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THE CASH RECORDING MACHINE.

We illustrate herewith a new machine for making people honest—aconsummation to which (if it ever can be attained by machinery) no small amount of inventive genius is just now being brought to bear. Hitherto most efforts have been directed to the mechanical shoring up of the consciences of car conductors and stage drivers; but the present inventors have advanced higher, and propose to apply the same salutary influence to the moral sense of every class of employee within whose duties the handling and disbursing of cash is included. It must have occurred to any one who has noticed the Babel of confusion which exists in any large city retail drygoods store, for example, when crowded with shoppers, and when a constant stream of cash boys circulates between clerks and cashiers, that scarcely any system of checks and records depending upon the memory and fidelity of the employees can exist which does not leave loopholes for fraud. We are not prepared to assert that the present machine will at once substitute a system in which it is impossible to swindle, because it is a lamentable fact that there is perhaps nearly as much ingenuity enlisted in the service of sin as in that of virtue, and somebody may discover how to "beat" even the most thoughtfully contrived mechanism; but the new "cash recorder" certainly offers a very simple mode of keeping forcibly accurate records, and, for our part, we fail to see where the chance to defraud it exists.

It is not necessary to describe the mechanism in detail, for such would necessitate a number of drawings for which the space is not at our disposal, and it will be sufficient, in fact, for all interested, to know simply what the machine does. On the ledge in front of the apparatus there is a series of buttons, B, and on the side is a series of levers with buttons on the ends, which we denote by C. In the top is an opening through which can be seen numbers—in the engraving these indicate $81.65. In front is a handle, A. By pulling this the figures seen through the slot are caused to disappear, leaving only blank metal surfaces in view. Suppose, for instance, a customer pays in the amount above noted, $81.65. On receiving this the cashier presses the second button on the left of series B, and then the button marked $ in series C. The dollar mark then appears in the position shown through the platform slot. The third button of series B is then pressed, and the button marked 8 in series C, which causes 8 to appear in the slot, and this operation is repeated until the desired sum is indicated. The cashier next inserts a piece of paper in the space D, and grasping the two handles shown, brings the movable one, E, toward the stationary one. This so operates a stamp that on the blank paper is imprinted the sum to which the machine has been set, besides the date and signature receipt of the firm. These last are previously adjusted. The paper must be returned to the salesman, and constitutes his receipt for the money forwarded by him, or it may be given directly to the customer in lieu of a receipted bill.

