

No. 760,056.

PATENTED MAY 17, 1904.

T. CORY.
KEY FOR VOTING MACHINES.
APPLICATION FILED MAR. 9, 1903.

NO MODEL.

FIG. 1.

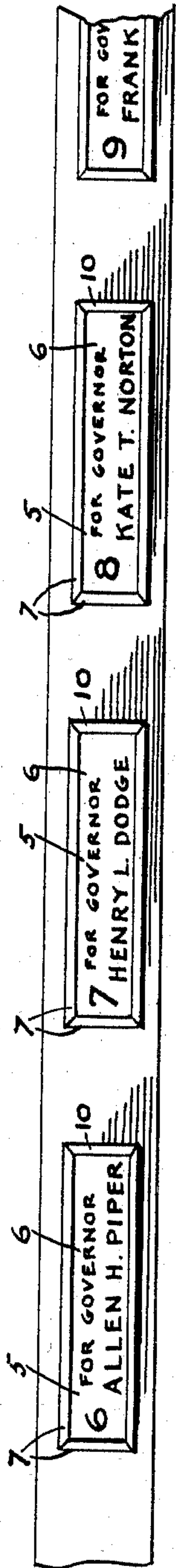


FIG. 4.



FIG. 3.

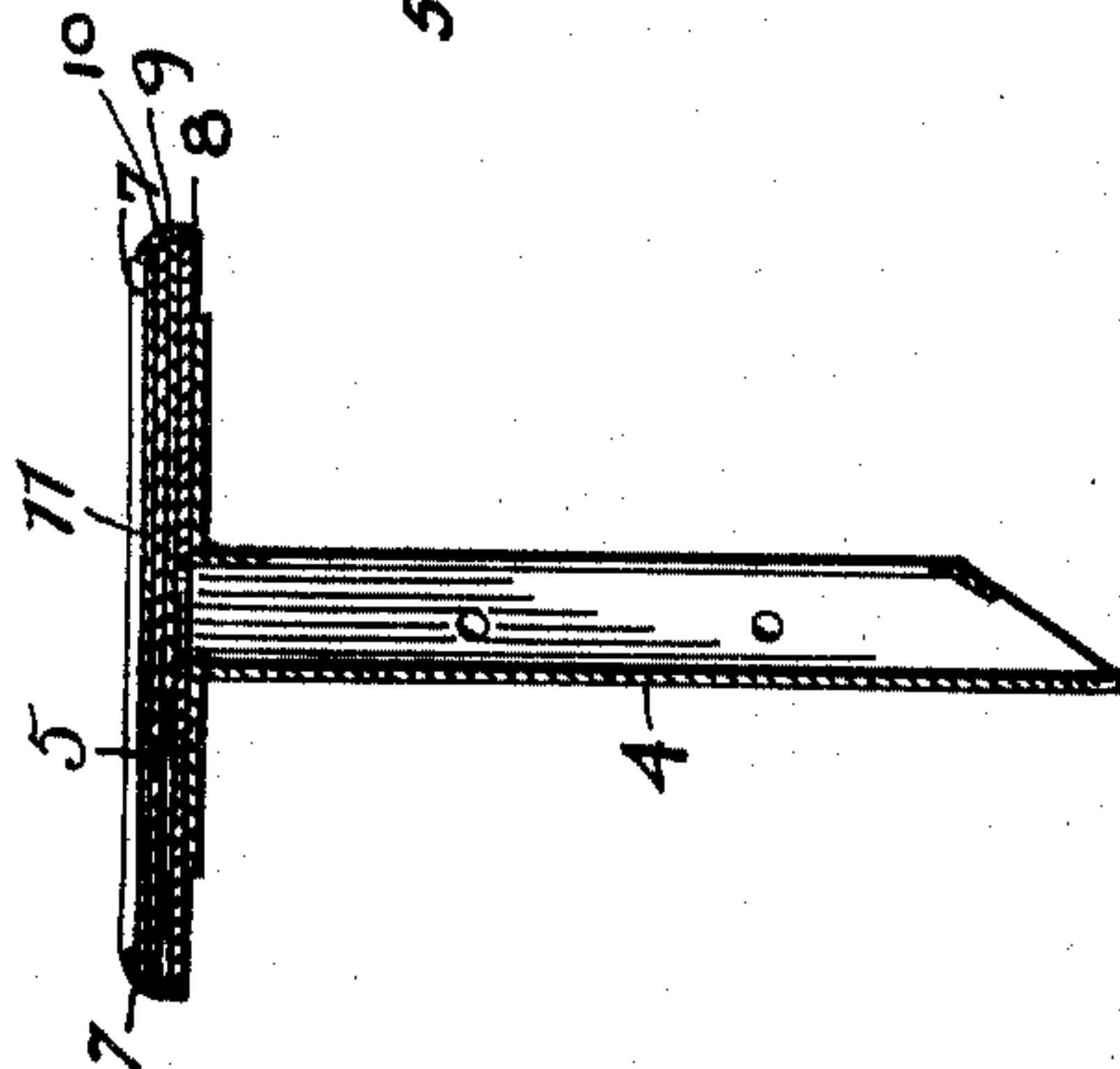
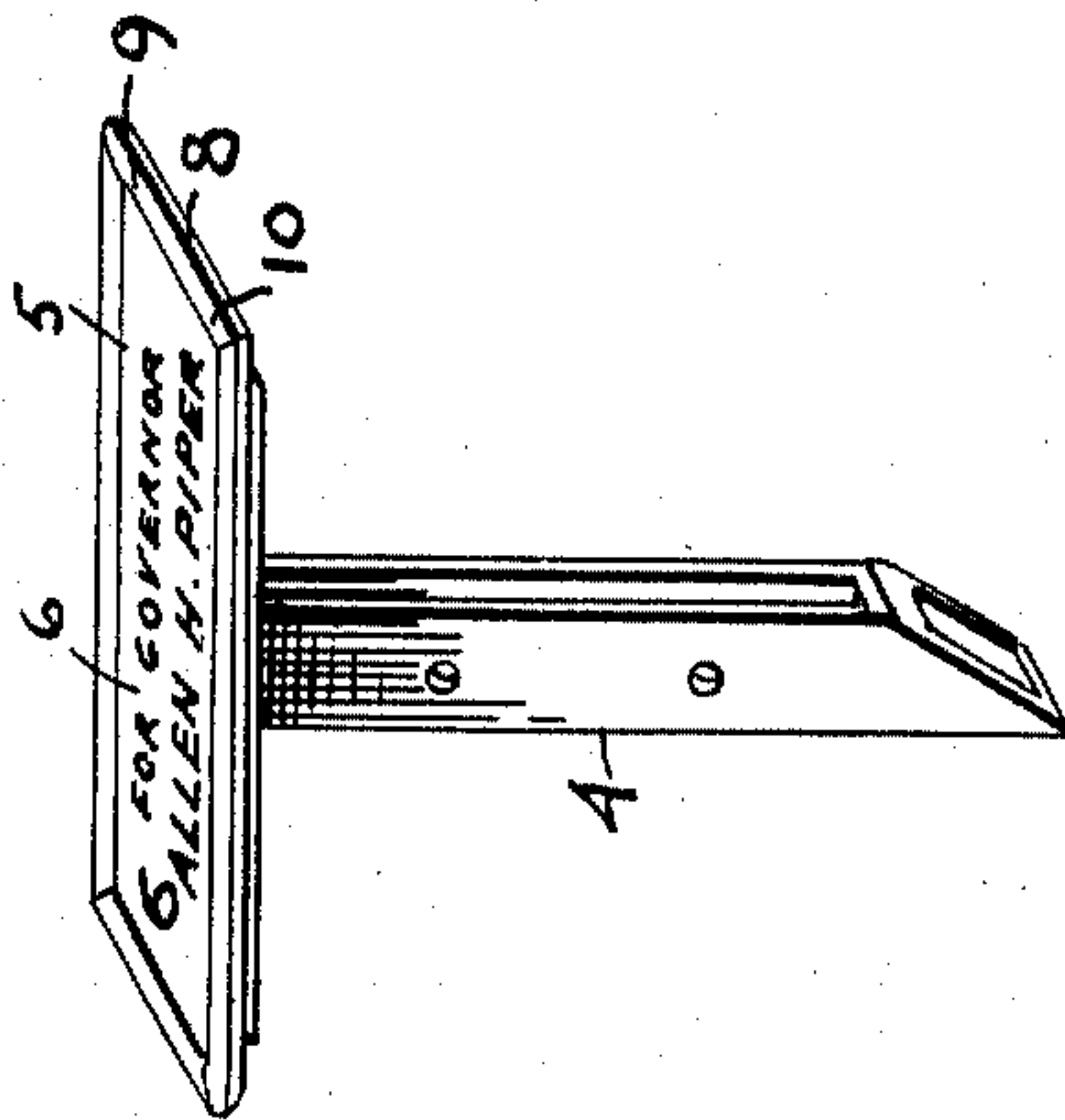


FIG. 2.



