

W. J. LAUSTERER.  
VOTING AND SIMILAR REGISTERING MACHINE.  
APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 10, 1904.

916,336.

Patented Mar. 23, 1909.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

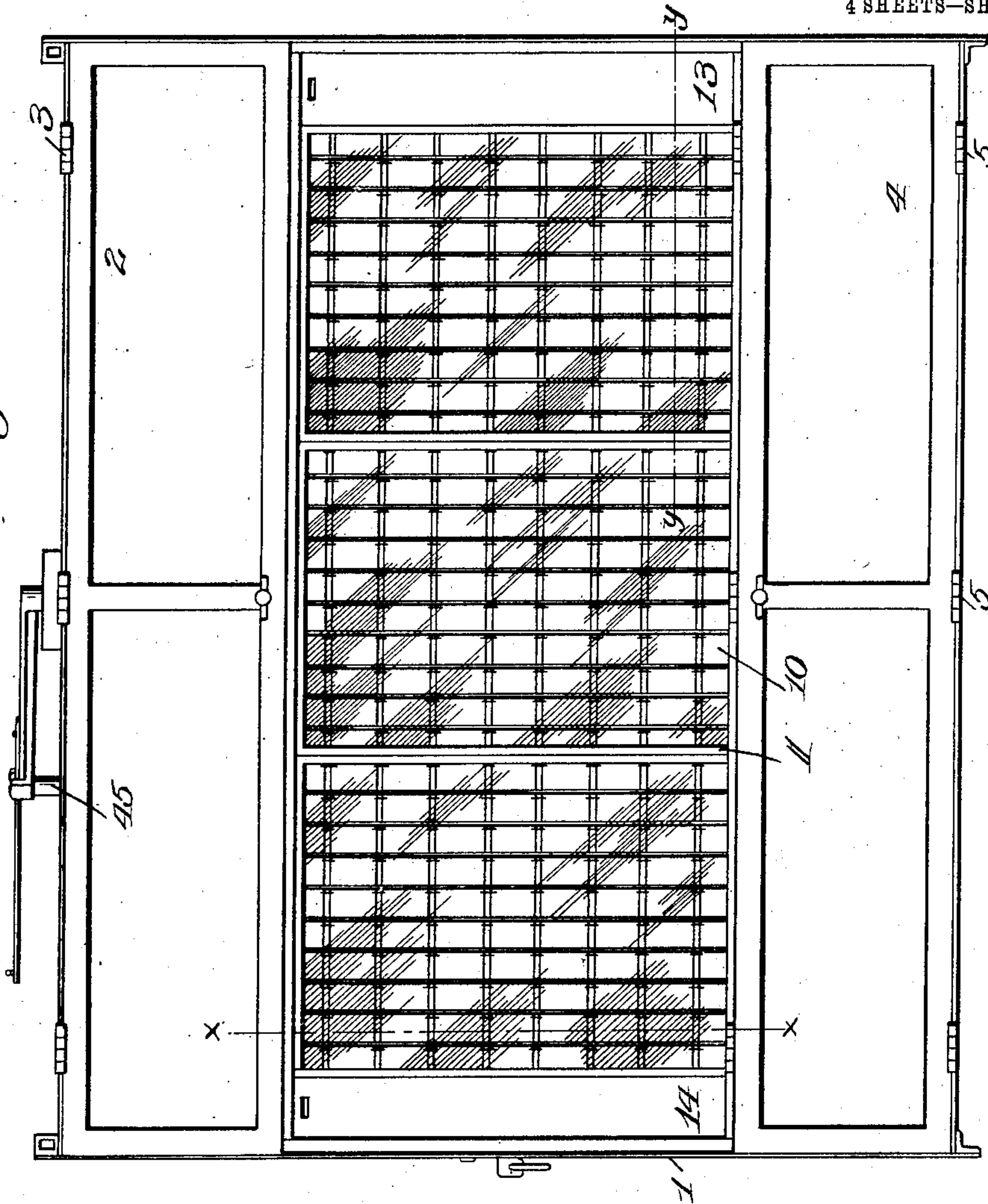
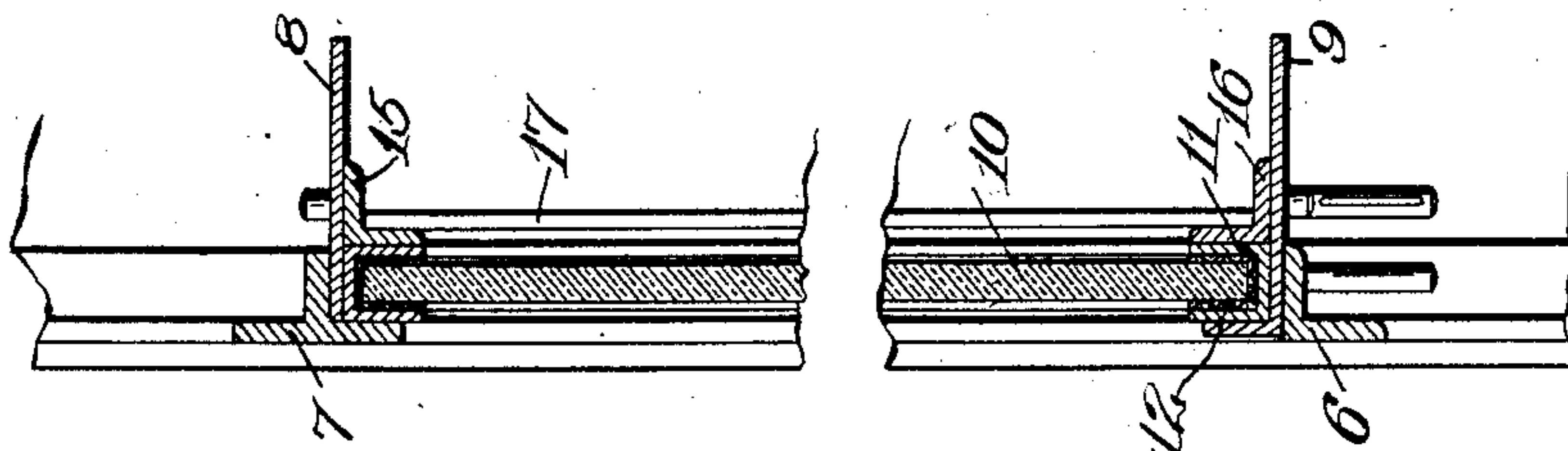


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES:

Russell Shiffitt

Clarence A. Bateman

W. J. Lausterer INVENTOR

BY J. H. Church  
his ATTORNEY.

