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C. C. ABBOTT.

MECHANISM FOR ATTACHING COUNTERS IN VOTING MACHINES.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 20, 1907.

Fig. 1.

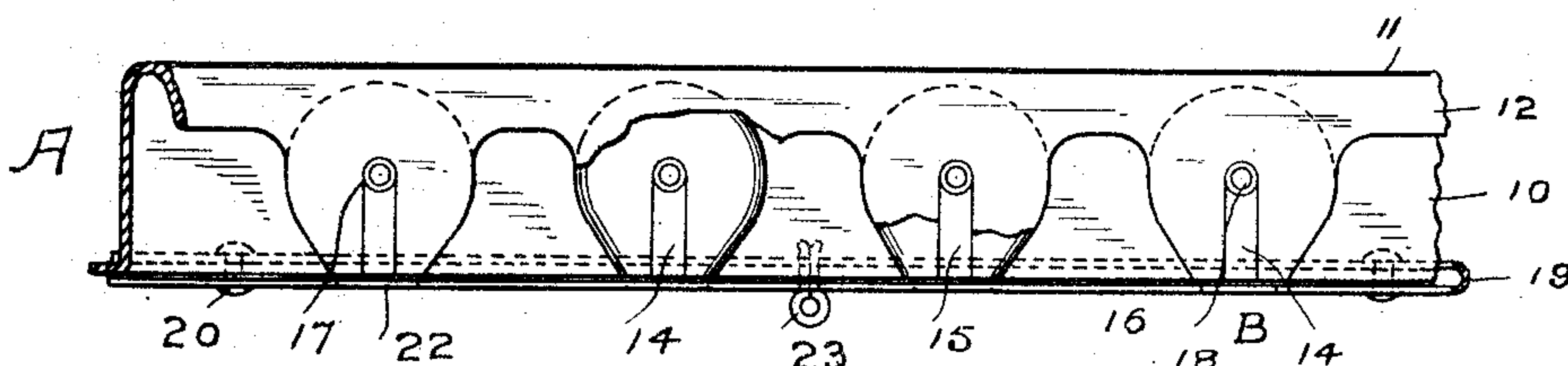


Fig. 2.

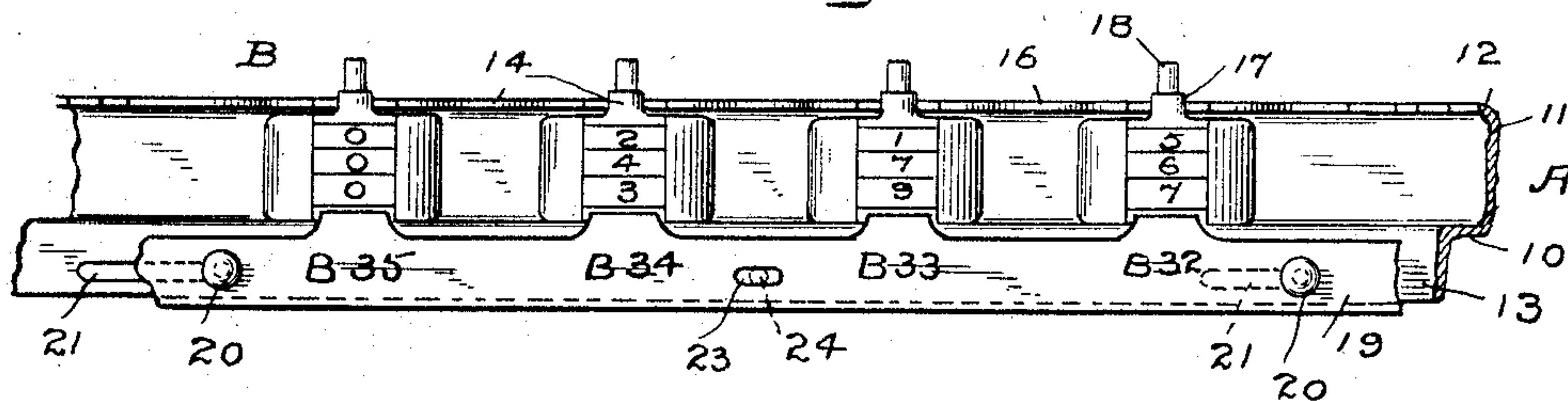


Fig. 3.

