

988,831.

I. C. SNOWDEN.

COUNTER.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 9, 1910.

Patented Apr. 4, 1911.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

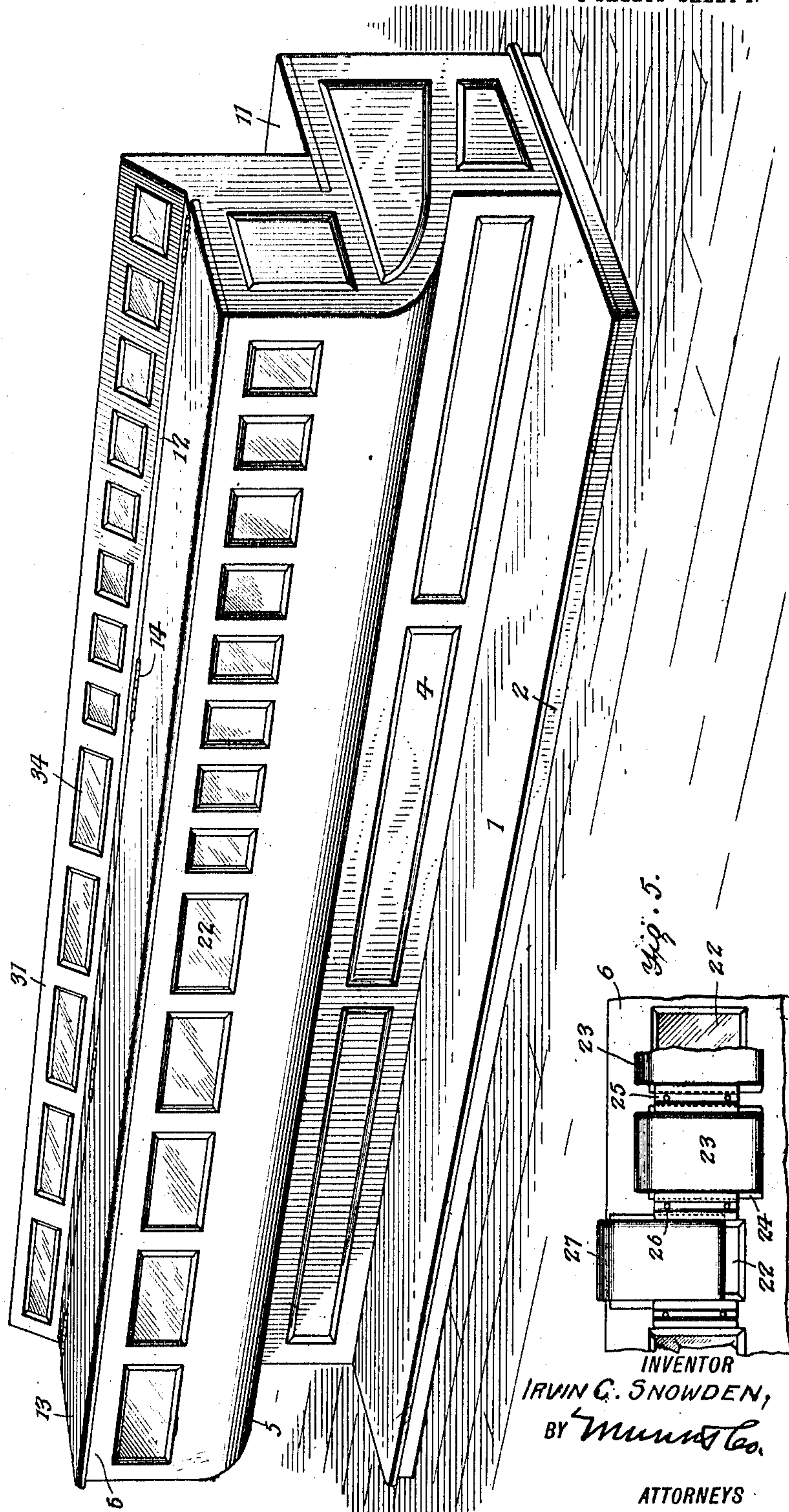


Fig. 1.

