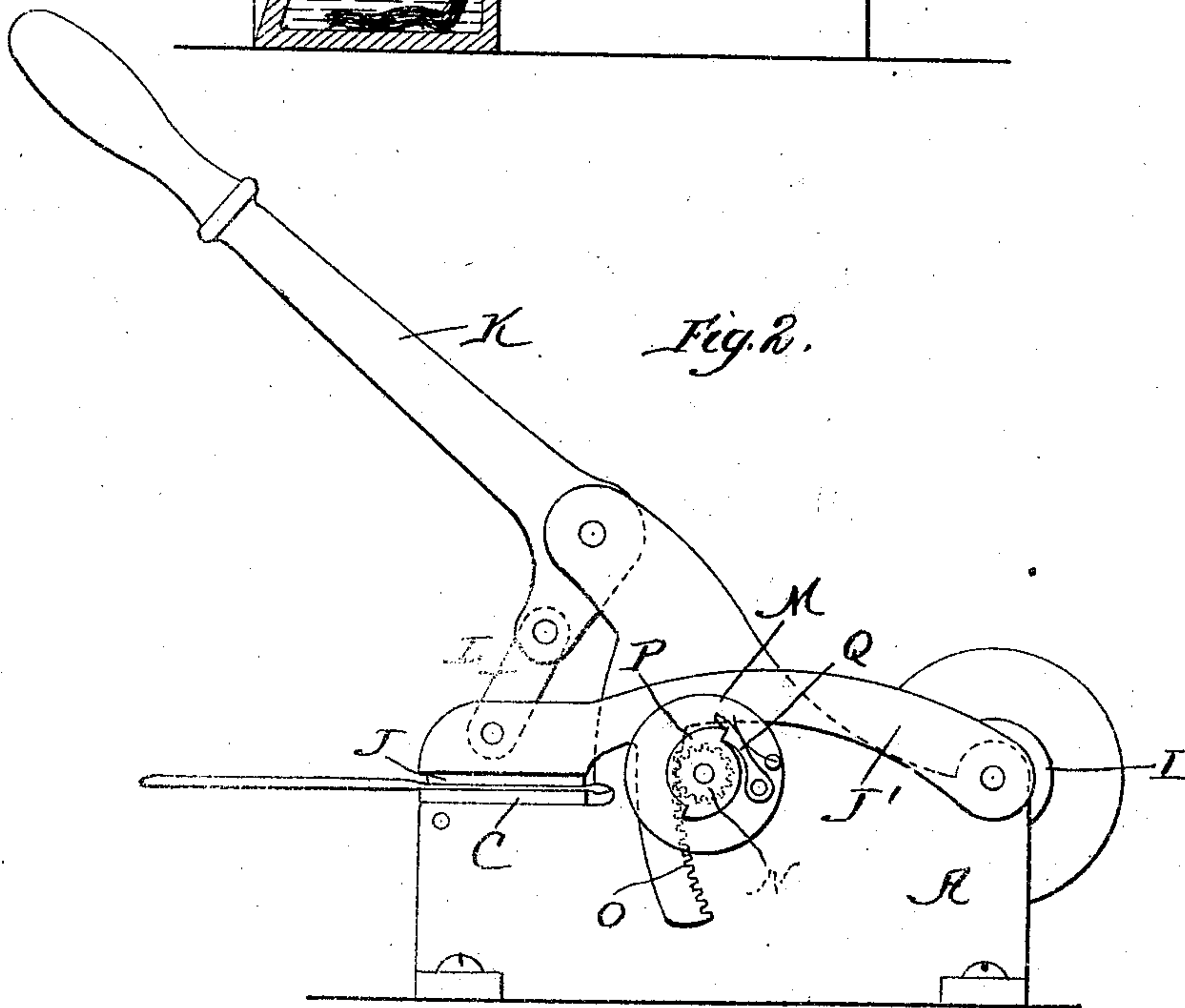
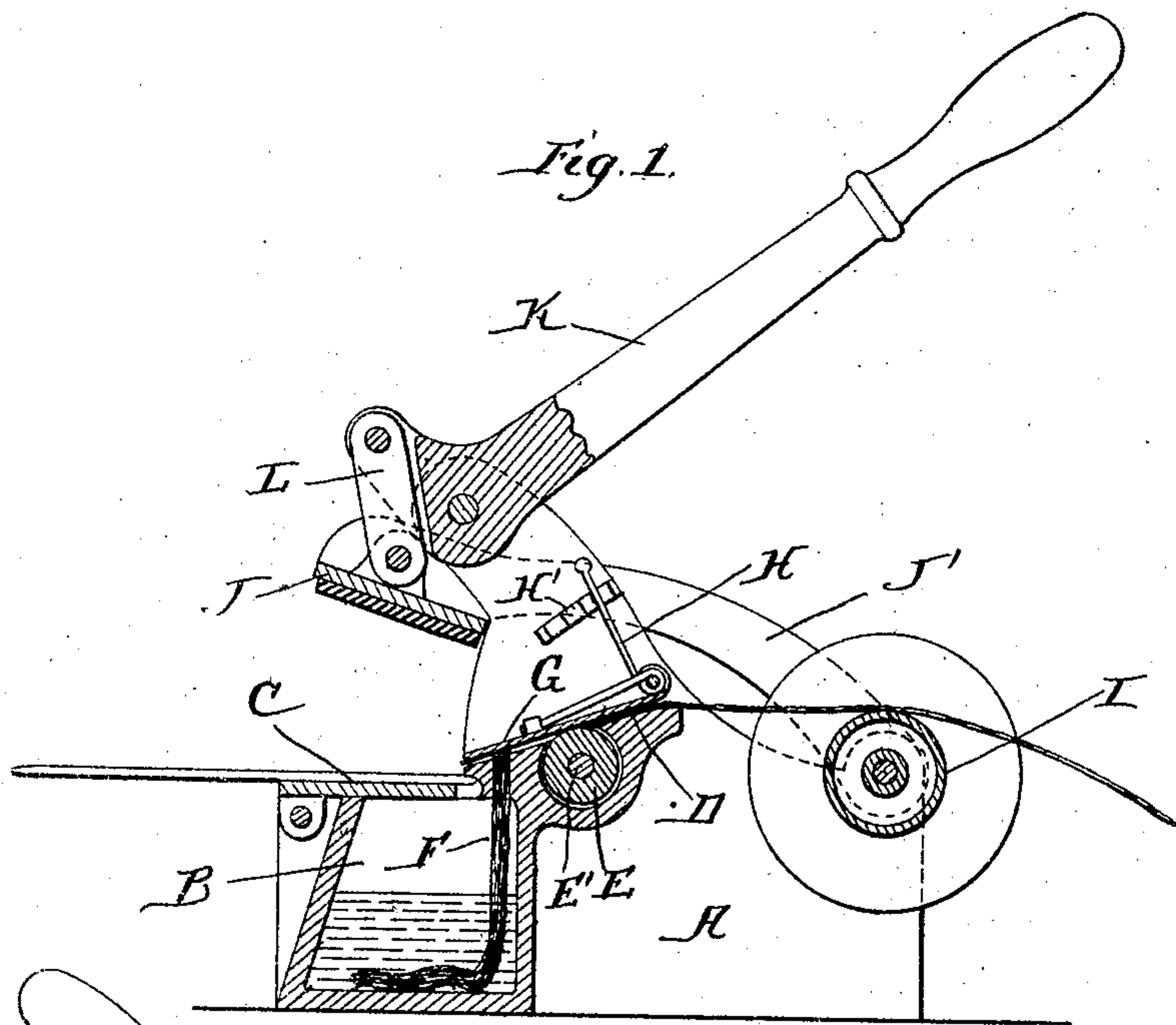