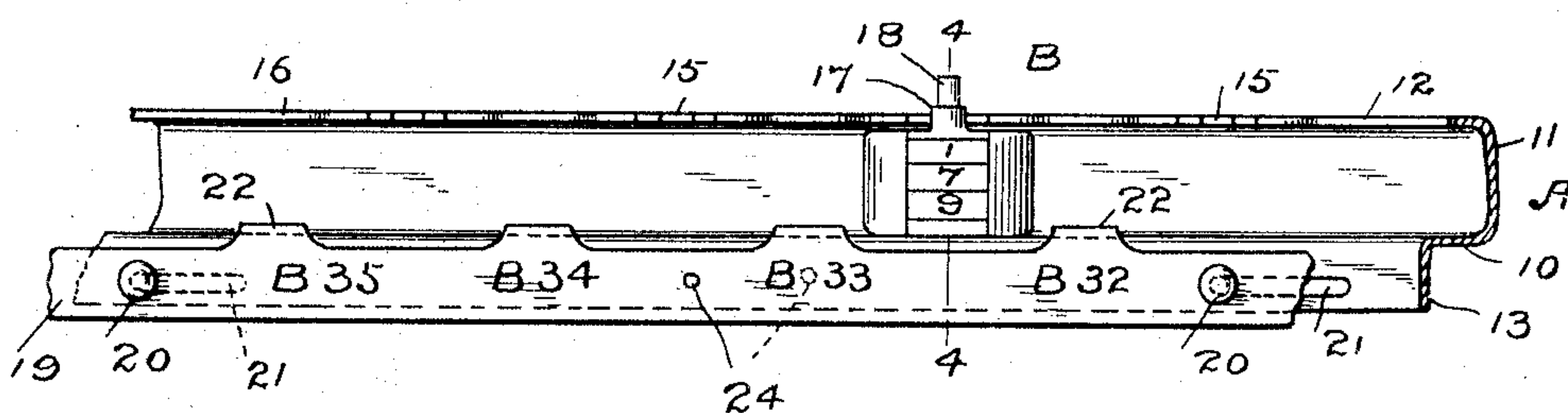
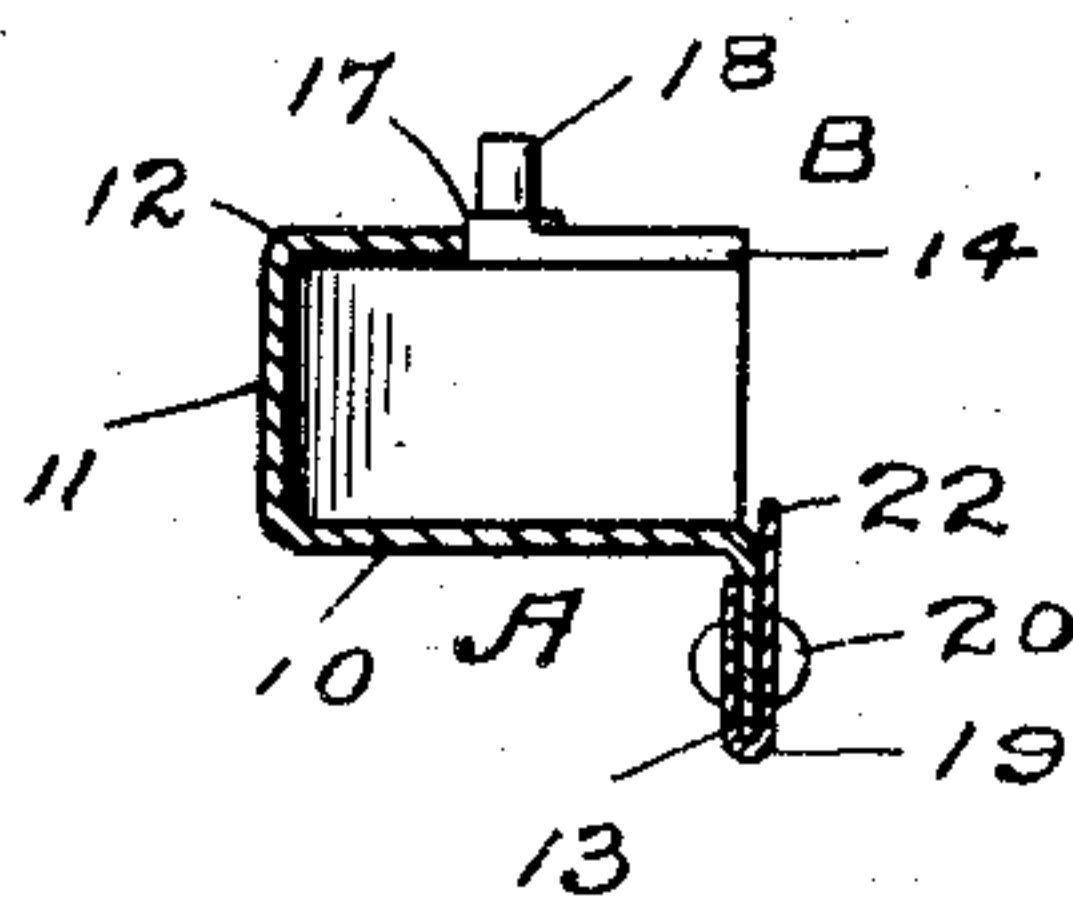


