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J. C. SIMERING.

PEANUT VENDER.

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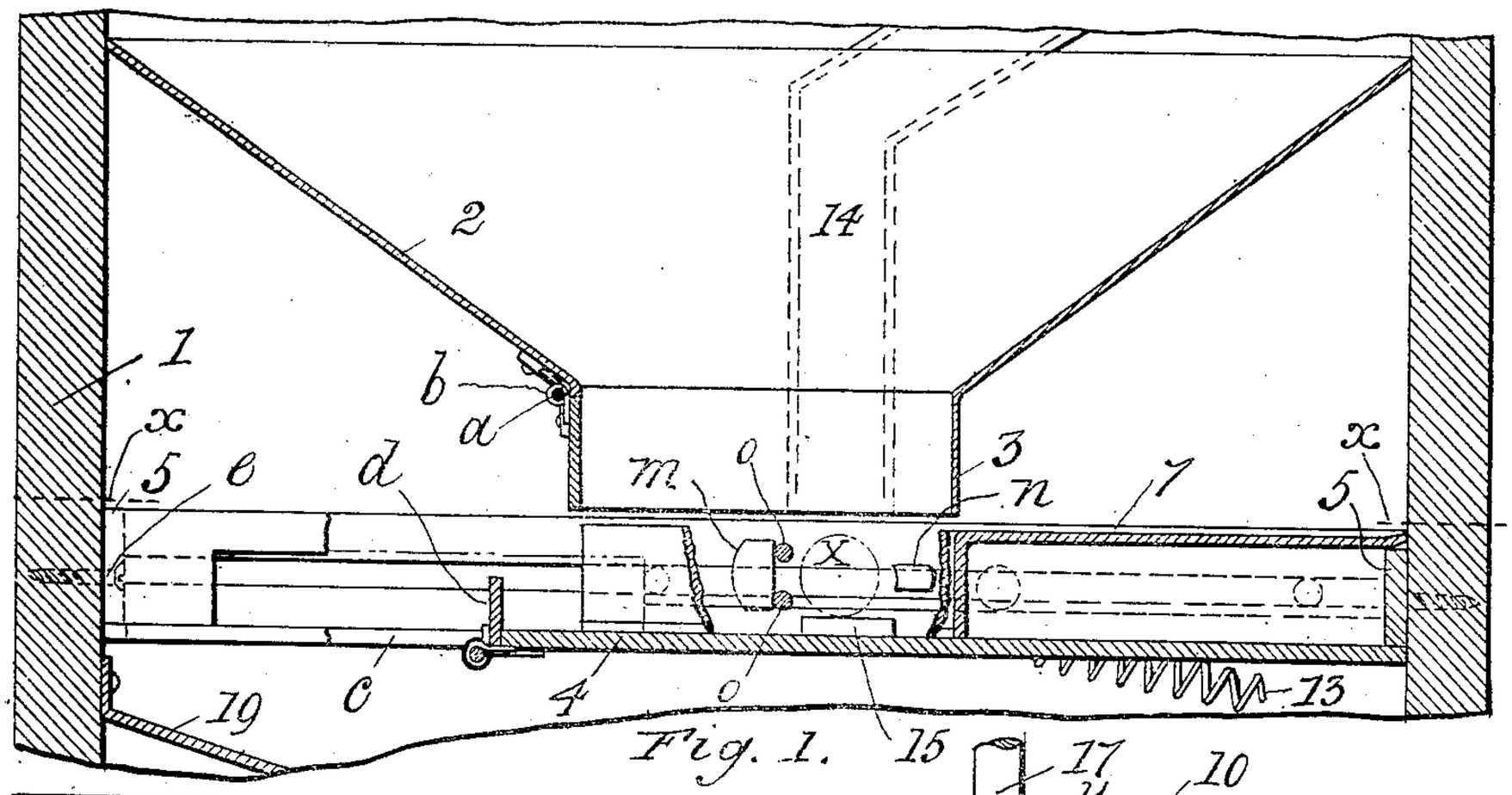

Fig. 1.

