

959,943.

C. H. JONES.  
CHECK ASSORTER.  
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 23, 1909.

Patented May 31, 1910.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

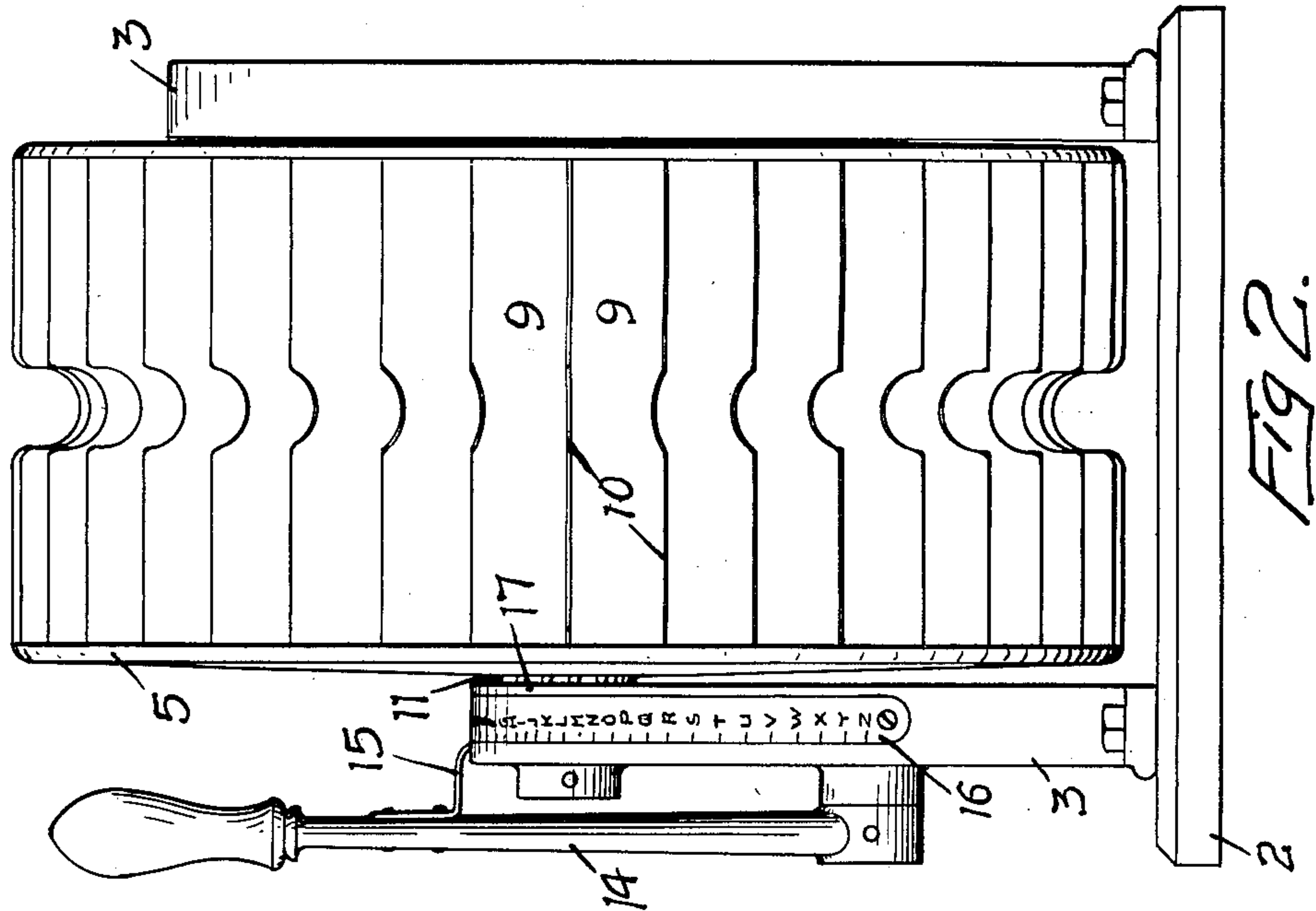


Fig 2.

