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PRIMARY VOTING AND VOTE CHALLENGING MECHANISM FOR VOTING MACHINES.

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Fig. 1.

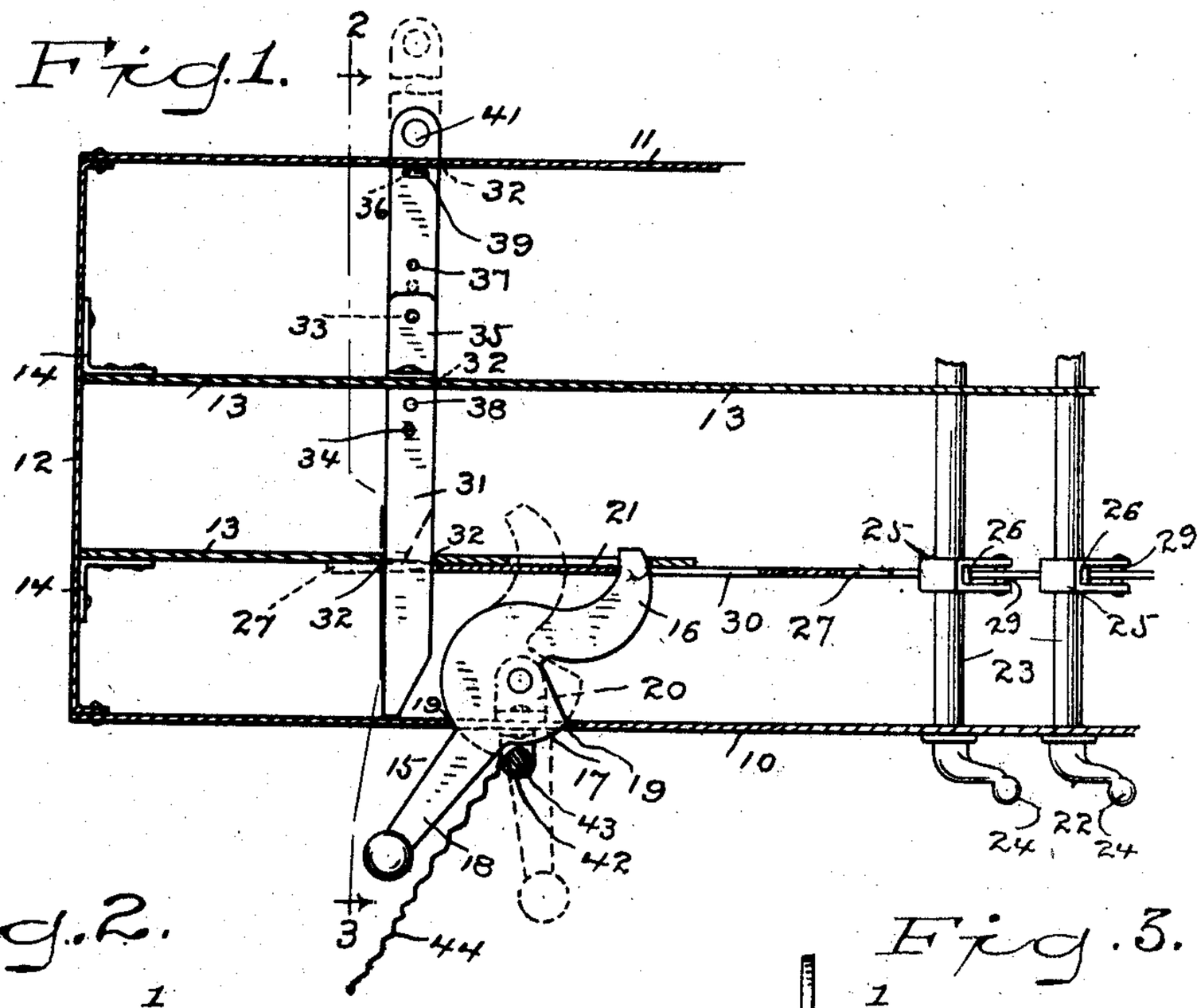


Fig. 2.