No. 827,983.

PATENTED AUG. 7, 1906.

S. LEWELLEN.
STAMP AFFIXER.
APPLICATION FILED JULY 14, 1905.



Witnesses:

H. B. Hallock.
L. J. Monahan

Inventor:
Samuel Lewellen

By *W. P. Williams*
Atty

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL LEWELLEN, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

STAMP-AFFIXER.

No. 827,983.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 7, 1906.

Application filed July 14, 1905. Serial No. 269,667.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL LEWELLEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Stamp-Affixers, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a new and useful improvement in stamp-affixers, and has for its object to provide a machine in which the stamps will be fed, moistened, and affixed to the envelopes all in one operation; and a further object of my invention is to so construct the machine that the same will be comparatively cheap to manufacture, be composed of few parts, and not liable to get out of order.

With these ends in view this invention consists in the details of construction and combination of elements hereinafter set forth and then specifically designated by the claim.

In order that those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains may understand how to make and use the same, the construction and operation will now be described in detail, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal section through my improved machine, showing the presser-plate raised; Fig. 2, a side elevation of my machine, showing the presser-plate depressed.

A represents the framework of the machine, in the forward end of which is arranged a water-reservoir B, which is normally covered by a pivoted plate C. This plate may be thrown back on its pivot, if necessary, to fill the reservoir B. When the plate is in its normal position, it furnishes a backing for the envelop, upon which the stamp is adapted to be affixed. Just above the rearward end of the plate C an inclined surface D is formed on the body, and journaled in the body at this point is a roller E, preferably of rubber or other flexible material, and said roller is secured to a shaft E', which extends through one side of the machine. The periphery of the roller itself extends slightly above the inclined surface D and is designed to fit the stamps to be affixed.

