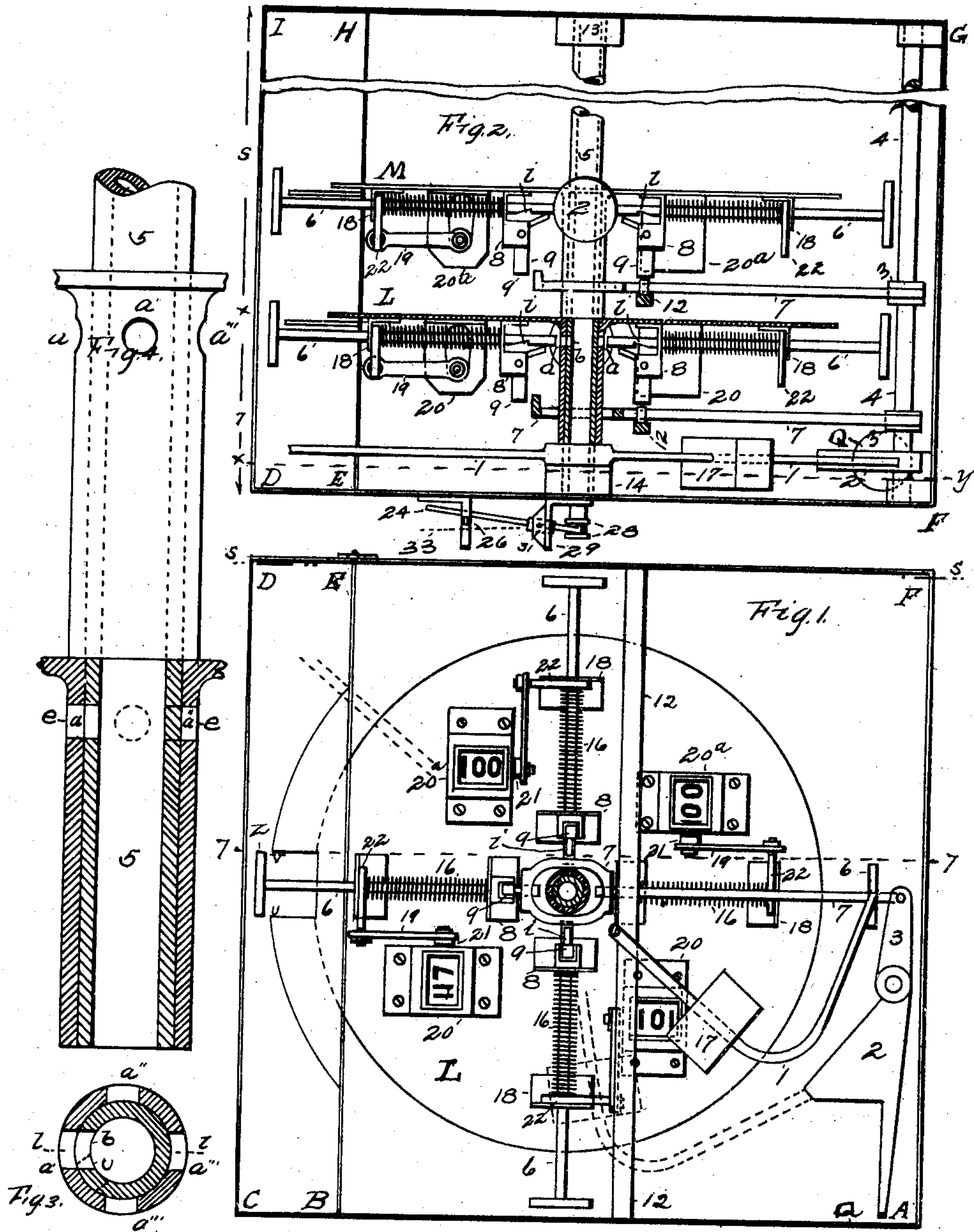


No. 813,007.

PATENTED FEB. 20, 1906.

