

H. H. NEWMAN & J. J. FERRICK.
 LOCK FOR PREPAYMENT METERS AND SIMILAR DEVICES.
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955,825.

Patented Apr. 19, 1910.

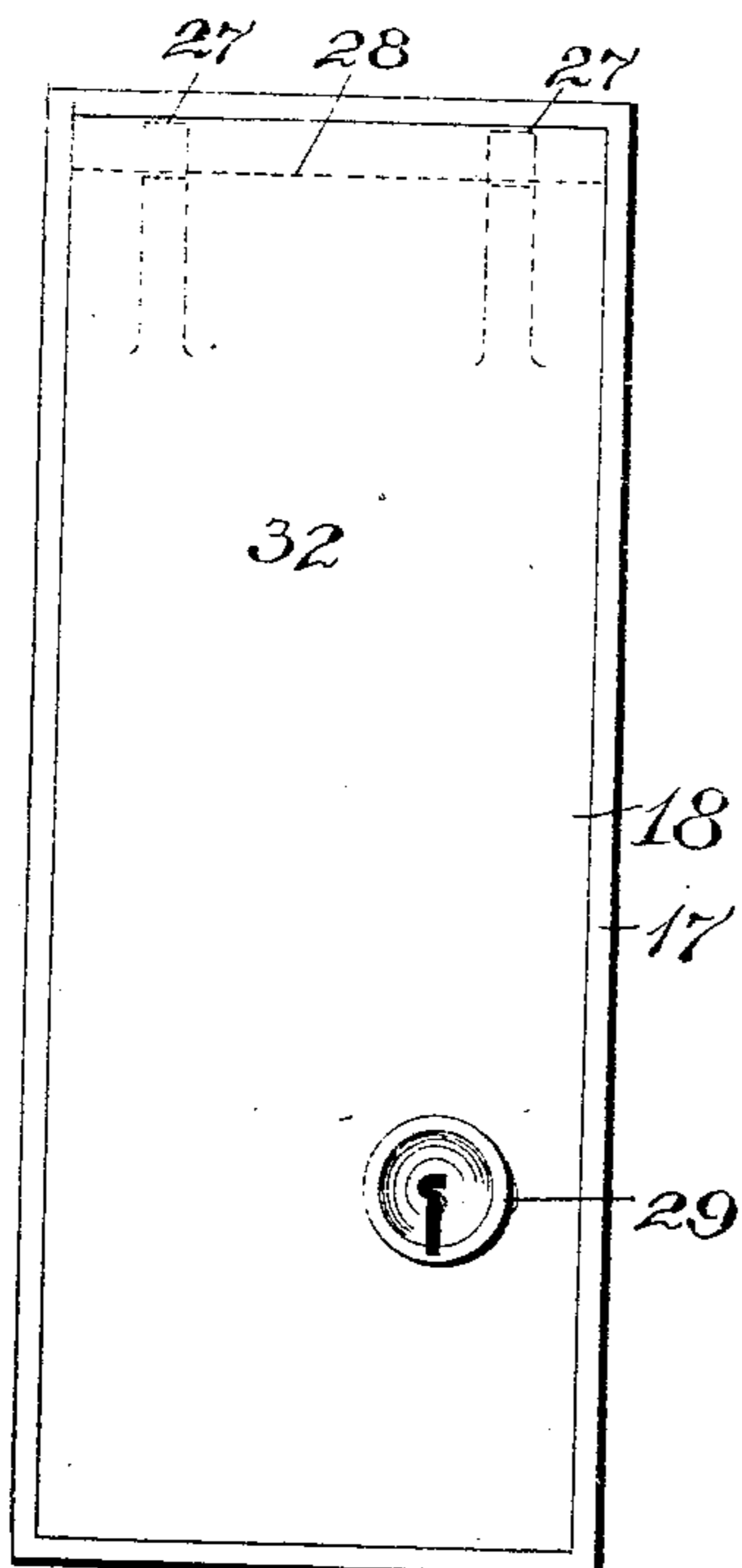


Fig. 1

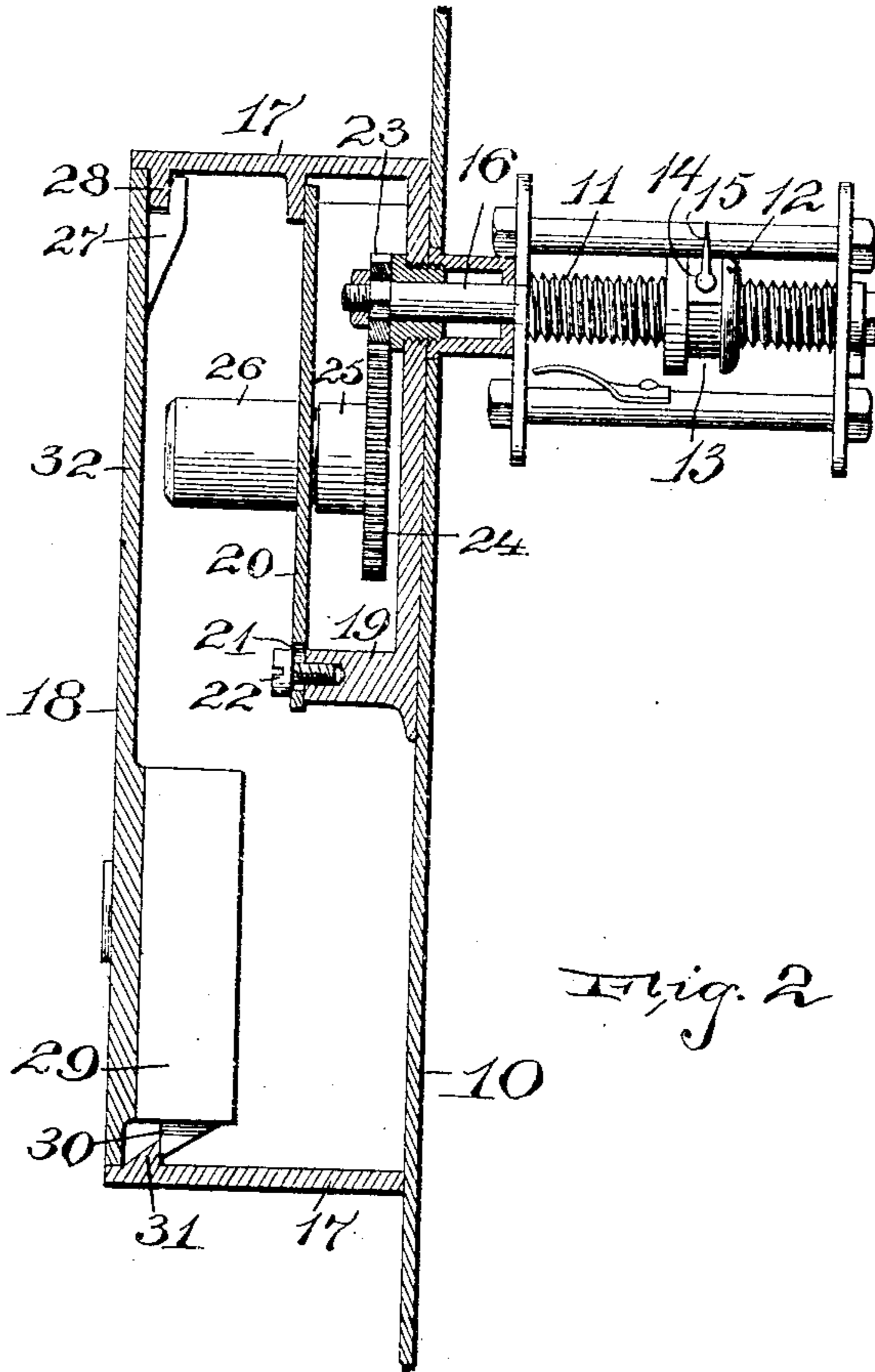


Fig. 2

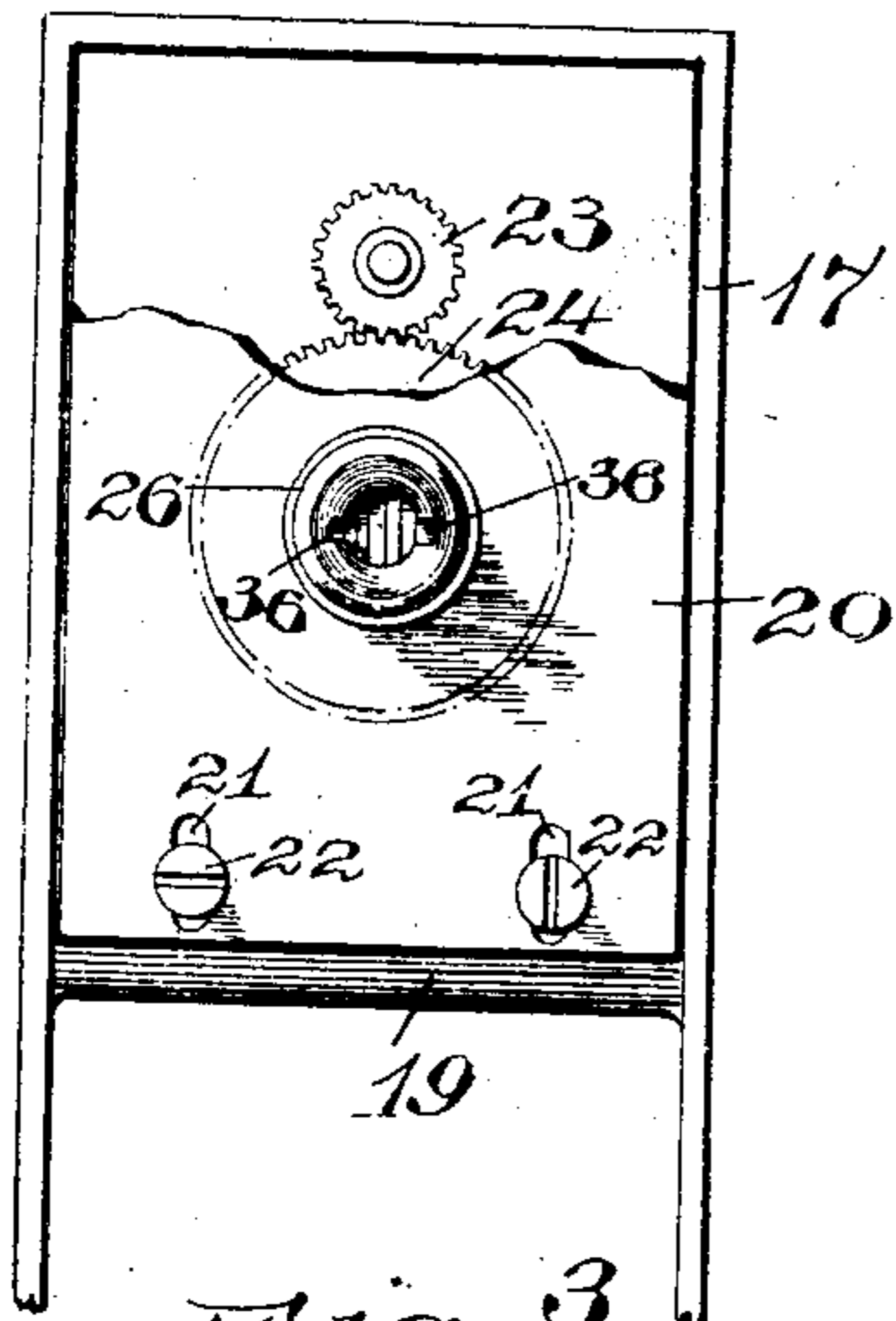


Fig. 3

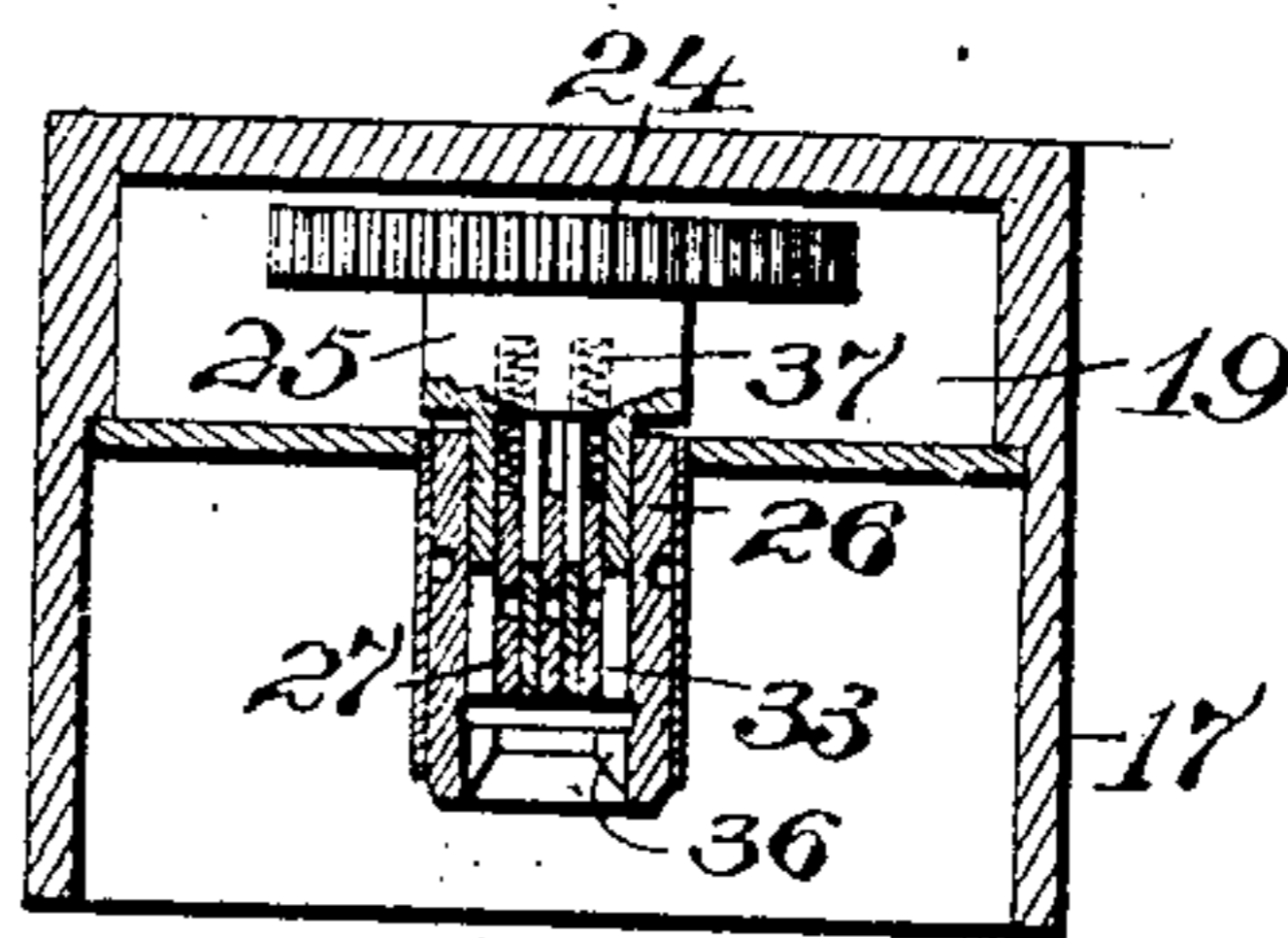


Fig. 4

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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LOCK FOR PREPAYMENT-METERS AND SIMILAR DEVICES.

955,825.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, HOWARD H. NEWMAN and JOHN J. FERRICK, citizens of the United States, residing at Paterson and Passaic, in the county of Passaic and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Locks for Prepayment-Meters and Similar Devices; and we 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 figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to a lock to be attached to a prepayment gas meter which is designed to be opened by a collector for the parties supplying the gas, and operated to insure a certain amount of gas supply, in the future, for which prepayment is made. The lock is designed to provide a safe means for preventing the turning on of the meter for a predetermined amount, without value having been received therefor, the lock being designed to securely cover and protect the operating mechanism.

