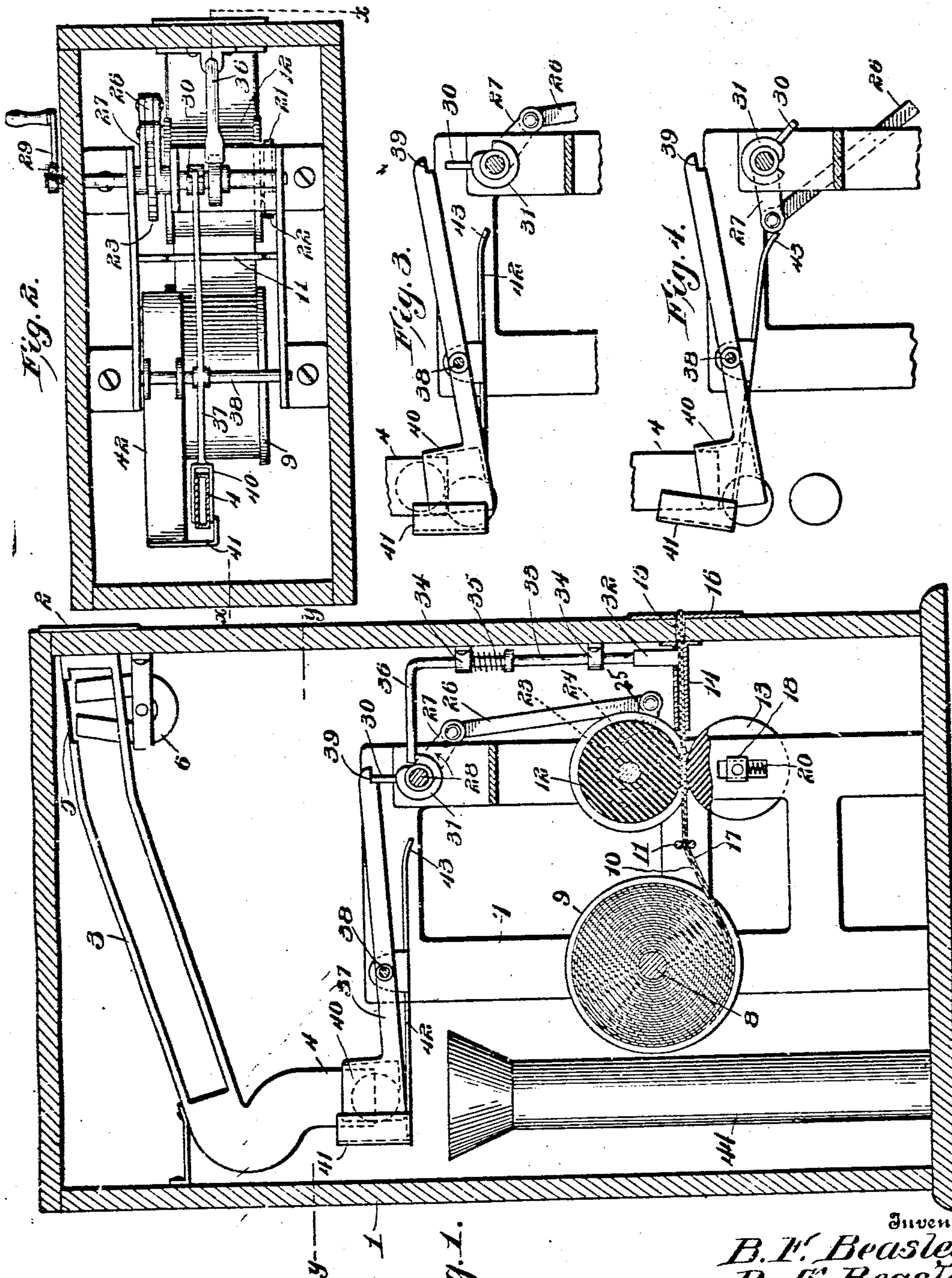


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COIN CONTROLLED VENDING APPARATUS.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 23, 1906.



Witnesses

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Fig. 1.

334

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COIN-CONTROLLED VENDING APPARATUS.

No. 879,722.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 18, 1908.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, RURICK N. BEASLEY and BENJAMIN F. BEASLEY, citizens of the United States, residing at Paint Lick and Lexington, respectively, in the counties of Madison and Fayette, respectively, and State of Kentucky, have invented new and useful Improvements in Coin-Controlled Vending Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an apparatus for vending postage stamps, postal cards, pictures and other articles capable of being put up in the form of a strip wound in a roll and separated by perforations or weakening lines in such manner as to permit the article or articles projected to be separated from the strip.

The object of the invention is to provide a simple and efficient apparatus of this character which will feed one or more stamps or other articles upon the insertion of a prescribed coin or coins and, when a plurality of coins are intended to be used, will remain inoperative until the required number of coins of the prescribed denomination are inserted.