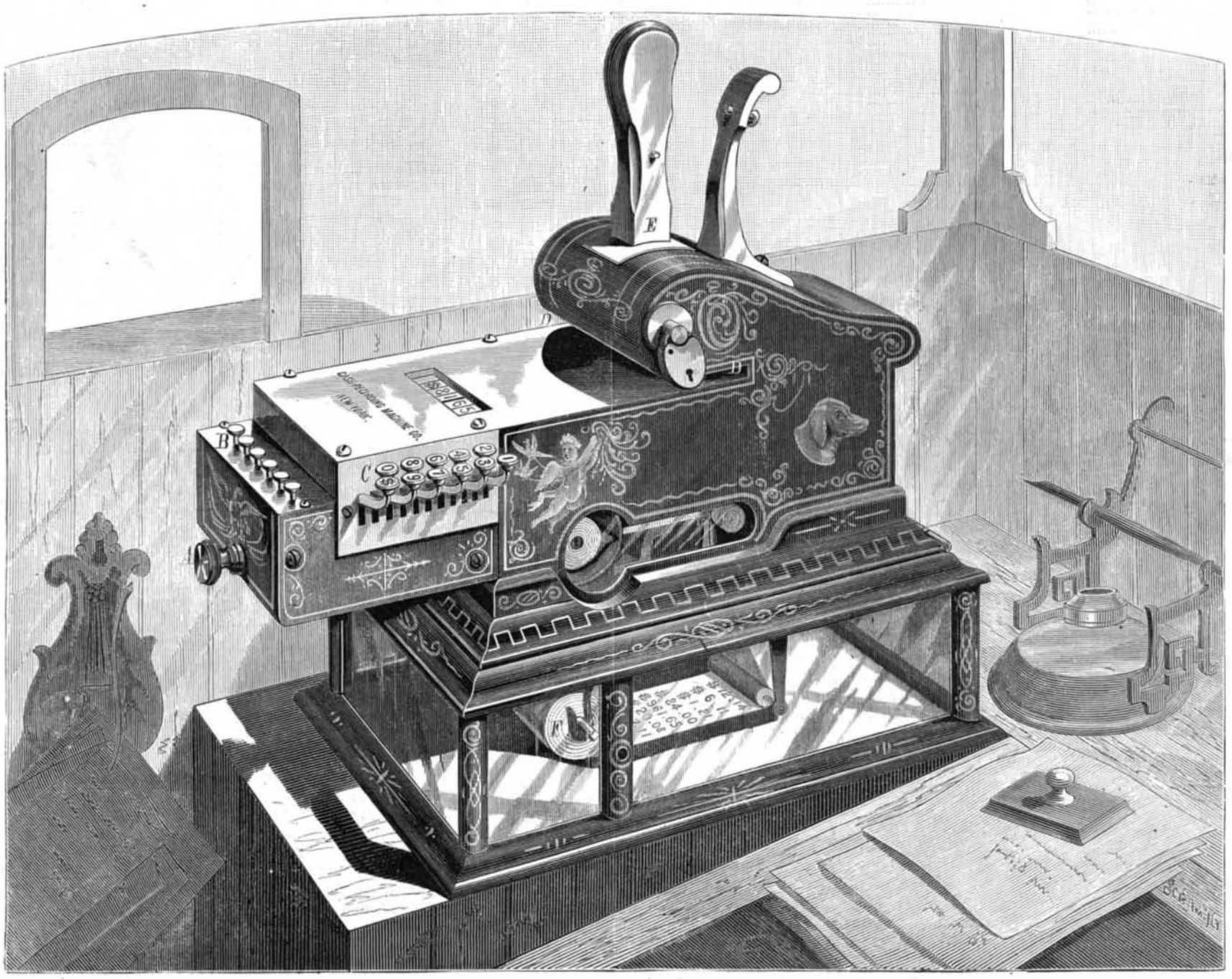
Underneath the apparatus, and inclosed in the casing, is shown a roll or strip of paper, F. On this, at the same time the receipt is printed, an impression of the figures is also made. This side of the box, only by removing which access can be had to the interior, is locked in place, and consequently the cashier cannot tamper with either the mechanism or this printed slip, which thus becomes a record of all moneys received and registered. At the close of the day's business the proprietor opens the box, removes the slip, and adds up the figures thereon. The sum must tally with the amount of cash in the cashier's possession, and if it does not there is proof that he has not done his duty in making proper record. If the printed receipts are delivered to salesmen, these can be tallied also with the cash on hand.

The machine is equally applicable to disbursements of money, especially in the purchase of grain, produce, the payment of wages, etc. It is small, strong, and compact, measuring a little over a foot in length by four inches wide and less than a foot high. It is placed upon a glass stand, which acts as a receptacle for the paper upon which each transaction can be seen as it is charged against the operator. Apparently after very slight practice the figures can be manipulated with a rapidity equal to that accomplished by the use of a pen, while the receipt, date, and signature are completed much quicker than by hand.

The manufacturers have applied for space in the Paris Exposition, where the machine will be exhibited, adapted to the English and various continental currencies. The device is manufactured by the Cash Recording Machine Company, at 21 Sycamore street, Buffalo, N. Y. Inquiries may be addressed to the office of the company, 148 Worth street, New York city.

A Curious Fire.

A few days ago, in one of the most careful households in this city, where fenders guard the fireplaces and safety matches aggravate the strange visitor, smoke was discovered in a room adjoining the one where the family were at breakfast. Investigation showed that a chair in the room was burning. How it could have taken fire was a mystery, until it was noticed that the sun's rays, falling on a large magnifying lens used to study photographs with, had been concentrated through it upon the chair, and had set it burning. If the family had not fortunately selected for breakfasting an hour when the sun is pretty near the zenith, and so prudently fixed it to have some one in the room at that dangerous time, the whole house might have been mysteriously destroyed.—*Hartford (Conn.) Courant.*



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