C. E. KIMBROUGH.  
VOTING MACHINE.  
APPLICATION FILED MAY 9, 1905.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



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Inventor

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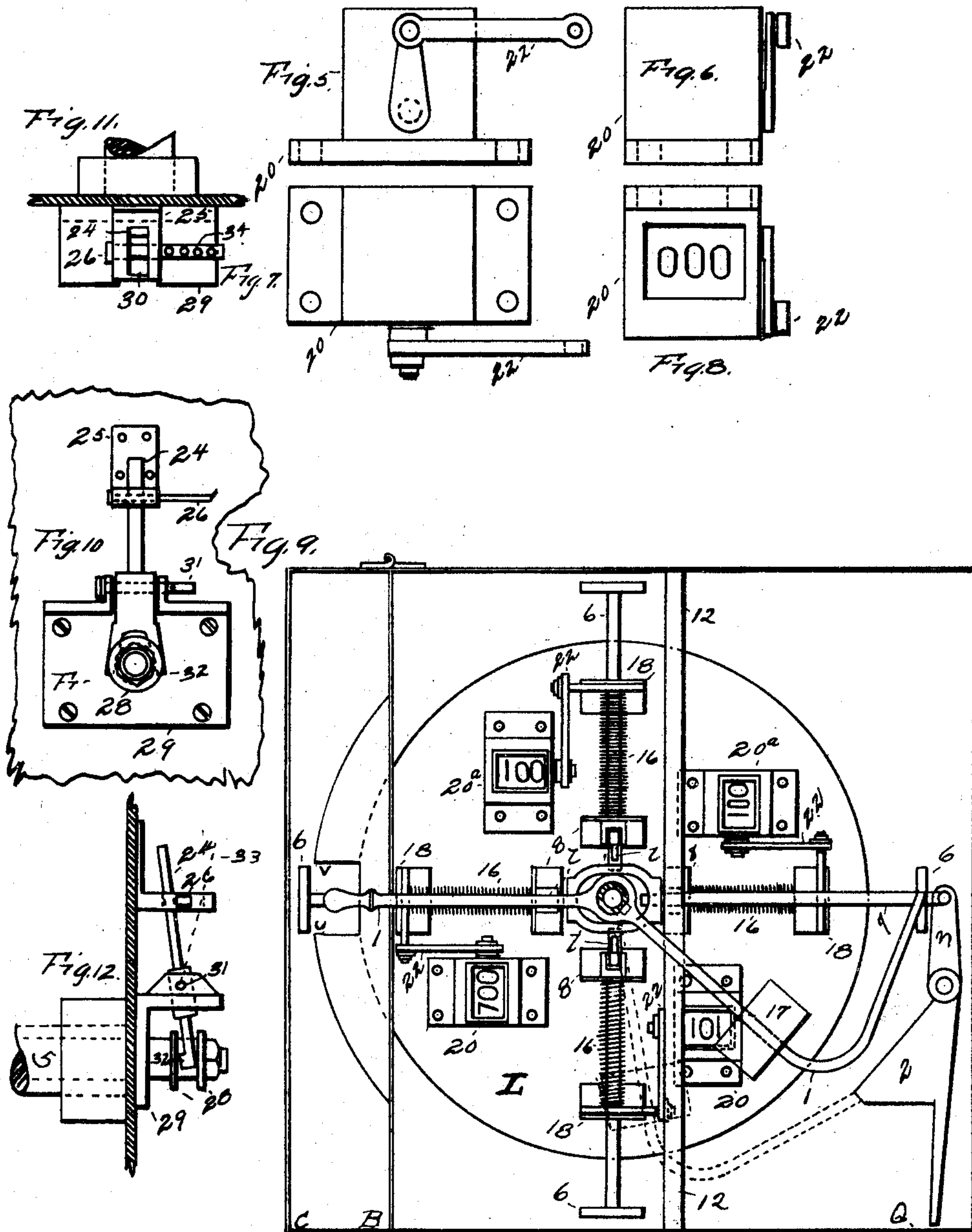
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Witness

*John P. Hetherington*  
*Rodney E. Trueman*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES E. KIMBROUGH, OF LOGANSPORT, INDIANA.

## VOTING-MACHINE.

No. 813,007.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 20, 1906.

Application filed May 9, 1905. Serial No. 259,565.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES E. KIMBROUGH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Logansport, county of Cass, in the State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Voting-Machine, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention relates to an improved voting-machine on and by which, through a system of plungers, registering devices, and operating mechanisms, the vote of the voter is cast and counted simultaneously, the voter voting either a "straight" or mixed ticket, as he may elect, thus doing away with all printed ballots and the laborious and tedious counting of the same; also providing for an absolutely secret ballot and eliminating the loss of votes from mutilation or any other cause under the present system and counting every vote exactly as voted, so that when the polls are closed the total vote for each and every candidate is displayed in figures, which have only to be read. Aside from securing absolute secrecy of ballot, I improve the manner of locking in the total vote, either straight or mixed.