Fig. 5.

WITNESSES:

L. H. Schmidt  
O. E. Tamm

INVENTOR  
IRVIN C. SNOWDEN,  
BY *Munn & Co.*

ATTORNEYS

I. C. SNOWDEN.  
COUNTER.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 9, 1910.

Patented Apr. 4, 1911.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

988,831.

Fig. 2.

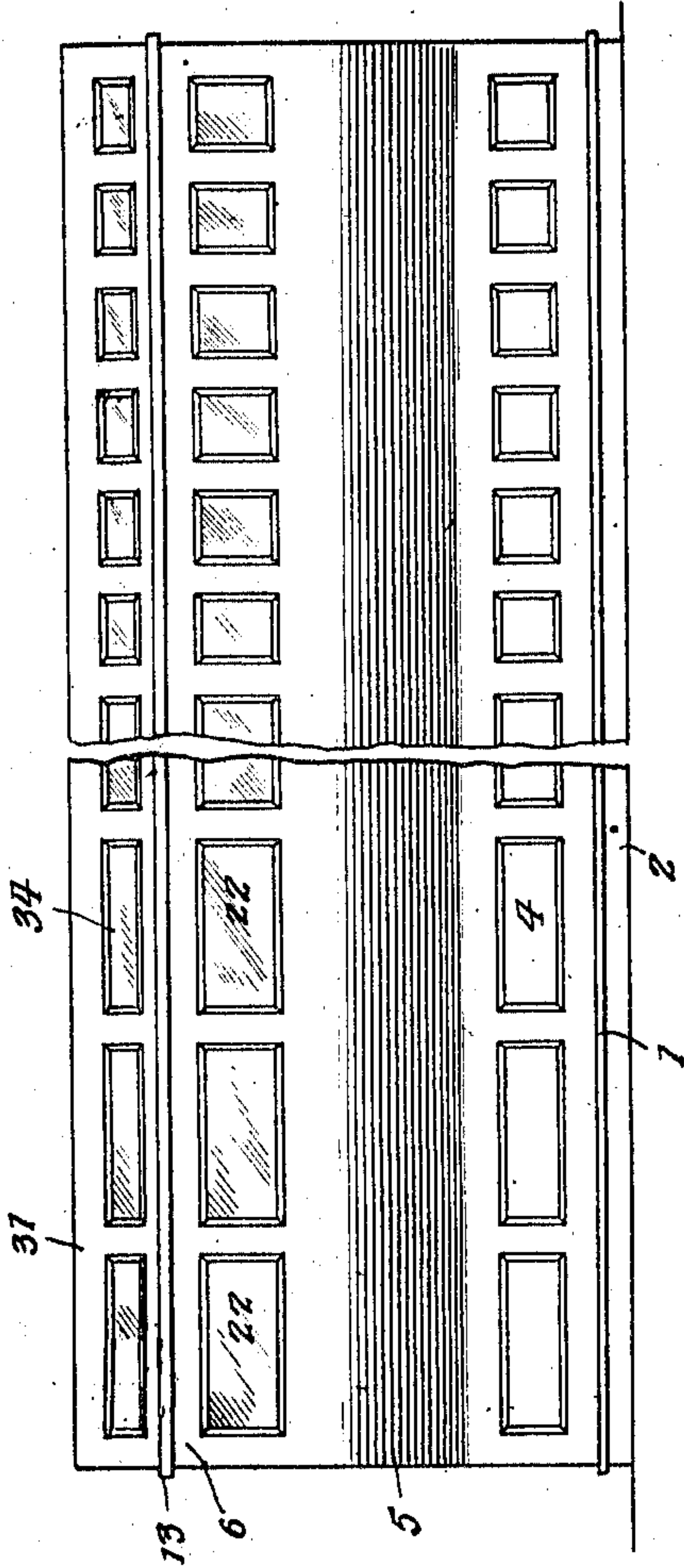


Fig. 3.

