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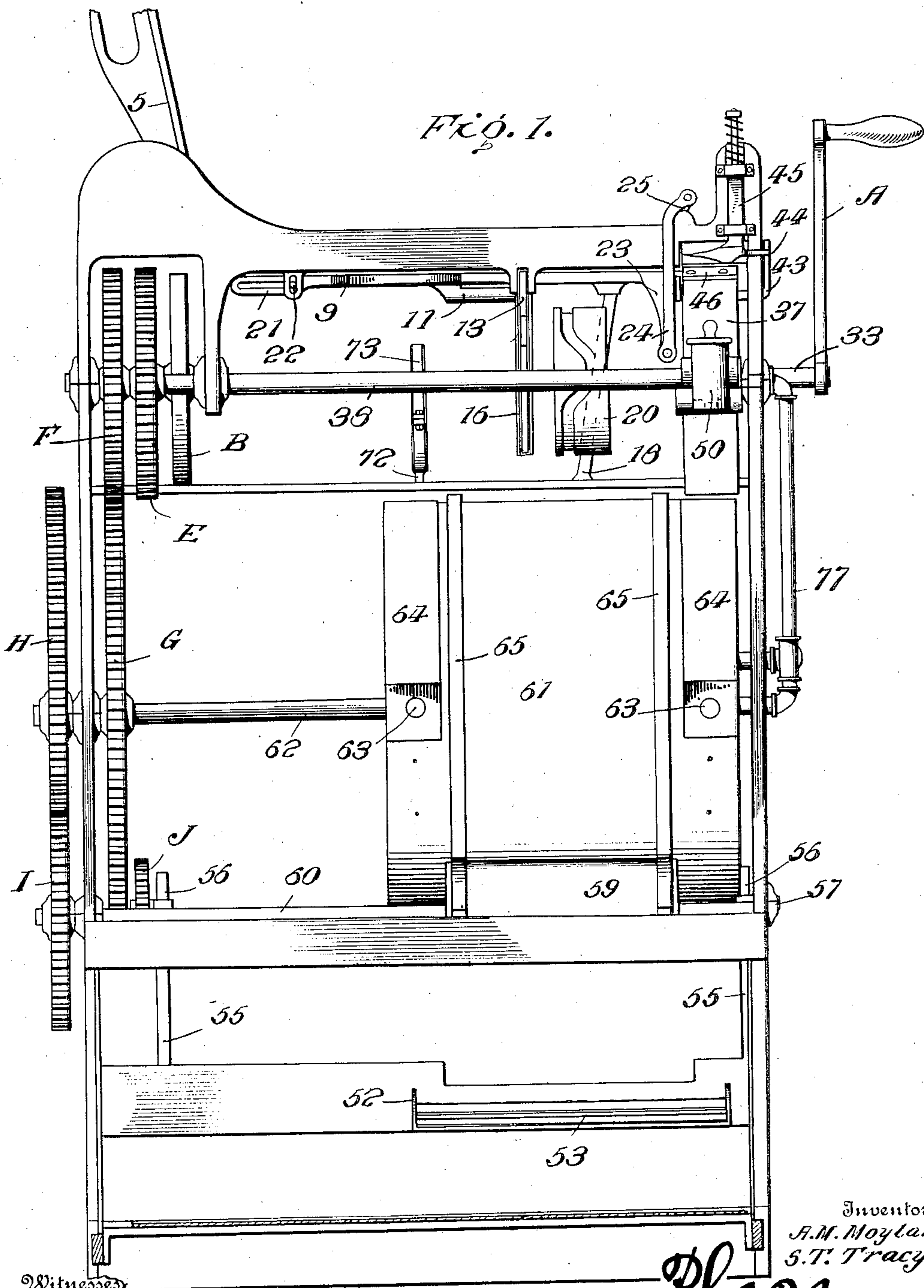
PATENTED MAY 19, 1908.

A. M. MOYLAN & S. T. TRACY.

MEANS FOR SEALING ENVELOPS AND AFFIXING STAMPS THERETO.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 26, 1907.

6 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnessed

J. H. Munn
W. R. Hordman

By

S. T. Tracy

Inventors
A. M. Moylan,
S. T. Tracy,

Attorneys

No. 887,829.

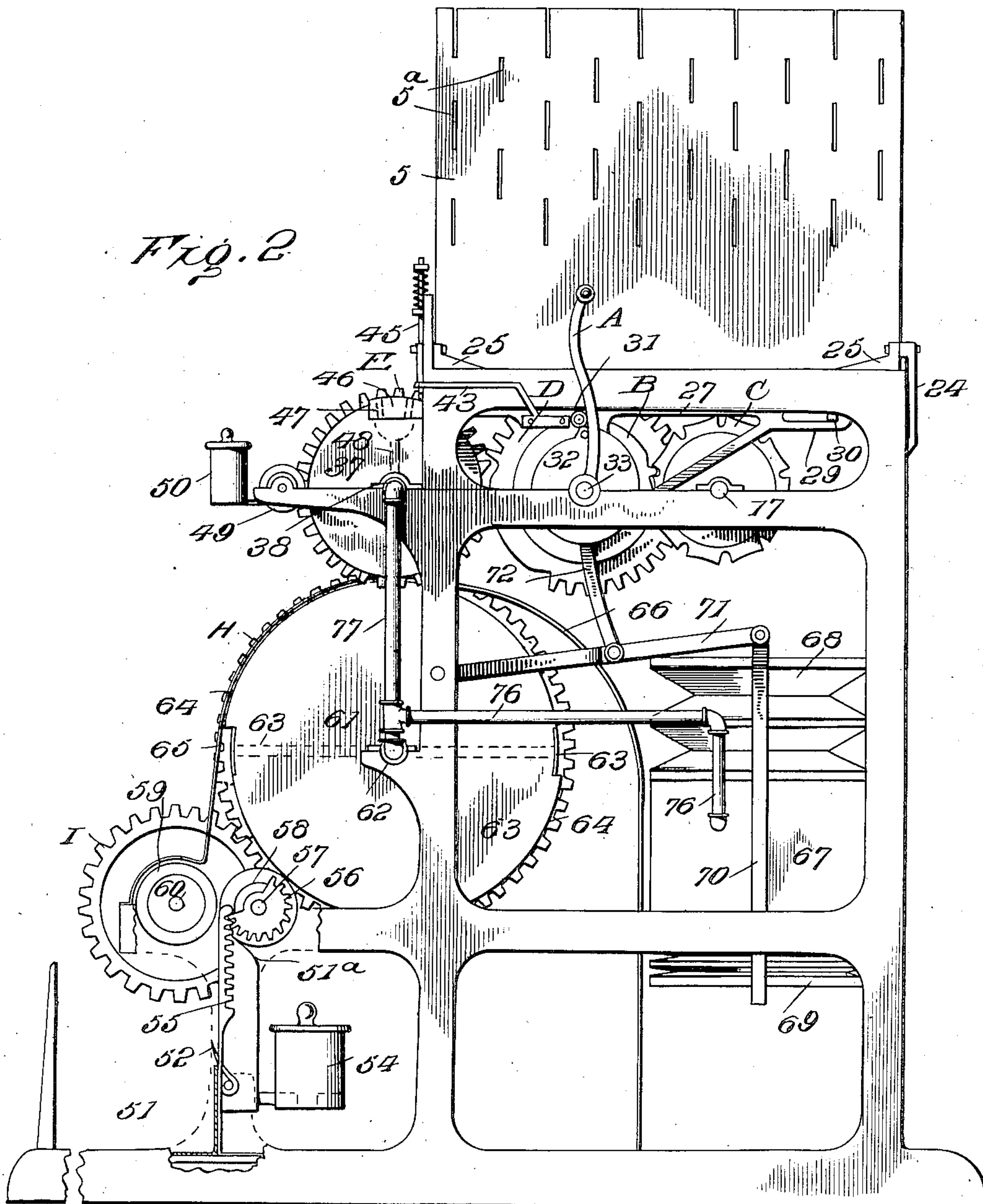
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6 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