Another object of the invention is to provide a mechanism for the prepayment device that has an automatic stop at predetermined points in its rotation so that certain amounts of gas are checked off by the party turning the prepayment device.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a front view of the lock, and Fig. 2 is a section of the same shown in conjunction with the prepayment device on a gas meter. Fig. 3 is a face view of the upper portion of the lock with part of the lock casing removed to more fully illustrate the operation of the device, and Fig. 4 is a horizontal section of a portion of the lock for the prepayment device and showing one species thereof with a key for its operation.

The device is attached to a gas meter which has, on the inside thereof, any usual form of prepayment device, but the kind usually employed consists of a screw which is rotated to cause a collar to travel longitudinally along it, and to have resting thereon, in a groove, a block held against rotation and having a pointer to register on a scale not shown, to indicate

the amount of gas still to be delivered by the meter.

A shaft projects from the prepayment device into and through the casing of the meter into a casing of the lock, the casing having an open front covered by a lid which is secured in a manner hereinafter described. A flange or rib forms a seat for the cover of the prepayment lock, this cover having slots through which screws are passed to regulate the height of the lock plate and its lock, for purposes to be described hereinafter.

On the end of the shaft is a gear-wheel and a gear is secured to a hub which hub passes up into a sleeve which incloses any suitable locking mechanism for holding the gear-wheel against rotation, except when operated by a suitable key or combination. The regulation of the height of the gear-wheel through the slots and the screws is to permit the use of different sized gear-wheels to give value in gas for different amounts, or to give different quantities of gas for the same amount, according to the price of the commodity.

The lid has hooks which fit under a rib and secure the top edge of the lid in place, and a suitable lock with a latch engages the keeper to hold the lid in place. The portion of the lid is unbroken and covers, securely, the front of the lock for the prepayment part of the meter, as will be evident from Figs. 1 and 2.

Any suitable device can be placed in the casing of the prepayment lock, but we prefer to form the casing with tumblers which slide in the usual way of tumbler locks to bring their openings in register to permit the rotation of the arbor, the key causing this registration and the slots of the key passing in through the slots of the casing causes a locking of the key, when the key is turned slightly, so that the key cannot be withdrawn except when the slots come in register with the slots, and then the springs, behind the tumblers, act to eject the key far enough to have the full width of the key beyond the slots in the casing. The key cannot be turned again unless it is first pushed in against the pressure of the springs to permit the slits in the key to register with the edge of the lock. This half rotation of the key is designed, in the machine, to de-

liver gas to the amount of twenty-five cents. This disengagement of the key at each half rotation gives a check or a notice to the collector when he has turned the key sufficiently to deliver twenty-five cents' worth of gas, so that if a customer gives him one dollar for gas to be delivered within the next month, he inserts the key four times and at each insertion gives it a one-half turn.

10 Having thus described our invention, what we claim is:—

1. The combination with a register, of a lock, a casing in which the lock is mounted, an operative connection between the lock and the register, the lock being adapted to be operated by a key, means in the lock for ejecting the key at predetermined points in its rotation, the casing having an open side, a lid for the open side of the casing, and a lock on the lid.

2. The combination with a register, of a casing, a lock mounted in the casing, an operative connection between the lock and the register, a key for operating the lock, the casing having an open side, a rib on the in-

side edge of the casing, a lid, hooks on the lid to engage the rib, and a lock to engage the casing on the end opposite the rib and hooks to secure the lid in place.

3. The combination with a register, of a casing, a lock mounted in the casing, an operative connection between the lock and the register, a key for operating the lock, means in the lock for ejecting the key at predetermined points in its rotation, the casing having an open side, a rib on the inside edge of the casing at one end of the open side, a lid, hooks on the lid to engage the rib, and a lock on the end of the lid opposed to the hooks, the lock being adapted to engage the casing to secure the lid in place.

In testimony, that we claim the foregoing, we have hereunto set our hands this twenty-first day of October 1908.

HOWARD H. NEWMAN.
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Witnesses:

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