I provide a voting-machine which is simple in construction, reliable and positive in its action, and in which the parts are easily accessible when it is desired to make repairs or for other purposes.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter appear, and the novel features thereof will be specifically defined by the appended claims.

The invention in its preferred form is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which, with the characters of reference marked thereon, form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a section through the machine on the line *xy* of Fig. 2. Fig. 2 is a section of a portion of the machine. That part of the machine covered by the line *L* is on the planes of the line *L L*, Fig. 1. That portion of Fig. 2 covered by the line *S* is taken on the plane of the line *ss*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a cross-section through the wheel-hub and shaft. Fig. 4 is a detail, partly in elevation and partly in section, showing the hubs of the two wheels and the shaft. Fig. 5, together with Figs. 6, 7, and 8, illustrate details showing the manner of connecting the registers to the voting mechanism, especially the plunger. Fig. 9 is a plan showing the normal position

of the lever when a straight party ticket is to be voted. Fig. 10 is a detail plan view of the lever which is used for putting the voting device out of service after the polls are closed. Fig. 11 is a top plan view of the same. Fig. 12 is a detail view thereof in side elevation. In Fig. 1 the union between the shaft carrying the wheels and the operating-shaft is broken away to better show the construction of the upper end of the vertically-movable shaft which loosely embraces the wheel-carrying shaft. Figs. 3 and 4 are on an enlarged scale, the former being taken as on the line of section indicated by *ee* in Fig. 4.

Like characters of reference indicate like parts throughout the several views.

Referring now to the details of the drawings, but first calling attention to the fact that the machine consists of a number of thin solid wheels equal in number to the offices of the country which are filled by the votes of the people, and that the mechanism of every wheel is identical to, separate from, and independent of every other wheel in the machine, a machine with but two wheels, as herein illustrated, will suffice for the purposes of illustration and making clear the construction and operation of my present invention, it being understood that the number of wheels may be increased, say, to fifty, if desired, and it is to be noted that the hubs of the wheels are entirely on one side of the wheel, each hub having the desired number of holes *a*, *a'*, *a''*, and *a'''*, as seen best in Fig. 2, 3, and 4, through the same at equal intervals or distances apart. In the present instance I have chosen to show four; but it is to be understood that the invention is not restricted to this number. In line with each of these holes in the hub of each wheel is a plunger 6, (see Figs. 1 and 2,) which plungers work through and are supported by the brackets 8 and 18 on the faces of the wheels. The brackets 8 also carry the catches 9, which are designed to drop into and engage the notches *i*, formed in the plungers 6 when the same are pressed down.

5 is a shaft supported at each end in the boxes 13 and 14, as seen in Fig. 2, and on this shaft are carried the wheels, which, as above stated, are in this instance two in number, *L* and *M*. This shaft 5 is hollow and through the same is a hole *b* equal in size to the holes *a*, *a'*, *a''*, and *a'''* in the hubs of the wheels and so situated that the holes *a*, *a'*, *a''*, and *a'''*



will pass over the said hole *b* when the wheel is revolved. The shaft 5 is further provided with holes *c* of the same size as the holes *b* and *a*, *a'*, *a''*, and *a'''*, the said holes *c* being disposed  
 5 on a line about forty degrees around the shaft from the holes *b* and in the paths of the holes *a*, *a'*, *a''*, and *a'''* for a purpose which will soon be made apparent. To one end of the shaft 5 is keyed the operating-lever 1, as seen in Fig. 2.  
 10 4 is a shaft parallel with the shaft 5, as seen best in Fig. 2, and to this shaft 4 is attached the levers 2 and 3, as seen clearly in Figs. 1 and 2. To the end of the lever 3 is connected the shaft or lever 7, as seen also in said figures,  
 15 which passing upward is supported by the brace 12, as seen clearly in Figs. 1 and 2, and terminates in a loop *K*, as seen clearly in Figs. 1, 2, and 9, which extends loosely around the hub of its wheel, it being understood that  
 20 there is one of these levers 7 for the hub of each wheel employed in the machine.

Each wheel has in its periphery a notch *U* *V*, as seen clearly in Fig. 1, and each plunger carries at its outer end a button *Z*, bearing  
 25 the name of the party to be voted for.