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4 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

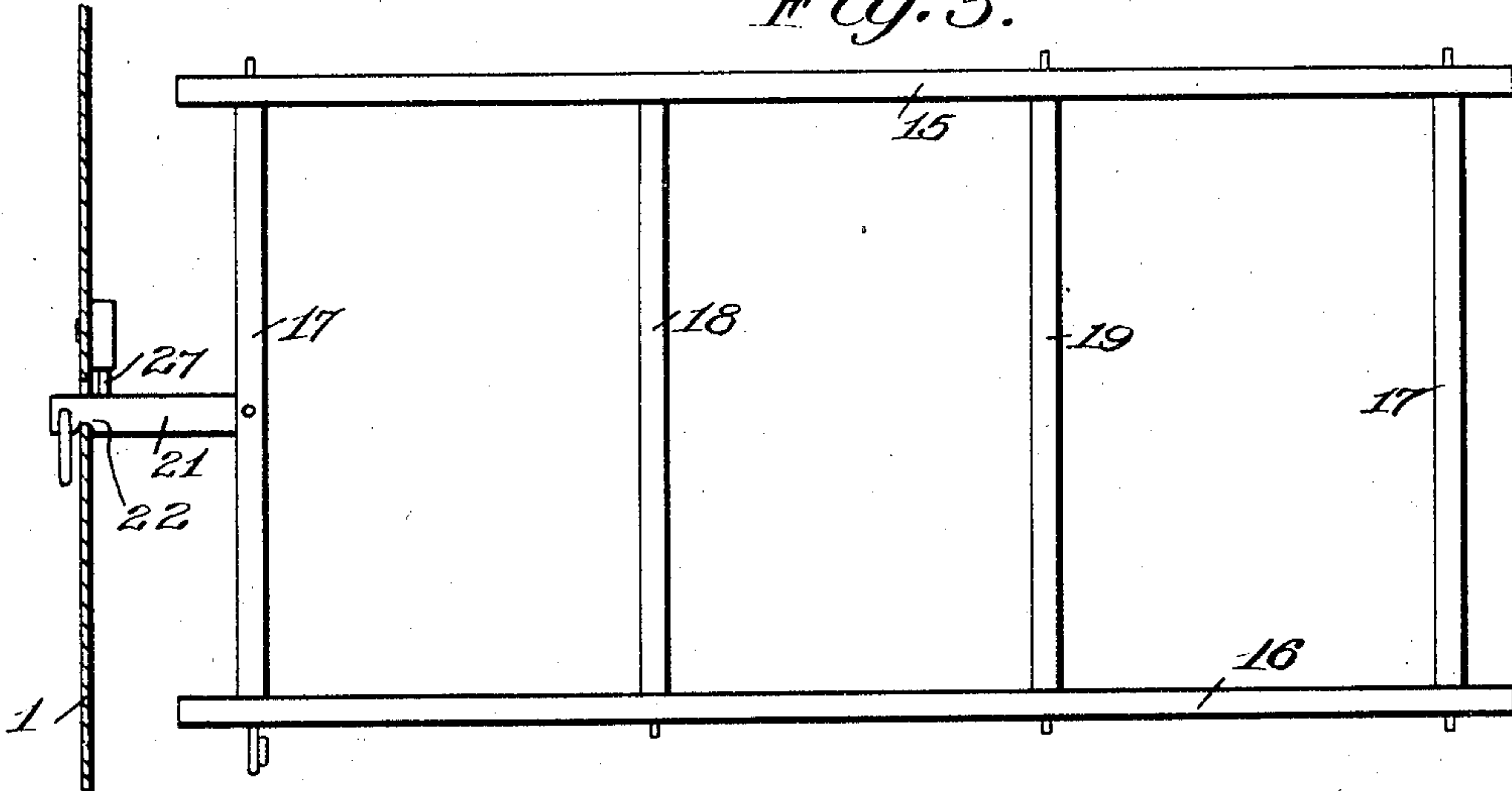


Fig. 4.

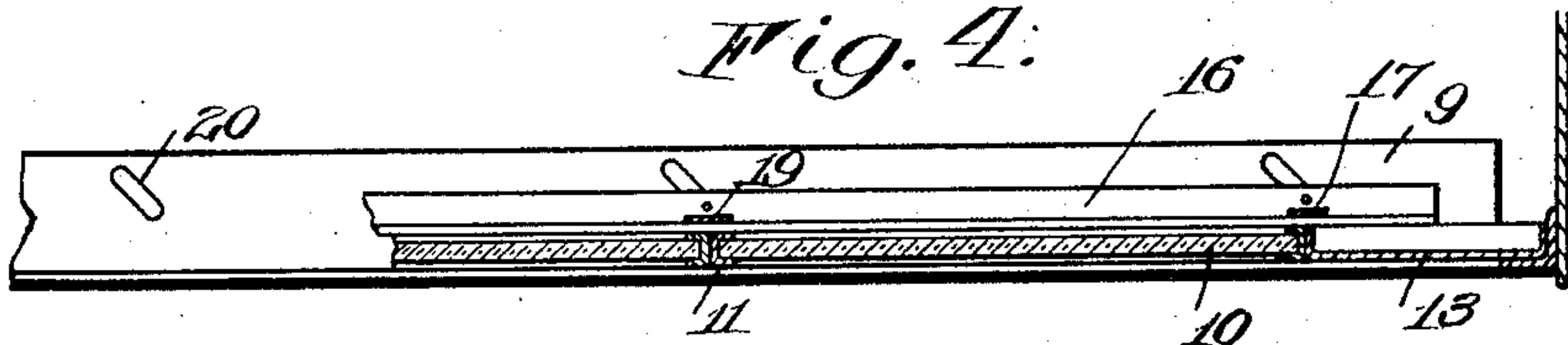


Fig. 4<sup>a</sup>.

