the regular ballot to register his choice—that is, to vote "independently," as it is called—and this application is filed in compliance with a requirement for division made in the application, Serial No. 132,349, filed by me November 21, 1902.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a front view of so much of a voting-machine as is necessary to illustrate my invention. Fig. 2 is a detail showing in front elevation the keyhole-closure for the independent-ballot device. Fig. 3 is a detail showing in rear elevation the hand-operated shutter for the independent-ballot device. Fig. 4 is a central sectional view of the shutter mechanism, and Fig. 5 is a detail of the hinge-plate for the keyhole-cover shown in Fig. 2.

In my new construction the slidable shutter *a*, which normally (or in its lowered position) covers the web of the independent-ballot roll, is raised by the independent voter by hand. The slidable shutter *a* is formed with a horizontal slot *c*, through which the web of the roll is disclosed to view by raising said shutter, and is further formed with a vertical slot *d* in its lower end. To the said shutter is secured a thumb-piece *e*, the shank of which projects through a vertical slot *f* in the upper face-plate of the machine. To the rear face of said shutter *a* is secured a spring *g*, which is bent, as shown in Fig. 4, to form a spring-catch and is provided with a lip *h* and adapted to engage under the detent *i*, secured to the stationary strip *j*. The shutter is locked in its lowered position by the engagement of the spring-catch with the detent *i*. By turning the independent-ballot actuator *k* (which is like the independent-ballot actuator of my Patent No. 696,925, granted April 8, 1902, and so need not be further described) its lower ear *l* is made to engage the upper ear *m* of the twin-eared slide *n*, and thereby to raise the said slide and the L-shaped plate *o*, to which the spreader-rod *p* and the resetting-strip *q* are secured, as shown in Fig. 3. Projecting from the rear face of the twin-eared slide *n* is a screw-stud *r*, which when the said slide is raised forces outwardly the spring-catch *g*, and thereby disengages it from the detent *i*. The independent voter can now by pressing upwardly on the thumb-piece *e* raise the shutter *a* until its slot *c* registers with a slot *s* in the upper face-plate of the machine, and thereby discloses the web of the ballot-roll to view. When the resetting-strip *q* is drawn down by the resetting-slide, as described in my said patent, the L-shaped plate *o*, connected with said resetting-strip, is also drawn down, carrying with it the twin-eared slide *n* and the shutter *a*, and thereby shielding the roll from view. As the shutter moves downward the lip *h* on the spring-catch *g* rides on the detent *i* until the shutter reaches its lowered position, at which time the catch *g* engages with the detent *i*, and so locks the shutter in its lowered position.

The mechanism for shifting the web of the ballot-roll and the connection of said mechanism with the entrance and exit bars is the same as that described in my said patent and need not be further alluded to here.

After the independent-ballot actuator *k* has been turned forward a half-turn (the limit of its movement) it may be turned backward to the same extent and no more. This movement resembles that of the ordinary door-lock. But the backward turning of said actuator will not restore all the parts to the position which they had prior to its forward turning, for the L-shaped plate *o*, to which the spreader-rod *p* and spreader are attached, will remain in its raised position, as it should in order to prevent the subsequent turning of any other actuator in that column and the consequent casting of an illegal ballot there-

by. Hence where a voter inadvertently turns an independent-ballot actuator *k* he cannot by turning said actuator backward restore to himself the privilege previously had of turning one of the other actuators in that column. To minimize the opportunities for such an inadvertence on the part of the voter, the following provision is made: A triangular hinge-plate *u* is formed with a hole *v* in its lower end and is thereby adapted to fit over the escutcheon of the keyhole, through which access is obtained to the independent-ballot actuator *k*, as described in my said Patent No. 696,925. The upper edge of said hinge-plate *u* is bent over, and the flange so formed is provided with slots *w*, adapted to receive the ears *x*, which are formed on the upper edge of the shield-plate *y* and are bent over to form a hinge for said shield-plate. The two side edges and parts of the lower edge of the shield-plate are turned inwardly to form a holder for a card having instructions for independent voters printed thereon and giving notice that the keyhole underneath the shield-plate gives access to the actuator of the independent-ballot mechanism. Projecting downwardly from the middle of the lower edge of said shield-plate is a keyhole-cover lug *z*, which covers the keyhole just referred to. In order to obtain access to said actuator, the voter must raise the shield-plate and deliberately uncover the said keyhole. By this construction inadvertence on the part of the voter is effectually guarded against.

What I claim is—

1. In a voting-machine, the combination of a key-operated actuator; a manually-operated shutter; means for locking said shutter in its closed position; and means driven by said actuator for releasing said locking means.

2. In a voting-machine, the combination of a key-operated actuator; a manually-operated shutter; means for locking said shutter in its closed position; means driven by said actuator for releasing said locking means; and a resetting device.

3. In a voting-machine, the combination of an actuator; a shutter adapted to be manually opened; means by which said shutter is closed and locked; and means operated by said actuator for releasing said locking means to permit said shutter to be opened.

4. In a voting-machine, the combination of an actuator; a manually-opened shutter; means for closing said shutter; mechanism by which the closing of said shutter is made to lock it in its closed position; and means for releasing said locking means to permit said shutter to be opened.

5. In a device for registering "independent" votes, the combination of a shutter; locking means therefor; and a key-operated actuator by which said locking means are released to permit the operation of said shutter.

6. In a device for registering "independent" votes, the combination of a shutter; automatic locking means therefor; and a key-operated actuator by which said locking means are released.

7. In a device for registering "independent" votes, the combination of a shutter; mechanism for simultaneously closing and locking said shutter; and means for releasing said shutter to permit its being manually opened.

8. In a device for registering "independent" votes, the combination of a shutter adapted to be manually opened; mechanism for simultaneously closing and locking said shutter; and means operable by the voter for releasing said shutter to permit its being manually opened.

9. In a device for registering "independent" votes, the combination of a machine-casing formed with a hole through which access is obtained to an actuator; said actuator; and a manually-operated cover for said hole.

10. In a device for registering "independent" votes, the combination of a machine-casing formed with a hole through which access is obtained to a voting mechanism; said voting device; and a cover for said hole; and means for securing a label in said cover.

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