No. 824,639. PATENTED JUNE 26, 1906.

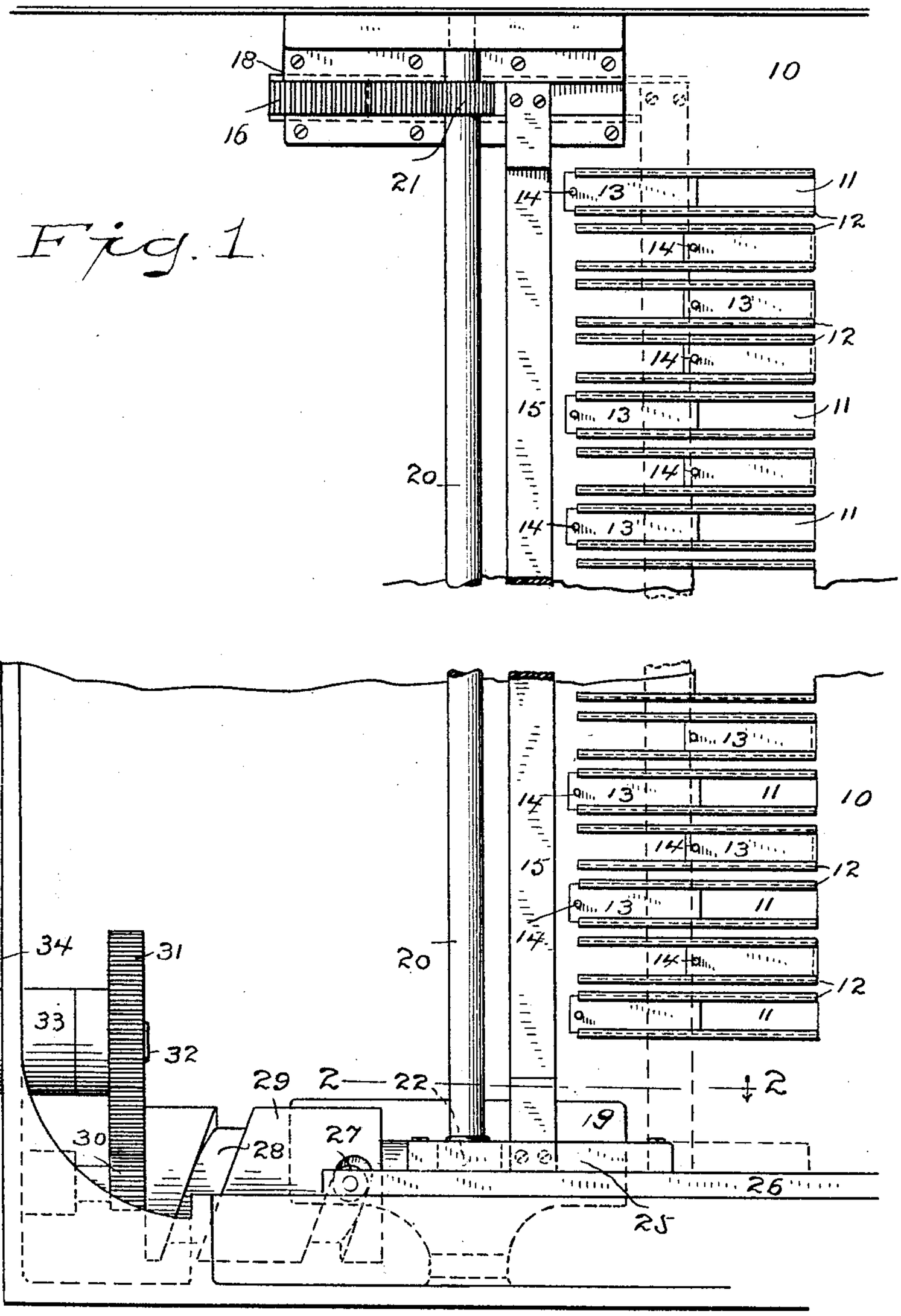
W. I. T. FOSDICK.

SHUTTER CLOSING MECHANISM FOR VOTING MACHINES.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 27, 1905.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.



WITNESSES

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Fig 2.