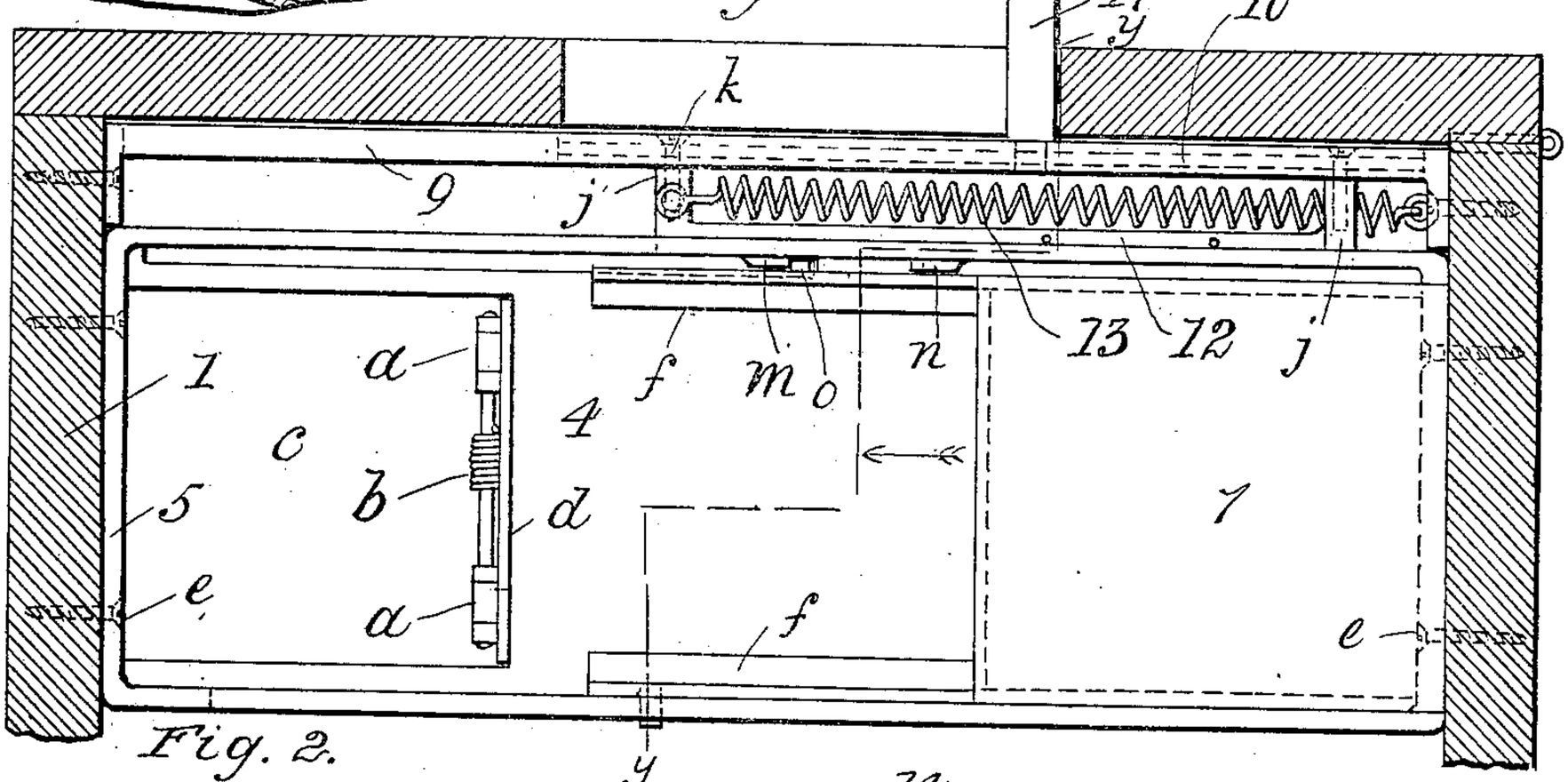

Fig. 2.