Another object is to provide, in conjunction with a novel construction of feeding devices, means for clamping and releasing the strip so as to insure its proper feed and prevent the fraudulent withdrawal of any portion of the strip.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of the novel construction and combination of parts hereinafter fully described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal section through the apparatus taken on the line $x-x$ of Fig. 2. Fig. 2 is a horizontal section of the same taken on line $y-y$ of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 and 4 are detail views illustrating the operation of the feed mechanism locking and coin releasing levers.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, the numeral 1 designates an inclosing casing of suitable size, form and construction and having a coin inlet slot 2 communicating with a coin feed chute 3. The chute 3 is suitably supported within the casing and extends at a downward and inward inclination from the slot 2 to adapt the coin to feed therethrough by gravity, the inner and lower end of said chute being pro-

vided with a pendent vertical discharge portion 4. Adjacent its inlet end the chute 3 is provided with a side outlet 5 in proper relation to which is arranged a magnet 6 designed to effect the withdrawal from the chute of counterfeit coins, tokens and the like and prevent the passage of the same to the trip levers controlling the feed mechanism.

Disposed within the casing is a suitable frame 7 in which is journaled the shaft 8 of a spool or reel 9 upon which the stamps, pictures, postal cards or the like to be vended and arranged in the form of a continuous strip are wound in the form of a roll. The free end of the strip 10 passes from the spool 9 through a suitable guide 11 and between upper and lower feed rollers 12 and 13 and thence through a guide member 14 fixed to the front wall of the machine. The said front wall of the machine is provided in line with the guide 14 with a discharge passage 15, and has arranged upon its outer side a plate 16 having a slot coinciding with the passage. The front edge of the forward stamp of the sheet normally lies in the slot of the plate 16 and in alinement with the outer surface of said plate. In the operation of the apparatus the strip is fed forward a distance equivalent to the length of the stamps of the strip so that the perforation or weakening line between the projected stamp and following stamp of the strip will aline with the outer edge of the aperture in the plate 16, thus enabling it to be conveniently severed by the purchaser. If desired, one of the edge walls of the opening in the plate 16 may be suitably beveled or sharpened to form a guiding edge whereby the projected stamp may be easily removed from the strip without liability of injury to the same or the succeeding stamp of the strip.

As stated, the apparatus may be employed for vending stamps, pictures, postal cards or similar articles arranged in the form of a strip with intervening perforations or weakening lines so that they may be consecutively removed. When stamps are to be vended the gummed faces of the stamps are arranged in contact with a strip 17 of oiled paper or the like which is wound therewith on the reel 9 and feeds with the stamps therefrom.

I do not limit the invention to the feed of a single stamp or other article at each opera-

tion of the machine, as the stamps or other articles may be arranged upon the strip in pairs or otherwise suitably disposed so that a plurality of them may be vended upon the insertion of a prescribed coin. For instance, while the machine may be adapted for feeding a single stamp for two cents, the coin mechanism and strip may be so arranged as to feed two stamps for five cents, in order that the owner of the machine may derive a revenue from the sale of the stamps or other articles. Where the stamps or other articles are sold at their face value, it will, of course, be understood that the machine will be used for public convenience by merchants and others who seek to use the apparatus as an advertising feature of their establishment.

The rolls 12 and 13 may be made of rubber or other suitable material, and the shaft of the roll 13 is mounted in adjustable bearings 18 movable in guide slots 19 in the frame 7 and supported by springs 20 through the action of which the strip is held with the desired pressure between the rolls.

One end of the shaft of the roller 12 carries a ratchet wheel 21 engaged by a pawl 22 on the frame to hold said roller from retrograde rotation, while the other end of said shaft carries a ratchet wheel 23 adapted to be engaged by a feed pawl 24. The pawl 24 is pivotally mounted upon a swinging arm 25 loosely journaled upon the shaft of the roller 12 and attached by a link or connecting rod 26 to a combined crank and trip member 27 on an operating shaft 28, which shaft 28 extends at one end through the adjacent side of the casing and is provided with a crank handle or other actuating device 29, the shaft and its trip members constituting a controlling device for the locking and releasing levers, hereinafter described. The shaft 28 carries a trip lug or member 30 arranged in advance of the crank 27 in the direction of movement of said shaft, and also carries a cam or notched disk 31 arranged to operate a strip clamping or retaining device 32 adapted to project through an opening in the upper wall of the guide 14 to normally hold the strip from movement. The said clamping or retaining device 32 has a stem 33 vertically slidable in guides 34 and normally forced downward by a spring 35, the said stem being formed at its upper end with a laterally projecting arm 36 adapted to ride upon the cam 31 and to seat in the notch therein when the latter comes into registering relation therewith.