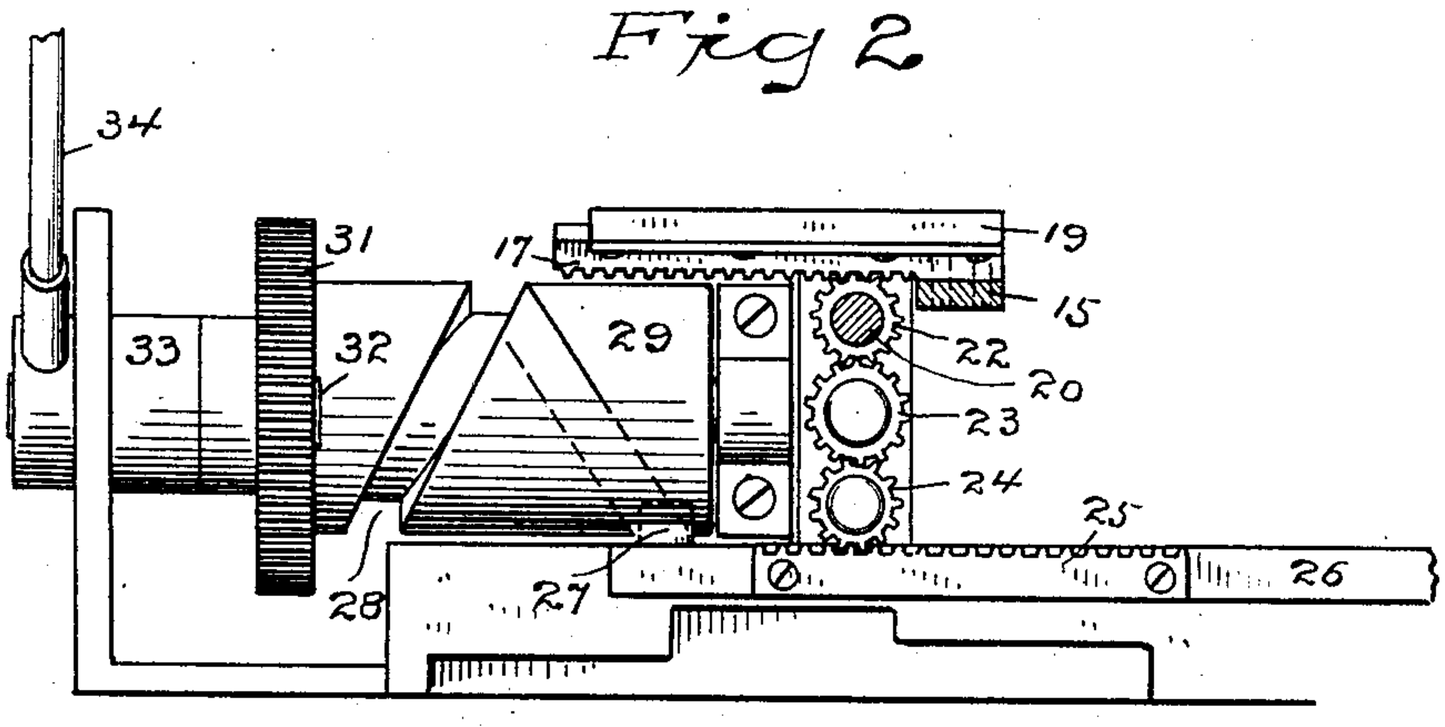
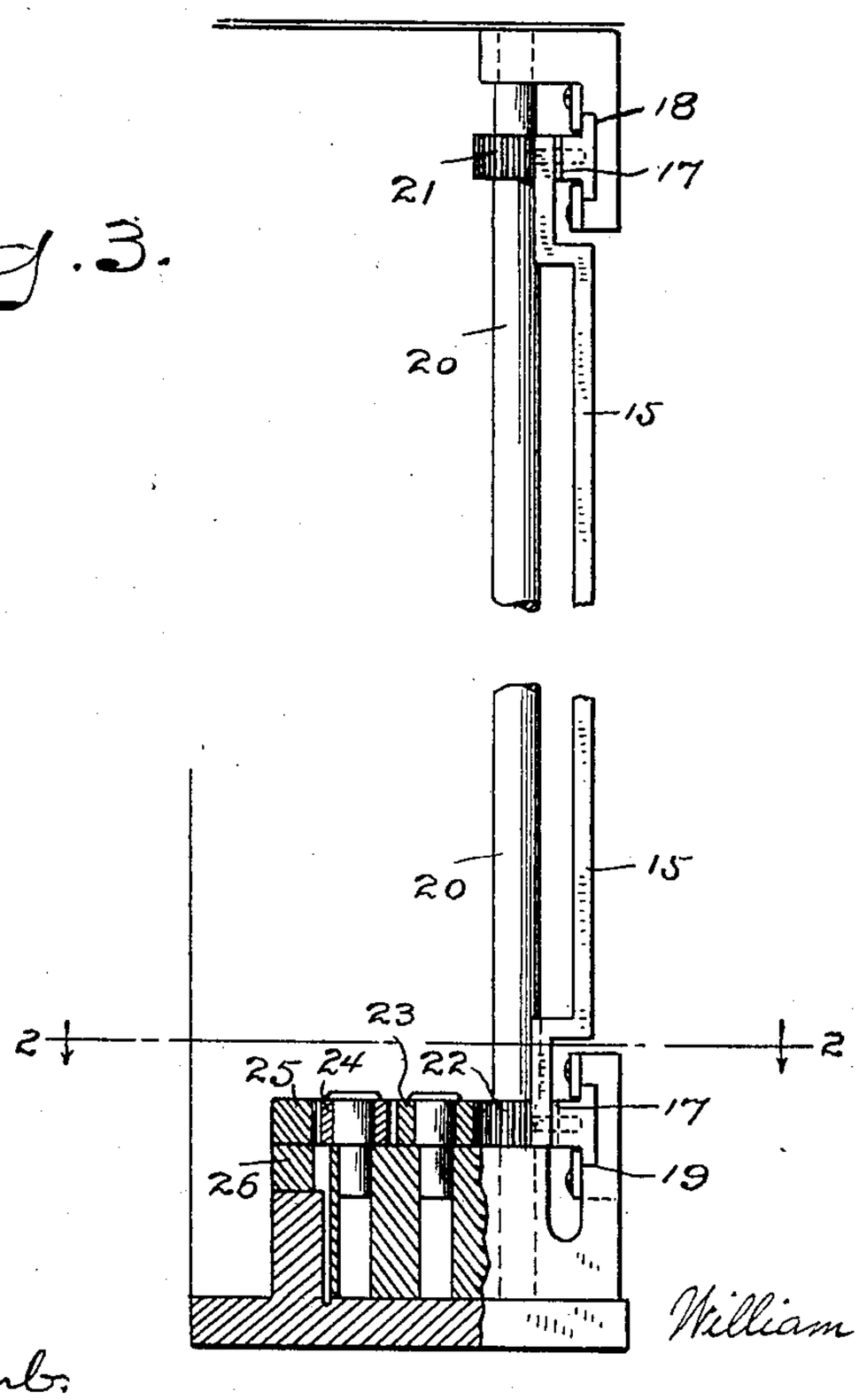