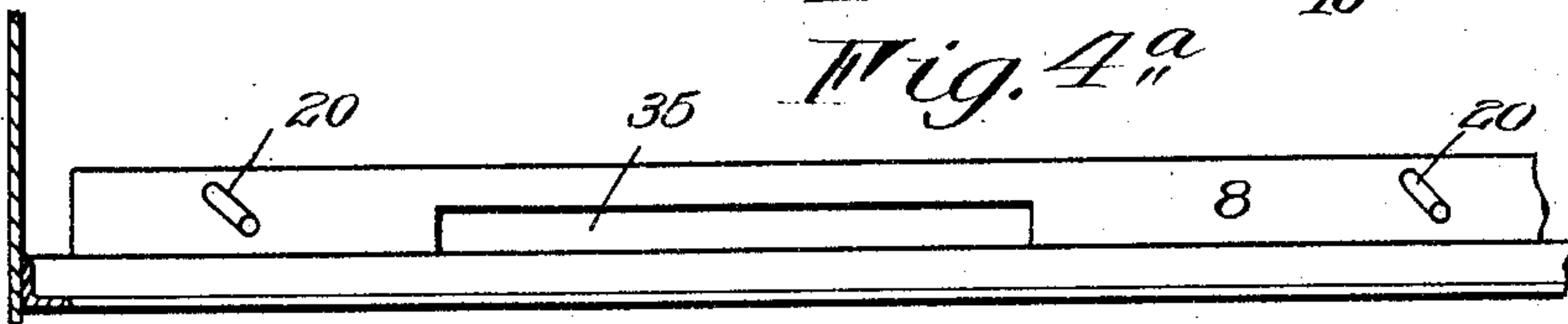


Fig. 8.

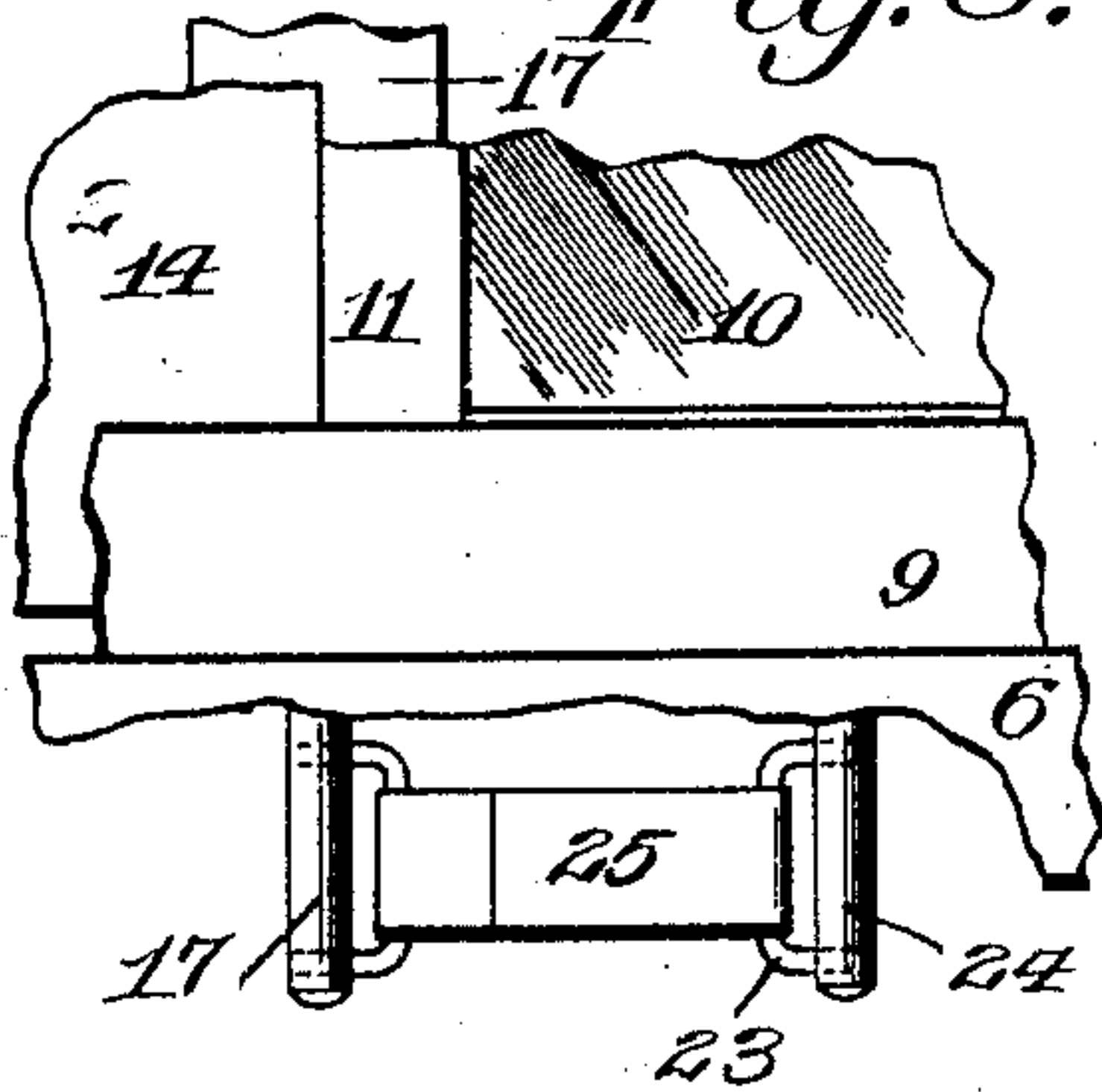


Fig. 5.

