N. J. MATTHEWS.

VENDING APPARATUS.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 9, 1908.

913,413.

Patented Feb. 23, 1909.

7 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

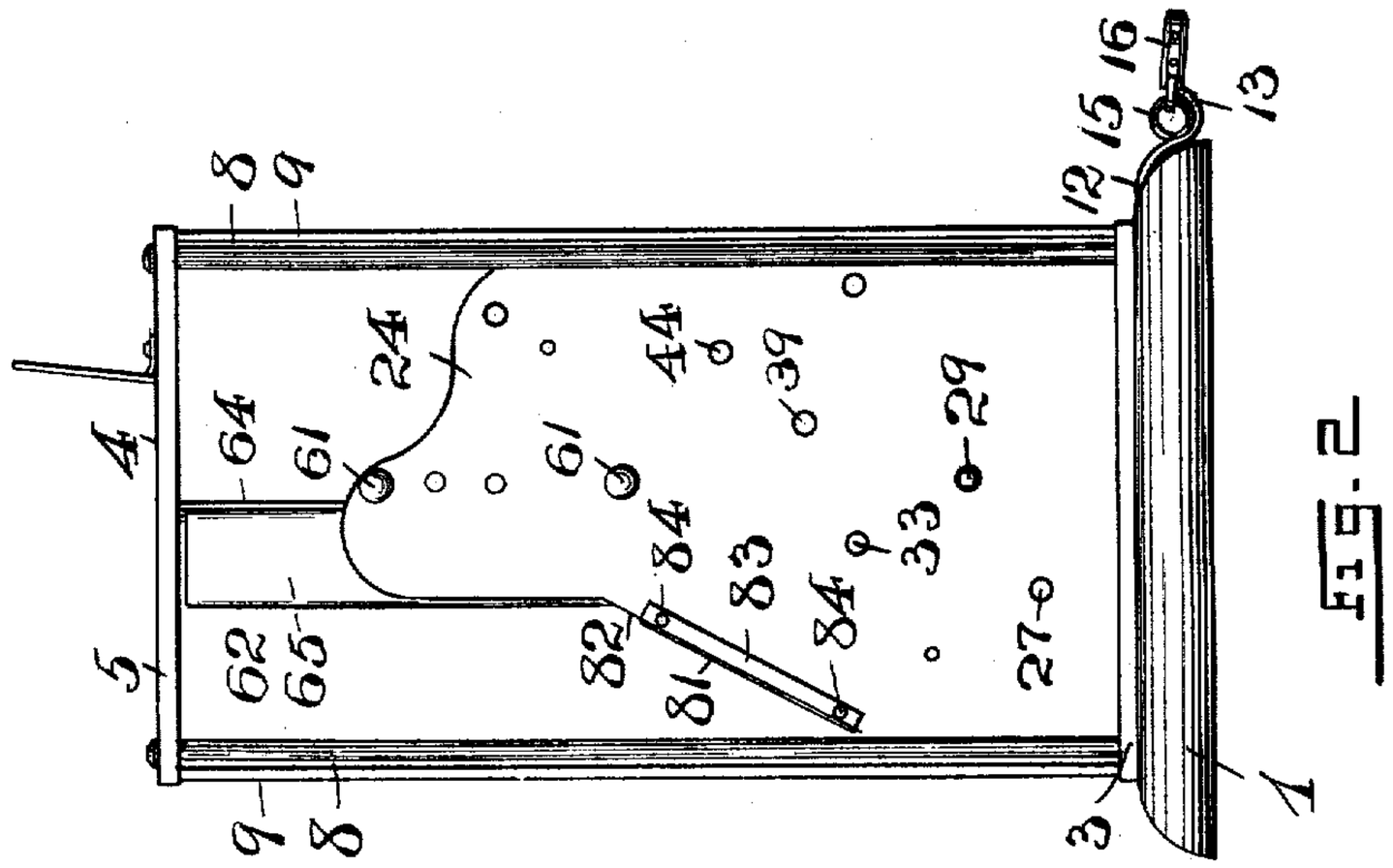

Fig. 2

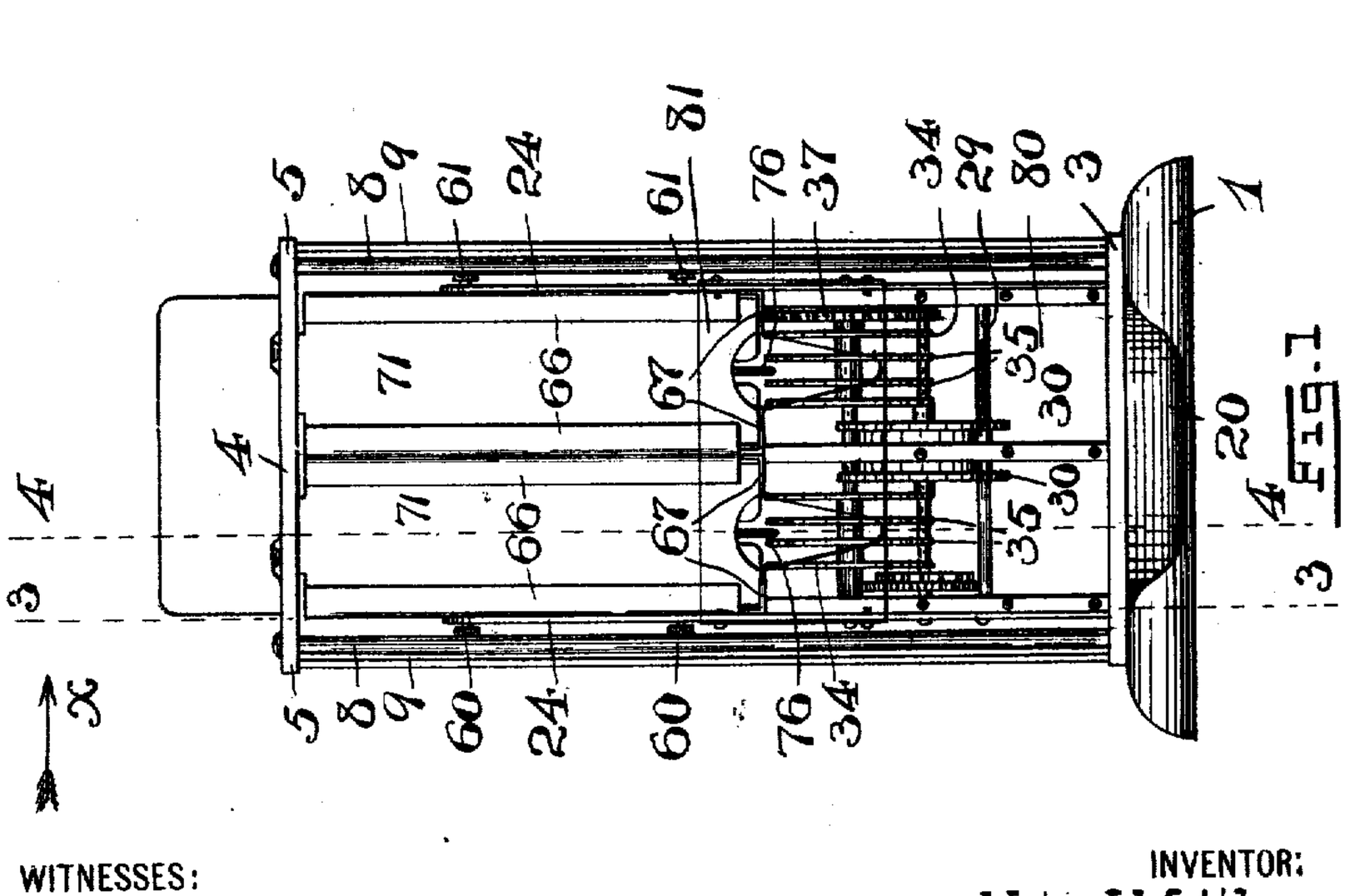

Fig. 1