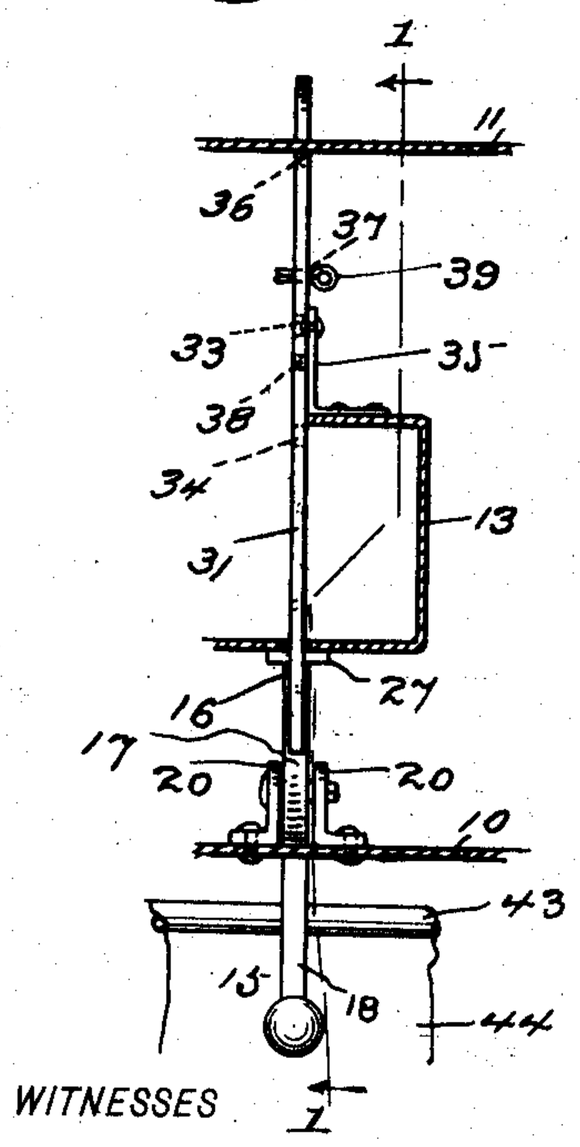
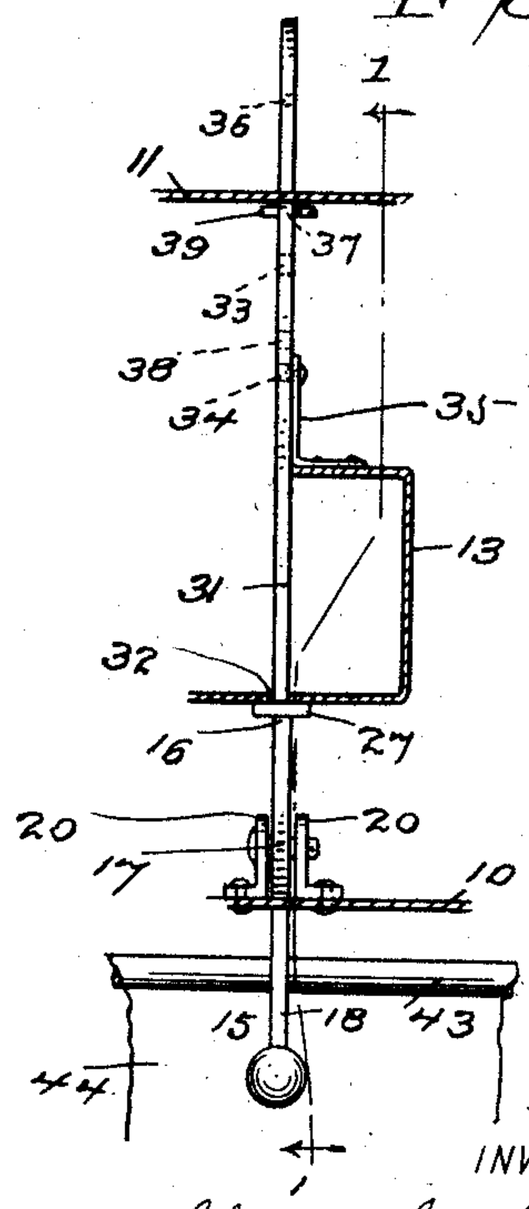


