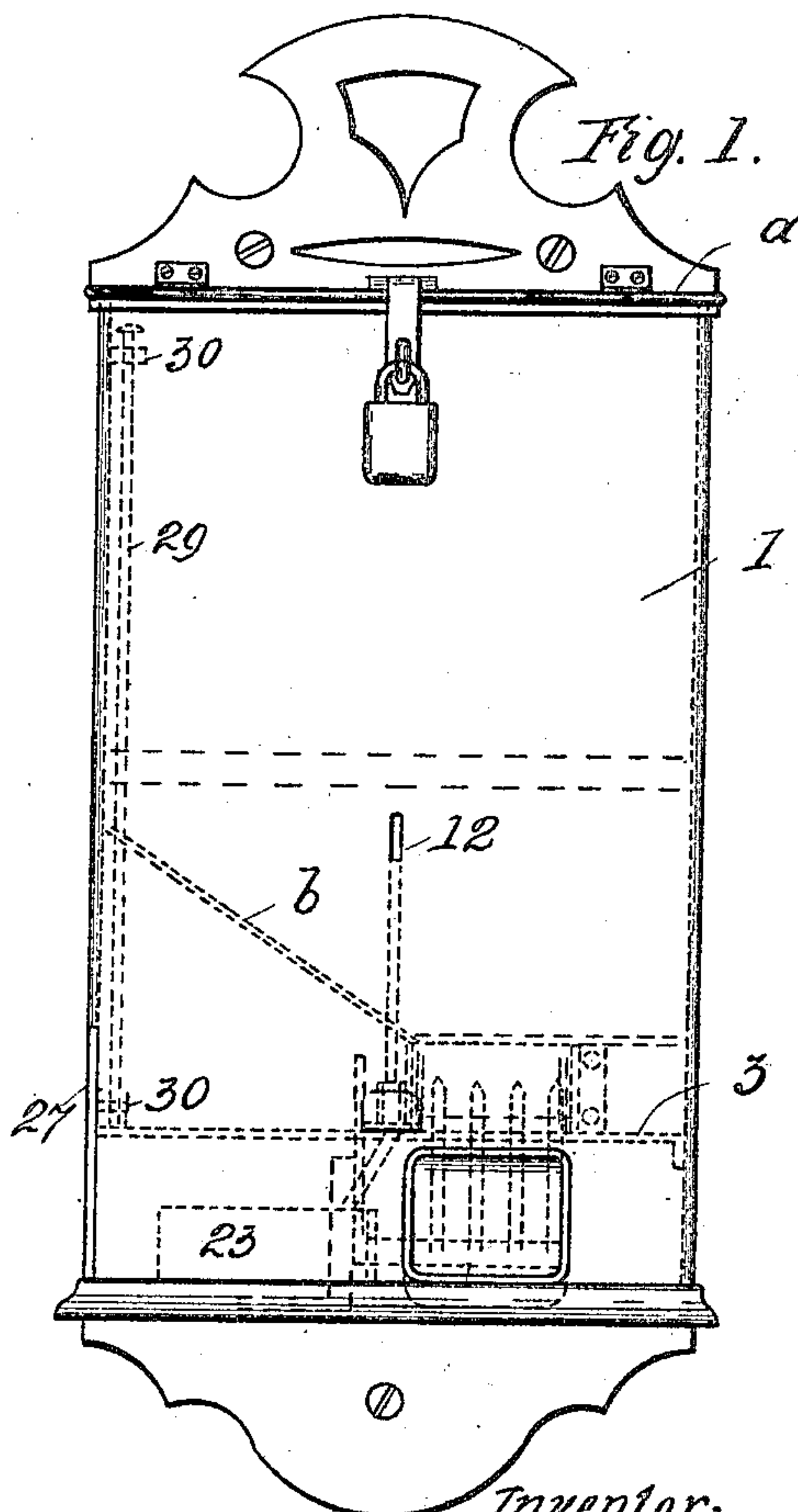