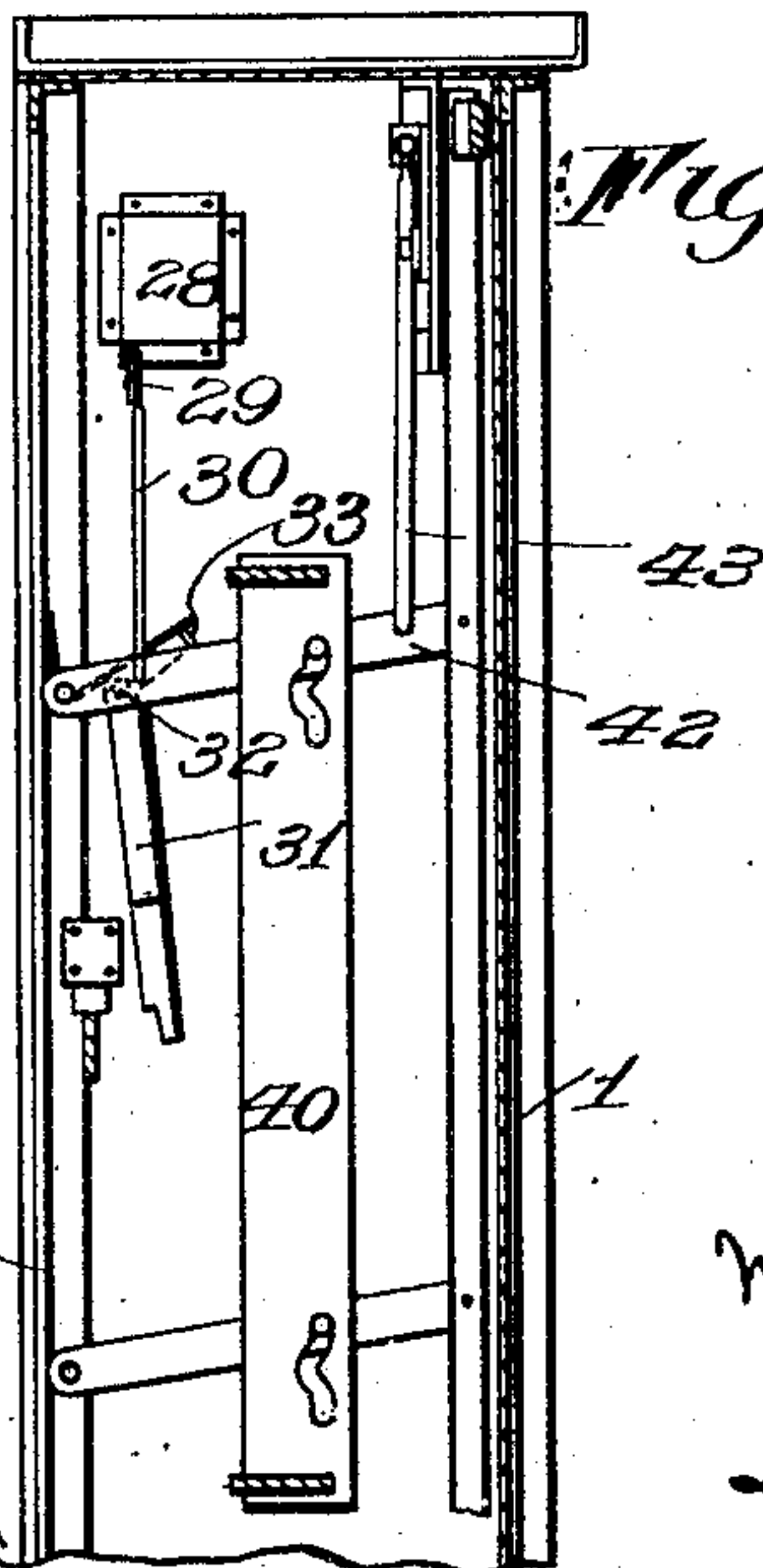
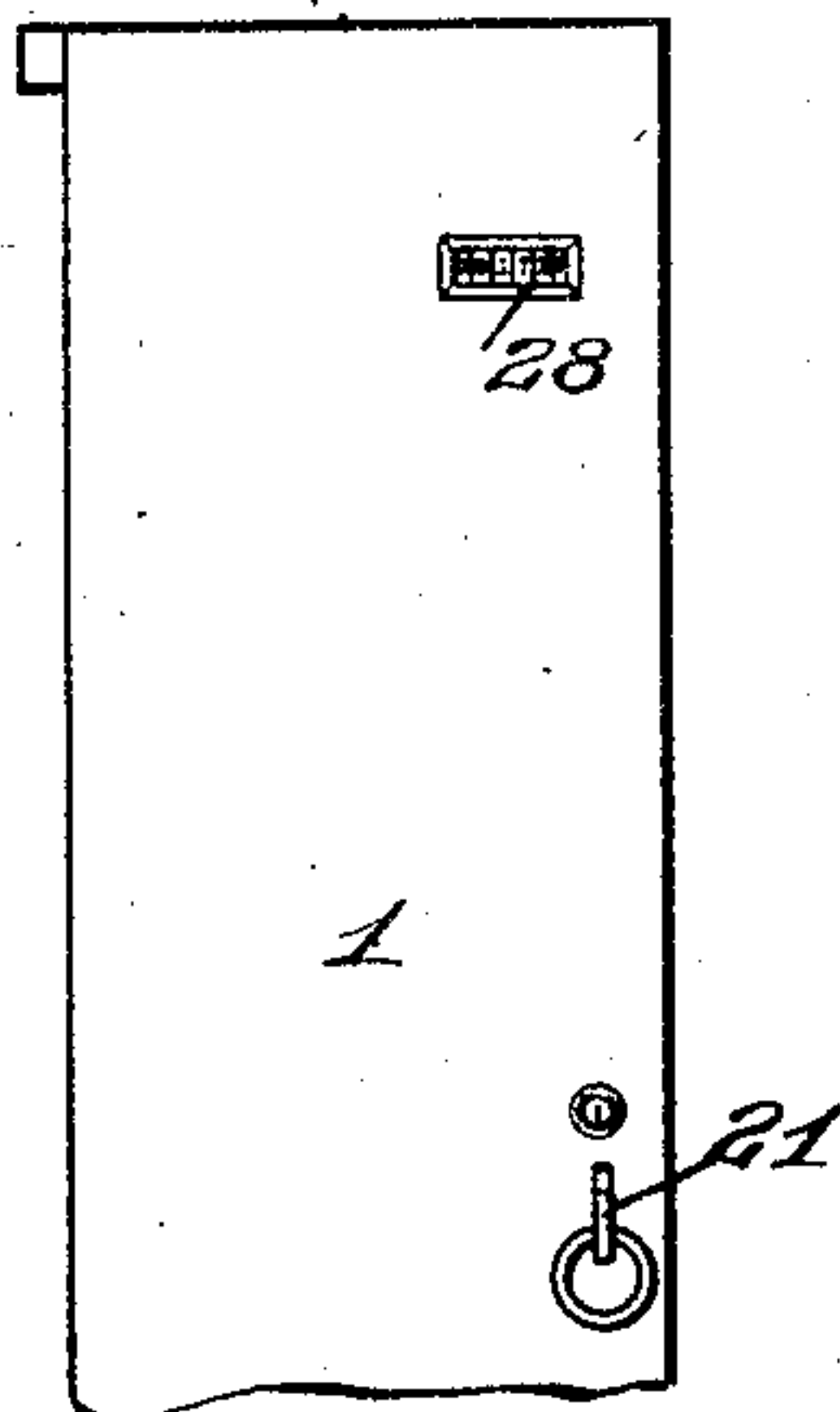