The normal position of the machine is the "straight-ticket" position, in which the upper end of the lever 1, Figs. 9 and 1, stands in a vertical position. This brings the hole *b* of  
 30 the shaft 5 on the top side of the shaft and in a vertical position and directly under a plunger 6 when the plunger is brought to a working position over the notch *U* *V* in the periphery of the wheel, as seen in Fig. 1. To vote a  
 35 straight ticket, the wheel *L* on the shaft 5 is revolved till the button *Z*, bearing the name of the desired party, appears over the notch *U* *V*, which brings one of the holes *a*, *a'*, *a''*, or *a'''* in the hub of the wheel over the hole *b*  
 40 in the shaft 5, when the catch 9 will drop into the notch *i* in the plunger 6 when pushed down, locking the machine in this position.

Attached to each plunger 6 is an arm 19 of a registering-machine 20. The register is  
 45 fastened to the wheel by means of bolts or rivets or any other suitable means and occupies substantially the position with relation to the other parts as seen in Figs. 1 and 2. Every plunger has its individual register, and  
 50 the arm 19 of each register 20 is connected to a crank-arm 21 and to a collar 22, as seen in the different views. The collar 22 is securely fastened to the plunger 6, so as to move therewith. By this means the machine registers  
 55 the number of times that each plunger is pushed down, thus counting the votes cast for the party which each button represents. The plunger being locked in its pushed-down position, that wheel cannot be revolved to  
 60 bring another plunger up, neither can the plungers of any of the other wheels be pushed down or the wheels be revolved, because the holes *c* in the shaft 5 are not in position so the plunger 6 can go through them in order to  
 65 throw the registering-machines. After the

voter retires the judge can press down (through the opening *Q* in the wall of the casing) the end of the lever 2, as will be readily understood from Fig. 1, which will cause the  
 70 shaft or lever 7 to be raised, the upper end thereof striking the outer end of the latch 9, which is disposed in the path thereof, as seen in Fig. 2, and releasing the plunger 6 by the  
 75 action of the spring 16 around the said plunger, as seen in Figs. 1 and 2, when the machine is ready for the next voter, the registering mechanism having recorded the vote.

To vote a mixed ticket, first draw the upper end of the lever 1 over into the position *F*, (indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 1,) when the  
 80 lower end of the said lever will catch behind the catch on the lever 2, as seen in Fig. 2. This movement carries the hole *b* in the shaft 5 away from and brings the holes *c* in the said  
 85 shaft 5 to a vertical position, in which none of the plungers on the wheel *L* or the straight-ticket wheel can be pushed down. The other wheels represent an office instead of a party, and the different plungers on the wheel represent the candidates for that particular of-  
 90 fice. After drawing the lever 1 over into the position *F* in Fig. 1 commence at the wheel *M* and revolve the wheel till the button *Z* bearing the name of the desired candidate  
 95 appears. Then push the button down into the notch *U* *V* in the periphery of the wheel, when it is locked and the vote registered by the registering mechanism and machine connected with the said plunger. Proceed to  
 100 the next wheel and vote for the desired candidate in the same manner. Repeat the movement throughout the entire list of offices or wheels to which a candidate is being elected.

After the voter leaves the machine the judge  
 105 presses down on the lever 2, which raises the lever 7 against the latch 9 and releases the plungers 6 in the different wheels, when the springs 16 will return them to their original position. By pressing the lever 2 far-  
 110 ther down its point disengages the lower end of the lever 1, when the weight 17, carried by the lever 7, forces it down till the upper end of the lever 1 strikes a stop provided therefor, thus bringing the hole *b* in the shaft 5 into a  
 115 vertical position, and the machine is ready for the next voter.

After the polls are closed the judge in charge of the ballot-box locks the voting-machine, so it cannot be in any way operated, thereby  
 120 preventing fraudulent change. In order to accomplish this, I have provided the lever 24. (Shown in Figs. 2, 10, 11, and 12.) This lever 24 has a pivot connection with the bracket  
 125 29, as seen at 31. This bracket is permanently connected to the casing of the voting-machine, and the shaft 5 is provided with collars 28, which are permanently secured thereto, as seen best in Fig. 12. The end of  
 130 the lever 24 is of a *V* shape, as seen in Fig. 10,



or of analogous form and works between the said collars, as seen in said Fig. 10 and also in Fig. 12. When the lever 24 is thrown into the position shown, it imparts a movement to the shaft 5. This movement of the shaft causes the holes *c* and *b* to recede from the holes *a*, *a'*, *a''*, and *a'''*, thereby making it impossible to operate any of the plungers 6 and change the total vote after the polls are closed. In order to prevent any tampering with the lever 24, a bracket 25, with a slot 30, in which the handle of the lever operates, is provided, which bracket is fixedly secured to the casing of the voting-machine, as seen in Fig. 12. The bracket 25 is also provided with a pin 26, as seen in Figs. 10 and 12. To move the lever 24 from the position in which it is shown by full lines in Fig. 12 to the position indicated by dotted lines in the same figure, it will be necessary to remove the said pin 26 from its bracket 25. In order to prevent the removal of this pin from its bracket, the pin has a number of holes 34, through which as many special locks are inserted as there are judges. No two locks are alike. Thus the machine vote cannot be changed unless all the judges are present. The pin 31 is provided with locks for a similar purpose, no locks, however, being illustrated on the drawings.