Witnesses

McMure
Of N. Woodson

A. M. Moyle
S. T. Tracy

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S. T. Tracy
Ph. A. Tracy,

Attorneys

No. 887,829.

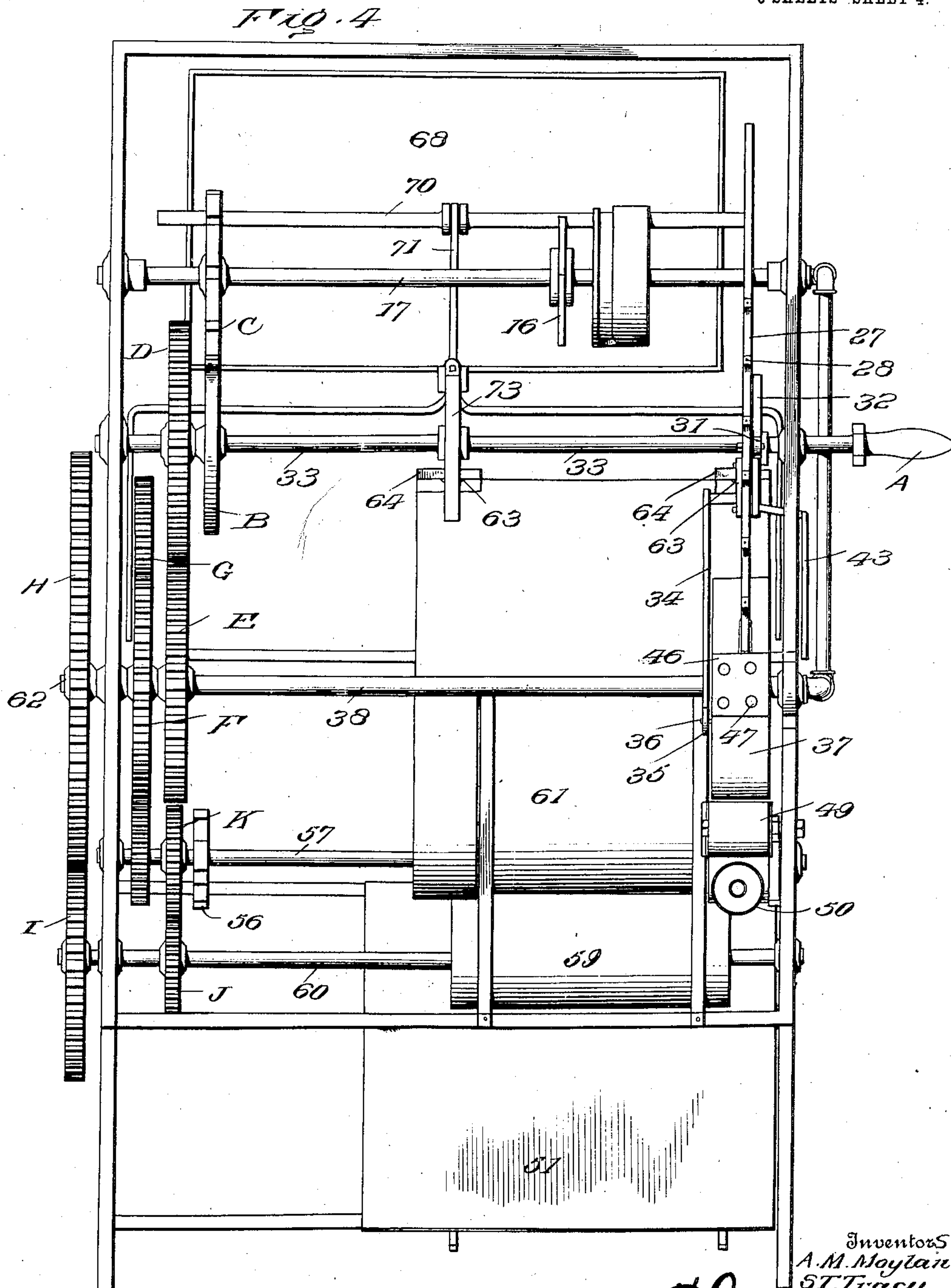
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6 SHEETS—SHEET 4.



Witnesses

J. M. Moore
W. R. Woodson

By

R. A. Tracy

Attorneys

Inventors
A. M. Moylan
S. T. Tracy

No. 887,829.

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A. M. MOYLAN & S. T. TRACY.

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6 SHEETS—SHEET 5.