Fig. 6.



WITNESSES:

Russell Shiffitt  
Clarence A. Bateman

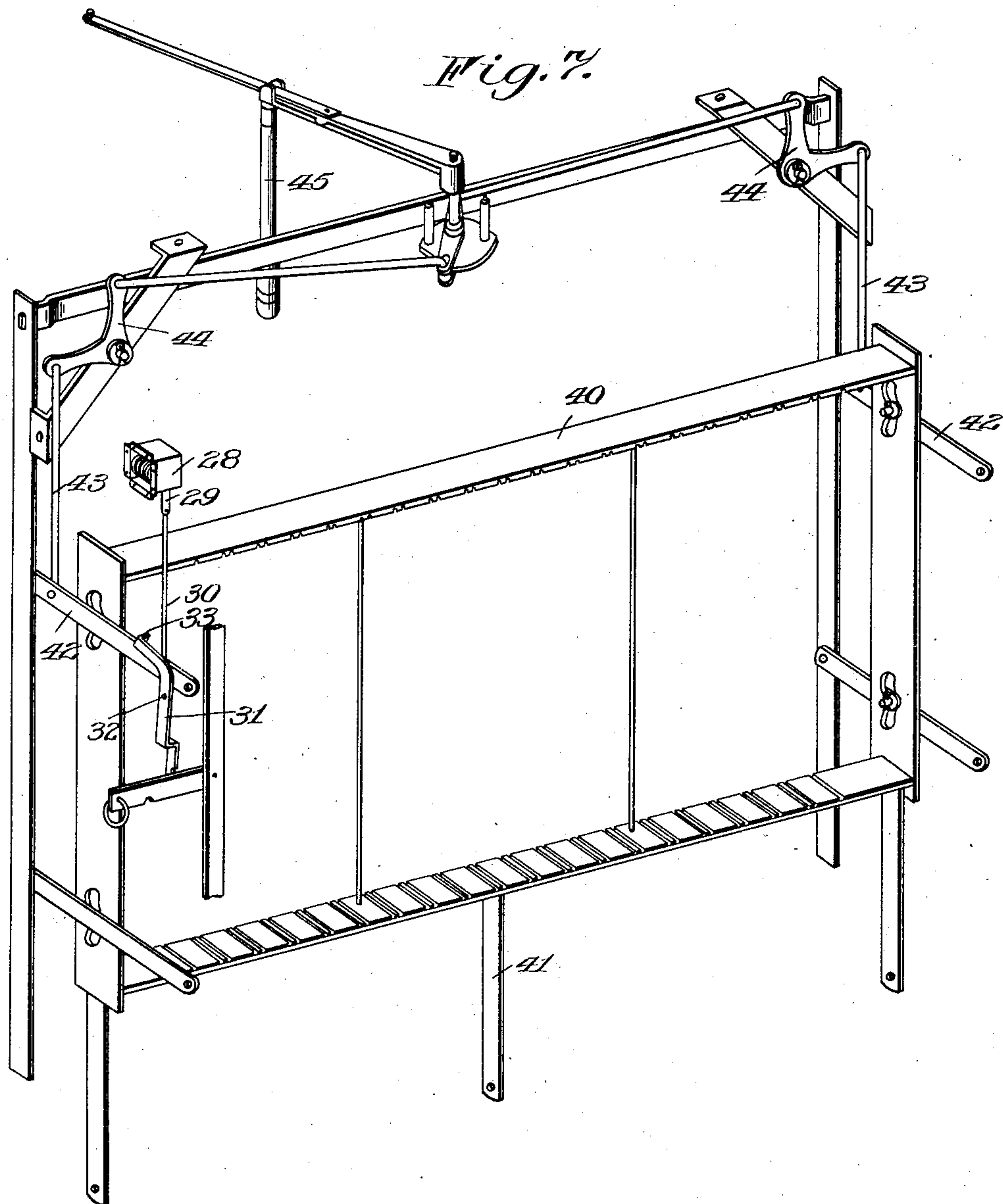
INVENTOR  
William J. Lausterer  
BY  
Edmund W. Church  
ATTORNEY.

