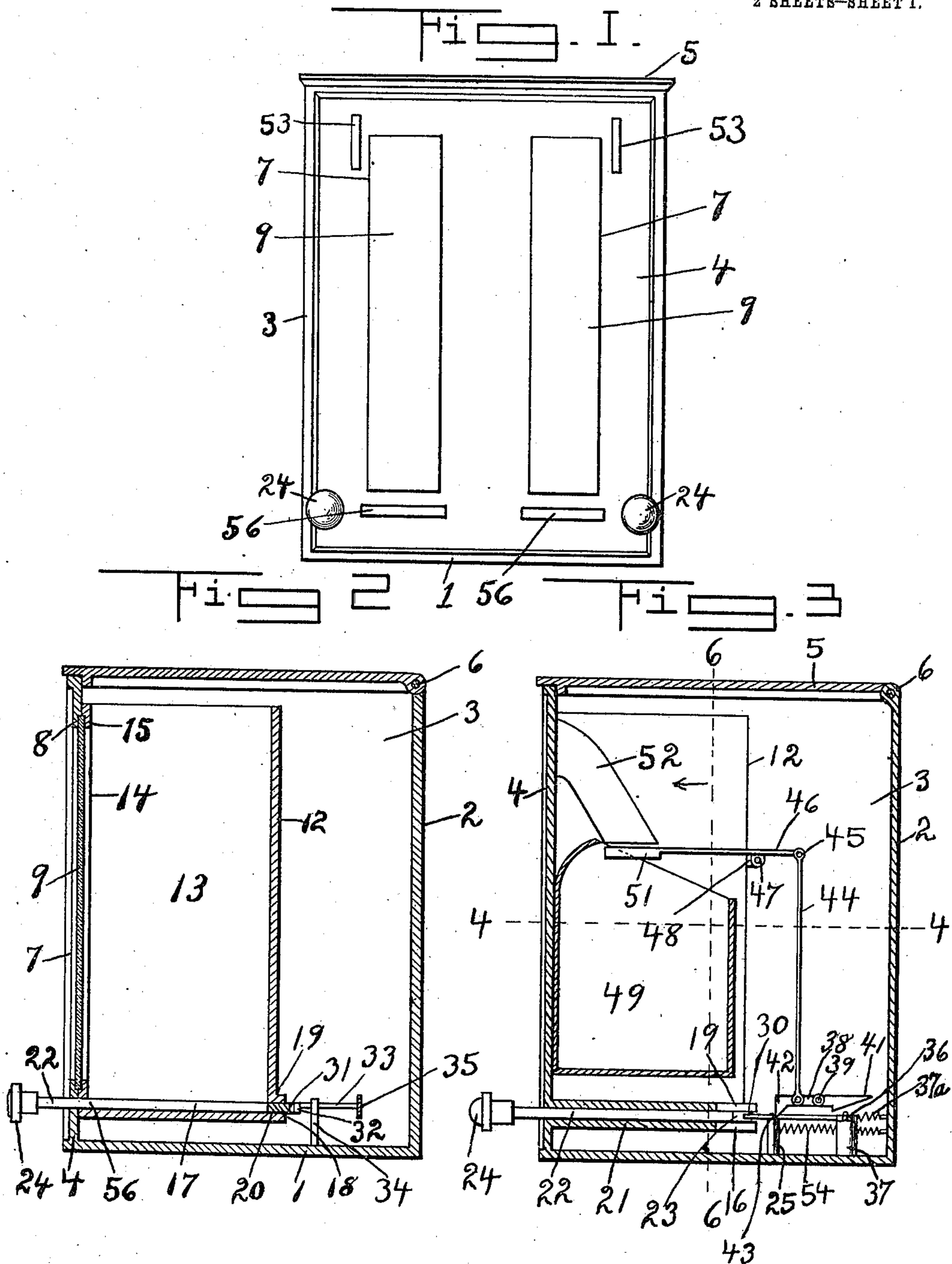


W. F. ABLETT.
CHECK CONTROLLED APPARATUS.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 16, 1910.

976,114.

Patented Nov. 15, 1910.