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## MECHANISM FOR ATTACHING COUNTERS IN VOTING-MACHINES.

No. 873,825.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 17, 1907.

Application filed May 20, 1907. Serial No. 374,607.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES C. ABBOTT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pittsfield, county of Berkshire, State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Mechanism for Attaching Counters in Voting-Machines, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has for its object to provide simple and inexpensive means for detachably securing the counters in voting machines.

It is, of course, well understood that ordinary voting machines are provided with several hundred voting members, and that each voting member has coöperating therewith an independent counter. It is very rarely, however, that near all of the voting members are used at any election; consequently many of the counters which are an important item of expense are always out of use.

My present invention renders it unnecessary to provide the machine with a full set of counters corresponding with the voting members, as it is made convenient to attach and detach the counters at will so that they may be easily changed from one line or column to another, and all that are not required for use in an election may be removed from the machine.

My present invention furthermore provides a strong and inexpensive means for attaching the counters in place, which does away with the attaching means heretofore formed upon counters, does away with the use of screws or rivets and reduces the liability of breakage to the minimum.

I furthermore provide that the counters used at an election may be readily removed from the machine for resetting, which renders the resetting of used counters a very much simpler proceeding than heretofore.

With these and other objects in view I have devised the novel mode of attaching counters in voting machines which I will now describe, referring to the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification and using reference characters to indicate the several parts:

Figure 1 is a plan view partly broken away, illustrating a portion of my novel counter bar with counters locked in place therein; Fig. 2 an elevation corresponding therewith, showing the mode of locking the counters in the counter bar; Fig. 3 a similar view, the

locking slide being in the unlocking position and all but one of the counters removed; and Fig. 4 is a section of the counter bar and locking slide on the line 4—4 in Fig. 3, a counter appearing in elevation.

A denotes the counter bar as a whole. This bar is formed from sheet metal and comprises a base, indicated by 10, upon which the counters rest, a backing portion indicated by 11, a top portion indicated by 12 and a flange 13 depending from the base.

B denotes the counters which may be of any ordinary or preferred construction. The only essential feature of the counters is that one side of the case, the upper side as shown in the drawing, is provided with a rib, these ribs being adapted to engage corresponding slots 15 in top portion 12 of the counter bar. In practice I have shown parts of top portion 12 as cut away, as at 16, for the purpose of lightness. This cutting away of the top portion, however, is wholly unimportant so far as the principle of the invention is concerned. I have also shown hubs 17 upon the upper side of the counters, said hubs extending slightly above the rib and serving as an upper bearing for the countershafts 18.