W. J. LAUSTERER.  
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4 SHEETS—SHEET 3.



WITNESSES:

Russell B. Siffert  
Clarence A. Bateman

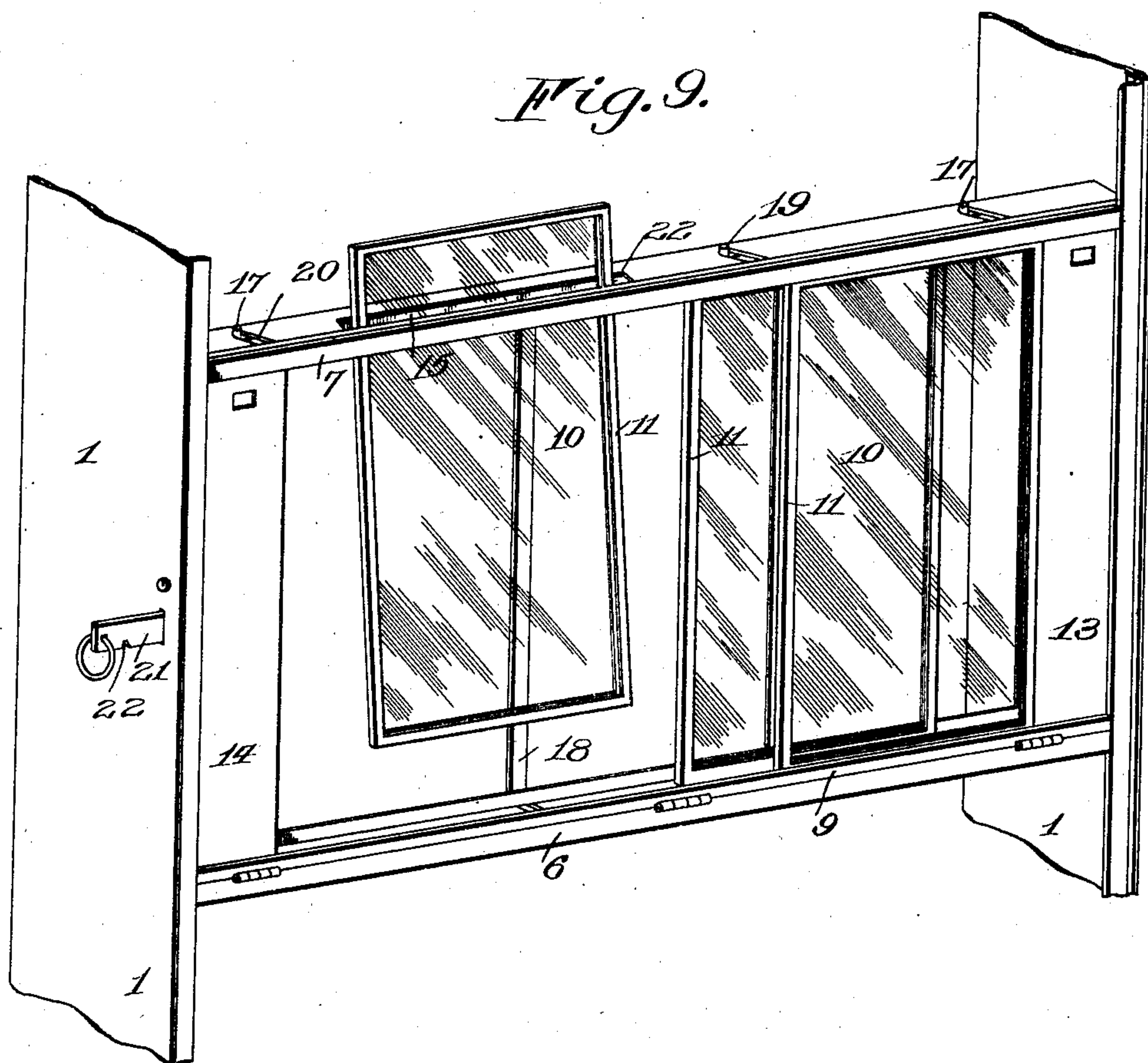
INVENTOR  
William J. Lausterer  
BY  
Andrew H. Church  
his ATTORNEY.



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4 SHEETS—SHEET 4.



WITNESSES:

Russell B. Griffith  
Clarence A. Bateman

INVENTOR  
William J. Lausterer  
BY  
Ludwig H. Church  
his ATTORNEY.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM J. LAUSTERER, OF JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO U. S. STANDARD VOTING MACHINE COMPANY, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

## VOTING AND SIMILAR REGISTERING MACHINE.

No. 916,336.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 23, 1909.

Application filed September 10, 1904. Serial No. 223,978.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. LAUSTERER, of Jamestown, in the county of Chautauqua and State of New York, have  
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Voting and Similar Registering Machines; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the  
10 accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and to the reference-numerals marked thereon.

My present invention relates to voting and similar registering machines, and particularly to that class of which an example is  
15 shown in Letters Patent No. 647,657 to Gillespie, embodying a plurality of registering devices, indicators for designating the particular registers to be operated, and mechanism for altering the relation of the parts at  
20 or subsequent to the operation of the register to adapt the machine for another voter, and it has for its object to provide means for protecting the registers or counters from  
25 fraudulent or unlawful manipulation without detection, whereby an examination of the machine after the close of the election and after the transcription of the record from the register, the fact of alteration or of the  
30 possibility of alteration of the registers will be made apparent.

To this and other ends the invention consists in certain improvements which will be hereinafter fully described and the novel  
35 features pointed out particularly in the claims at the end of this specification.

I have shown my improvements as applied to a machine of the general type above referred to, but which differs in many respects from that shown in said patent, particularly in that the means for causing the  
40 relative movement of the registers and indicators, (which latter, however, are not shown) are different.

45 In the accompanying drawings: Figure 1 is a rear elevation of a voting machine of the type referred to with the opaque door or closure normally closing the register removed, and showing the registers through  
50 their transparent covering which serves to protect them. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view on the line  $x-x$  of Fig. 1 showing the device for securing the panels with other parts, the registers, however, not being shown.  
55 Fig. 3 is a rear elevation of the securing

frame for the transparent panels. Fig. 4 is a horizontal sectional view on the line  $y-y$  of Fig. 1. Fig. 4<sup>a</sup> is a plan view of the upper portion of the left end of the panel support. Fig. 5 is a vertical sectional view taken near  
60 the left hand end of the machine of Fig. 1. Fig. 6 is an elevation of the left hand of the machine. Fig. 7 is a perspective view showing the operating parts of the machine and the connection with the panel securing device and register. Fig. 8 is a detail view of  
65 the lower corner of the cover securing frame showing a modification or detachment. Fig. 9 is a perspective view of the cover frame showing the manner of removing the panels. 70

Similar reference numerals in the several figures indicate similar parts.