Fig. 3.



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PRIMARY VOTING AND VOTE-CHALLENGING MECHANISM FOR VOTING-MACHINES.

No. 881,992. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented March 17, 1908.

Application filed June 1, 1907. Serial No. 376,753.

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 Primary Voting and Vote-Challenging Mechanism for Voting-Machines, (Case B,) of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to voting machines and has for its object to provide locking mechanism applicable to the lines of voting members, to meet conditions likely to arise in primaries and also where votes are likely to be challenged in ordinary elections.

With these and other objects in view I have devised the simple and novel mechanism 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 horizontal section on the line 1—1 in Figs. 2 and 3, of so much of the case of a voting machine as is necessary to illustrate the present invention, the locking bar and party lever appearing in plan and a portion of the party bar appearing in longitudinal section; Fig. 2 a section on the line 2—3 in Fig. 1 looking in the direction of the arrows, the position of the parts corresponding with Fig. 1; and Fig. 3 is a section on the same line, the locking bar being in the retracted position as in dotted lines in Fig. 1.

10 denotes the front plate of a voting machine case, 11 the back plate, 12 an end plate and 13 a longitudinal support which is ordinarily inverted U-shape in cross section and is shown as secured to the end plate by brackets 14.

15 denotes the party lever which comprises an arm 16, a disk-shaped portion 17 which extends through and perpetually closes a slot 19 in the front plate and a hand piece 18 which projects outward from the disk-shaped portion. The party lever is pivoted to a bracket or brackets 20 secured to the front plate, and the arm 16 thereof passes through a clearance slot 21 in the front wall of the longitudinal support 13.

22 denotes voting members each comprising, so far as the present invention is concerned, a shaft indicated by 23, a voting lever indicated by 24 and a resetting arm indicated by 25. The resetting arms are shown as made from sheet metal formed to U shape and secured to the voting member shafts by keys 26.

27 denotes one of the party bars. For convenience in description I will use the singular form, it being, of course, understood that there is in every machine a series of party bars corresponding with the parties placing candidates in nomination and lines of voting members corresponding with the party bars. The branches of the resetting arms are shown as straddling the party bar. The party bar rests upon and is engaged in any suitable manner by cross pins 29 which extend between the branches of the resetting arms. 30 denotes a slot in the party bar which is engaged by arm 16 of the party lever. In casting a party vote, the party lever is moved from the full line position in Fig. 1 to the dotted position in said figure and moves the party bar from the full line to the dotted position shown, and with it moves all of the voting members in that line to the voting position. If the party lever is not used and the voting in that line is by means of the voting members operated singly, the movement of the party bar will be practically the same. The cross pin 29 of the resetting arm 25 of the first voting member operated will move the party bar toward the left, the slot 30 in the party bar being amply long to permit this movement of said bar. When the party bar is returned to the non-voting position after a voting operation, the means for which is not shown, as it forms no portion of the present invention, the engagement therewith of the cross pins in the resetting arms will return the voting members to the non-voting position, and the locking of the party bar, the means for which is not shown, will lock them in that position. The party lever is returned to the non-voting position by the party bar through the engagement of the left end wall of slot 30 in said bar with arm 16 of the party lever.