F is a wick of any suitable absorbent material, the lower end of which lies within the water contained within the reservoir B, and

the upper end protrudes through an opening formed through the body and extends above the inclined surface D forward of the roller E, so that the stamps passing over the inclined surface D with the gummed side downward and fed forward by the rotation of the roller E will be moistened as they pass over the upper end of the wick F. In order to hold the stamps in contact with both the roller E and wick F, I provide above the inclined surface D a plate G, pivoted at its rearward end to the body of the machine and held downward in spring contact with the roller and wick by means of the spring H, which is coiled around the pivot of the plate G, with one arm of the spring resting upon the top of the plate and the other arm held under tension in a rack-bar H', secured to the body. Thus the tension of the spring can be increased or decreased by moving the arm of the spring into one or other of the notches of the rack-bar, or the plate G can be tilted and raised upon its pivot by simply removing the spring from the rack-bar and pulling backward upon the same.

The stamps are designed to pass between the plate G and the inclined surface D and may be either in the form of a strip which extends out behind the machine, as shown in the drawings, or several strips can be secured together and coiled upon a drum I, journaled at the rearward end of the machine.

J is a presser-plate secured at the forward end of two arms J', which arms extend outside of the body of the machine and are journaled at the rearward end thereof, and the presser-plate when forced downward will strike just above the plate C, upon which the envelop rests. In order to force the presser-plate J downward, any suitable means could be employed, here shown as a bell-crank lever K, with one short member and one long member. The longer member is provided with a handle for operating the lever, and to the shorter member is pivoted one end of a link L, the other end of the link L being pivoted to the presser-plate J, so that when the lever K is pulled forward the presser-plate will be forced downward, as shown in Fig. 2, and when the lever is forced rearward the presser-plate is raised, as shown in Fig. 1. Thus it will be seen that if a stamp is fed through between the plate G and inclined surface D it will pass outward

over the envelop resting upon the plate C, and as the stamp has previously been moistened by the wick F when the lever K is pulled forward the stamp is forced in tight
 5 contact with the envelop and affixed, and then by removing the envelop the stamp will tear off from the others along the line of perforations.

In order to feed the stamps forward simultaneously with the moving downward of the
 10 presser-plate J, I journal loosely on the protruding end of the shaft E' outside of the body A a disk M, to which is secured a small gear-wheel N, and formed with or secured to
 15 one of the presser-arms J' is a rack O, which is curved concentric with the pivotal point of the presser-arms and is in mesh with the small gear N. Thus when the presser-arms are forced downward the gear N will be re-
 20 volved in one direction and when the presser-arms are raised the gear will be revolved in the opposite direction. In order to cause the roller E to always feed in one direction and not rock backward and forward with the
 25 movement of the gear N, I secure to the outer end of the shaft E' a ratchet-wheel P, which will revolve with said shaft, and pivoted to the disk M is a spring-pawl Q, bearing against the ratchet-wheel P, and the teeth of the
 30 ratchet-wheel P are so formed and the pawl Q so arranged that when the presser-plate is depressed the pawl Q will engage the ratchet-wheel and revolve the roller E forward, and thus feed the stamp, as before described, over
 35 the envelop before the presser-plate comes in contact therewith. When the presser-plate is raised and the gear N and disk M rotated in the opposite direction, the pawl Q will simply spring over the teeth without revolving the
 40 ratchet-wheel P or roller E. Thus it will be seen that each time the lever K is pulled forward one stamp is fed over the envelop and in traveling to a position over the envelop is moistened and affixed by the pressure of the
 45 presser-plate J, and on a return movement of the lever the stamps are not moved and are all in a position for the next forward movement of the lever K, so that the machine can be operated as fast as the lever K can be

moved, all of the operations being entirely 50 automatic.

Of course I do not wish to be limited to the exact construction here shown, as slight modifications could be made without departing from the spirit of the invention. 55

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and useful is—

In a machine of the character described, a body, a water-reservoir formed in the body, a
 horizontal plate covering said reservoir and 60 pivoted at its forward end so that the same may be tilted backward to fill the reservoir, said plate adapted to support an envelop, the body provided with a surface commencing a little above and at the rear of the envelop-plate and extending rearwardly over
 65 which the string of stamps are adapted to pass, gummed side downward, a roller journaled in the body with its periphery extending slightly above said surface and in contact 70 with the stamps, a plate resting upon the roller, a spring for forcing said plate downward, means for regulating the tension of the spring, a wick extending upward from the
 75 water-reservoir through the body and protruding through the surface so as to contact the gummed side of the stamps as they travel forward, a drum journaled in the rearward end of the machine around which the string
 of stamps may be coiled, a presser-plate 80 adapted to descend and affix the stamp to the envelop when the same has been fed above the envelop, means for forcing said
 presser-plate downward, and means depending 85 upon the movement of the presser-plate for rotating the feeding-roller when the presser-plate descends so as to feed the stamps forward and cause the roller to remain stationary as the presser-plate rises, as
 90 and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

SAMUEL LEWELLEN.

Witnesses:

BENHARDT STEMMER,
 WM. MATHEWS.