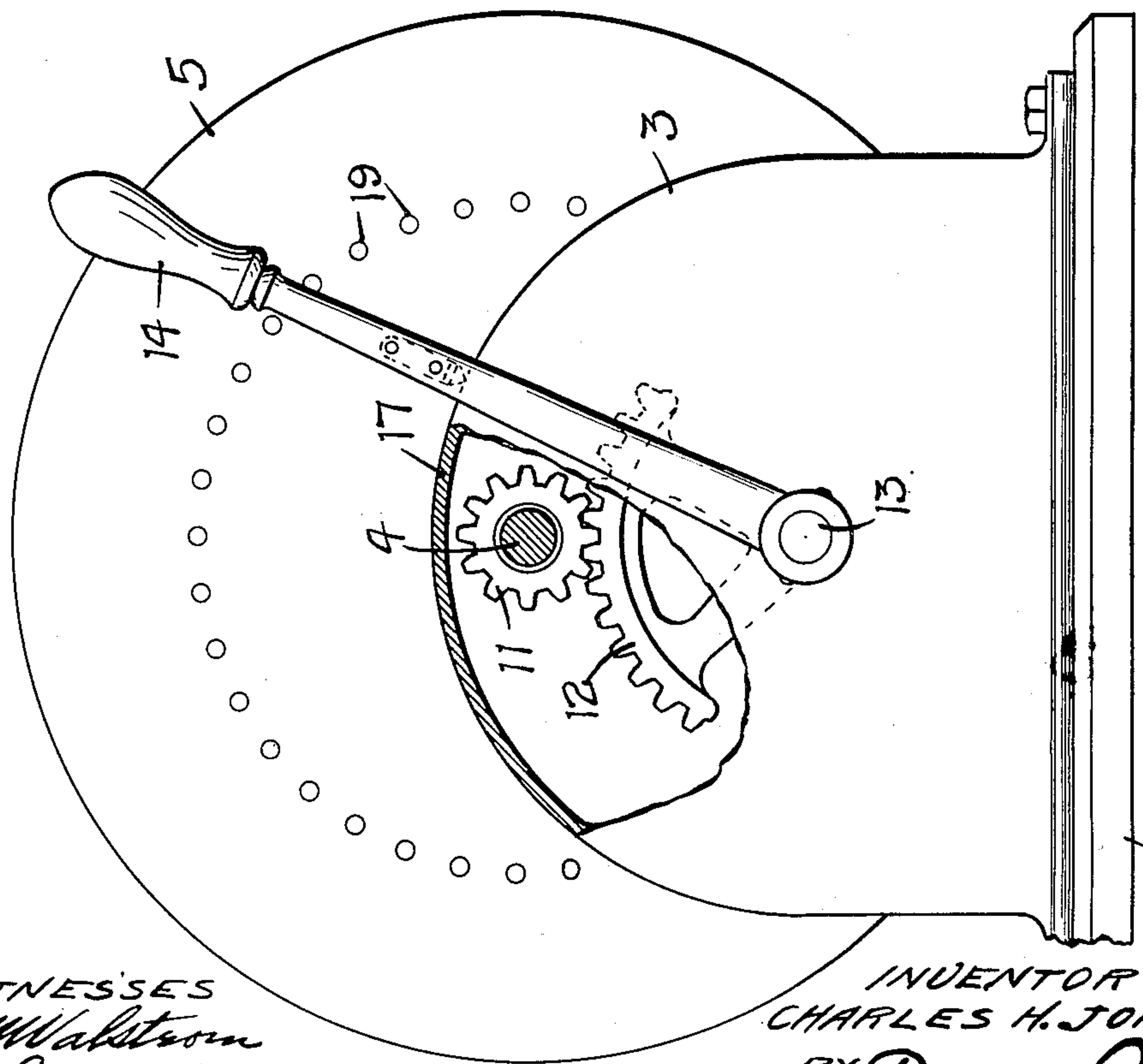


Fig 1.