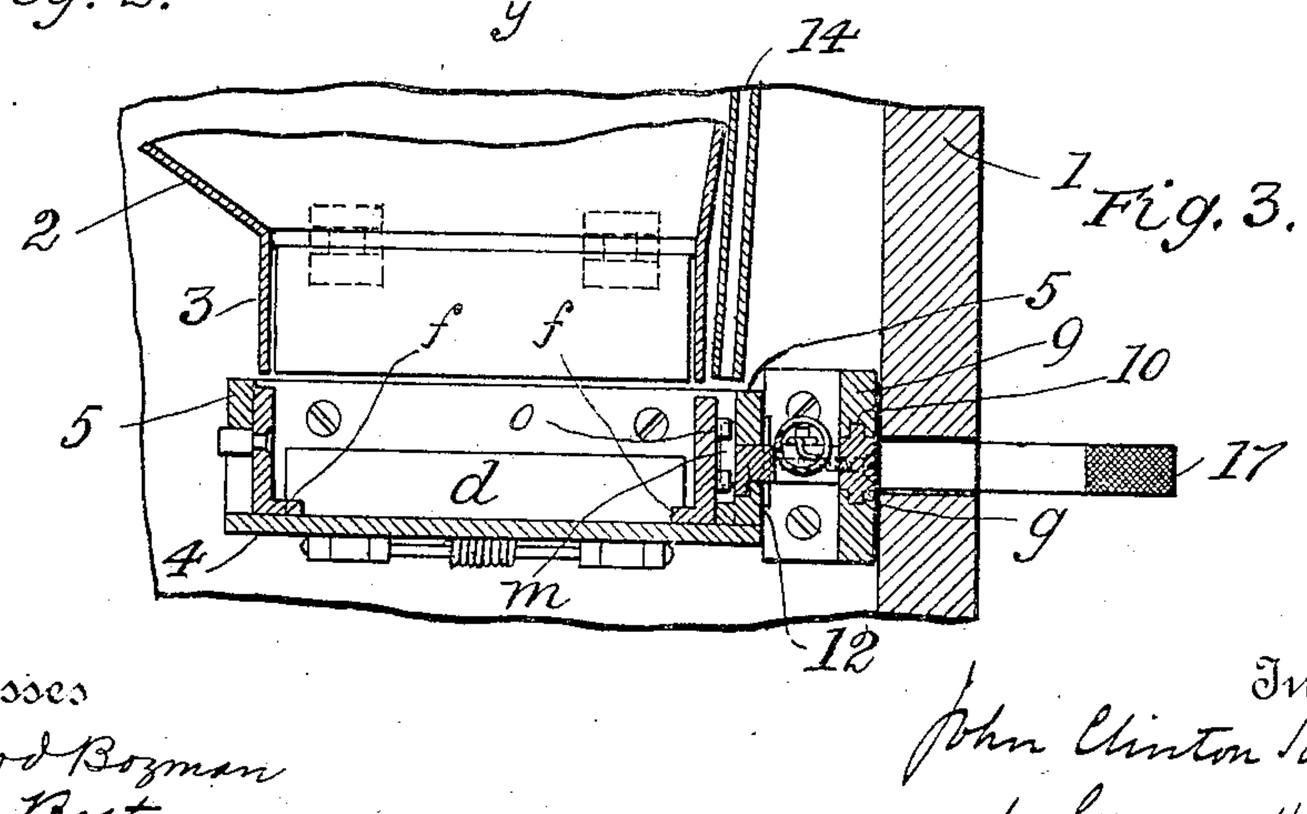

Fig. 3.

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PEANUT-VENDER.

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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.

The said invention relates to certain improvements in the invention shown and described in Letters Patent No. 813,026 granted to me on the 20th day of July, 1906, for an apparatus whereby a predetermined bulk of peanuts, or other small articles, may be withdrawn from a receptacle, after the insertion in a slot, of a coin which alone will render the movable parts of the apparatus operative for that purpose, and to which reference should be made.

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

Figure 1 is a sectional side elevation of such parts of the apparatus as are involved in the invention, and Fig. 2 a sectional plan of the same, the section being taken on the line *x*—*x*, of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a section of Fig. 2 taken on the line *y*—*y* and looking in the direction indicated by the arrow.

Referring now to the drawing, 1 is the case of the apparatus, which contains a hopper 2 wherein peanuts are stored. The upper part of the case is of course closed by a suitable door, not shown, to prevent access to the peanuts. The hopper 2 terminates in a rectangular spout 3 the forward side of which is loose and hinged to the hopper. In connection with the hinge which is denoted by *a* is used a spring *b* to yieldingly retain the swinging side in a vertical position as shown in Fig. 1.