The main casing of the machine indicated by 1 may be of the usual or any construction, preferably of metal, the rear of said casing  
75 being closed when the machine is in operation; the upper door indicated by 2 being arranged on the hinges 3, and bottom door 4 mounted upon the hinges 5 and between these two and hinged upon a cross bar 6 is  
80 arranged a large middle door or closure adapted for covering the opening between the upper and lower doors, this middle door, however, being omitted from the drawing  
85 for the purpose of showing more clearly the transparent covering for the registers and operating parts arranged immediately inside of it, and forming the subject matter of the present improvement.

6 and 7 indicate cross bars, preferably in  
90 the form of angle irons, secured to the ends of the casing, serving as the immediate support for the transparent closure or movable panels, such bars being provided with plates or flanges 8 and 9 upon the  
95 latter of which the movable panels rest, the upper one forming a broad cover for the upper ends of said panels. In the present embodiment I have shown three of these  
100 panels or transparent closures arranged immediately over the rear of the registers and through which the numerals thereon are visible, such panels each preferably consisting of a sheet of glass 10 mounted in a  
105 metal frame 11, a suitable cushion or packing 12 of fabric being employed between. These panels are thinner than the plates 8 and 9 and are supported upon the latter, their combined length being sufficient to  
110 cover the rear face of the registers, while



between the edges of the outside panels and the casing are arranged filling pieces or panels 13 and 14 which may or may not be transparent, but are not necessarily so.

5 The combined length of the closing panels, transparent and opaque, is when their adjacent edges abut, sufficient to reach from side to side of the casing as shown in Fig. 1, thereby closing the opening therein,

10 and, when clamped in this position, access to the registers and the parts arranged forwardly thereof is prevented, while the numbers upon the register may be read through the glass. The preferred means

15 for securing the panels in position and locking them is a longitudinal and laterally movable frame composed of horizontally extending bars 15 and 16 sliding on the plates 8 and 9 respectively, and connected

20 by the vertically extending bars 17, 18 and 19, the intermediate bars 18 and 19 being arranged preferably in rear of the meeting edges of the panels so as not to obstruct the view of the registers.

25 The ends of the bars 17, 18 and 19 preferably extend beyond the upper and lower plates and are adapted to travel in cam slots 20 located in the plates 8 and 9 and so disposed relatively to the other parts that when

30 the securing frame is moved to the left of Fig. 2 by means of the operating handle 21, it will also be moved rearwardly (laterally of the frame) clamping the panels firmly in position against bars 6 and 7, and effectually

35 preventing access to the interior of the machine. When the securing frame is moved in the opposite direction and away from the rear of the machine, the panels may be moved past each other to permit access to

40 the interior, and if desired, they may be removed one at a time by inserting their upper ends through a slot 22 formed near one end of the upper plate 8 and then moved downwardly to escape the lower bar, as

45 shown particularly in Fig. 9.

In order to prevent the unauthorized movement of the frame to releasing position, different forms of locking mechanism may be provided, as for instance, the lower end of

50 one of the bars 17 may be extended beneath the plate 9 and provided with a loop or staple between which and a corresponding loop or staple 23 and a pin 24 secured to the plate 9, a paper or other seal indicated by 25 in Fig. 8

55 may be employed, as the movement of the frame to releasing position would necessarily cause the seal to be broken. The handle or operating part 21 consists of a link pivoted to the frame having a notch 22 in its lower

60 side and an operating ring and extending outwardly through an aperture in the casing whereby it may be manipulated, but when in an inward or locking position the notch is in engagement with the casing. This handle

65 and the frame may be secured from opera-

tion by a suitable key lock, the bolt 27 of which is adapted when protected to hold the handle in engagement with the casing or frame, as shown in Fig. 3.

I prefer to connect the panel securing device with a registering mechanism which is manipulated during the usual operation of the machine and from which in the ordinary course of an election, the inspectors make a transcript, so that the transcript or election

70 returns which are made in public, upon being compared with the machine at a subsequent period, will indicate whether or not the machine has been so operated that access can be had to the registers or the latter manipu-

80 lated by the keys or indicators. In Fig. 7 I have shown the operating parts of a machine of this type, 40 indicating the register frame adapted to be moved back and forth upon supporting links 41 by the vertical move-

85 ments of pivoted levers 42 connected by links 43, and bell crank levers 44 with an operating device controlled by the handle 45 which manipulates the closure or curtain covering the front of the machine. This

90 handle or lever 45 is operated in opposite directions by each voter causing the movement of the register frame 40 and the casting of the ballot.

28 indicates what I term a protective

95 counter and embodying a train of numbered wheels visible through a suitable aperture at the end of the casing, as shown in Fig. 6 and having its actuator 29 connected to one of the moving parts of the machine, the wheels

100 and parts of said counter being so covered and protected that it cannot be set back, nor its registration changed, excepting by the regular operation of the machine, which operations it will faithfully record. The

105 actuator of this counter is in the present instance connected by a link 30 with one of the levers 42.

31 indicates a lever pivoted at 32, on the end of the machine casing having at one end

110 a projection 33 extending over the lever 42, the lower end of said lever 31 being provided with a shoulder adapted to cooperate with the operating bar or slide 21 when the panels are in locked position to prevent it from be-

115 ing raised to disengage its shoulder or notch from the casing of the machine, so that the arm 21 cannot be lifted excepting when the lever 31 is moved away from it. The relation of the lever 31 to the operating arm

120 45 is such that the operating handle 21 can only be disengaged when the said arm 45 is moved to the position which will permit the voter at the front of the machine to operate the voting mechanism, and the last por-

125 tion of the movement of said lever 45 moves the end of the lever 31, upwardly turning it on its pivot and disengaging the arm 21. This construction necessitates, before the

130 arm 21 can be unlocked and the protecting



panels moved, that the machine shall be placed in the position for voting, and to do this, the said operating portion 45 must first be unlocked and moved to the other side of the machine, which will cause the protective counter to register one additional number before the operating part can be again moved to its locked position. As the returns from an election require not only the transcription of the numbers appearing upon the candidate registers, but also the number of total operations of the machine taken from the protective counter immediately at the close of the polls, and as access can only be had to the registers by the removal of the panels, if there should be any question about the returns made by the inspectors, an inspection of the machine would show whether or not the returns correspond with the machine, and further, whether the cover securing means had been operated to permit access to the registers after the close of the polls and after the total on the protective counter had been transcribed.