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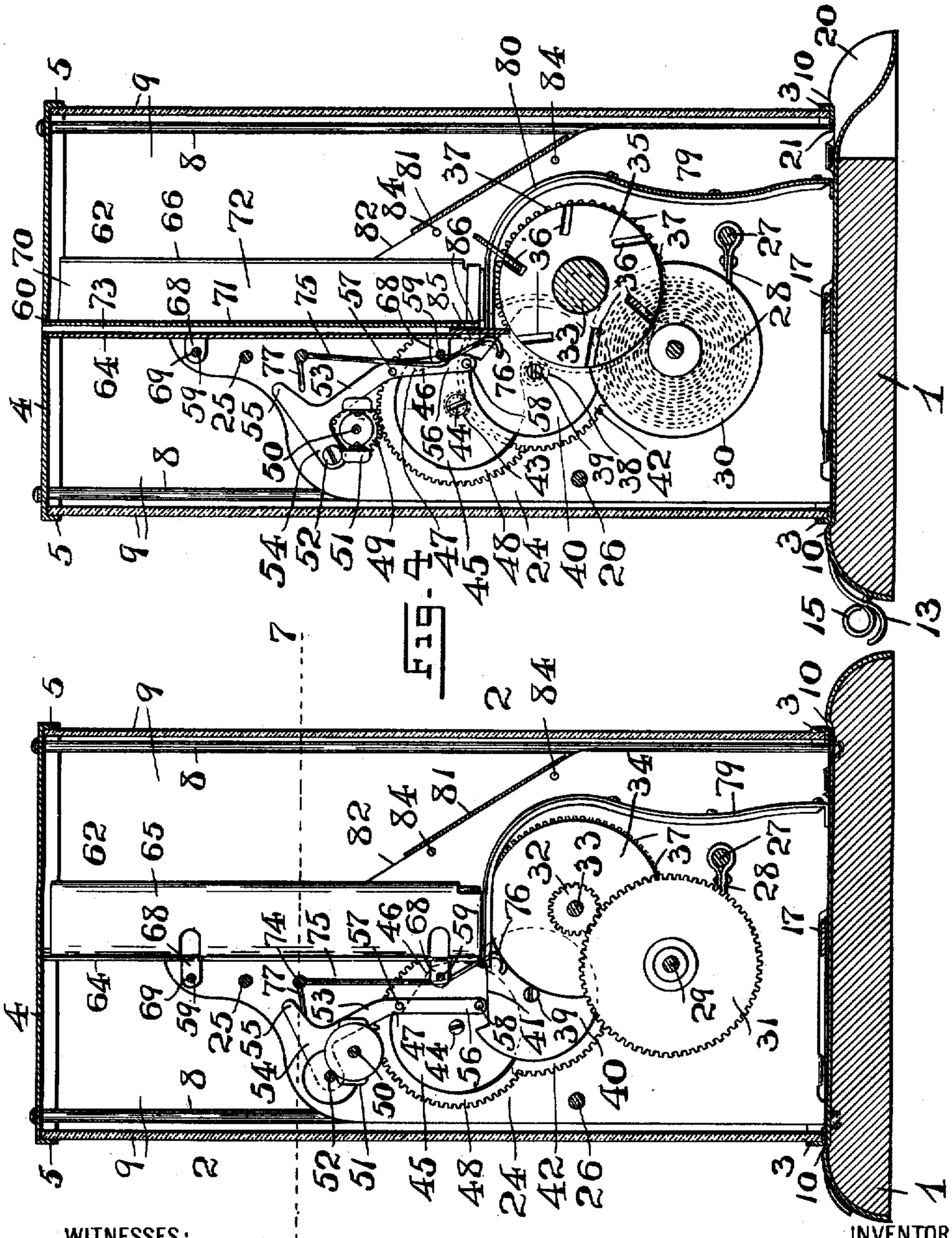
7 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



WITNESSES:

F. H. W. Fraentzel

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7 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