As the construction and operation of the counters is wholly unimportant so far as the principle of the present invention is concerned, I shall omit all description thereof. It is sufficient for the purposes of this specification to state that the counters may be operated in any ordinary or preferred manner, the present invention relating solely to the mode of attaching the counters in place.

19 denotes a locking slide which is shown as doubled about flange 13 and as secured in place by rivets 20 passing through the two plates of the locking slide and through slots 21 in the flange. The upper edge of the locking slide is provided with locking projections 22 which extend above the plane of the base and when placed in front of the counters retain them securely in place. In Fig. 2, the locking slide is shown in the locking position and retaining a series of counters in place, and in Fig. 3 said slide is shown in the unlocking position so that counters may be removed or replaced at will. The engagement of rivets 20 with the ends of slots 21 in the flange acts to limit the movement of the locking slide at either the lock-



ing or unlocking position. When in the locking position the locking slide may be retained there by any simple and convenient device, as, for example, a cotter pin 23 which  
 5 may be passed through holes 24 in flange 13 and in the plates of the locking slide, said holes being in alinement when the locking slide is in the locking position, as in Figs. 1 and 2.

10 For use at an election the locking slides in all lines that are to be used, unless already provided with counters, are moved to the unlocking position, as in Fig. 3, and counters  
 15 corresponding with all the voting members in that line that are to be used are slid into place in the manner described, the ribs 14 upon the counters engaging slots 15 in the top portion of the counter bar. Should the  
 20 lines be already provided with counters and should there be an excess over the number of voting members to be used in an election, the superfluous counters may be removed and placed elsewhere in the machine or  
 25 stored. Having placed the requisite number of counters in a line, the locking slide is moved to the locking position as in Fig. 2, and locked there by the cotter pin or in any convenient manner, thereby retaining the  
 counters securely in place.

30 The indications B<sup>32</sup>, B<sup>33</sup>, etc. are identification marks which may be used to indicate at a glance the counter belonging to any candidate that is being voted for. The lines of  
 names of candidates and the counter locking  
 35 slides are indicated by letters, as A, B, C, D, etc., and the counters and names of candidates are indicated by numerals, as 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. Thus the indication B<sup>32</sup> would  
 40 corresponded with the thirty-second name in the second row of names of candidates.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

45 1. The combination with a counter having a rib, of a counter bar comprising a base, a backing portion, a top portion having a slot to receive the rib on the counter and a flange

depending from the base and a locking slide secured to the flange and having locking projections extending above the plane of the  
 50 base to secure the counters in the bar.

2. The combination with a counter bar adapted to support counters and having a flange and a top portion provided with slots, of a plurality of counters having ribs engag-  
 55 ing the slots, a locking slide secured to the flange and having projections to secure the counters in place and means for locking the slide in the locking position.

3. The combination with a counter bar 60 comprising a base, a backing portion, a top portion provided with slots and a flange depending from the base, of a plurality of counters provided with ribs adapted to engage  
 65 the slots in the bar and a locking slide doubled about the flange and provided with locking projections which when placed in front of the counters secure them in place and a pin for locking the slide in the locking  
 70 position.

4. The combination with a counter bar comprising a base, a backing portion, a top  
 75 portion provided with slots 15, and a flange depending from the base and provided with slots 21, of a plurality of counters provided with ribs adapted to engage the slots in the bar and a locking slide doubled about the  
 80 flange and provided with locking projections to retain the counters in place and rivets passing through the plates of the locking slide and through the slots in the flange which limit the movement of the slide in  
 both directions.

5. The sheet metal counter bar A comprising a base, a backing portion, a top por-  
 85 tion provided with slots and a flange depending from the base.

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

CHARLES C. ABBOTT.

Witnesses:

GEO. O. B. HAWLEY,

CHARLES H. PITNEY.