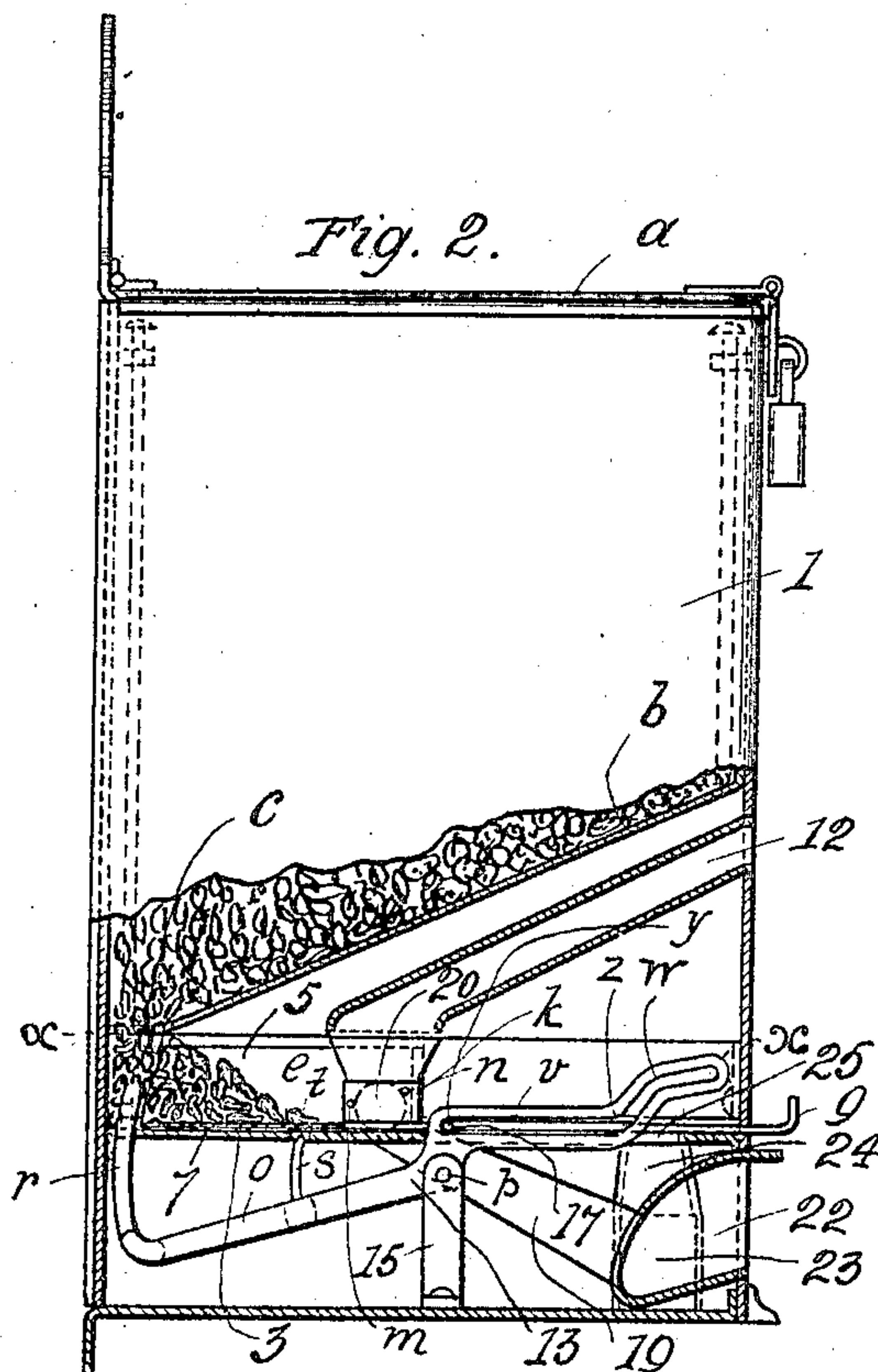