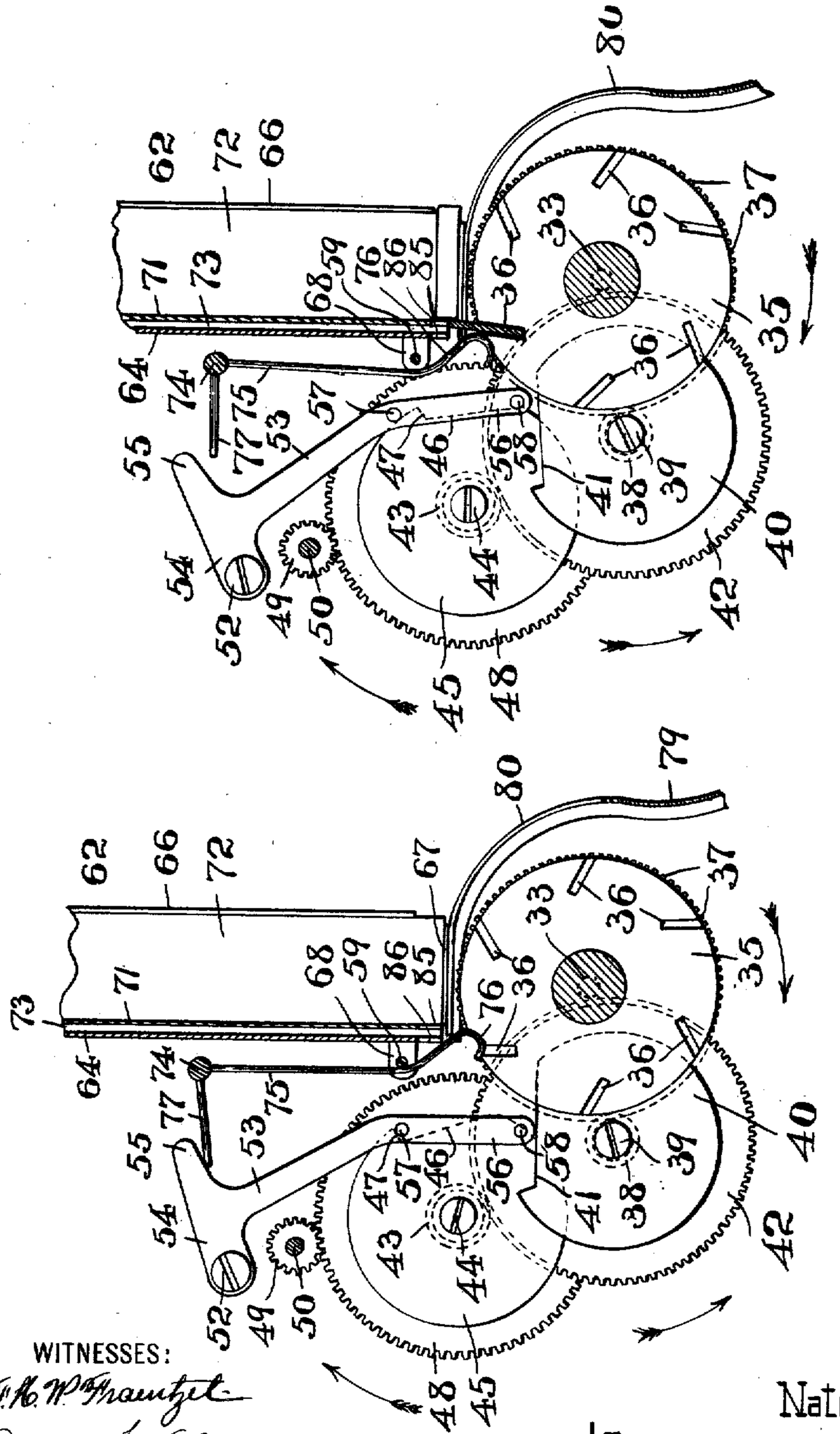

FIG. 5.

WITNESSES:

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7 SHEETS—SHEET 4.

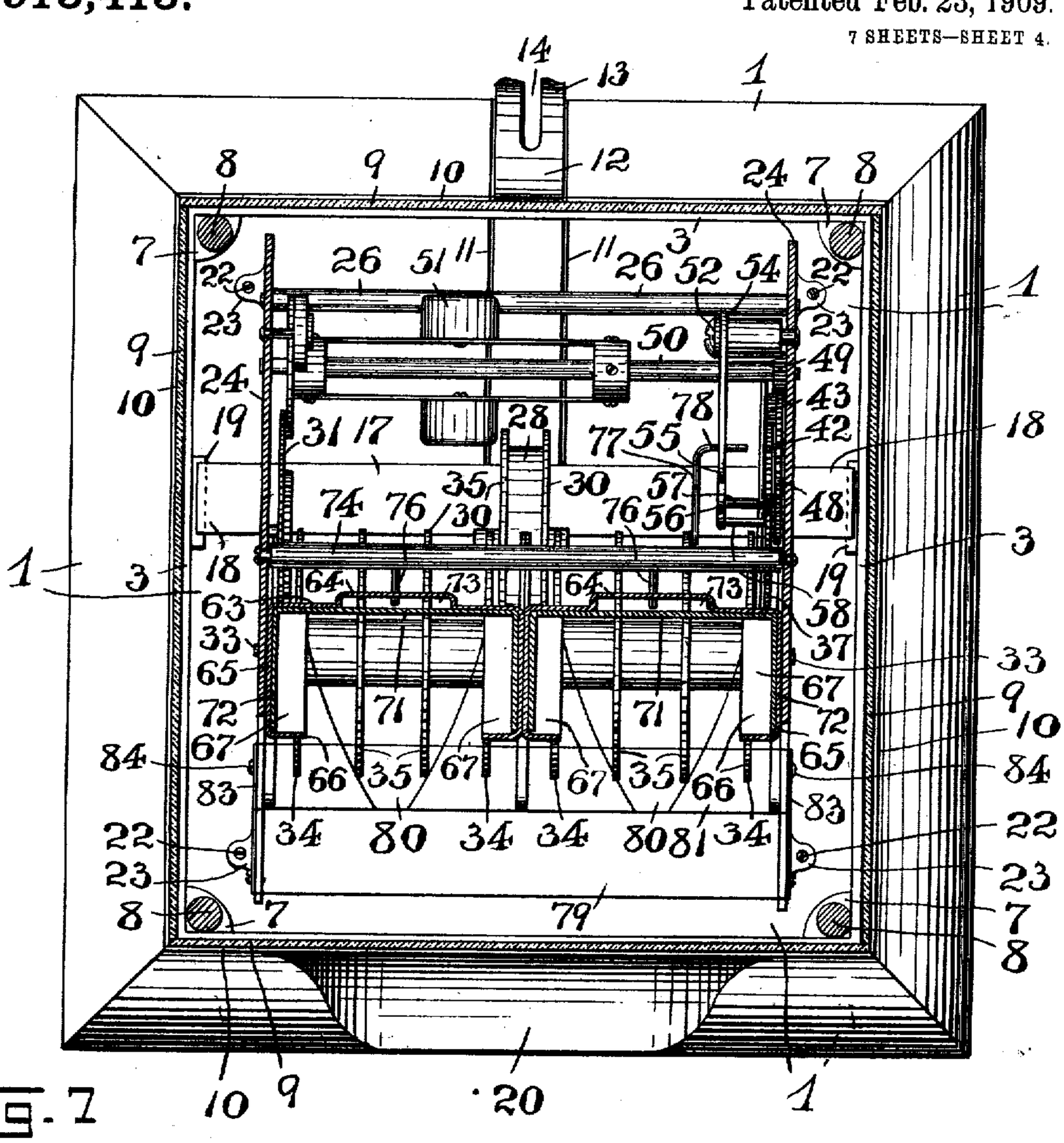

Fig. 7

WITNESSES:

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APPLICATION FILED MAR. 9, 1908.

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7 SHEETS—SHEET 6.