31 denotes the locking bar which reciprocates in slots 32 in the back plate of the case

and in the front plate of longitudinal support 13. The locking bar is provided with holes 33 and 34, either of which is adapted to be engaged by a spring catch 35 which is shown as riveted to the back plate of longitudinal support 13. The function of the spring catch is to retain the locking bar in either the inward or the retracted position but without locking it, leaving the operation of the bar within the control of the custodian by the exercise of a slight amount of force. When the spring catch is in engagement with hole 33, as in Figs. 1 and 2, the locking bar is retained at its inward position, and when the spring catch is in engagement with hole 34 the locking latch is retained at its retracted position, as will be more fully explained.

36, 37 and 38 denote other holes in the locking bar, either of which is adapted to be engaged by a pin 39, for example, a cotter pin as shown, for a purpose presently to be explained. The forward end of the locking bar is beveled as at 40 in order to prevent the possibility of interference with any of the parts in the movements. The outer end of the locking bar is shown as provided with a hole 41 which may receive a ring or finger piece for convenience in operation.

42 denotes one of a plurality of brackets which carry a pole 43 to which one edge of a curtain 44 is connected, the curtain being otherwise supported by fixtures (not shown, as they form no portion of the present invention).

The operation is as follows: Should it be required to lock a line of voting members out of use and to take the control thereof out of the hands of the custodian or other official in charge of the machine, the locking bar is pushed inward, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and pin 39 is placed in hole 36 in the locking bar, the pin lying just within back plate 11 of the case, so that when the rear doors of the case (not shown) are closed and locked, it will be impossible to retract the locking bar, it being presupposed that the keys to the doors are in the possession of other officials than the custodian so that when the machine is set up for voting the custodian can make none except authorized changes in any of the mechanisms. When the parts are in the position shown in full lines in Fig. 1 and in Fig. 2, the entire line of voting members will be locked in the non-voting position owing to the fact that the locking bar will lie in the path of movement of the party bar which is thereby locked out of operation and the voting members are also locked out of operation as no voting member can be operated unless the party bar is moved, as already explained. When the parts are in the position just described, it will be noted that the front end of the locking bar engages the front plate of the case, so that movement of said bar in either direction is prevented. Suppose now that in setting up the machine for an election, it is desired to place the control of a line or lines of voting members in the hands of the custodian to either lock or release the same. Pin 39 is removed from hole 36 in the locking bar and is placed in hole 37, the placing of the pin in this hole causing said pin to serve as a stop to prevent withdrawal of the locking bar. When the locking bar is in the retracted position, as in dotted lines in Fig. 1 and in Fig. 3, it will be wholly out of the path of movement of the party bar leaving the use of the party lever and voting members wholly unrestricted. Suppose now that it is desired to lock the locking bar in the retracted position so that it will be out of the power of the custodian to interfere with unrestricted voting either by means of the party lever or individual voting members in any of the lines. The locking bar would be withdrawn and another pin 39 placed in engagement with hole 38 in the locking bar, said hole in the retracted position of the bar being just outside the end of spring catch 35, in position to engage said catch should the bar be pushed inward, so that with pins 39 in holes 37 and 38, the locking bar would be locked in its retracted position and it will be impossible to move it in either direction, and the rear doors of the case being locked it will be impossible for the custodian or for any person except the officials having charge of the election to remove the pins and effect any change in this portion of the mechanism. Suppose now that a condition arises, as, for example, under the voting laws of certain States in general elections or in primaries in which it is required to prevent the use of the party lever and consequently to prevent all except individual voting and at the same time to leave the control of the lines of voting members in the hands of the custodian or other duly qualified official. A pin 39 would be placed in hole 37 to prevent withdrawal of the locking bar but leaving said bar free to be moved in or out by the custodian. Curtain 44 would be used to cover and conceal the party levers, leaving the voting members exposed and their operation wholly unrestricted. Should it be required to lock a line of voting members against a challenged voter or against a person in a primary not permitted to vote in that line, the custodian would simply push the locking shaft inward from the dotted position in Fig. 1 and the position in Fig. 3 to the full line position in Fig. 1 and the position in Fig. 2, in which position it would be retained by the spring catch. This would place the locking bar in the path of movement of the party bar and would thus effectually lock all the voting members in that line in the non-voting posi-

tion, as no movement of any voting member could take place without movement of the party bar.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In a voting machine, the combination with a line of voting members, of means for locking said voting members in the non-voting position, a casing for said devices and means wholly within the casing for controlling said locking mechanism.