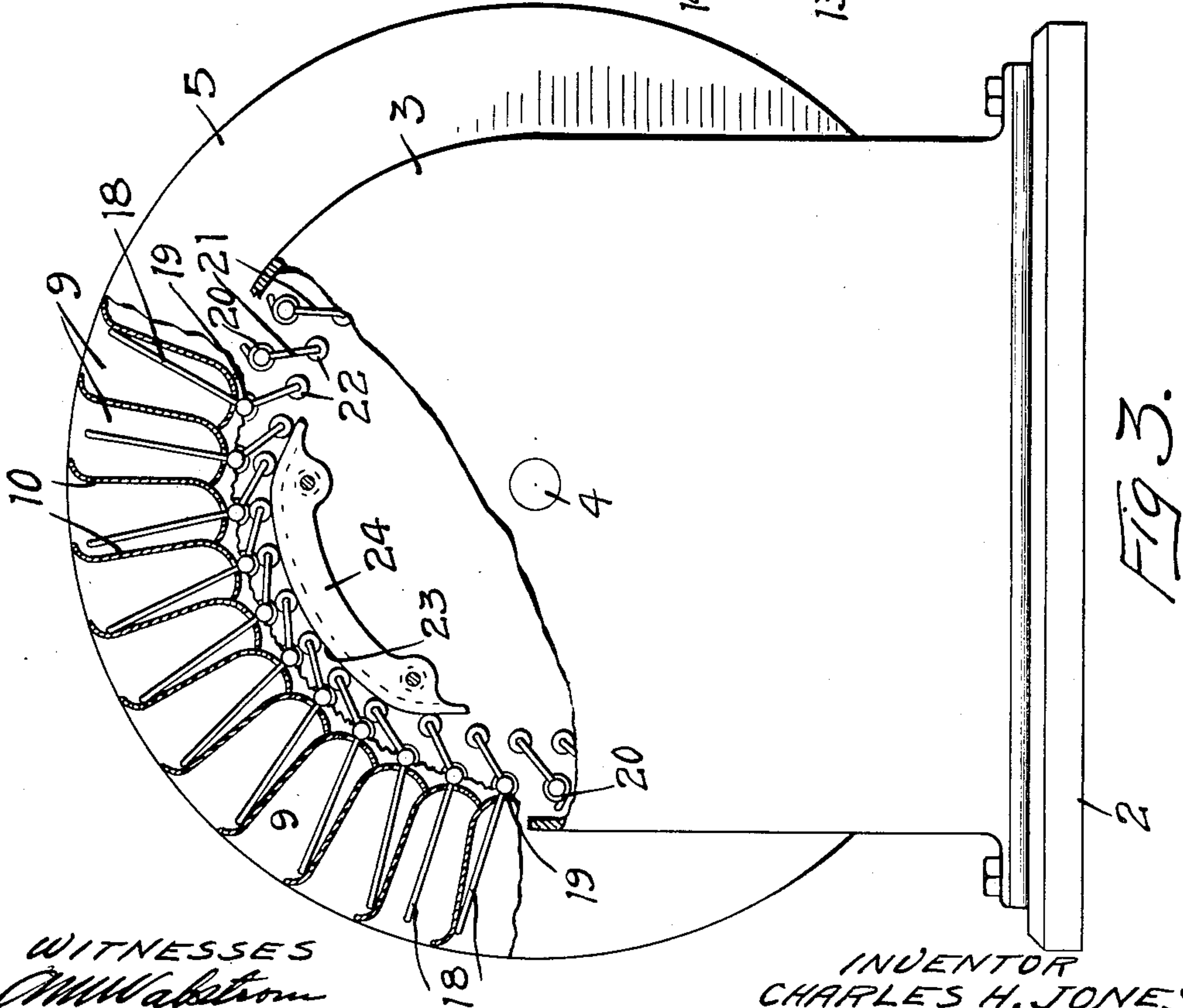
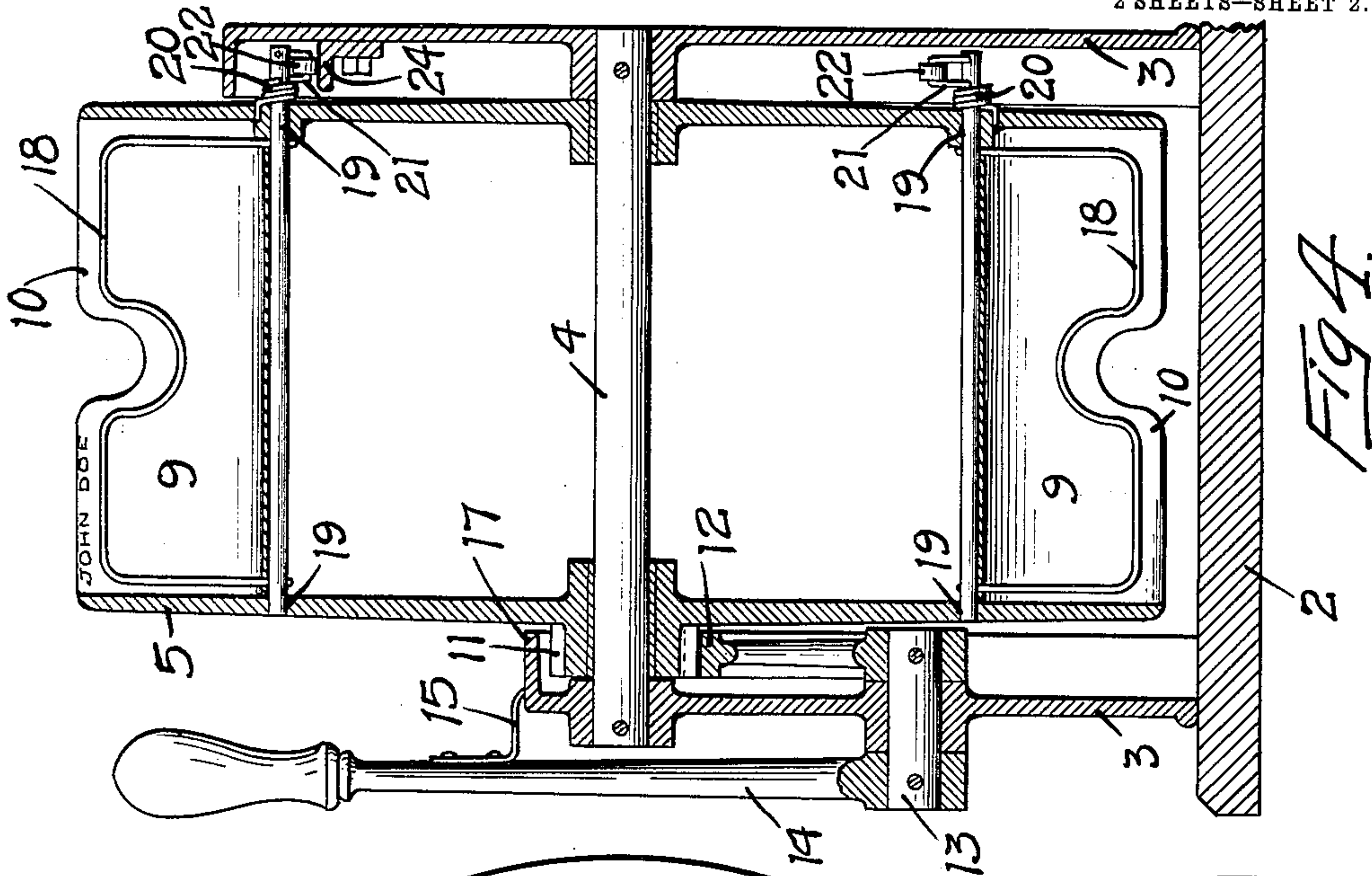
WITNESSES  
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