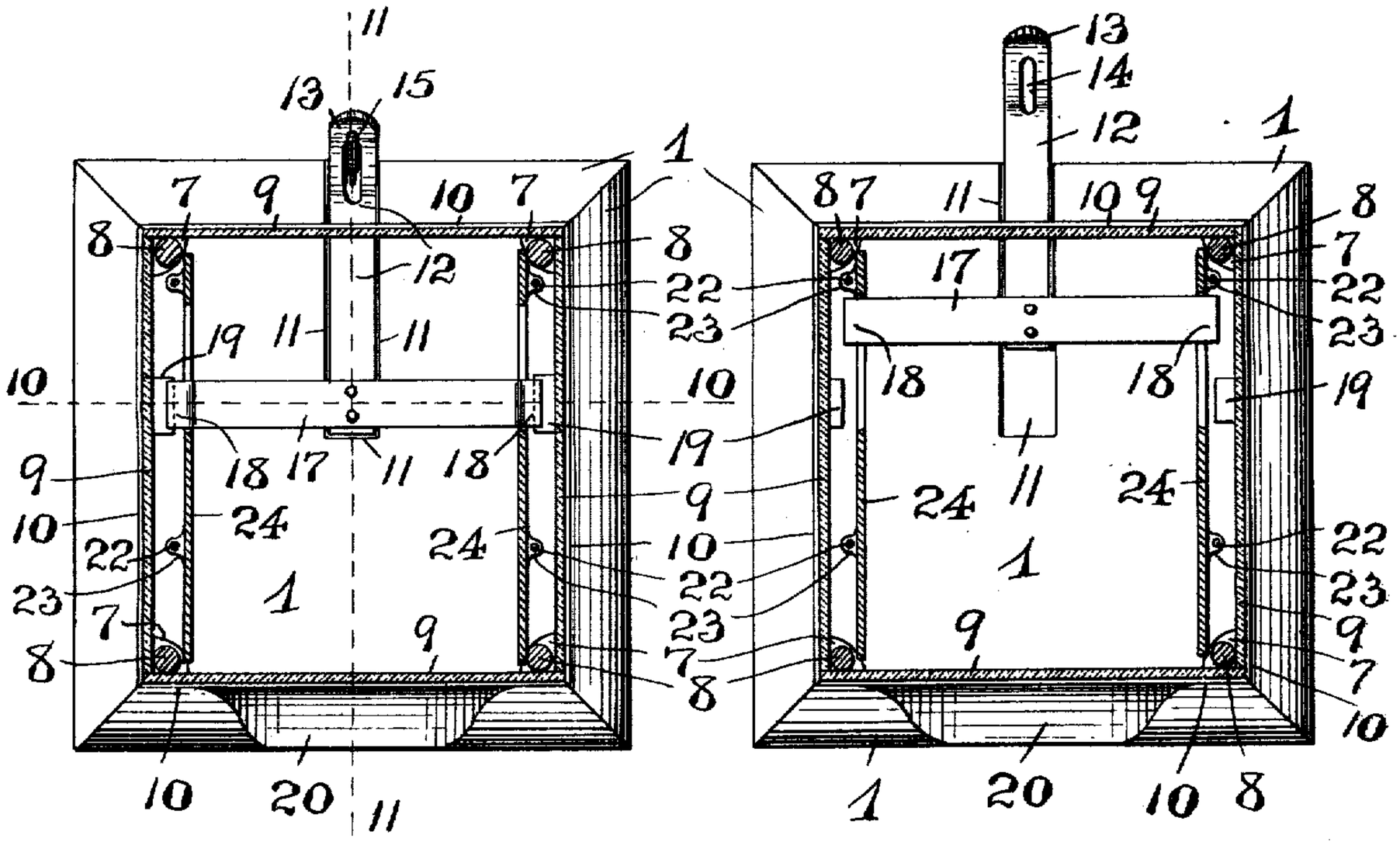

Fig. 8

Fig. 9

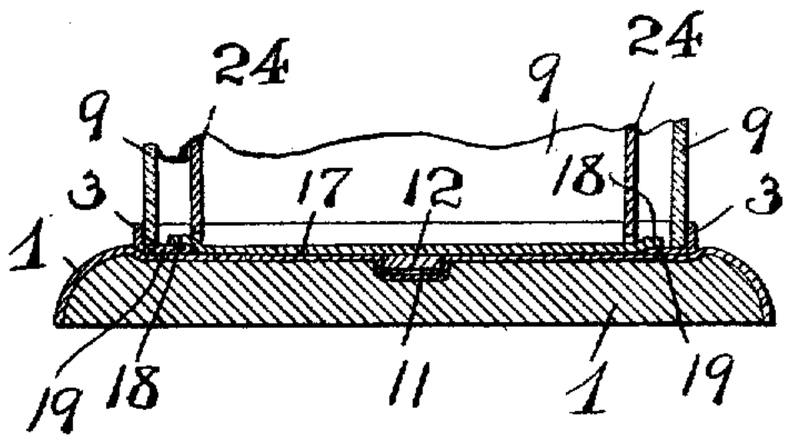

Fig. 10

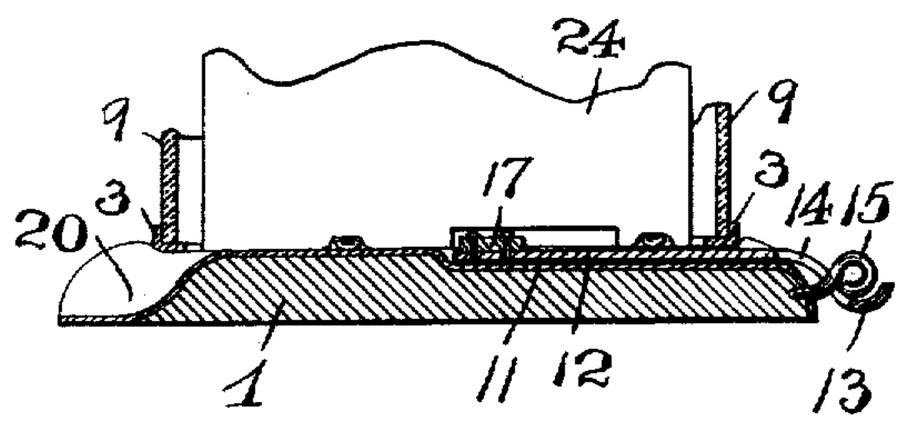

Fig. 11

WITNESSES:

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APPLICATION FILED MAR. 9, 1908.

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7 SHEETS—SHEET 6.