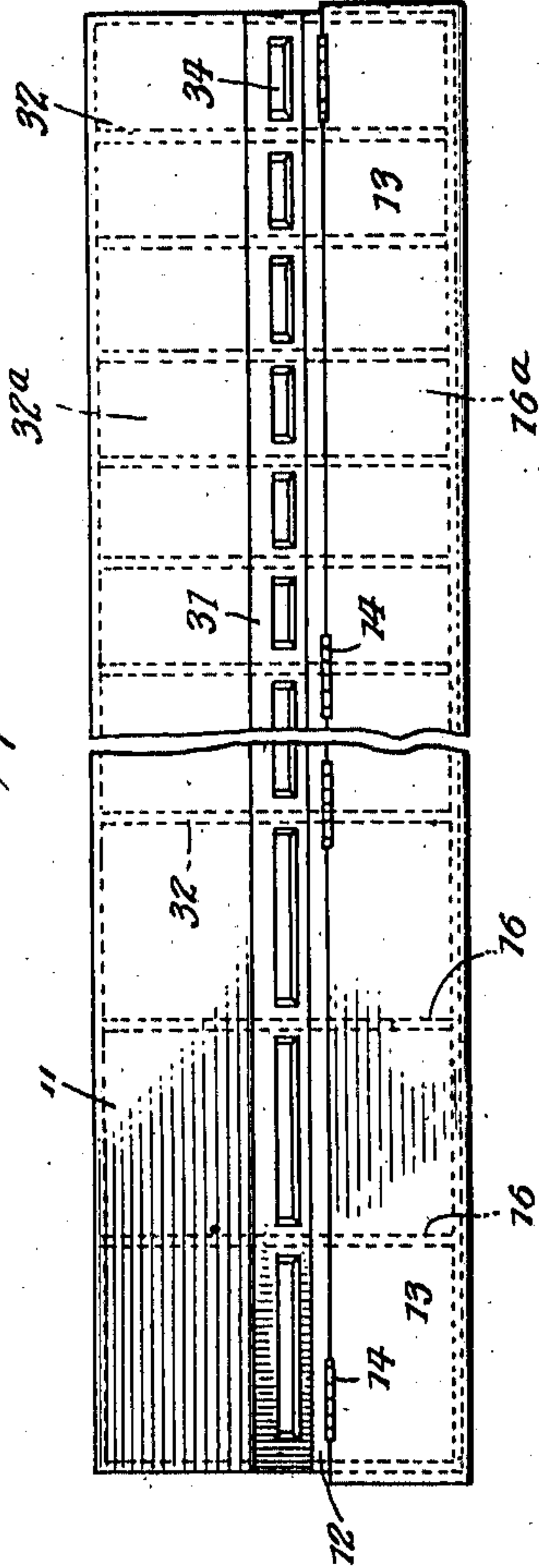