2 SHEETS-SHEET 1.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CHECK-CONTROLLED APPARATUS.

976,114.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM F. ABLETT, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Pittsburg, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Check-Controlled Apparatus, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawing.

This invention relates to a check controlled apparatus and is more especially designed for use in connection with machines adapted for vending and dispensing small packages and papers, or any other analogous uses, it being noted that the present application is a division of my co-pending application upon vending machines, Serial No. 555,344, filed April 14, 1910.

My invention aims to provide a machine of the above type wherein a simple and inexpensive mechanism is employed for releasing the article delivering elements, the present mechanism being positive in its action, durable, easy to manipulate and highly efficient for the purposes for which it is employed.

To properly illustrate the complete operation of the present device I have here shown the same in connection with my vending machine illustrated in the claim in the above noted application. In said vending machine I provide a suitable casing with compartments in which are arranged the articles to be vended, the articles being positioned whereby they will feed by gravity to such a point that the mechanism contained within the casing will eject the same. The mechanism employed for this purpose is controlled through the medium of a coin or check controlled mechanism, forming the subject matter of this application, whereby it will be impossible to manually actuate the mechanism unless the coin is deposited in the machine.

To the foregoing and other useful ends, the invention consists in the matter to be hereinafter specifically described and claimed.

Referring to the drawings: Figure 1 is a front elevation of the vending machine. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view taken through one of the article com-

partments thereof. Fig. 3 is a similar view taken through one of the coin compartments thereof. Fig. 4 is a horizontal sectional view of the machine taken on the line $x-x$ of Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a portion of the machine, and Fig. 6 is a vertical transverse sectional view of a portion of the machine.

To put my invention into practice, I here show a suitable casing comprising a bottom plate 1, a rear wall 2, side walls 3, a front wall 4, and a hinged lid or cover 5, the lid or cover being hinged to the upper edge of the rear wall 2, as at 6. The casing can be made of wood or any suitable material.

The front wall 4 is provided with two vertical openings 7 and the material bordering upon the inner edges of said openings is cut away to form a seat 8 for transverse plates 9, preferably made of celluloid or vitreous material.

Secured to the inner side of the front wall 4 by screws 10 or other fastening means is a metallic rectangular frame 11 provided with two vertical and rectangular shells 12 forming compartments 13 for the articles adapted to be vended by the machine. The shells 12 are formed integral with the frame 11 and the front walls of said shells are provided with vertical openings 14 adapted to aline with the openings 7 of the front wall 4, the material surrounding the openings 14 being cut away, as at 15, to provide clearance for the transparent plates 9. It is through the medium of these plates that the contents of the compartments 13 can be observed and the compartments replenished before being finally exhausted of their contents. The compartments 13 can contain various kinds of packages and articles, and as the mechanisms used in connection with the compartments are identical, I deem it only necessary to refer to one of said compartments and the mechanism used in connection therewith.

The shell 12 has the lower end thereof provided with side enlargements 16 and these enlargements are provided with longitudinal confronting grooves 17 for a cross-head 18. An additional enlargement 19 is located at the rear side of the shell and provided with a slot 20, whereby the cross-head 18 can be easily placed in the groove 17 and

suitable connections made therewith, as will presently appear.

The side wall 3 has the inner sides thereof provided with a longitudinal integral barrel 21 for a plunger 22 extending through the front wall 4 and said barrel, said plunger having the rear end thereof offset and bifurcated, as at 23, while the forward end thereof is provided with a button or push-knob 24.

Mounted upon the base plate 1 at the rear end of the shell 12 is a post 25 and pivotally mounted upon the upper end of said post by a pin 26 is an angle lever 27 having the ends thereof slotted, as at 28 and 29. Pivotaly connected to the lever 27 through the medium of a pin 30 extending through the slot 19 is the off-set bifurcated end 23 of the plunger 22. Pivotaly connected to the lever 27 through the medium of a pin 31 extending through the slot 28 are the rearwardly projecting lugs 32 of the cross-head 18. Pivotaly connected to the lever 27 adjacent to the slot 28 is a rod 33 adapted to slide through a bearing 34 provided therefor upon the base plate 1. The free end of the rod 33 is adapted to engage the end 35 of an arm 36 pivoted upon the upper end of the post 37 carried by the base plate 1. The opposite end of the arm 36 is connected by a retractile spring 37^a to the rear wall 2, and this end of the rod is adapted to engage the beveled and toothed end of an arm 38 fulcrumed upon the outer end of a bracket 39 carried by the side wall 3. The rear end of the arm 38 is provided with a beveled surface 41, while the forward end thereof is provided with a depending tooth 42 adapted to engage a lug 43 carried by the lever 27.