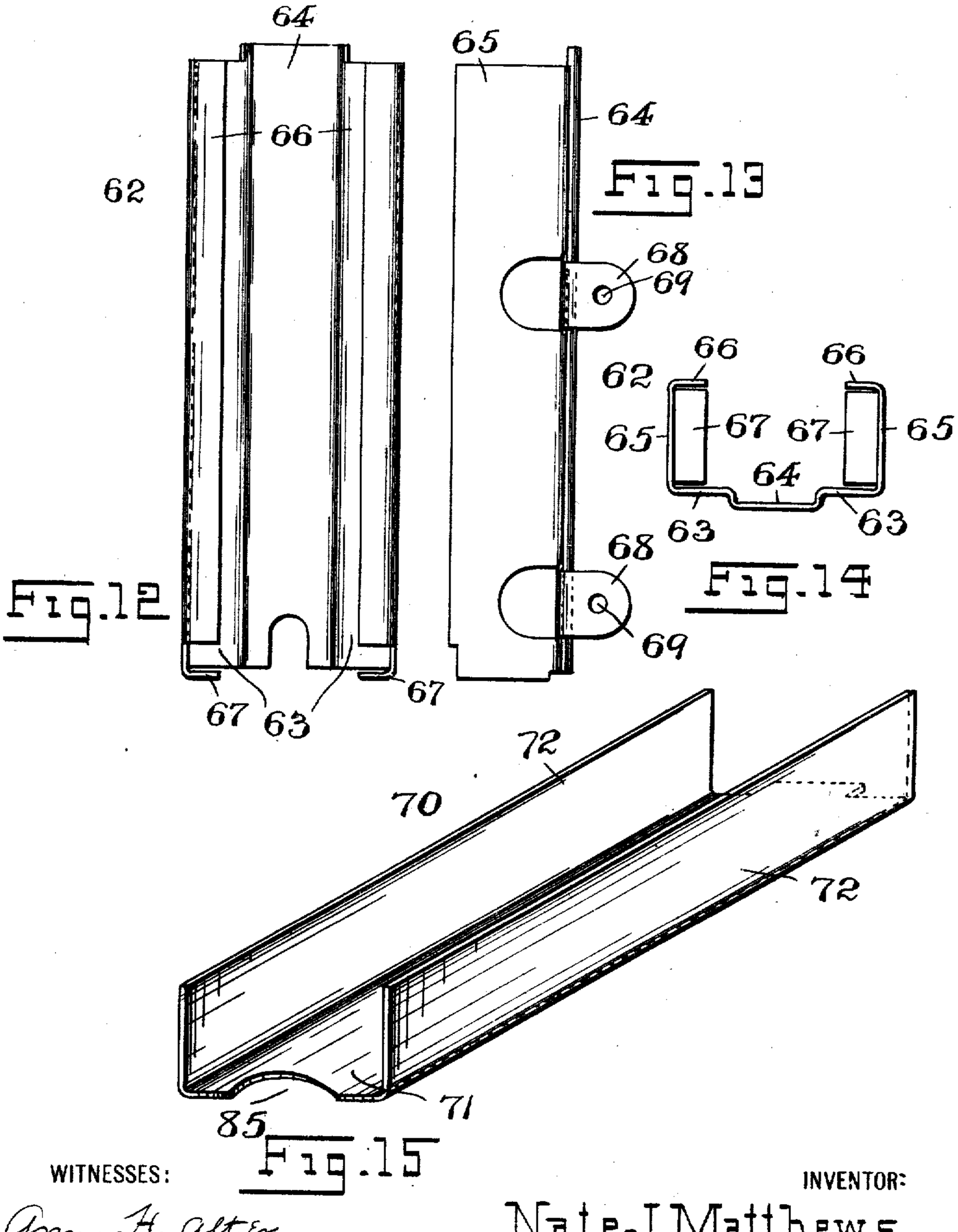

Fig. 12

Fig. 13

Fig. 14

Fig. 15

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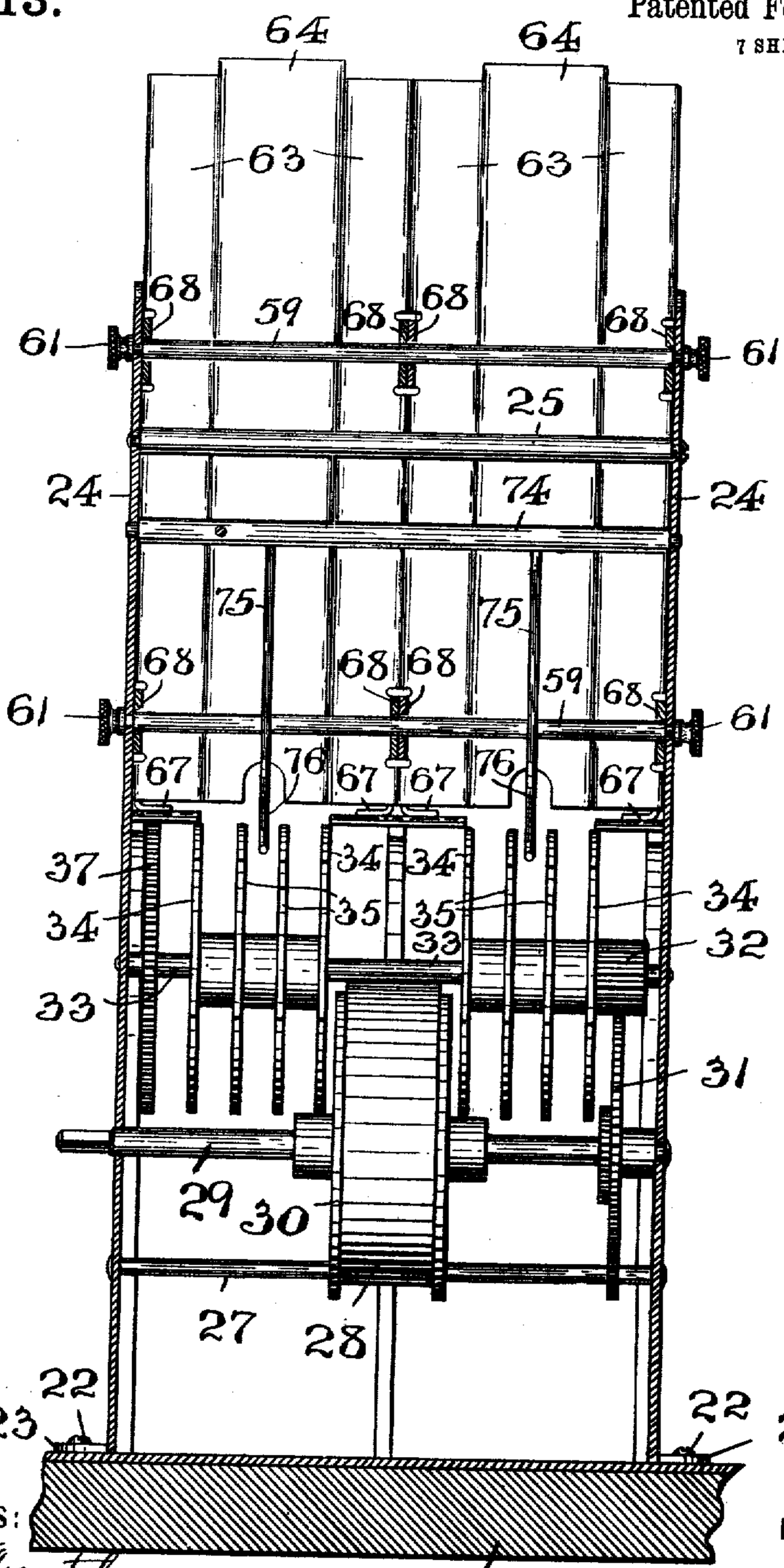
APPLICATION FILED MAR. 9, 1908.

913,413.

Patented Feb. 23, 1909.

7 SHEETS—SHEET 7.



WITNESSES:

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Fig. 16

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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VENDING APPARATUS.

No. 913,413. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 23, 1909.

Application filed March 9, 1908. Serial No. 419,896.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NATE J. MATTHEWS, citizen of the United States, residing at Newark, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Vending Apparatus; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to characters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My present invention has reference, generally, to improvements in coin-released vending-machines; and, this invention relates, more particularly, to a novel coin-released mechanism which is to be used more especially with a machine or apparatus for the vending of chewing-gum, candy, cigars, soap, or any other packages or articles of manufacture, which are of uniform shape, the coin-releasing mechanism being of such a character and construction that a coin, as it is deposited in the coin-chute, first releases and causes the delivery mechanism to be set in motion, and the coin thereupon engaging with a package for its ejection from the casing of the apparatus.

The invention has for its principal object to provide a novel and simple construction of coin-receiving and coin-released mechanism for vending machines of the various kinds, and especially for a device used in the dispensing of small articles or packages, the arrangement of the coin-chute and the releasing mechanism being such that a number of coins can be dropped into the chute in rapid succession without clogging in the chute, and each coin in succession releasing and actuating the mechanism, so that in return for each coin deposited a package will be received.

A further object of this invention is to provide a novel means for locking the outside casing or shell, in which the vending-mechanism and the packages are inclosed, to the base of the machine or apparatus, said locking means being most simple in construction and easy of operation.

Other objects of this invention not at this time more particularly enumerated will be clearly understood from the following detailed description of the same.