WITNESSES  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES H. JONES, OF STARKWEATHER, NORTH DAKOTA.

CHECK-ASSORTER.

959,943.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 31, 1910.

Application filed December 23, 1909. Serial No. 534,665.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES H. JONES, of Starkweather, Ramsey county, North Dakota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Check-Assorters, of which the following is a specification.

In the operation of a bank, particularly those in country towns having a comparatively limited number of accounts, it is customary as fast as the checks are canceled, to place them on a spindle and at the end of the day's business, spread them out on a desk or table for the purpose of assorting them and placing the checks drawn against the same account together. This has been found to be an irksome task requiring considerable time and patience, as oftentimes the checks are blown around the room or are mixed up again on the table.

The object of my invention, therefore, is to provide a receptacle in which the checks can be kept separate with those drawn on a certain account or signed by one person placed in a pocket by themselves so that at the end of the day's business the book-keeper can easily and quickly enter the checks on the ledger.

A further object is to provide a revolving receptacle having pockets to receive the checks with means for gripping them in the pockets to prevent them from falling out on the down side of the receptacle.

The invention consists generally in means for releasing the checks in the pocket when it is on the up-side of the receptacle to allow the convenient insertion or removal of a check with one hand.

In the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification, Figure 1 is a side elevation of the check assorter embodied in this invention, a portion of its wall being broken away, Fig. 2 is a front view of the same, Fig. 3 is a view showing the opposite side with a portion of the wall broken away, Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view through the middle portion of the machine.

In the drawing, 2 represents a base having standards 3 thereon provided with bearings for a stationary shaft 4. The drum 5 is mounted on said shaft and adapted to revolve thereon. This drum has a series of radial pockets 9 which are separated from one another by partitions 10. The drum has a pinion 11 thereon meshing with the teeth of a quadrant 12 that is carried by the inner end of a shaft 13 mounted in one of the

standards 3. An operating lever 14 is secured on said shaft 13 and by means of this lever the check carrying drum is revolved. The pockets may be designated for the letters of the alphabet so that the checks can be placed under the proper letter in the pockets and a finger 15 is preferably mounted on the lever 14 and travels past letters corresponding to those designated on the pockets upon a plate 16 that is secured to a flange 17 on the top of one of the standards 3. To hold the checks in the pockets, a series of clamps or grippers 18 are provided, pivoted at 19 and provided with springs which tend to hold the clamps against the partition walls 10 and grip the checks, drafts or other articles between them. It is desirable when the pocket is on the up-side of the drum to have the checks therein relieved temporarily of the pressure of the spring to allow the clerk to conveniently remove one or more checks, or place one or more in the pocket without the necessity of using both hands. I therefore provide off-set arms on the clamps 18 having anti-friction rollers 22 that are adapted to contact with the curved surface 23 of a quadrant shaped device 24 secured to one of the standards 3. This device 24 projects inwardly from said standard and when the drum revolves past it the anti-friction rollers contact with the curved surface 23 causing the clamps 18 to be oscillated successively to swing them away from the partitions 10. At the time these clamps are operated, the pockets will be in such a position that the release of the checks therein from the pressure of the clamps will not permit the checks to drop by gravity out of the pockets and as the drum continues its revolution and the pockets approach a point where the checks might slide out, the rollers 22 will pass out of contact with the curved surface 23 and permit the clamps to resume their normal clamping position. The surface 23 may be made irregular or cam faced to obtain the desired movement of the clamp at the proper time.

I do not wish in this application to be confined to the form of drum herein shown or the shape of the pockets or the construction of the clamping means for holding the checks in the pockets, as these are all capable of various modifications and still be within the scope of my invention.

I claim as my invention:

1. A check assorter comprising a drum re-



volving in a vertical plane and having a series of peripheral pockets adapted to receive packages of bank checks or drafts, means for gripping the checks to hold them in a pocket when it is on the underside of the drum, and means for releasing the pressure on the checks when the pocket is on the upper side of the drum to allow the convenient removal of the checks or the insertion of others, for the purpose specified.

2. An apparatus of the class described comprising a revolving drum having a series of peripheral pockets, spring pressed clamps provided therein and adapted to grip the articles to be clamped, and means for actuating said clamps against the tension of their springs to relieve the pressure on the

articles at a predetermined point in the revolution of said drum.

3. A revolving drum having a series of peripheral pockets adapted to receive packages or checks or similar articles, spring pressed clamps arranged to grip the checks in said pockets, said clamps having off-set arms, and stationary means having a curved surface in the path of said off-sets and adapted to actuate said clamps to release the packages of checks at a predetermined point.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of December 1909.

CHARLES H. JONES.

Witnesses:

HOMER RESLER,  
W. C. McCARTY.