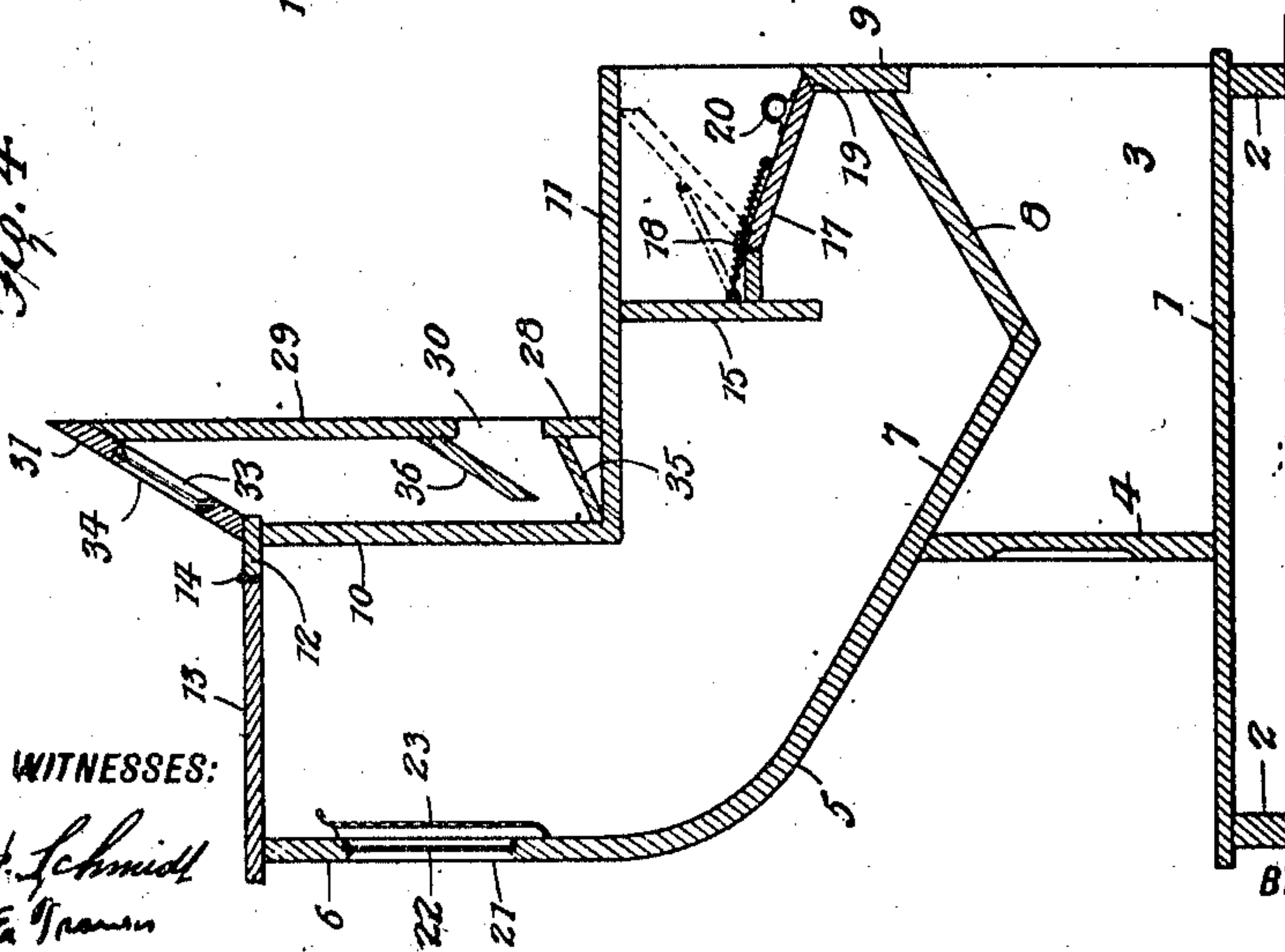