WITNESSES:
Chas. E. Vane.
D. Richardson

INVENTOR:
Thomas Cory
by Nathan
H. ally.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS CORY, OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

KEY FOR VOTING-MACHINES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 760,056, dated May 17, 1904.

Application filed March 9, 1903. Serial No. 146,948. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS CORY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Los Angeles, county of Los Angeles, State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Keys for Voting-Machines; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

Under the present system of constructing voting-machines the key is simply used to designate by number the candidate to be voted for office, there being arranged alongside of the voting-keys a plate or slip containing the names of the candidates for office. The head of each key generally is provided or stamped with a number, which number corresponds with the name of the candidate appearing on the plate to be operated to cast a ballot for such candidate. In some cases the voting-keys are not numbered. Whatever may be the arrangement of keys the same are distinct from the list of candidates so far as relates to movement. The general practice in connection with the casting of a vote mechanically is simply to depress the voting-key appearing opposite the name of the candidate you desire to elect to office. Usually a number of party tickets appear on each ballot-sheet, the party tickets being arranged in parallel columns. The result is, as disclosed by practical working of this class of machines at held elections, that the voter oftentimes depresses the voting-key appearing at the left-hand side of the party slip instead of the key arranged at the right-hand side, thereby casting a vote for the opponent of the candidate desired to be elected. Although rules or directions as to voting the keys may be posted in the ballot-booth and are posted in plain view of the voter, nevertheless such mistakes will occur. This is not due to ignorance of the voter, but mainly to the fact that many voters cannot distinguish readily between the right and left and become confused by the multitude of voting-keys presented to the eye.

The object of the present invention is to remedy the above-mentioned defect by so constructing the key as to force the voter to de-

press the name of the candidate with the movement of the voting-key, thereby rendering it impossible to cast a vote for the wrong candidate without deliberately depressing the name-plate or card of such candidate for office.

To comprehend the invention, reference should be had to the accompanying sheet of drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a top plan view, partly broken away, disclosing the arrangement of a series of the improved voting-keys with a voting-machine; Fig. 2, a detail perspective view of one of the improved voting-keys. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of one of the voting-keys, and Fig. 4 a plan view of the key with the retaining-slide for the candidate's name-plate or card partly removed.

The number 4 designates the stem of the improved voting-key, which key-stem is formed, preferably, with an elongated head 5. This head serves as a holding-frame for the name-plate, slip, or card 6 of the candidate to be voted for by said voting-key. The holding frame has its edges 7 inwardly flanged to prevent the name-plate, card, or slip 6 being raised from within its seat. To provide against removal of the name-plate, card, or slip from within the head-frame, a retaining-slide 8 is utilized. This slide slips beneath the name-plate, card, or slip 6 within the head-frame, its outer end 9 forming an end for the open end of the said head-frame. The upper portion of the slide end 9 is flanged over to form an edge 10 for preventing removal of the name-plate, card, or slip 6. In length the slide 8 is approximately one-half that of the head or head-frame 5, so that a portion of the under surface of the name-plate, card, or slip rests upon the upper face of the head or head-frame and upper surface of the retaining-slide. Any suitable adhesive substance is applied to the under face of the name-plate, card, or slip, so as to cause same to adhere or stick firmly to the upper surface of the head or head-frame and upper surface of the retaining-slide. It will be apparent that any other manner of uniting the name-plate, card, or ticket containing the name of the candidate to

be voted for may be employed. However, preference is given to the mode described, owing to its simplicity and inexpensiveness.

It will be understood that the number of
5 the candidate is either stamped on the head of the voting-key or printed on the name-plate, card, or slip, so as to enable the voter to cast his ballot by reference to either the name of the candidate or voting-number of the key.

10 To protect the name-plate, card, or slip from mutilation, the same is provided with a suitable transparent cover 11.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new, and desired to be protected
15 by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination with the stem of a voting-key, of a frame secured to the upper end thereof, said frame having a seat therein for the reception of a name-plate or card of the
20 candidate to be voted for by such key, and a

slide-plate working within the seat of the frame for holding the said name-plate or card therein, said slide-plate being united thereto.

2. The combination with the stem of a voting-key, of a head-frame secured thereto, a
25 receiving-seat therein for the reception of a name-plate, card or ticket of the candidate to be voted for by such key, a slide-plate working within the head-frame for holding the name-plate, card or ticket within its seat, a
30 portion of the card or name-plate being united to the head-frame and a portion to the slide-plate in order to prevent its withdrawal without mutilation thereof.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my
35 hand.

THOMAS CORY.

Witnesses:

J. W. PHELPS,

R. W. KINSEY.