Fig. 5

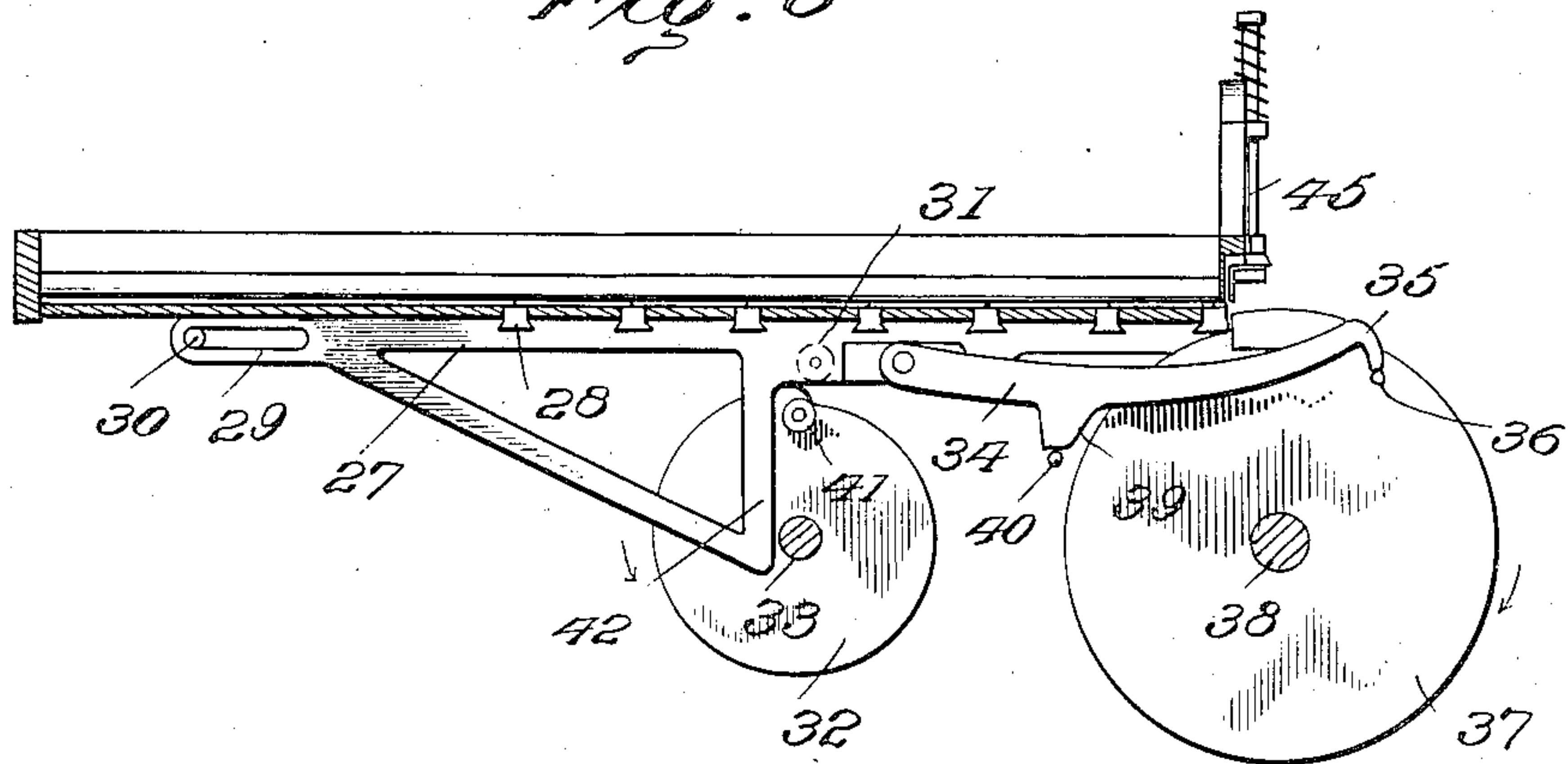


Fig. 6

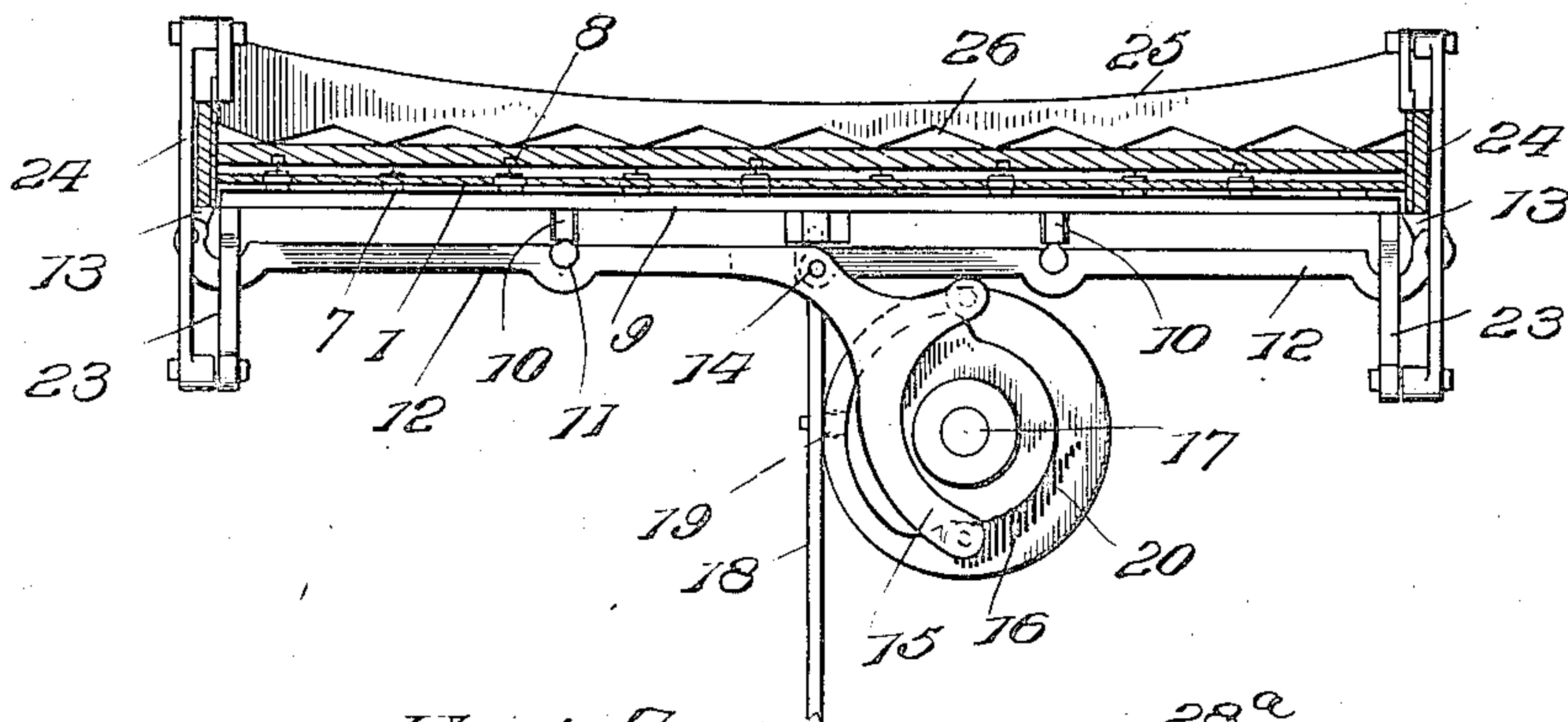
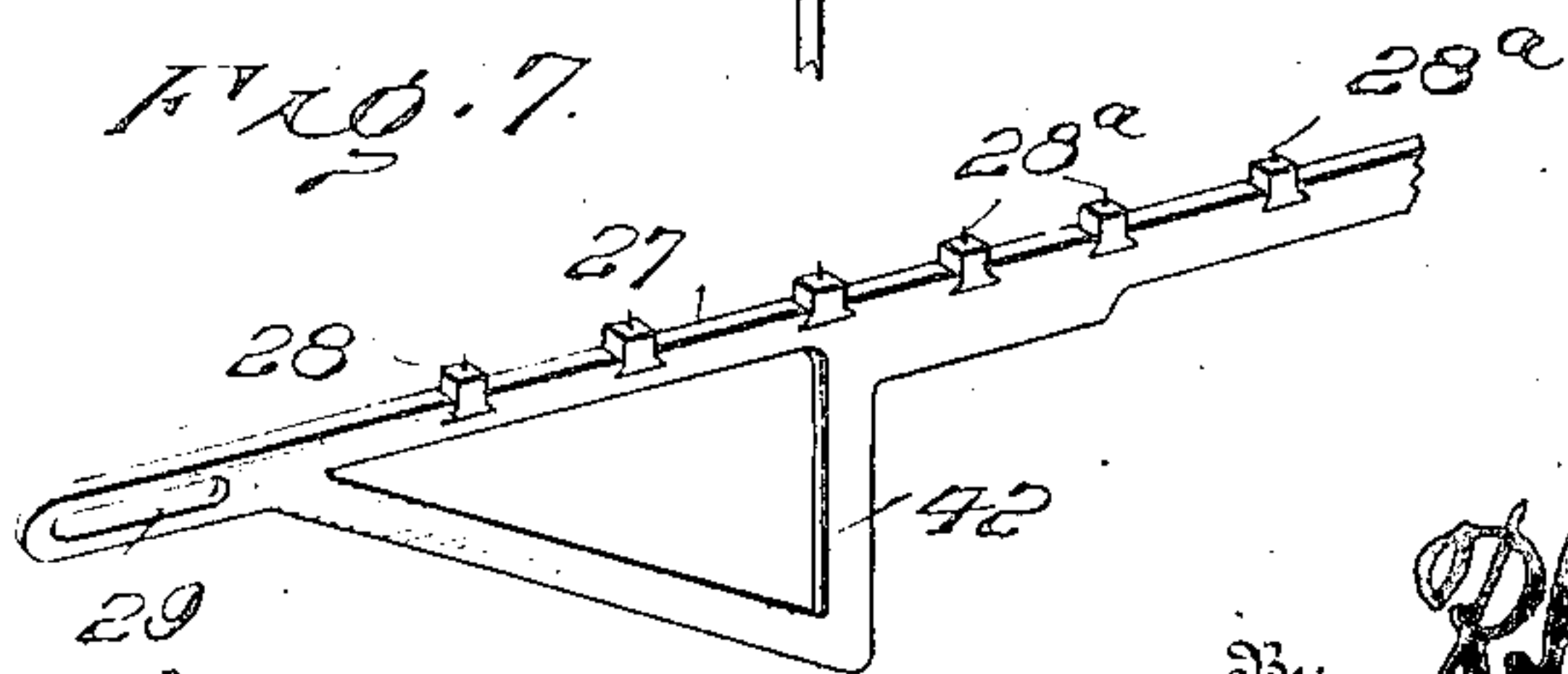