Fig. 4.



WITNESSES:

J. H. Schmidt  
C. E. Hansen

INVENTOR

IRVIN C. SNOWDEN,

BY

Munn & Co.

ATTORNEYS



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

IRVIN C. SNOWDEN, OF RICHMOND, MISSOURI.

## COUNTER.

988,831.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Apr. 4, 1911.

Application filed June 9, 1910. Serial No. 565,972.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, IRVIN C. SNOWDEN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Richmond, in the county of Ray and State of Missouri, have made certain new and useful Improvements in Counters, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is an improvement in counters, and consists in certain novel constructions, and combinations of parts, hereinafter described and claimed.

The object of the invention is to provide a counter especially designed for grocery stores, wherein a separate bin or receptacle is provided for each class of bulk goods, and wherein each bin is provided with a display compartment, showing the nature and quality of the goods in the particular bin or compartment.

Referring to the drawings forming a part hereof, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improvement from the front, Fig. 2 is a front elevation, Fig. 3 is a top plan view, Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional section, and Fig. 5 is a partial rear view.

The embodiment of the invention shown in the drawings consists of one section of the improved counter, and the sections may be of any desired length, and each may be complete in itself, or adapted to join end to end with the adjacent sections. The counter is of suitable material, and may be ornamented in any desired manner, and the bins or compartments may be of various sizes in accordance with the nature of the goods. Preferably each section consists of a base composed of a plate 1 of sufficient width, having on its under face a continuous rib 2 spaced apart inwardly from the edge of the plate, and running parallel therewith, the plate being supported by the rib. At each end cheek plates 3 extend upwardly from the base, and a wash or base board 4 is arranged longitudinally on the upper face of the base plate. The wash or base board is perpendicular to the plate 1, and extends from one cheek plate to the other, and the bins are supported by the said board and the cheek plates. A curved plate 5 forms the front and a part of the bottom of the bins, the said plate having a portion 6 substantially vertical, and an inclined portion 7 which rests on the upper edge of the base board 4. The remaining portion of the bottom of the bins is formed

by a plate 8 inclined inwardly and downwardly with respect to the base, and meeting the inclined portion 7 of the plate 5 at an obtuse angle as shown in Fig. 4. A bar 9 extends between the cheek plates and forms the back of the bins, and the arrangement of the bottom of the bins is in hopper shape and such that all of the material moves downwardly toward the junction of the plate 5 and 8.

A plate 10 is arranged between the cheek plates, with its widest dimension perpendicular, and in substantially the same plane with the base board 4, and a plate 11 is arranged between the cheek plates adjacent to the lower edge of the plate 10, with its widest dimensions horizontal, and with its front edge abutting the lower edge of the said plate 10. A strip 12 rests on the upper ends of the cheek plates, and on the upper edge of the plate 10, and a door 13 is hinged to the strip by hinges 14. The door extends the full length of the section, and forms the top of the counter and normally rests at its ends on the upper ends of the cheek plates, and on the upper edge of the plate 5. A strip 15 is arranged between the cheek plate below the plate 11, and with its widest dimension vertical, and the said strip is spaced in front of the back 9 of the bins.

The space between the plates 5—8—13—10 and 11, and the bar 9 and strip 15 is the storage compartment, and is divided by vertical partitions 16 into a plurality of bins 16<sup>a</sup> of different sizes. Each bin is provided with a door 17, hinged to the strip 15 by hinges 18, and the free edge of each door is beveled as shown at 19, and rests on the upper beveled edge of the bar 9, a handle 20 being provided for opening each door.

The portion 6 of the plate 5 is provided with an opening 21, adjacent to each bin, and each opening is closed by a sheet 22 of transparent material, such as glass. A receptacle is formed behind each opening, by means of a rectangular sheet 23 of rigid material having its bottom and side edges offset laterally as shown at 24, and slidable in guides 25 secured to the rear face of the plate 5. The guides are formed by a strip of rigid material arranged vertically between each pair of openings (Fig. 5) and secured by its center as at 26, the edges of the strip being offset laterally from the face of the plate, to



permit the offset edges of the sheet 23 to move thereunder. The upper edge of the sheet 23 is bent laterally in the opposite direction to form a handle 27, and to also

5 form a guard to permit the goods to be placed in the receptacle formed by the plate

A strip 28 is arranged between the cheek plates above the plate 11, the lower edge of the strip resting against the plate 11, and  
10 a plate 29 is arranged above the strip, between the cheek plates, and in the same plane with the strip, but with its lower edge spaced above the upper edge of the strip, to form an opening 30. The upper edge of the  
15 plate 29 is higher than the upper edge of the plate 10, and a plate 31 is arranged between the said upper edges in inclined position. Partitions 32 are arranged transversely between the plate 10 and the plate 29  
20 and strip 28, and the said partitions divide the space between the plates and strip into a plurality of compartments 32<sup>a</sup>, and the plate 31 is provided with an opening 33 adjacent to each compartment, the openings  
25 being closed by panes 34 of glass or other transparent material.