A combined tripping and locking lever 37 is fulcrumed upon a pivot pin 38 and has a notched locking end 39 adapted to engage the lug 30 to hold the shaft 28 from feeding movement. The other end of the lever is formed with a pocket 40 telescopically engaging the discharge end 4 of the chute 3, said pocket being open at its top and outer

end. The outer end of the pocket 40 is normally closed by a guard 41 projecting from a coin-releasing lever 42 coaxially mounted with the lever 37 on a pivot pin 38. Both levers are intermediately pivoted upon the pin 38, and the guard 41 is formed upon the rear end of said lever 42, while the forward end of said lever is provided with a contact portion 43 adapted to be engaged by the combined crank and trip member 27. The deposited coins may discharge into the casing proper or into a suitable receptacle 44 arranged therein.

The normal position of the parts is shown in Fig. 1, and in practice it will be understood that the notched end or arm of the lever is sufficient in weight to overcome the weight of the pocketed end thereof and having sufficient additional weight to prevent the down-tilting of the pocketed end until a coin or coins of the proper denomination feed into the pocket. Thus assuming that a single stamp or other article is to be vended for two cents, it will be understood that the lever 37 will not tilt until two pennies have been fed into the pocket 40. When a coin or coins of the proper denomination are fed into the pocket, the pocketed end of the lever 37 will tilt downward, thus releasing the notched end of said lever from engagement with the lug 30, as shown in Fig. 3, and permitting the shaft 28 to be turned forward by the crank 29, the coin, however, being still retained in the pocket by the guard 41. Upon the turning of the crank 29 by the purchaser, the pawl 24 will engage the ratchet 23 and turn the feed roller 12 until the arm 25 reaches a substantially vertical position, when said pawl will be released from engagement with the ratchet wheel and will swing backward to normal position during the continued rotation of the crank 27. During the movement of the shaft 28 the strip clamp 32 will be retracted in an obvious manner by the cam 31, and the member 27 will engage and tilt the lever 42, thus releasing the coin or coins held in the pocket 40, thus allowing the parts to return to normal position and the notched end of the lever 37 to again engage the lug 30 and lock the feed mechanism from movement. During the above described operation of the parts the movement of the rollers 12 and 13 will feed the strip forward sufficiently to eject a single stamp or any desired number, according to their arrangement and desired extent of movement of the strip, so that the purchaser may conveniently detach the same.

It will be understood, of course, that the action of the lever 42 is to retain the coins within the pocket 40 to prevent the lever 37 from returning to normal position until the feed mechanism has made one complete movement; and it will be seen that the invention provides a simple, convenient, and

expensive and reliable construction of apparatus for the stated purpose.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new, is:—

5 1. In a vending apparatus, the combination of a coin chute having a vertical delivery portion, a rotary shaft carrying a locking projection, a horizontally-arranged locking lever extending between the shaft and chute, 10 said lever being intermediately pivoted to tilt in a vertical plane and having a long arm operating to hold the lever in normal position and provided with a locking projection to engage said projection on the shaft to lock 15 the latter from movement and a short arm adapted to be depressed by the weight of a coin and carrying a coin pocket to telescopically engage the delivery end of the chute, said pocket being open at its top and outer 20 end, a vertically tilting coin retaining and releasing lever pivoted along side the locking lever to provide a trip arm operating to normally hold said lever in coin-retaining position and a retaining arm carrying a 25 laterally projecting guard telescopically engaging the outer end of said coin pocket, and means operated by the shaft to depress said trip arm and tilt the guard upwardly subsequent to the release of said shaft by the tilting of the locking lever under the weight 30 of a coin dropping into said pocket.

2. In a vending apparatus, the combination of a coin chute having a vertical delivery portion, a rotary shaft carrying a lock-

ing projection, a rod arranged parallel with 35 the shaft and between the same and the coin chute, a locking lever extending horizontally between the chute and shaft and pivotally mounted upon said rod to tilt in a vertical plane and to provide long and short arms, 40 the long arm being formed with a locking member to engage the locking member on the shaft and the short arm with a pocket telescopically engaging the delivery end of the chute, said short arm being adapted to 45 be depressed by a coin dropping into said pocket, a vertically tilting coin retaining and releasing lever pivoted to said rod on one side of said locking lever and having its arms projecting respectively toward the chute and 50 shaft, the first named arm being provided with a laterally extending portion folded to form a guard telescopically engaging the pocket to normally close the same and release a coin therein, and means operated by 55 the shaft to depress the other arm of the releasing lever and tilt the guard upwardly subsequent to the release of said shaft by the tilting of the locking lever under the weight 60 of a coin dropping into said pocket.

In testimony whereof, we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

RURICK N. BEASLEY.
BENJAMIN F. BEASLEY

Witnesses:

E. C. McWHORTER,
GUY RICE.