Fig. 7



Witnesses

Wm. H. Woodman

Inventors
A. M. Moylan
S. T. Tracy

By *R. H. Tracy*

Attorneys

No. 887,829.

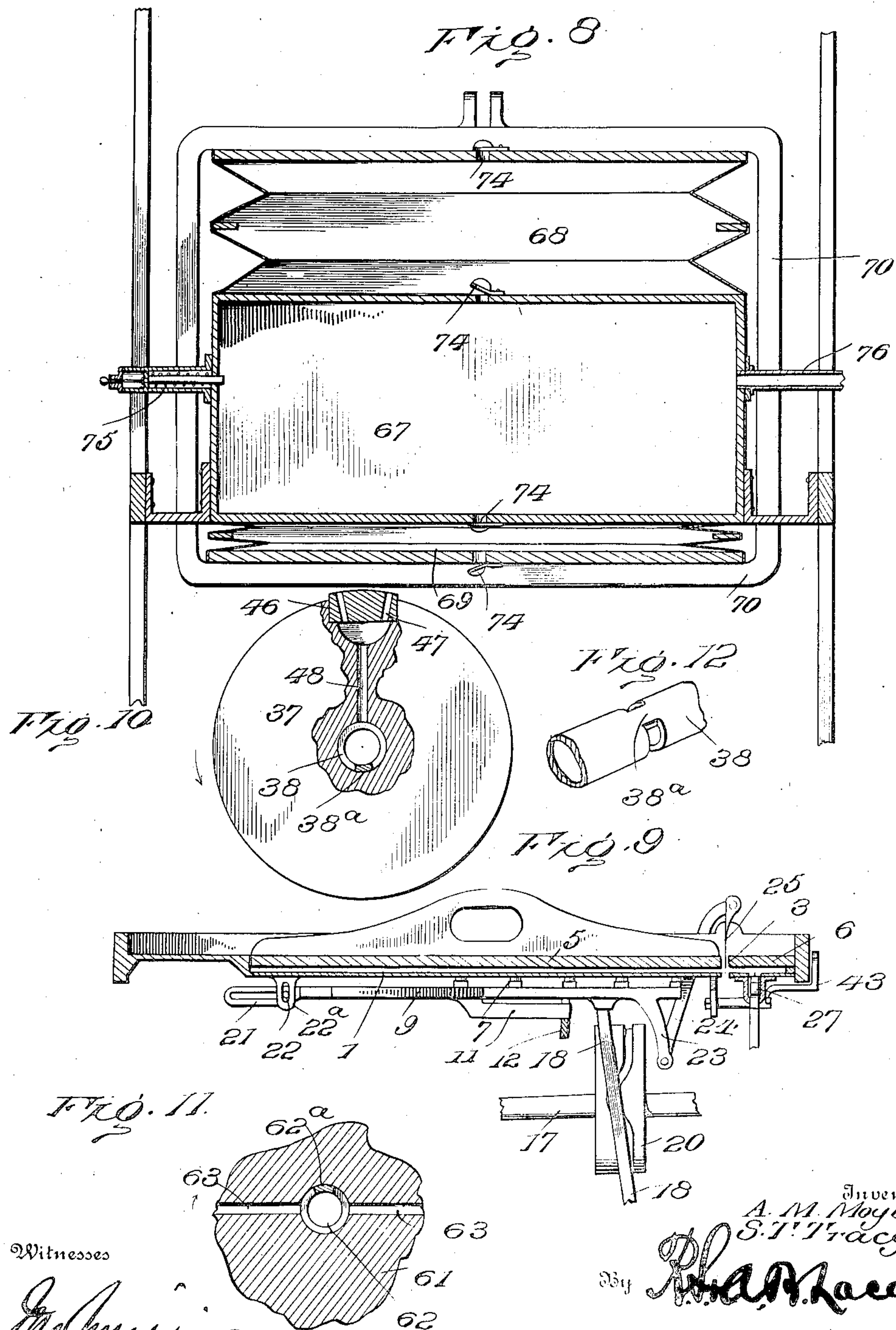
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6 SHEETS—SHEET 6.