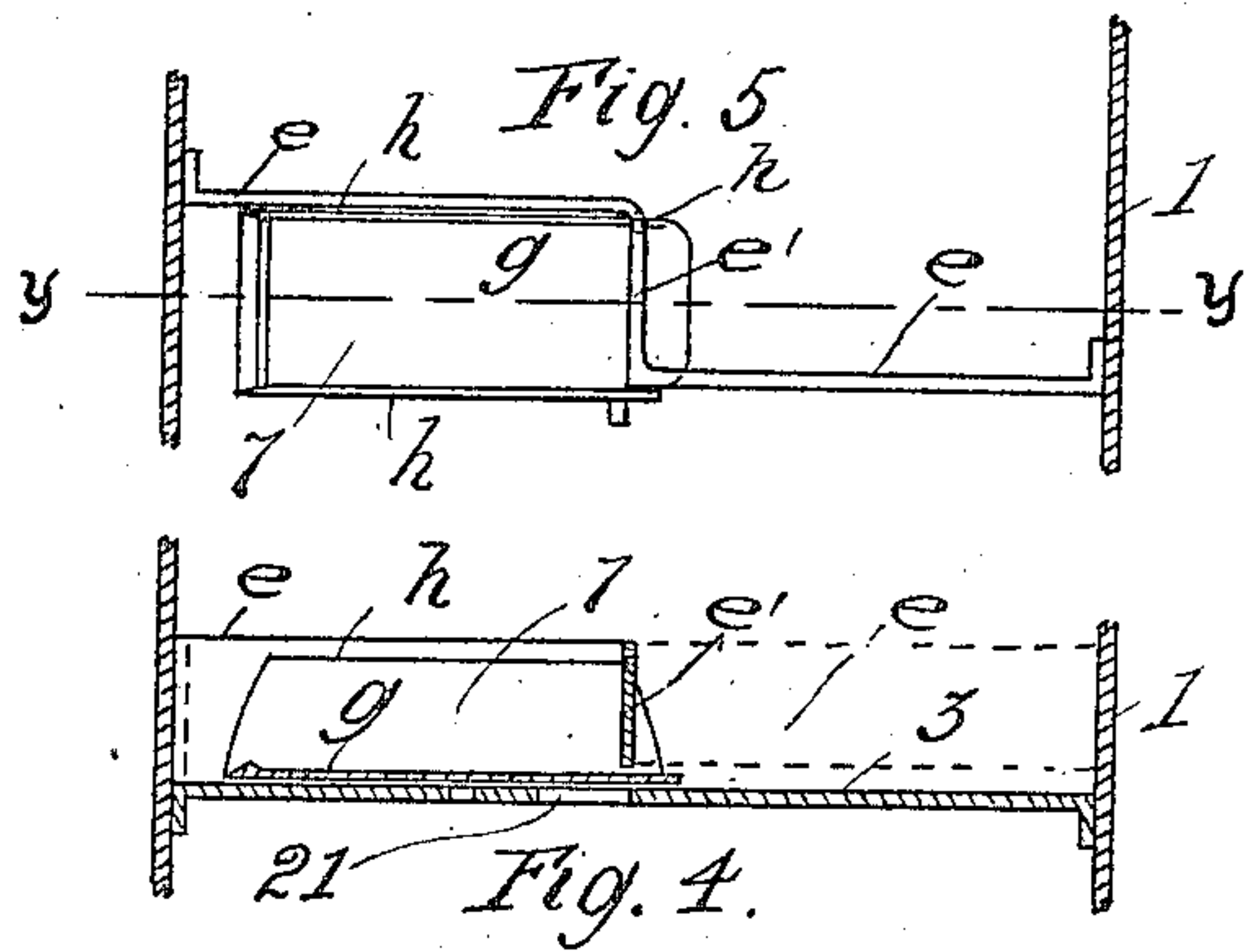