From the above it will be seen that I have devised a novel, efficient, and reliable voting-machine, by the use of which it is impossible to cast a fraudulent vote and in which no vote can be lost on account of accidental mutilation, and that all the votes will be counted as voted, economy in time and expense of elections assured, and simplicity of construction making it not liable to derangement, and while the structural embodiment of my invention as herein disclosed is what I at the present time consider the preferable one it is evident that the same is subject to changes, variations, and modifications without departing from the spirit of the invention or sacrificing any of its advantages. I therefore do not wish to be restricted to the details of construction hereinbefore set forth, but reserve the right to make such changes, variations, and modifications as come properly within the scope of the protection prayed.

What I claim as new is—

1. In a voting-machine, the combination of a wheel, a hollow shaft concentric with the hub of said wheel, plungers coöperatively arranged with relation to said shaft and hub of the wheel and which shaft is common to all of said plungers, and means for moving the said shaft endwise to prevent rotation of the wheel to lock and release and control said wheel, as set forth.

2. In a voting-machine, a wheel with a hub with openings, a hollow shaft with an opening, plungers movable radially of said wheel for coöperation with said shaft and hub, said

openings being in position to receive the plungers and registering devices operatively connected with said plungers.

3. In a voting-machine, a wheel with a hub with openings, a hollow shaft with an opening, plungers movable radially on the wheel, said openings being in position to receive said plungers and means for automatically locking the plungers in their depressed position.

4. In a voting-machine, the combination of a wheel having a hub with openings, a hollow shaft with an opening, plungers movable radially on said wheel, said openings being in position to receive said plungers, means for automatically locking the plungers in their depressed position, and means for releasing said plungers.

5. In a voting-machine, the combination of a wheel, an endwise-movable hollow shaft concentric therewith a plunger movable radially thereon, means for automatically locking the plunger in its depressed position, means for releasing the plunger, and means for locking the machine against actuation.

6. In a voting-machine, a hollow rocking shaft, means for rotating said shaft and for moving it endwise a wheel carried thereon, and means coöperating with said shaft for controlling the kind of ticket voted.

7. In a voting-machine, plungers, a wheel, an endwise-movable shaft with which said plungers coöperate, and counting mechanism actuated by said plungers.

8. In a voting-machine, mechanism representing the different candidates for the different offices separate and distinct from each other, a series of plungers, a series of wheels, and a hollow shaft, said shaft and the wheel-hubs constructed for locking out some of said plungers by direct coöperation therewith.

9. In a voting-machine, a wheel, plungers thereon, an endwise-movable hollow shaft concentric with the hub of said wheel and common to all of the plungers and constructed for locking out some of the latter mechanism for voting the different tickets and counting mechanism representing the different candidates entirely separate and distinct.

10. In a voting-machine, a wheel, an endwise-movable shaft carrying the wheel, plungers movable radially on said wheel, means for automatically locking the plungers in their depressed position, and means for moving the shaft endwise to prevent actuation of said wheel.

11. In a voting-machine, an endwise and rotatably movable shaft, a plurality of wheels carried thereby, means for moving the shaft about its axis, and means for moving the shaft endwise to prevent rotation of the wheels.

12. In a voting-machine, a wheel, an endwise-movable shaft, plungers and registering mechanism for each plunger, said shaft being common to all of the plungers, means for locking out some of the plungers and means com-



mon to said shaft and wheel for locking the plungers in their depressed position.

13. In a voting-machine, a wheel, plungers movable thereon, registering devices for each  
5 plunger, directly connected therewith and operated thereby, means for locking the wheel against rotation, and means for moving the shaft of the wheel endwise with relation to the hub of the wheel.

10 14. In a voting-machine, a wheel and simultaneously-operated plunger and register-

ing mechanisms for polling a vote and counting the same, an endwise-movable hollow shaft on which said wheel is mounted, means for locking out some of said plungers when  
said shaft has been shifted, and means for locking the machine against operation.

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Witnesses:

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