Witnesses

Johnnie
W. P. Woodson

By

Ph. M. Tracy

Attorneys

Inventors
A. M. Moylan
S. T. Tracy

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALEXANDER M. MOYLAN AND SEAB T. TRACY, OF CENTURY, FLORIDA.

MEANS FOR SEALING ENVELOPS AND AFFIXING STAMPS THERETO.

No. 887,829.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 19, 1908.

Application filed March 26, 1907. Serial No. 364,706.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, ALEXANDER M. MOYLAN and SEAB T. TRACY, citizens of the United States, residing at Century, in the county of Escambia and State of Florida, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Means for Sealing Envelops and Affixing Stamps Thereto, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates broadly to the class of label affixing machines, and more specifically in its present embodiment and adaptation to machines for sealing and stamping envelops.

The primary object of our invention is an envelop sealing and stamping machine capable of using stamps in the sheet form in which they are now supplied by the Post Office Department, and thereby possessing material advantages over that class of stamping machines which are so constructed that they can only operate upon stamps arranged in a roll.

A further object of the invention is a machine of this character which is so constructed, and the parts of which are so arranged that the machine may be commercially valuable and used as an important office adjunct for the sealing and stamping of mail matter.

A further object of the invention is to provide broadly a machine which may be fed with a stack of envelops and with a sheet of stamps as they come from the Government officials, perforated and gummed, and which will, by automatic means, sever a strip of stamps from the sheet, feed such strip forwardly with an intermittent motion, sever one stamp after another at the proper time, and convey said stamp to the affixing point and moisten it in its travel, and at the same time convey one envelop after another to the said affixing point, moisten the flap and seal it in its travel and then finally affix the stamp to the sealed envelop and deposit the sealed and stamped envelop in any desired receptacle ready to be deposited in the mails.

With these main objects in view and with other objects that will be hereinafter set forth, the invention consists in certain constructions, arrangements and combinations of the parts which we shall now specifically describe and then point out the novel features, combinations and sub-combinations thereof in the appended claims.

For a full understanding of the invention

and the merits thereof and also to acquire a knowledge of the details of construction of the means for effecting the result, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of an embodiment of the invention; Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof; Fig. 3 is a top plan view, the knives and other portions of the machine above the bed of the feed table being omitted. Fig. 4 is a similar view with the feed table entirely removed or omitted; Fig. 5 is a detail sectional view, the section being taken approximately on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3; Fig. 6 is a similar view, the section being taken substantially on the line 6—6 of Fig. 3, but with parts shown in Fig. 6 that are omitted in Fig. 3; Fig. 7 is a detail perspective view of the strip feeder, a portion thereof being broken away; Fig. 8 is a detail sectional view, with parts in side elevation, of the suction bellows which is used in the present instance as a mechanical expedient to maintain a constant suction for the envelop and stamp conveyers; Fig. 9 is a detail sectional view on the line 9—9 of Fig. 3; Fig. 10 is a side elevation, partly broken away of the stamp conveyer; Fig. 11 is a fragmentary sectional view of the envelop conveyer; and, Fig. 12 is a detail perspective view of a portion of one of the hollow shafts or axes upon which the conveyers are revolubly mounted.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

The framework of our machine may be of any desired design and construction so long as it subserves its purpose as a support for the various mechanisms and parts thereof, and it is preferably composed of two main side castings provided with suitable brackets for the support of the different elements.

The feed mechanism for the stamps comprehends a feed table, the bed 1 of which is mounted at the upper end of the framework in a horizontal plane and which is formed with a series of transversely extending slots 2, a longitudinal cutter slot 3, and a longitudinal channel 4 to one side of and parallel with the cutter slot 3, and a lid or cover 5 may be hinged to fold down over the bed, said cover being flat like the bed and being held in closed position and slightly elevated from the bed so as to form a passage or contracted chamber over which the sheet of

stamps is intended to slide. The cover 5 is preferably formed with grooves 5^a adapted to register with the slots 2 when the cover is in closed position.

5 As will be seen by reference to Fig. 9, the cover 5 in closed position terminates flush with the cutter slot 3, and beyond said slot and the opposite side edge of the table said table is provided with a stationary plate 6 spaced
10 from the bed and adapted to form therewith a longitudinally extending passage for a strip of stamps after it has been severed from the entire sheet.

In order to feed the sheet over the surface
15 of the table bed 1, we provide a series of upright rubber feeders 7 mounted to travel in the respective slots 2 and each of which is provided with a short spur 8 at its upper end adapted to so engage the sheet of stamps as
20 to impart a positive movement thereto. These feeders 7 are mounted upon a feed rack 9 which is formed, as best seen in Figs. 1 and 6 with depending arms 10 having slightly rounded, horizontally extending por-
25 tions 11 arranged for sliding movement in correspondingly shaped sockets formed in the levers 12. These levers are mounted to rock slightly in a vertical plane and are swung by their outer ends from hangers 13
30 depending from the upper portion of the framework. The inner ends of the levers 14 are jointed together, and one of said levers is provided with a depending arm 15 carrying rollers operatively engaged by a cam 16 on
35 the shaft 17. The sole purpose of the levers 12 is to raise and lower the feed rack 9 so that the feeders 7 may be brought into operative engagement with the sheet of stamps laid on
40 the table. In order to actually feed the sheet, the rack 9 is mounted for sliding movement in a transverse direction upon the levers 12 which form a support therefor, and to effect this sliding movement to feed the
45 sheet, we have provided a bar 18 which is secured at one end to the rack and is pivotally mounted at its other end upon some convenient cross bar of the framework. This
50 bar 18 is provided with a roller 19 as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 6, said roller 19 working in a curved groove in the periphery of the cam disk 20 that is mounted on the
shaft 17 close to the cam 16. The rear end of the feed rack 9 is slotted as indicated at 21 and is supported at its slotted end by means
55 of pins 22 suspended from vertically slotted hangers 22^a depending from the bed 1 of the feed table, so as to provide guiding means for the feed rack which will permit it to move both vertically and horizontally. As
60 the shaft 17 turns, it is to be understood that the levers 12 will be rocked to carry the feed rack 9 upwardly and will hold said rack at the upper limit of its movement with the feeders 7 in engagement with the sheet of
65 stamps, while the continued movement of

said shaft will effect the lateral shifting of the rack by means of the cam 20 so as to move all of the feeders within their slots and carry the sheet along the table until one strip of stamps shall have projected over beyond the channel underneath the plate 6 with the first line of perforations resting immediately
70 above the cutter slit 3. The next action of the shaft 17 in its rotation is to lower the feed rack 9 and move it back to its initial position ready to feed the sheet to the right again, when the proper time arrives.