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM I. T. FOSDICK, OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO TRIUMPH VOTING MACHINE COMPANY, OF PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, A CORPORATION OF NEW JERSEY.

SHUTTER-CLOSING MECHANISM FOR VOTING-MACHINES.

No. 824,639. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 26, 1906.

Application filed November 27, 1905. Serial No. 289,218.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM I. T. FOSDICK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bridgeport, county of Fairfield, State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Shutter-Closing Mechanism for Voting-Machines, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to that portion of the mechanism of a voting-machine that has to do with "independent voting," so called. The term "independent voting" is used as broadly descriptive of a style of voting which enables an independent voter to cast his vote for candidates of his own selection for any or all of the offices to be voted for wholly independently of party nominations. Independent voting is performed by writing the names of persons for whom the voter desires to cast a vote upon an independent-voting sheet, which is passed from a supply-roller to a receiving-roller as fast as it is used. Voting-apertures, to which the independent-voting sheet lies contiguous, are normally closed by shutters, each of which when opened discloses sufficient of the voting-sheet to permit a single vote to be written thereon. After voting, the voter operates mechanism which closes all shutters that have been opened and locks all of the shutters in the closed position.

The present invention consists in certain constructions and in certain parts, improvements, and combinations by which all open shutters are moved to the closed position by the final act of the voting operation.

With this object in view I have devised the novel mechanism which I will now describe, referring to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and using reference characters to indicate the several parts.

Figure 1 is an elevation illustrating the construction and operation of my novel shutter-closing mechanism, certain of the shutters being in the open position and the others closed and the closing-bar being shown in full lines in the normal or retracted position and in dotted lines in the operative or closing position; Fig. 2, a horizontal section on the line 2 2 in Figs. 1 and 3 looking down; and Fig. 3 is an end elevation, partly broken away, as seen from the right in Figs. 1 and 2, the operating mechanism being removed.