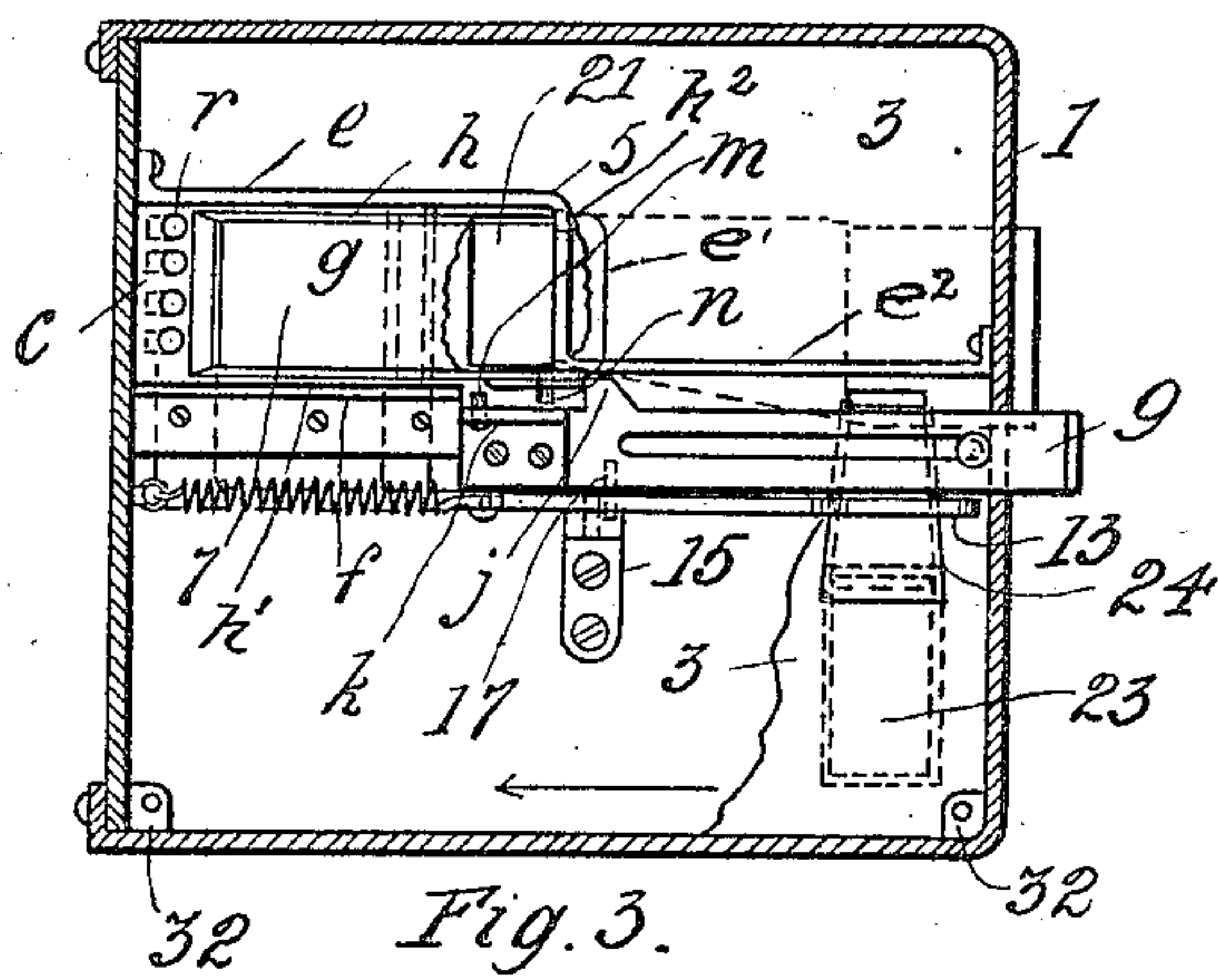