With the various objects of the present invention in view, the same consists, primarily, in the novel coin-released and coin-controlled mechanism hereinafter set forth; and, the invention consists, furthermore, in the novel arrangements and combinations of the various devices and parts, as well as in the details of the construction of the same, all of which will be more fully described in the following specification, and then finally embodied in the clauses of the claims which are appended to and which form an essential part of the said specification.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a fromt view and Fig. 2 a side elevation of one form of vending machine embodying the principles of the present invention. Fig. 3 is a transverse vertical section of the apparatus, said section being taken on line 3—3 in said Fig. 1, looking in the direction of the arrow *x*, and made on a larger scale; and Fig. 4 is a similar section, said section being taken on line 4—4 in said Fig. 1, also looking in the direction of the arrow *x*, showing the parts of the mechanism in their relation after having been released by one coin, and about to be again released by a second coin still within the coin-chute. Fig. 5 is a view partly in side elevation and partly in transverse vertical section of the gear-mechanism of the device, a releasing lever, and part of a package-holder and coin-chute, with the package-ejecting mechanism, the movable parts being shown in their normal initial positions, said view being made on a considerably enlarged scale; and Fig. 6 is a similar view of the parts shown in said Fig. 5, illustrating the parts in their released relation, with the coin just engaging with a package about to eject the same from within the lower portion of the package-holder. Fig. 7 is a horizontal section, said section being taken on line 7—7 in Fig. 3 of the drawings, the trip-arm of the gear-mechanism being shown in plan. Fig. 8 is a horizontal section of the lower part of the apparatus, showing more particularly, and in plan, the locking means for retaining the inclosing case or shell in its locked relation upon the base of the apparatus, the parts being represented in their locked or holding engagement; and Fig. 9 is a horizontal section of the same parts, showing the locking means, and the inclosing case or shell in their un-

locked or disengaged relation, for the removal or lifting from the base of the said inclosing case or shell. Fig. 10 is a vertical cross-section, taken on line 10—10 in said Fig. 8; and Fig. 11 is a vertical section, taken on line 11—11 in said Fig. 8. Figs. 12, 13 and 14 are a front view, top view, and side view, respectively, of an outer shell, forming part of the coin-chute and merchandise-holder; and Fig. 15 is a perspective view of a slide which is used with said outer shell. Fig. 16 is a detail transverse vertical section of the apparatus looking toward the coin-chutes and merchandise-holders, and showing one manner of supporting the same.

Similar characters of reference are employed in all of the above described views, to indicate corresponding parts.

Referring now to the several figures of the drawings, the reference-character 1 indicates a suitable base which may be of any desired ornamentation and marginal configuration. Suitably disposed upon this base, and being ordinarily retained in its locked or secured relation upon said base, by means of the locking or holding mechanism previously mentioned and to be hereinafter more fully described, is an outer casing 2. This outer casing usually comprises a lower frame 3 which is right-angled in cross-section and is preferably made from sheet-metal, and an upper closing plate 4, also preferably made from sheet-metal, and being formed with a marginal flange 5, and one or more openings 6, according to the number of coin-chutes and goods or package-holders with which the apparatus is provided. In its inner corners, the said lower frame 3 is usually provided with perforated angle-plates 7 to each of which is suitably secured the lower end of a tie-rod 8, the upper end of each tie-rod being suitably secured to the closing-plate 4, and all being arranged and constructed to securely retain the closing sides or plates 9, which are preferably made of glass or other suitable transparent material, between the said lower frame 3 and the closing plate 4, as will be clearly understood. That the said inclosing casing thus provided may be suitably locked in place upon the base 1, the latter is made with a marginal raised portion, as 10, so as to provide the base in its upper face with a depression conforming to the general marginal contour of the said casing, and into which depression the lower portion of said casing is fitted. The said base 1 is also made with a rearwardly extending depression 11 forming a suitable guide in which is slidably arranged a bar or plate 12. Said bar extends beyond the rear edge of the base, being suitably curved or bent, as at 13, so as to provide a fingerpiece, and being formed in said curved member with an elongated slot or opening 14. Extending from the rear edge of said base is a loop or ring-shaped member 15 over which the said slotted member or fingerpiece 13 can be moved substantially as indicated in Figs. 4, 8 and 11, and can be secured in their locked relation by means of a suitable lock, as 16, in the manner clearly represented in Fig. 2 of the drawings. Suitably connected with the inner end-portion of the said bar or plate 12 is a cross-bar 17, the said bar 17 extending laterally across the depressed surface of the said base 1, and having its free end-portions 18 terminating above a projection or lug 19 extending inwardly from each side of the lower frame 3. When the slide-bar or plate 12 and said cross-bar 17 are in the positions indicated in Figs. 7 and 8 of the drawings, the end-portions 18 of the bar 17 will extend directly over said projections or lugs 19, so as to retain the casing in its connected relation with the base of the apparatus, and by arranging the lock 16 in the eye or loop 15, the parts are thoroughly secured in their locked relation. When, however, the lock is removed from the eye or loop 15, the bar or plate 12 can be moved into the position shown in Fig. 9 of the drawings, whereby the end-portions 18 of the cross-bar 17 are withdrawn from their retaining or holding engagement with the projections or lugs 19, as will be seen from an inspection of said Fig. 9, and the outer casing or shell can be lifted from the base 1, for the purpose of getting at the money within the apparatus, or for replenishing the apparatus with a fresh supply of packages, or for making necessary repairs to the mechanism.

In its forward edge-portion, the base 1 is provided with a suitably formed depression 20 forming with the lower edge of the frame 3, at that point, an opening 21 for the discharge of the released package in front of the apparatus. Suitably secured upon said base 1, preferably by means of screws 22 which are passed through perforated ears or lugs 23, are a pair of uprights or standards 24 of any desired marginal configuration, the said plates being suitably tied by means of cross-rods 25, 26 and 27, although any other suitable tying means may be employed. Operatively arranged and mounted between the standards 24 is a spring-operated gear-mechanism or clock-work, the same comprising a main spring 28 arranged upon a winding arbor or shaft 29, between a pair of disks 30 upon said arbor, said spring having its outer free end-portion suitably attached to the tie-rod 27. Upon said arbor or shaft 29 is a power-transmission gear 31 which meshes with a pinion 32 mounted upon a shaft or arbor 33. Suitably mounted upon said shaft or arbor 33 are a disk 34, and intermediately disposed disks or plates 35, said latter disks or plates being provided with slightly inclining coin-receiving and holding slots 36 which terminate in the peripheral edges of said disks or plates 35, the slots in

the various disks or plates 35 being laterally in alinement with each other. The said arbor or shaft 33 has also mounted upon its opposite end a transmission gear 37 which meshes with the teeth of a small pinion 38 mounted upon a suitably disposed pin or pintle 39 extending from the inner face of one of the standards or uprights 24. Mounted upon the said pin or pintle 39 is a plate or disk 40 of the general circular marginal configuration shown, but being provided with a suitably disposed straight marginal edge-portion 41. The said pin or pintle 39 is also provided with a gear-wheel 42, the teeth of which are in mesh with the teeth of a pinion 43 which is mounted upon a pin or pintle 44 extending from the inner face of the said standard or upright 24. Suitably mounted upon the said pin or pintle 44 is a disk or plate 45 of the general circular marginal configuration shown, said disk or plate 45 being provided with a marginal straight edge 46, and an angularly disposed edge-portion 47, the latter forming a stop for the purposes to be hereinafter more fully set forth. Suitably mounted upon the said pin or pintle 44 is another gear 48, the teeth of which are in operative engagement with a pinion 49 of a shaft or arbor 50, which latter shaft or arbor carries a suitably constructed regulator or governor 51, as clearly shown in the several figures of the drawings.