Pivotaly connected to the forward end of the arm 38 is a vertical rod 44 having the upper end thereof pivotally connected, as at 45, to the rear end of a coin arm 46, said arm being fulcrumed, as at 47, upon a bearing 48 carried by the rear side of the shell 12. The forward end of the arm 46 extends into the upper open end of a coin tray 49 suitably secured, as at 50, to the side wall 3. The forward end of the arm 46 is enlarged, as at 51, and extends beneath the lower end of an inclined coin chute 52 carried by the inner side of the front wall 4, the coin chute communicating with a vertical slot 53 provided therefor in the wall 4.

The lever 27 adjacent to the slot 28 thereof is connected by a retractile spring 54 to a lug 55, carried by the inner side of the rear wall 2.

The lower end of the compartment 13 is adapted to communicate with a horizontal slot 56 provided therefor in the front wall 4, whereby the contents of the compartment 13 can be discharged.

By opening the lid or cover 5 of the casing easy access is had to the compartments

13 and the trays 49 whereby the compartments 13 can be filled with articles or packages, the articles or packages being placed one upon the other, as best shown in Fig. 6, and the coins can be easily removed from the trays 49.

Assuming that the compartments 13 have been filled and the machine is in condition for use, the manner of obtaining an article from either of the compartments 13 is as follows:—When a coin is deposited in the slot 53 and passes through the chute 52, the weight of the coin tilts the coin arm 46 allowing the coin to drop into the tray 49. The tilting coin arm will raise the forward end of the arm 38 and move the tooth 42 out of engagement with the lug 43 of the lever 27, thus allowing the plunger 22 to be pushed inwardly until the button or knob 24 engages the front wall 4 of the casing. An inward movement of the plunger 22 shifts the cross-head 18 forwardly within the compartment 13, thus forcing one of the articles or packages into the slot 56, the end of the article or package protruding sufficiently, as shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings to allow the article or package to be gripped and withdrawn from the slot.

When the cross-head 18 is moved forwardly the rod 33 slides in the bearing 34 and releases the arm 36, and through the medium of the retractile spring 37^a, the end of the arm engages the beveled surface 41 of the arm 38 and restores said arm to its normal position, with the coin arm 46 in a horizontal position ready to be again actuated by a coin deposited in the machine.

When the plunger 22 is released the retractile spring 54 restores the lever 27 to its normal position and the rod 33 holds the arm 36, but the plunger cannot be pushed inwardly since the lug 43 bears against the tooth 42.

It is thought that the operation and utility of the check controlled apparatus is apparent from the foregoing, and while in the drawings there is illustrated a preferred embodiment of the invention, it is to be understood that the structural elements thereof can be varied or changed, as to the size, shape, and manner of assemblage without departing from the scope of invention.

What I claim is:—

A device of the class described comprising a casing having a coin opening in one side wall thereof, an inclined coin chute positioned in alinement with said opening, an arm pivoted within said casing and having an enlarged end normally positioned adjacent the lower open end of said chute, a connecting rod pivoted to the opposite end of said arm and said rod having a bifurcated lower end, a rocker arm pivoted to said casing adjacent the bottom thereof and having

an engaging tooth at its front end and an inclined under surface at its rear end, said engaging tooth adapted to lock an article dispensing member and to automatically release the same upon the insertion of a coin 5 within said chute, a pivoted arm lever adapted to be acted upon at one end by the article dispensing member and its other end adapted for engagement with said inclined sur-

face for re-locking said tooth with the dispensing member. 10

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM F. ABLETT.

Witnesses:

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