10 denotes the face-plate of the machine, which is provided with horizontal voting-apertures 11, shown as placed in vertical alinement. The independent-voting sheet, the rollers by which it is carried, the mechanism by which it is operated, the shutter-locking mechanism, and the voting mechanism form no portion of the present invention and are therefore omitted for the sake of clearness.

12 indicates ways upon the inner side of the face-plate which receive the shutters 13, each shutter being shown as provided with a pin 14, which projects outward beyond the outer face of the ways.

15 indicates a closing-bar, which lies in a vertical plane which enables it to just clear the outer face of the ways and to engage the pins which project outward from the shutters. The ends of this bar are rigidly secured to upper and lower racks, (indicated, respectively, by 16 and 17,) which reciprocate in ways, (indicated, respectively, by 18 and 19.)

20 indicates a vertical shaft carrying upper and lower pinions, (indicated, respectively, by 21 and 22,) which engage the racks, respectively, whereby the racks are moved longitudinally and lateral movement is imparted to the closing-bar. Lower pinion 22 engages an idler-pinion 23, which also engages a pinion 24, which in turn engages an operating-rack 25, rigidly secured to a driving-bar 26. The driving-bar is provided with a roller 27, which engages a groove 28 in a cam 29, whose shaft carries a pinion 30, meshing with a gear-wheel 31 on a short shaft 32, journaled in a hub 33 at one end of the machine. This shaft also carries an exit-lever 34, which is operated by the voter after the voting operation has been completed.

As the special manner in which the voting operation is performed is wholly immaterial so far as the present invention is concerned, the voting mechanism has been wholly omitted from the drawings and will not be described. It should, furthermore, be understood that while in order to clearly illustrate the operation of my present invention I have illustrated it in connection with the exit-lever and intermediate connections used in the "Triumph" voting-machine the special operating mechanism by which the vertical shaft is oscillated to actuate the closing-bar is not material to the present invention, but may be

varied to suit the requirements of use. It is sufficient for the purposes of this specification to state that the shutters are normally in the closed position—that is, at their extreme position toward the right, as seen in Fig. 1, and the closing-bar is normally in the full-line position in Fig. 1. In ordinary voting no use is made of the shutters.

It will of course be understood that in all voting-machines the regular-voting mechanism and the independent-voting mechanism are connected in such a manner that when a regular vote is cast for a candidate for any office the corresponding shutter of the independent-voting mechanism is locked, so that it is made impossible for a voter to cast both a regular and an independent vote for the same nominee or to vote for more than one nominee for any office, except, of course, where "group voting," so called, is provided for. The shutter-locking mechanism—that is, the connections by which the shutters are retained in the locked position when the regular-voting mechanism is operated—have nothing to do with the present invention and are therefore not illustrated.

In use the voter stands at the front of the machine, and if he desires to vote independently for any office moves the shutter corresponding to that office from its position toward the right, as seen in Fig. 1, to the position toward the left, as seen in Fig. 1, in which the first, fifth, seventh, and other shutters are shown as moved toward the left, as in independent voting. After the voting operation is completed the voter on passing out from the voting-booth actuates certain operating mechanism—in the present instance an exit-lever—which is the final act of voting. The effect of the operation of this mechanism is to rotate the vertical shaft and move racks 16 and 17, and with them the closing-bar, from the position shown in full lines in Fig. 1 to the position shown in dotted lines, the closing-bar engaging the pins on all the opened shutters and moving them simultaneously from the open to the closed position, as clearly shown. The return movement of the operating mechanism returns the closing-bar to its normal or full-line position, leaving all of the shutters in the closed position.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. In a mechanism of the character described the combination with sliding shutters and a closing-bar adapted to engage said shutters, of upper and lower racks by which the closing-bar is carried, a vertical shaft, pinions on said shaft engaging the racks and means for oscillating said shaft to move opened shutters to the closed position and then return the closing-bar to its normal position.

2. In a mechanism of the character described, the combination with sliding shutters and a closing-bar adapted to engage said shutters, of racks 16 and 17 by which the closing-bar is carried, a vertical shaft, pinions on said shaft engaging the racks, a driving-bar, an operating-rack carried thereby, means for reciprocating the driving-bar and connections intermediate the operating-rack and rack 17, whereby the shaft is oscillated and the closing-bar reciprocated laterally.

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

WILLIAM I. T. FOSDICK.

Witnesses:
A. M. WOOSTER,
S. W. ATHERTON.