Pivoted upon a screw or pin 52, said pin extending from the inner face of the said standard or upright 24, is the end-portion 54 of a retaining or holding lever 53, the said lever being provided with a finger 55, and being formed with a lower end-portion 56 from the side of which project, substantially in the manner shown, a pair of studs or pins 57 and 58. Under normal conditions, as shown in Fig. 5, the said lever 53 is shown in such a position that its stud or pin 57 is in retaining or holding engagement with the straight angular portion 47 of the disk or plate 45, whereby the spring-controlled gear-mechanism or clock-work is prevented from becoming operative and running down, until the said pin or stud 57 is released from said stop 47 in the manner to be presently more fully set forth.

Extending laterally across the space formed between the said two standards or uprights 24 are a pair of supporting rods 59, said rods being provided at one end with a head 60 and at the other end with a detachable screw or nut 61, so that the said rods can be removed from the bearings in the said standards or uprights 24 if required. These rods 59 serve the purposes of supports for the combined coin chute or chutes and the merchandise depository or depositories as will be clearly understood from an inspection of Fig. 16 of the drawings. In the present instance I use two depositories, each depository consisting of an outer shell 62 of any suitable length, its back-portion 63 being provided with an angularly formed part 64. Sides 65 extend from the said back-portion, each side being provided with a right-angled member 66 substantially as shown, and the said sides 65 being provided on their lower edges with inwardly extending supporting flanges 67. Rearwardly extending ears or lugs 68 are also provided, said ears or lugs being formed with openings 69, by means of which the merchandise depository or depositories are mounted in proper position upon the said cross-rods or supporting bars 59. Slidably arranged within each device 62, and supported upon the lower flanges 67 is a slide 70, said slide consisting of a back-plate 71 and the two right-angled sides 72. The said slide, when arranged between the sides 65 and supported upon the flanges 67 of the device 62, as will be seen more especially from an inspection of Figs. 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the drawings, will produce with the angular formed part 64 of the back-portion 63 a suitable coin-chute 73. Journaled in suitably disposed bearings of the said standards or plates 24 and extending laterally across the space between the said standards is a rock-shaft 74, this shaft having downwardly extending release-members or arms 75, the lower end-portion of each arm or lever 75 being provided with a portion, as at 76, extending normally beneath the outlet of each coin-chute 73, substantially as shown in Figs. 3 and 5 of the drawings. The said rock-shaft is furthermore provided with a rearwardly extending retaining lever arm 77 which is formed with a laterally extending finger 78, resting normally directly beneath the lower marginal edge-portion of the finger 55 of the retaining or holding lever 53, substantially as shown.

Suitably arranged and secured between the inner faces of the two standards or uprights 24 is a peculiarly-shaped partition 79 which is provided with a suitably formed opening 80, so as to permit the passage of a deposited coin from the coin chute down and back of the said partition and into the lower portion of the apparatus, said partition serving at the same time to guide and conduct the ejected package along its outer face and through the opening 21, so as to be delivered in the depression 20 of the base 1, as will be clearly understood. In addition to the said partition 79 a guard-plate 81 may be suitably secured over the edge-portions of the two standards 24, said guard-plate as will be seen from an inspection of Fig. 2 of the drawings being provided with right-angled flanges 83 and being secured to the said standards 24 by means of suitable pins 84. The said partition 79 as well as the guard-plate 81 are preferably made from a transparent material, so that the inner mechanism of the apparatus will be exposed to view. At the

same time the said guard-plate can be used as a means for advertising the vendable contents of the apparatus, by having printed thereon the name and address of the manufacturer and the kind and quality of goods contained in the machine.

Having thus described the general construction of the device embodying the principles of this invention, the operation thereof when the coin is deposited in any one of the coin chutes is as follows:—The operator deposits the coin in the coin-slots in the top plate of the apparatus, so that the coin passing down the chute comes in contact with the lower end-portion 76 of the arm 75, and thereby moves the said arm from the position shown in Figs. 3 and 5 to the positions represented in Figs. 4 and 6, the coin, while partly remaining in the lower portion of the coin chute resting directly upon the circumferential edges of the slotted disks or plates 35, substantially as shown in said Fig. 4 of the drawings. At the same time, the finger 77 is slightly raised and positively engages with the finger 55 of the arm or lever 53, whereby the latter is sufficiently moved so as to release the retaining stud or finger 57 from the angular edge or stop 47 of the disk or plate 45. Immediately the gear-mechanism or clock-work is set into motion by the previously wound spring 28, the pin or stud 58 riding upon the circular marginal edge-portion of the disk or plate 40 until one complete revolution of said plate or disk 40 has been made; and, at which time, the said stud or pin 58 drops back into the recess formed by the straight edge 41 of the disk or plate 40 so as to once more bring the other stud or pin 57 into its retaining or holding engagement with the angular portion or stop 47 of the disk or plate 45, and thereby once more retain the various parts in their normally operative position. During the rotation of the various parts in the direction of the arrows shown in Figs. 5 and 6, the disks or plates 35 each receive one-sixth of a revolution, there being six coin-receiving slots in said disks. During such one-sixth of a revolution, the slot or opening 36 which is slightly back of the coin resting upon the marginal edges of said disks 35, will receive the said coin in the manner indicated in Fig. 6 of the drawings, so as to free the upper edge of the coin from the lower portion of the coin-chute; and, in passing through a suitably cut-away part 85 in the lower edge of the slide 70 the coin engages with the lower one of the packages of merchandise which it forces from the lower open space 86 of the merchandise repository or holder, and thereby forces the said package upon the outer surface of the partition 79 from which it passes through the opening 21 and upon the delivery depression 20. At the same time the coin is retained in the coin-receiving slot or recess as shown in Fig. 6 of the drawings, until another coin is deposited, and the mechanism once more set in operation, whereupon the previously deposited coin drops from its coin-retaining recess and passes back of the partition 79 and down into the lower portion of the apparatus.

From the foregoing description of my present invention it will be clearly seen that I have provided a simple and most efficiently operating delivery mechansim of which the coin itself becomes an important part, and whereby the usual arrangement of coin-release or push or pull devices for the delivery of the merchandise are clearly obviated.

I am aware that changes may be made in the general arrangements and combinations of various devices and parts, as well as in the details of the construction of the same, and that any number of coin chutes with merchandise-holders may be used without departing from the scope of my present invention as set forth in the appended claims. Hence I do not limit my invention to the exact arrangements and combinations of the devices and parts as described in the foregoing specification, nor do I confine myself to the exact details of the construction of the said parts as shown in the accompanying drawing.