In order to sever a strip of stamps from the sheet when the sheet has been thus fed over
80 the bed 1 of the feed table, hangers 23 depend from the feed rack 9 and said hangers are connected by upwardly extending pivoted links 24 to the vertically reciprocating knife bar 25 guided in suitable ways in the sides of the feed table and adapted to move
85 downwardly within the cutter slot 3. By this connection between the knife bar and the feed rack 9, as the latter is lowered after it has fed the strip across or beyond the slot 3, it will pull the knife bar downwardly and
90 sever a strip from the sheet, the strip resting underneath the plate 6, in position to be fed forwardly. In this connection it is to be particularly noted that the knife bar 25 is
95 formed with a cutting edge producing a series of V-shaped cutters, and the arrangement is such that the points of these cutters will enter first at a point midway of the stamp along the line of perforations and cut
100 outwardly towards both corners of the stamp, the aggregate of cutters thus severing the entire strip. The strip is next fed forwardly along the feed table at right angles to the movement of the entire sheet, by
105 means of a strip feeding rack 27 which carries a series of upwardly extending strip feeders 28 projecting into the channel 4 and provided with spurs 28^a adapted to impinge against the underside of the strip. The rear
110 end of the strip feeding rack 27 is formed with a slot, as indicated at 29 and is guided in its back and forth movements by means of a pin 30 received in said slot. The rack 27 is provided at one side and preferably at
115 about its middle with a roller 31 adapted to be engaged by a lifting cam 32 which is mounted on the shaft 33. Thus the rack 27 is raised and lowered into and out of operative contact with the severed strip of stamps
120 and in order to move the rack forwardly while it is held in raised position by the cam 32, said rack is provided with a forwardly pivoted arm 34 formed at its extremity with a downwardly facing hook 35 adapted to be
125 engaged by a pin 36 projecting from one side of the stamp conveyer 37 hereinafter specifically referred to. This conveyer is mounted to revolve on the shaft 38, and as it revolves, its pin 36 will engage the hook 35
130 and pull the feed rack 27 forwardly until the

strip shall have been moved far enough to project the stamp beyond the slip forming cutter. As the cam disk 32 continues to rotate and finally permits the rack 27 to lower, the arm 34, with its projection 39, descends upon the stationary trip pin 40 when the arm 34 comes into contact with said pin. While the rack is lowering, the pin 40 swings the arm 34 relatively upward, thereby causing the disengagement of the hook 35 from the pin 36, at the same time the roller 41 on the cam disk 32 will engage the depending bracket 42 formed on the rack, and thereby return the rack to its initial position.

In the forward movement of the rack 27, an arm 43 carried thereby and projecting forwardly therefrom is brought into engagement with a lug 44 projecting from the spring retracted slip forming cutter 45 mounted to reciprocate vertically and designed to sever one stamp at a time as it is depressed by the arm 43.

The severed stamp is at once received upon a pad 46, preferably of rubber, which is mounted in the periphery of the stamp conveyer 37 preferably in a slightly projecting or raised position, said pad being formed with ports 47 (four in number, in the present instance), said ports communicating with a chamber at the outer end of a radially extending air passage 48 in the conveyer 37. The stamp will be caused to adhere to this pad 46 by suction, the specific means to establish the suction being hereinafter described, and as it is carried around on the periphery of the conveyer cylinder 37, it will have its gummed side wiped past a moistening roller 49 supplied from a moistening reservoir 50. The stamp is finally brought, in the rotation of the conveyer cylinder 37 to the affixing point which, in the present instance is at the lower limit of movement of the pad 46 in its revolution and where it is presented to the face of the envelop.

Having thus described the feeding of the sheet of stamps over the feed table, the operation of severing a strip of stamps from the sheet, the operation of feeding the strip forwardly and severing a stamp from it, and the adhesion of the severed stamp to the rotary conveyer 37, we shall now describe the mechanisms for sealing the envelops or the like packages, and the feeding of the envelops to the stamp affixing point and the operation of affixing the stamp to the envelop.

The envelops are set edgewise in the stacking box 51 with their open flaps facing a pair of spiked lifting devices 52 that are secured to a rearwardly facing moistener 53 adapted to reciprocate vertically and provided with a reservoir 54. In order to raise the moistener and envelop lifters 52, we have provided a pair of rearwardly facing racks 55 meshing with segment gears 56 on the shaft 57. As the shaft 57 rotates, the spiked lifters 52 will

be carried upwardly underneath the flap and lift the envelop at its ends. The moistener 53 is just below the ends of the spiked lifters 52 and as the lifters and moisteners rise together with the envelop carried by the lifters, the flap will be pressed outwardly by means of a guard 51^a against the moistener which latter will effectually wet the gummed edge of the flap. As the moistener and lifters reach the upper limit of their movement, the upper edge of the envelop is caught by means of a roller 58 on the shaft 57 and a companion roller 59 on the shaft 60, the segments 56 at this time becoming disengaged from the racks and permitting the lifters and moistener to drop down for subsequent action. It is to be noted that the rollers 58 and 59 press the moistened flap to the back of the envelop and effect the sealing of the latter, and they are of a width to fit between the spiked lifters 52 and hence they interfere in no wise with the action of said lifters.