2. In a voting machine, the combination with a line of voting members, of means for locking said voting members in the non-voting position and a locking bar for locking said locking means in either the voting or non-voting position.

3. In a voting machine, the combination with voting members, a party bar engaged thereby and a party lever engaging the party bar, of means for concealing the party lever and means within the control of the custodian during an election for locking the party bar in the non-voting position.

4. In a voting machine, the combination with voting members and a party bar engaged thereby, of means for locking the party bar in the non-voting position, a casing for said devices and means wholly within the casing for controlling the said locking mechanism.

5. In a voting machine, the combination with voting members and a party bar engaged thereby, of means within the control of a custodian during an election for locking the party bar in the non-voting position and for controlling the locking means.

6. In a voting machine, the combination with voting members and a party bar engaged thereby, of a reciprocatory locking bar which in the retracted position permits unrestricted movement of the party bar and when pushed inward crosses the path of the party bar and prevents forward movement thereof.

7. In a voting machine, the combination with voting members and a party bar engaged thereby, of a reciprocatory locking bar which in the retracted position permits unrestricted movement of the party bar and when pushed inward crosses the path of the party bar and prevents forward movement thereof, a casing for said devices, and means wholly within the casing for locking the locking bar at either the inward or the retracted position.

8. In a voting machine, the combination with voting members and a party bar engaged thereby, of a reciprocatory locking bar having holes 33 and 34 and a spring catch, adapted to engage said hole 34 to retain the locking bar in the retracted position and permit unrestricted voting and to engage said hole 33 to retain the locking bar at the inward position to prevent voting.

9. In a voting machine, the combination with voting members and a party bar engaged thereby, of a reciprocatory locking bar having a hole 36, a back plate through which the locking bar passes, a front plate adapted to be engaged by the inner end of the locking bar and a pin adapted to engage said hole within the back plate to lock the locking bar in the path of movement of the party bar.

10. In a voting machine, the combination with voting members and a party bar engaged thereby, of a reciprocatory locking bar having a hole 37, a back plate through which the locking bar passes and a pin adapted to engage said hole within the back plate to prevent withdrawal of the locking bar leaving it free to be retracted from the path of the party bar or to be moved inward across the path of the party bar.

11. In a voting machine, the combination with voting mechanism, of a reciprocatory locking bar having holes 37 and 38, a back plate through which said bar passes, a spring catch adapted to engage the locking bar to retain it where placed and pins adapted to engage holes 37 and 38 within the back plate and outside the spring catch to lock the bar against movement in either direction.

12. In a voting machine, the combination with voting mechanism, of a reciprocatory locking bar having holes 33, 34, 37 and 38, a back plate through which said bar passes, a spring catch adapted to engage holes 33 and 34, for the purpose set forth, and pins adapted to engage hole 37 within the back plate and hole 38 outside the spring catch, to lock the bar against movement.

13. In a voting machine, the combination with voting members, a party bar engaged thereby and a party lever engaging the party bar, of a reciprocatory locking bar having holes 33, 34 and 37, a back plate through which said bar passes, a spring catch adapted to engage holes 33 and 34 to retain the locking bar where placed, a pin adapted to engage hole 37 within the back plate to prevent withdrawal of the locking bar, and means, as a curtain, for concealing the voting lever.

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

CHARLES C. ABBOTT.

Witnesses:
GEO. O. B. HAWLEY,
CHARLES H. PITNEY.