Beneath the spout 3 is secured a horizontal table 4 the front end of which is provided with a discharge opening *c;* and at the rear edge of the opening is a hinged spring-held flange *d* which is normally in a vertical position, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

5 is a rectangular open frame situated on the table 4, and held in position by means of screws *e*.

7 is a sliding plate, made hollow for sake of lightness, which rests on the table 4, and it is of such thickness as to occupy very nearly the entire vertical space between the table 4 and the lower edge of the spout 3 of the hopper 2, as shown in Fig. 1.

The front end of the plate 7 is furnished with two extensions *f* which in the forward movement of the plate come in contact with the hinged flange *d* and causes that device to turn down or assume a horizontal position and remain in that position until the plate has completed its stroke and returned to near its original place.

At one side of the frame 5, and situated between it and the side of the case 1, is a bar 9 (see particularly Fig. 2) having a rabbeted slot *g* in which is placed a sliding plate 10 having a tongued upper and lower edge, as shown particularly in Fig. 3; and 12 is another bar (see Fig. 2) having flanges *j* which are fastened to the plate 10 by means of the screws *k*. The front flange *j* is connected to the case 1 by means of a spiral spring 13 in order to hold the bar 12 and the plate 10 yieldingly in their normal positions shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

On the inner side of the bar 12 are the spaced lugs *m* and *n* which extend through the adjacent side of the rectangular frame 5 which is slotted; and on the outside of the plate 7 are two pins *o* which are in contact with the lug *m* as best shown in Fig. 1. The lug *n* is narrower than the space between the two pins *o* (see Fig. 1) and should the bar 12 be moved forward, the said lug will pass between the pins *o* and communicate no movement to the plate 7. But should a coin of proper size be inserted between the lug *n* and the pins *o*, as shown in Fig. 1 wherein the coin is denoted by X, movement of the bar will be communicated to the plate 7.

14 is the channel into which the coin is placed to effect the operation of the apparatus, and 15 a block upon which the coin falls, and its office is merely to centralize the coin, until the same is gripped between the lug *n* and the pins *o* an operation produced by movement of the plate 10 by means of the actuating handle 17. To prevent the coin slipping from between the lug *n* and the pins *o* during the operation of the apparatus, the said lug has a hollow curved edge as shown in Fig. 1.

19 is a chute a part of which is shown in Fig. 1, to carry the peanuts discharged from the table 4 to some place where they are accessible to the buyer, as hereinafter described.

Supposing the hopper to be charged with peanuts, a portion of them which is supposed to be the quantity given to the purchaser in exchange for the coin deposited by him, will occupy the space on the table between the edge of the plate 7 and the hinged flange *d*. After the coin is deposited and rests on the block 15 and between the lug *n* and the pins *o*, the purchaser pushes the handle 17 horizontally to the limit of its movement. At the beginning of the movement, the coin is gripped between the lug *n* and the pins *o* and thus constitutes the means for communicating the motion of the bar 12 to the plate 7 the forward edge of which pushes the peanuts previously discharged from the hopper 2, against the flange *d* which yields and allows them to fall to the chute 19. At the same time further discharge of peanuts from the hopper is prevented until the plate 7 is allowed to fly back as the hand is removed from the handle 17. During the operation described, the coin is carried over the block 15, and at the beginning of the return movement of the bar the coin is released and falls through a suitable passage not shown, to a locked receptacle not shown. The object in having the forward side of the spout 3 spring-held, is to prevent jamming should a peanut become lodged between its edge

and the plate 7. When the handle is released, the lug *m* by its engagement with the pins *o*, causes the return of the plate 7 to its original position.

I claim as my invention:—

In a peanut vender, a case, a hopper terminating in a spout with an open bottom and a spring-held side, a table upon which the peanuts fall from the hopper, the said table having a discharge opening situated below the hopper with a spring-held upwardly projecting flange at the edge of the opening, a sliding spring-held plate on the table, and means to move the plate forward to close the spout and push the peanuts on the table to the discharge opening therein, substantially as specified.

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