61 designates the envelop conveyer which is in the form of a revoluble cylinder mounted upon the shaft 62. This cylinder is provided with diametrically opposite air passages 63 which communicate with the periphery of the cylinder and through which air is adapted to be drawn so as to cause the adhesion of the envelop to the periphery of the cylinder. In order that the envelop may not adhere to the cylinder until the lower edge of the envelop shall have just passed out from between the rollers 58 and 59, we provide the periphery of the cylinder with raised portions or guards 64 at its ends, in registry with the two pairs of exhaust or suction passages 63, these guards providing shoulders at their extremities contiguous to the passages, and hence not only holding the envelop away from the end of the passages and preventing any adhesive action from taking place, until the proper time, but also insuring the proper alinement of the envelop on the periphery of the cylinder, by their abruptly ending shoulders, clearly illustrated in the drawings. As the envelop is carried upwardly on the cylinder conveyer 61, it passes under curved guides 65 and its upper right hand corner meets the stamp as the latter is carried downwardly towards it by the oppositely rotating stamp conveyer 37. The peripheries of the two cylinders 37 and 61 are in such proximity that the stamp will be firmly pressed against the face of the envelop and caused to adhere thereto and the then stamped envelop will be carried rearwardly and deflected by curved guards 66 into any suitable receptacle.

In the present instance the mechanism for maintaining a suction in a central direction from the passages 63 and 48, comprises a suction bellows 67, which, as best seen in Fig. 8, embodies a middle stationary section secured in suitable brackets in the framework and upper and lower bellows sections 68, 69.

A yoke 70 encircles said bellows sections and is adapted for vertically reciprocating movement, so as to alternately compress and expand the sections. Said yoke is connected at its upper end to a lever 71 fulcrumed in the framework, and a link or pitman 72 is connected at one end to said lever and is provided at its other end with a strap encircling the eccentric 73 on the shaft 33. The bellows 67 is provided with two sets of check valves 74, with a regulating valve 75, and with an exhaust pipe 76 which is connected by means of a branch 77 to both of the shafts 38 and 62. These shafts are sufficiently hollow to communicate with the inner ends of the passages 63 and the passage 48, and each of said shafts is formed with solid portions designated 62^a and 38, respectively, said solid portions acting as cut-offs of the passages 63 and 48 when the latter face each other. Hence, it will be understood that as soon as air is automatically cut-off the stamp is presented to the face of the envelop, so as to release the same and envelop and permit the stamped envelop to slide outwardly under the guards 66. Reference is to be had to Figs. 10, 11 and 12 for the specific construction of cut-off that may be employed.

The practical operation of the various mechanisms and their correlated movement having been hereinbefore set forth in detail in connection with the details of description of structural features, we deem it unnecessary to further set forth the operation, except in a general way, after having first now described the gearing which is used in the present instance to impart motion to the various parts.

The main shaft of the machine is the shaft 33 which may be provided with a crank A to turn it, although it is obvious that any other means may be employed for this purpose. On the drive shaft 33 is fixed a tappet wheel B provided with one tooth adapted to successively engage with the teeth in the notched disk C on the shaft 11. As there are ordinarily at the present time, ten stamps in a strip, considered lengthwise, there are ten teeth or notches in the disk C to the one tooth on the tappet wheel B, so that the shaft 33 will be turned ten times to feed one stamp after another from the strip to the slip forming knife, before the shaft shall have made one complete revolution to shift the sheet quickly to the right and sever another strip. There is also on the drive shaft 33 a mutilated gear wheel D which meshes with a similar gear wheel E on the shaft 38. To drive the latter, there is also a spur wheel F which meshes with a similar gear wheel G on the shaft 62. These two gear wheels are so proportioned that the stamp conveyer will make two revolutions to one revolution of the envelop conveyer cylinder 61, it being noted that the latter cylinder is formed with two sets of suction passages to one of the former.

There is also on the shaft 62 outside of the framework a spur gear wheel H which meshes with a relatively smaller wheel I on the shaft 60 of one of the sealing rollers (59), and said shaft 60 carries a pinion which meshes with a similar pinion on the shaft 57 so as to drive the other sealing roller 58. As has been before stated, the segment gears 56 that are adapted to effect the lifting of one envelop after another out of the rack or stack 51 are mounted on the shaft 57. Briefly considered, therefore, it will be seen that when one sheet of stamps is placed gummed side up, on the bed 1 of the feed table and the cover 5 swung down, a turning of the crank A to shift the sheet to the right, will then cut-off a strip of stamps from the sheet and feed them one at a time to the slip forming knife, which latter will snip off a stamp and the severed stamp will be carried around to the affixing point, while at the same time the envelop is being caught up from the rack 51, its flap is being moistened and it is being conveyed forwardly to the same point where the stamp will be affixed to the face of the envelop and the operation completed by depositing the envelop into any desired receptacle.

From the foregoing description in connection with the accompanying drawings, it is manifest that we have provided a very comprehensive and efficient machine of this character which will operate automatically and carry out the entire operation of sealing envelops and the like and affixing stamps to the sheets just as they are at present supplied from the Post Office, and it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to a sheet of stamps ten by ten, or five by five, or to any particular number of stamps, the present embodiment of the invention being illustrated for sheets of these sizes, merely because at the present time, the Government officials print the stamps on sheets of this character.

While we have referred throughout the specification to our invention as improvements in means for sealing and stamping letters, it is to be understood that the invention is equally applicable for use as a slip or label affixer, and in the following claims, we desire it understood, that wherever the words "stamp" or "envelop" occur, such terms are to be construed as comprehending slips and labels and any articles to which such slips or labels are to be applied.

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

1. In a machine of the character described, the combination of a feed table adapted to support a sheet of stamps, a rack secured underneath said table and provided with a series of upwardly extending feeders projecting through the table and adapted to engage with a sheet of stamps, means for rais-

ing the rack into engagement with the sheet, for shifting it in one direction in raised position, for lowering the rack and then returning it in lowered position, means actuated by the rack in its lowered movement to sever a strip from the sheet, means for severing a stamp from the strip, and means for affixing the severed stamp to an envelop.

2. In a machine of the character described, the combination of a feed table adapted to support a sheet of stamps, a rack operating underneath the table and provided with feeders projecting underneath the table and adapted to engage the sheet, means for raising the rack, shifting the rack in raised position in one direction, lowering the rack and moving it backwardly in lowered position, the table being provided with a cutter slot, a knife adapted to work in said slot, pivoted links connecting the rack with the knife whereby the knife will be depressed when the rack is lowered so as to sever a strip from the sheet, means for feeding the strip intermittently, means for severing a stamp from the strip, and means for affixing the stamp to an envelop.

3. In a machine of the character described, the combination of a feed table provided with a bed formed with a series of slots and a cutter slot extending at right angles to the series of slots, a rack operating underneath the bed and provided with a series of upright feeders working in said slots, said feeders being formed in their upper extremities with a spur adapted to engage a sheet of stamps laid on the bed, a knife adapted to operate in the cutter slot, means for shifting the rack towards the cutter slot in a raised position and for lowering it and returning it in a lowered position, an operative connection between the knife and the rack whereby the lowering of the rack will effect the depression of the knife to sever a strip from the sheet, means for intermittently feeding the strip over the bed in a direction at right angles to the direction of movement of the sheet, means for severing a stamp from the strip, and means for affixing the severed stamp to an envelop.