I claim:

1. In a vending machine, an arbor, a multiplicity of disks upon said arbor, said disks being spaced so as to provide open spaces between them, said disks being provided with coin-receiving slots extending from the marginal edge of each disk, combined with a repository adapted to contain packages of merchandise, and means for actuating said arbor and disks for rotating a coin held by said disks in engagement with a package for forcing the same from said repository.

2. In a vending machine, an arbor, a multiplicity of disks upon said arbor, said disks being spaced so as to provide open spaces between them, said disks being provided with coin-receiving slots extending from the marginal edge of each disk, combined with a repository adapted to contain packages of merchandise, and a spring-actuated gear-mechanism for actuating said arbor and disks for rotating a coin held by said disks in engagement with a package for forcing the same from said repository.

3. In a vending machine, an arbor, a series of disks upon said arbor, said disks being provided with coin-receiving slots extending from the marginal edge of each disk, combined with a repository adapted to contain packages of merchandise, and a spring-actuated gear-mechanism for actuating said arbor and disks for rotating a coin held by said disks in engagement with a package for forcing the same from said repository, means

for normally retaining the gear-mechanism in its inoperative relation, and a coin-freed releasing means for setting said gear-mechanism in motion.

4. In a vending machine, an arbor, a multiplicity of disks upon said arbor, said disks being spaced so as to provide open spaces between them, said disks being provided with coin-receiving slots extending from the marginal edge of each disk, combined with a repository adapted to contain packages of merchandise, a coin-chute forming part of said repository, and means for actuating said arbor and disks for rotating a coin held by said disks in engagement with a package for forcing the same from said repository.

5. In a vending machine, an arbor, a multiplicity of disks upon said arbor, said disks being spaced so as to provide open spaces between them, said disks being provided with coin-receiving-slots extending from the marginal edge of each disk, combined with a repository adapted to contain packages of merchandise, a coin-chute forming part of said repository, and a spring-actuated gear-mechanism for actuating said arbor and disks for rotating a coin held by said disks in engagement with a package for forcing the same from said repository.

6. In a vending machine, an arbor, a series of disks upon said arbor, said disks being provided with coin-receiving slots extending from the marginal edge of each disk, combined with a repository adapted to contain packages of merchandise, a coin-chute forming part of said repository, and a spring-actuated gear-mechanism for actuating said arbor and disks for rotating a coin held by said disks in engagement with a package for forcing the same from said repository, means for normally retaining the gear-mechanism in its inoperative relation, and a coin-freed releasing means for setting said gear-mechanism in motion.

7. In a vending machine, an arbor, a series of disks upon said arbor, said disks being provided with coin-receiving slots extending from the marginal edge of each disk, combined with a repository adapted to contain packages of merchandise, a coin-chute through which a coin is fed and caught by said disks, a spring-actuated gear-mechanism for actuating said arbor and disks for rotating the coin which is held by said disks in engagement with a package for forcing the same from said repository, a rock-shaft, a release-member connected with said shaft and having a lower and suitably bent end-portion extending directly beneath said coin-chute.

8. In a vending machine, an arbor, a series of disks upon said arbor, said disks being provided with coin-receiving slots extending from the marginal edge of each disk, combined with a repository adapted to contain packages of merchandise, a coin-chute through which a coin is fed and caught by said disks, a spring-actuated gear-mechanism for actuating said arbor and disks for rotating the coin which is held by said disks in engagement with a package for forcing the same from said repository, a rock-shaft, a release-member connected with said rock-shaft, a finger extending rearwardly from said rock-shaft for normally retaining said gear-mechanism in its inoperative relation.

9. In a vending machine, an arbor, a series of disks upon said arbor, said disks being provided with coin-receiving slots extending from the marginal edge of each disk, combined with a repository adapted to contain packages of merchandise, a coin-chute through which a coin is fed and caught by said disks, a spring-actuated gear-mechanism for actuating said arbor and disks for rotating the coin which is held by said disks in engagement with a package for forcing the same from said repository, said gear-mechanism comprising a main-arbor, a transmission-gear on said arbor, a disk upon said arbor, said disk being provided with a cut-away portion, a pintle, a pinion mounted upon said pintle, said pinion being in mesh with said transmission-gear, a disk on said pintle, said disk also having a cut-away portion, a pivoted holding lever, a pair of studs extending from one side of said holding lever, a rock-shaft, a release-member connected with said rock-shaft and having a lower and suitably bent end-portion extending directly beneath said coin-chute, and means connected with said rock-shaft and normally in holding engagement with said holding lever.

10. In a vending machine, an arbor, a series of disks upon said arbor, said disks being provided with coin-receiving slots extending from the marginal edge of each disk, combined with a repository adapted to contain packages of merchandise, a coin-chute through which a coin is fed and caught by said disks, a spring-actuated gear-mechanism for actuating said arbor and disks for rotating the coin which is held by said disks in engagement with a package for forcing the same from said repository, said gear-mechanism comprising a main arbor, a transmission gear on said arbor, a disk upon said arbor, said disk being provided with a cut-away portion, a pintle, a pinion mounted upon said pintle, said pinion being in mesh with said transmission-gear, a disk on said pintle, said disk also having a cut-away portion, a pivoted holding lever, a rock-shaft, a release-member connected with said rock-shaft and having a lower and suitably bent end-portion extending directly beneath said coin-chute, and a finger extending rearwardly

from said rock-shaft normally in holding engagement with said holding lever.

11. In a vending machine, the combination with a base and standards provided with bearings, of rods removably arranged in the bearings of said standards, a coin-chute, perforated ears extending from said coin-chute, said ears being arranged upon said rods, and a goods-holding element connected with and forming part of said coin-chute, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

12. In a vending machine, the combination with a base and standards provided with bearings, of rods removably arranged in the bearings of said standards, a coin-chute, perforated ears extending from said coin-chute, said ears being arranged upon said rods, a head upon one end of each rod, a nut removably arranged upon the other end of each rod, and a goods-holding element connected with and forming part of said coin-chute, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

13. In a vending machine, the combination with a base and standards provided with bearings, of rods removably arranged in the bearings of said standards, a coin-chute consisting of an outer shell comprising a back-portion formed with a depression, sides, and a right-angled member extending from each side, an inwardly extending supporting flange at the lower end of each side, a slide removably arranged in said outer shell forming the front face of said coin-chute, perforated ears extending from the sides of the coin-chute, said ears being arranged upon said rods, and said slide forming a goods-holding element, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

14. In a vending machine, the combination with a base and standards provided with bearings, of rods removably arranged in the bearings of said standards, a coin-chute consisting of an outer shell comprising a back-portion formed with a depression, sides, and a right-angled member extending from each side, an inwardly extending supporting flange at the lower end of each side, a slide removably arranged in the front face of said coin-chute, said slide forming a goods-holding element, perforated ears extending from the sides of the coin-chute, said ears being arranged upon said rods, a head upon one end of each rod, a nut removably arranged upon the other end of each rod, and said slide forming a goods-holding element, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony, that I claim the invention set forth above I have hereunto set my hand this 6th day of February, 1908.

NATE J. MATTHEWS.

Witnesses:

FREDK. C. FRAENTZEL,

F. H. W. FRAENTZEL.