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PEANUT VENDER.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 27, 1905.



Witnesses:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN CLINTON SIMERING, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

## PEANUT-VENDER.

No. 813,026.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 20, 1906.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN CLINTON SIMERING, of the city of Baltimore and State of Maryland, have invented certain Improvements in Peanut-Venders, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to certain improvements in an apparatus whereby a predetermined bulk of peanuts or other small articles may be withdrawn from a receptacle after the insertion in a slot of a coin, which alone will render the movable parts of the apparatus operative for that purpose, as will hereinafter fully appear.

In the further description of the said invention which follows reference is made to the accompanying drawings, forming a part hereof, and in which—

Figure 1 is an exterior front view of the apparatus, and Fig. 2 a partly-sectional side view of the same. Fig. 3 is a sectional plan of Fig. 2, taken on the dotted line  $x x$ . Figs. 4 and 5 are respectively a longitudinal section and a partly-sectional plan of certain parts of the apparatus, Fig. 4 being a section of Fig. 5, taken on the dotted line  $y y$ .

Referring now to the drawings, 1 is the casing of the apparatus, which may be formed of sheet metal, having a hinged door  $a$  at the top. The upper part of the casing serves as a hopper wherein the peanuts are stored, and the bottom  $b$  of the hopper is inclined in two directions, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, in order that the contents of the hopper will move by gravity toward the exit or discharge-opening  $c$ , formed in the bottom  $b$  at the rear of the casing 1.

3 is a table situated under and a short distance below the opening  $c$  in the bottom  $b$ , upon which peanuts falling from the hopper will rest, as shown in Fig. 2.

5 is a guard formed of the connected plates  $e$ ,  $e'$ , and  $e^2$ , secured to the front and rear walls of the casing and the plate  $f$ , which is angular in cross-section. The horizontal portion of the angle-plate  $f$  is secured to the table 3 by screws. The member  $e$  of the guard rests on the table 3, while the members  $e'$  and  $e^2$  are raised above the surface of the table to admit of the operation of a carriage hereinafter described. The construction of the guard, as described, is well shown in Figs. 4 and 5. In Fig. 4 the member  $e^2$  is shown dotted, for the reason that as the said figure is

a section of Fig. 5 taken on the dotted line  $y y$  it would not appear in full lines.

7 is a carriage formed of the horizontal plate  $g$  with vertical side flanges  $h$  and  $h'$ , adapted to slide under the members  $e'$  and  $e^2$  of the guard 5, the member  $e'$  having a vertical slot  $h^2$  (shown in Figs. 3 and 5) to accommodate the flange  $h$ . The carriage 7 is well shown in Figs. 4 and 5, in which it appears in longitudinal section and plan, respectively. The carriage may be moved backward, or in the direction indicated by the arrow in Fig. 3, by means of a sliding handle 9, the outer end of which projects through an aperture in the front wall of the casing 1, the said handle having a spur  $j$  on one edge adapted to come in contact with one of the flanges  $h$  of the carriage, as shown in Fig. 3. The forward movement of the carriage is also effected by the spring-held handle 9, but through the medium of a coin, which when deposited in the apparatus forms an effective connection between the two devices, as will be hereinafter described. By reference to Figs. 2 and 3 it will be seen that the inner end of the handle 9 is provided with a lug  $k$ , having a horizontally-extending pin  $m$ , and that the flange of the carriage 7 has a similar pin  $n$ , which is not in horizontal alinement with the pin  $m$ , (see Fig. 2,) so that the two pins do not engage when the handle 9 is drawn forward; but should a coin of suitable size be placed between the said pins it will serve as a means of communicating motion from the handle to the carriage. A coin (denoted by 20) is shown in Fig. 2 as occupying the position just described.