The arrangement described is particularly valuable in that class of machines in which a large number of registers are employed, necessarily arranged close together, and which are adapted to be reset only through an opening covered by the movable panel, as only one form of indicating device is required to show whether or not the machine has been tampered with since the close of the election.

I claim as my invention:—

1. In a registering machine, the combination with the registers and operating mechanism therefor, of a register for indicating the total number of operations of the machine, a closure for the registering mechanism, a securing device therefor and connections between the latter and said register.

2. In a registering machine, the combination with the registers and operating mechanism therefor and a register operated by the latter, of a movable closure for the registering mechanism permitting inspection of, but preventing access to, the latter when in locked position and connections between said closure, register and the operating mechanism for preventing the movement of the closure without operating the register.

3. In a registering machine, the combination with the registers and operating mechanism therefor and a total non-resettable, protective register operated by the latter, of a movable closure for preventing the separate movement of the registers independently of the operating mechanism and interlocking connections between said operating mechanism and the closure for preventing the release of the closure without operating the protective register.

4. In a registering machine, the combination with the registers, the register frame therefor and a protective non-resettable reg-

ister connected to the frame and actuated therewith, of a closure for the registers, a securing device therefor and connections between the securing device when the frame is in a predetermined position. 70

5. A registering machine embodying registers, casing having an opening therein, a plurality of relatively movable imperforate panels adapted when in alinement and in abutment to close the opening in the casing and a movable securing device for clamping the panels in alinement preventing access to the registers. 75

6. A registering machine embodying registers, casing having an opening therein, a closure for the opening embodying a plurality of longitudinally and laterally movable transparent panels adapted to fill said opening when in alinement and means for holding said panels in alinement, thereby preventing access to the registers though permitting their inspection. 85

7. A registering machine embodying registers, a casing provided with the opening having the support at the lower side, the panels movable longitudinally and laterally on the support and adapted, when in alinement, to close the opening and means for clamping said panels in position in alinement to prevent access to the registers. 95

8. A registering machine embodying registers, a casing provided with the opening having the support at the lower side, the panels movable longitudinally and laterally on the support and adapted when in alinement to close the opening and a movable locking frame engaging the panels and holding them in alinement to prevent access to the registers. 100

9. A registering machine embodying registers, a casing provided with the opening having the support at the lower side, the transparent panels movable longitudinally and laterally of the opening and adapted when in alinement to close the latter and locking bars for engaging the panels and movable laterally and longitudinally of the latter to secure them in position thereby preventing access to the registers though permitting their inspection. 115

10. A registering machine embodying registers, casing having the opening, and the support at the bottom thereof, a plurality of transparent panels movable longitudinally on the support and adapted to close the opening and securing bars movable laterally and longitudinally of the panels to secure them in position thereby preventing access to the registers though permitting their inspection. 125

11. A registering machine embodying registers, a casing having the opening, and the support at the bottom thereof, a plurality of longitudinally and laterally movable transparent panels on the support and adapted 130



when in alinement, to close the opening and the longitudinally movable clamping bars adapted to engage and secure the panels in alinement thereby preventing access to the registers though permitting their inspection.

12. A registering machine embodying registers, a casing having the opening and the support at the bottom thereof, a plurality of longitudinally and laterally movable panels adapted to close the opening when in alinement, the longitudinally movable locking bars engaging the panels to secure them and cam devices for causing the lateral movements of the bars to locking position to prevent access to the registers.

13. A registering machine embodying registers, a casing having the opening, the plates at the upper and lower sides of said opening having cam slots, a plurality of movable panels adapted to close the opening and the longitudinally movable locking bars adapted to secure the panels and having projections operating in the cam slots to prevent access to the registers.

14. A registering machine embodying registers, a casing having the opening, the plates at the upper and lower sides of the opening having cam slots, a plurality of transparent movable panels adapted when in alinement to close the opening, the movable frame embodying bars engaging the panels to secure them and means for causing the simultaneous longitudinal and lateral movement of the frame thereby preventing access to the registers though permitting their inspection.

15. A registering machine embodying registers, a casing having the opening and the flanges at top and bottom thereof provided with the cam slots, the movable securing frame having projections operating in the cam slots, a plurality of transparent panels adapted to close the opening when in aline-

ment and to move relatively laterally when the frame is moved rearwardly thereby preventing access to the registers though permitting their inspection.

16. In a registering machine, the combination with the registers and operating mechanism therefor, of the casing having the opening, a plurality of transparent panels adapted to close the opening when in position, the locking frame for engaging and holding the panels, means for securing the frame and a catch engaging the securing means adapted to be actuated by the operating mechanism.

17. A registering machine embodying registers, a casing having the opening, a plurality of transparent panels for closing the opening, the movable locking frame, the operating handle engaging the casing and a lock for securing said handle thereby preventing access to the registers though permitting their inspection.

18. A registering machine embodying registers, a casing having the opening, a plurality of transparent panels for closing the opening, the movable locking frame and a sealing device arranged between the frame and a stationary part of the casing thereby preventing access to the registers though permitting their inspection.

19. A registering machine embodying registers, a casing having an opening, a plurality of panels adapted to be inserted in said opening, and form a single continuous partition therein, closing said opening, and a movable securing device for clamping said panels in position in said opening, preventing access to the registers through said opening.

WILLIAM J. LAUSTERER.

Witnesses:

R. C. JOHNSON,

F. E. GIFFORD WARNER.