A strip 35 is arranged in inclined position between the plate 10 and the strip 28, and forms the bottom of the compartments, the  
30 said strip inclining downwardly toward the front, and above the opening 30, a second strip 36 is arranged, also inclining downwardly toward the front. The strip 36 is secured by its rear edge to the plate 29, and  
35 the front edge is free. The said strip 36 acts as a shield or hood for the opening 30, so that only a small amount of material may pass below the strip onto the bottom strip 35. As the material is removed from the  
40 strip 35, new material enters from above, but the material can never overflow through the opening 30.

The material in the compartments 32<sup>a</sup> is always visible through the corresponding  
45 openings 33, and a specimen quantity of the material in each compartment or bin 16<sup>a</sup> is always visible through the opening 21 adjacent to the compartment.

When the bin is to be refilled, the sheet  
50 may be pulled upwardly to permit the material to drop out between the lower edge of the sheet and the glass, and the space between the glass and sheet may then be filled with fresh goods. When it is desired to  
55 clean the glass, or to gain access thereto for any reason, the sheet may be removed by pulling it upwardly.

The bins and compartments may be and preferably are lined with a suitable material, as for instance sheet metal, and a comparatively wide space is left on the upper  
60 face of the plate 11 for handling goods, or for the scales, or for any other purpose.

The bins are easily cleaned, as are also  
65 the compartments 32<sup>a</sup> and the goods con-

tained therein are protected from dirt and the like. The bins are filled by lifting the door 13, and the material is removed through the doors 17.

Below the bins and behind the base board  
70 4 is a large space for orders already filled, or for unopened packages, and when anything is placed in the said space it will be out of the way, thus leaving the space behind the counter entirely free. 75

With the improved counter a large amount of goods can be stored in an easily accessible position, and without taking up any room, since the space occupied by the ordinary form of counter is usually waste space, or  
80 filled with unsightly boxes and barrels. With the improved counter any article of goods is open to the buyer's inspection, without any effort on the part of the seller.

I claim— 85

1. A counter consisting of a base, a receptacle having a hopper bottom supported on the base and extending longitudinally thereof, transverse partitions dividing the receptacle into compartments, a rear door for  
90 each compartment, the receptacle having an opening in its front adjacent to each compartment, a sheet of transparent material for each opening, means behind each opening for supporting a specimen of the contents of the adjacent compartment, said receptacle having a portion of the top at the rear thereof offset downwardly, and a plurality of compartments on the offset portion, each having a display opening. 100

2. A counter consisting of a base, a receptacle supported on the base, transverse partitions dividing the receptacle into compartments, the receptacle having an opening in its front adjacent to each compartment, a  
105 sheet of transparent material for each opening, means behind each opening for supporting a specimen of the contents of the adjacent compartment, said receptacle having a portion of the top at the rear thereof offset downwardly, and a plurality of compartments on the offset portion, each of the said compartments having a display opening. 110

3. A counter consisting of a base, a receptacle supported on the base, transverse partitions dividing the receptacle into compartments, the receptacle having an opening in its front adjacent to each compartment, a  
115 sheet of transparent material for each opening, means behind each opening for supporting a specimen of the contents of the adjacent compartment, said receptacle having a portion of the top at the rear thereof offset downwardly, and a plurality of compartments on the offset portion. 120

4. A counter of the character specified, comprising a base and a receptacle supported on the base, said receptacle having a top at its front edge and having a downwardly  
125 offset portion at the rear of the top, and a 130



plurality of compartments on the offset portion, each of the said compartments having a display opening.

5 5. A counter of the character specified, comprising a base, a receptacle having a hopper bottom supported on the base, transverse partitions dividing the receptacle into compartments, a rear door for each com-

partment, a hinged top for the receptacle at the front thereof, the rear of the receptacle 10 being offset downwardly, and a plurality of compartments on the offset portion.

IRVIN C. SNOWDEN.

Witnesses:

R. B. KIRKPATRICK,  
T. N. LAVEROCK.