12 is an inclined duct leading from the front wall of the casing to a point directly over the space between the pins  $m$  and  $n$ .

13 is a lever fulcrumed at  $p$  to a bracket 15 on the bottom of the casing 1. The arm  $o$  of the lever 13 is provided with the curved prongs  $r$ , which project into the opening  $c$  and in the vibration of the lever serve to agitate the peanuts and prevent their becoming clogged in the opening. It is also fitted with a curved plate  $s$ , which enters an opening  $t$  in the table 3, and as the arm  $v$  of the lever is depressed the said curved plate passes through the said table and checks the forward spread of the peanuts on the table. When the lever 13 is in its normal position, or that illustrated in Fig. 2, the portion of the slot  $w$  in the arm



*v* which is between the points *y* and *z* is horizontal, and from the point *z* to the end the said slot has a differential incline, the second incline being on a radial line extending from the end of the horizontal portion of the slot.

17 is a pin which projects from the edge of the handle 9 and passes loosely into the slot *w* of the lever 13.

19 is a conduit leading from an aperture 21 in the table 3 and normally covered by the carriage to an isolated chamber 22, formed in the front wall of the casing.

23 is a cash-box situated at the forward end of the casing 1 and below the table 3, and 24 a conduit leading from an opening 25 in the table to the cash box.

One side of the casing is provided with a removable door 27, secured by locking-bolts 29, which are only accessible when the door *a* is open. These bolts slide in bearings 30, and their lower ends enter the lugs 32. (Shown particularly in Fig. 3.)

Supposing the various parts of the apparatus to be in the relative positions shown in Fig. 2, with a body of peanuts on the carriage 7 and a coin resting between the pins *m* and *n*, to obtain the peanuts it is only necessary to draw the handle out to its fullest extent. In this operation the peanuts move with the carriage and upon reaching the plate *e* of the guard are by that device swept from the carriage and fall into the opening 21 and pass thence to the chamber 22, from which they may be removed by hand. During the first part of this operation, or while the pin 17 is traversing the portion of the slot *w* in the arm *o* of the lever 13 which is between the points *y* and *z*, no movement of the said lever is produced, but another supply of peanuts is liberated from the hopper and falls to the table; but as the pin passes beyond the point *z* the arm *v* of the lever is depressed and the prongs *r* pushed into the mass of peanuts in the hopper, which operation prevents their becoming clogged. At the same time the curved plate is raised and the forward scattering of the liberated peanuts checked, and this condition of the parts is maintained until the

pin 17 reaches the end of the slot. Upon the release of the handle it, together with the carriage, is carried back by the spring attached to the former and the carriage is pushed under the liberated peanuts ready to be again carried forward, when another coin is inserted and the handle drawn out. To effect this loading of the carriage without forcing any of the peanuts back into the hopper should the hopper be nearly empty, the edge of the carriage is made sharp, and to prevent the carriage being drawn from under the peanuts by a sudden outdrawing of the handle the upper surface of the carriage, near its edge, is provided with a bead, as shown particularly in Figs. 4 and 5. Uniformity in the quantity of peanuts obtained at each operation of the apparatus, is maintained by reason of the liberated body assuming what is termed the "angle of repose," which is practically constant.

I claim as my invention—

1. In a peanut-vender, a hopper having a discharge-opening, and a table situated below the said hopper, combined with a carriage adapted to have a sliding movement on the table toward and from the said opening in the hopper, and means to sweep the contents of the carriage from the carriage to a discharge-aperture in the table at each outward movement of the carriage, substantially as specified.

2. In a peanut-vender, a hopper having a discharge-opening, combined with a table situated under the said hopper, the said table having a discharge-aperture therein, combined with a carriage adapted to have a sliding movement on the table, toward and from the said opening, means whereby the said carriage may be drawn forward and so disclose the discharge-aperture, and a device to sweep the contents of the carriage over the edge of the same and into the discharge-aperture, substantially as specified.

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