4. In a machine of the character described, the combination of a feed table adapted to support a sheet of stamps, a rack mounted underneath the table and provided with feeders adapted to project through the table into engagement with the sheet, levers suspended from the table and adapted to rock in a vertical plane, the rack being slidably supported by said levers, means for automatically raising and lowering said levers, means for shifting the rack on the levers, means for severing a strip from the sheet, means for severing stamps from the strip, and means for affixing the severed stamp to an envelop.

5. In a machine of the character described, the combination of a feed table adapted to support a sheet of stamps, a rack mounted

underneath the table and provided with feeders projecting through the table and adapted to engage the sheet, levers suspended at their outer ends from the table and extending towards each other and having a jointed connection, the rack being slidably supported on said levers, one of said levers being provided with a depending arm, a cam adapted to engage said arm and to raise and lower the levers, a pivoted bar connected to the rack, a cam with which said bar engages, said cam being adapted to shift the rack laterally, means for actuating said cams, means for severing a strip from the sheet, means for severing the stamps from the strip and means for affixing the severed stamp to an envelop.

6. In a machine of the character described, the combination of a feed table adapted to support a sheet of stamps, means for feeding the sheet across the table, means for severing a strip from the sheet, means for intermittently feeding the severed strip over the table, means for intermittently severing the stamps from the strip, an operative connection between the severing device and the strip feeding mechanism, whereby the latter will actuate the former, and means for affixing the stamps to envelops.

7. In a machine of the character described, the combination of a feed table adapted to support a strip of stamps and formed with a channel, a rack mounted underneath the table and provided with feeders projecting upwardly into the channel and adapted to engage the strip, a knife mounted at one end of the table, means for reciprocating the rack, an arm carried by the rack and projecting forwardly therefrom, the knife being formed with a lug arranged for engagement and adapted to be depressed by said arm, whereby to sever a stamp from the strip, and means for affixing the severed stamp to an envelop.

8. In a machine of the character described, the combination of a feed table adapted to support a strip of stamps, a rack mounted underneath said table, a cam adapted to engage said rack and raise it into engagement with the strip, a hooked arm pivotally connected to said rack, revoluble means provided with a pin adapted to engage said hook in its revolution and pull the rack forwardly, means for automatically releasing the arm from the pin, means for permitting the rack to lower, means whereby the said cam will return the rack to its original position, means for severing a stamp from the strip, and means for affixing the severed stamp to an envelop.

9. In a machine of the character described, the combination of a feed table adapted to support a strip of stamps, a feed rack operating underneath the table and adapted to engage the strip to move it forwardly, an arm pivotally connected to said rack and pro-

vided at its extremity with a hook, and intermediate of its ends with a downwardly facing cam, a revoluble element provided with a pin adapted for engagement with said hook to pull the rack forwardly, means for raising the rack preparatory to the forward movement, and permitting the rack to lower and for returning the rack, a stationary pin adapted to engage the cam of said pivoted arm whereby to release the hook from the revoluble element preparatory to the lowering movement of the rack, means for severing a stamp from the strip, and means for affixing the severed stamp to the envelop.

10. In a machine of the character described, the combination of a feed table adapted to support a sheet of stamps, means for feeding the sheet across the table, a knife bar for severing a strip from the sheet, an operative connection between the knife bar and the sheet feeding means, whereby the latter will actuate the former, means for intermittently feeding a severed strip over the table, means for intermittently severing the stamps from the strip, and means for affixing the stamps to envelops.

11. In a machine of the character described, the combination of a feed table adapted to support a sheet of stamps, means for feeding the sheet across the table, a knife bar adapted to sever a strip from the sheet, an operative connection between the knife bar and the sheet, feeding means whereby the latter will actuate the former, means for intermittently feeding the severed strip over the table, means for intermittently severing the stamps from the strip, an operative connection between the severing device and the strip feeding mechanism, whereby the latter will actuate the former, and means for affixing the stamps to envelops.

12. In a machine of the character described, the combination of a feed table adapted to support a sheet of stamps, a rack mounted underneath the table and provided with a series of upwardly extending feeders projecting through the table and adapted to engage with a sheet of stamps, means for raising the rack into engagement with the sheet for shifting it in one direction in raised position, and for lowering the rack and then returning it in lowered position, means actuated by the rack for severing a strip from the sheet, means for severing a stamp from the strip, and means for affixing the severed stamp to an envelop.

13. In a machine of the character described, the combination of a feed table adapted to support a sheet of stamps, a rack mounted underneath the table and provided with feeders adapted to project through the table into engagement with the sheet, levers suspended at one end from the table and having a jointed connection at their other end, the levers being adapted to rock in a vertical

plane and the rack being slidably supported by said levers, means connected to one of said levers for automatically raising and lowering the same, means for shifting the rack on the levers, means for severing stamps from the strip, and means for affixing the severed stamps to an envelop.

14. In a machine of the character described, the combination of a feed table adapted to support a strip of stamps, a strip feeding rack operating underneath the table and adapted to engage the strip to move it forwardly, the rack being formed with a depending bracket, an arm pivotally connected to said rack and provided at its extremity with a hook and intermediate of its ends with a downwardly facing cam, a revoluble element provided with a pin designed for engagement with said hook to pull the rack forwardly, a cam designed to raise the rack preparatory to the forward movement and permitting the rack to lower, said cam being provided with means for engaging the bracket of the rack, whereby to return the rack to its original position, a stationary pin adapted to engage the cam of said pivoted arm, whereby to release the hook from the revoluble element preparatory to the lowering movement of the rack, means for severing a stamp from the strip, and means for affixing the severed stamp to an envelop.

15. In a machine of the character described, the combination of a feed table adapted to support a sheet of stamps, means for feeding the sheet across the table, means for severing a strip from the sheet, a rack operating underneath the table and arranged to intermittently feed the severed strip over the table, a spring retracted knife designed to sever the stamps from the strip, the rack being provided with means for engaging the knife during one movement of the rack, whereby to lower the knife into engagement with the strip and sever a stamp therefrom, and means for affixing the severed stamp to an envelop.

16. In a machine of the character described, the combination of an envelop feeder and moistener embodying spike lifters adapted to extend under the flap of an envelop, racks movable with said feeder and moistener, segmental gears meshing with said racks and designed to raise the lifter and moistener, means for pressing the flap to the moistener, means for sealing the envelop, means for carrying the envelop to an affixing point, means for carrying the stamp to said point, and means for moistening the stamp in its travel.

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

ALEXANDER M. MOYLAN. [L. S.]

SEAB T. TRACY. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

GENIE HURREY,

E. M. McBREARTY.