

1,206,345.

Patented Nov. 28, 1916.
 6 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

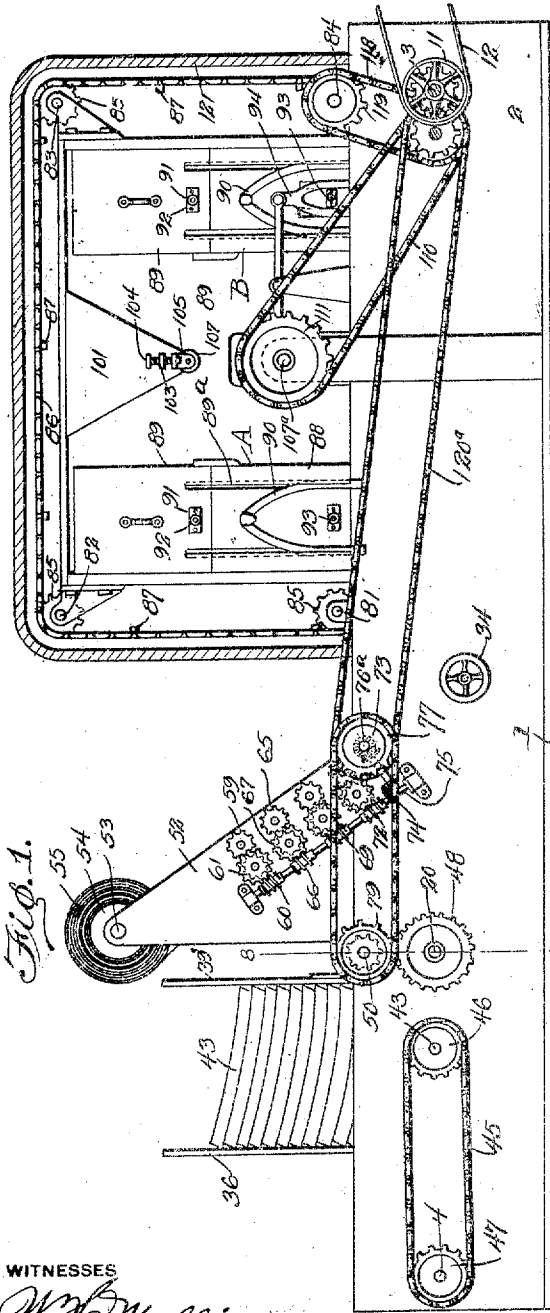


Fig. 17.

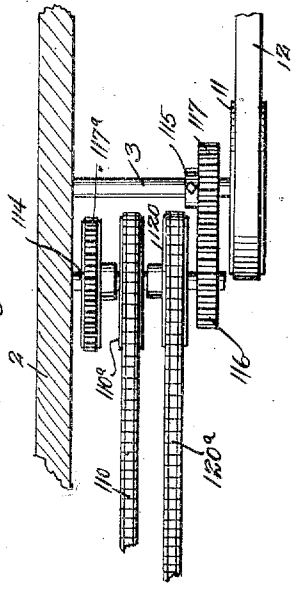
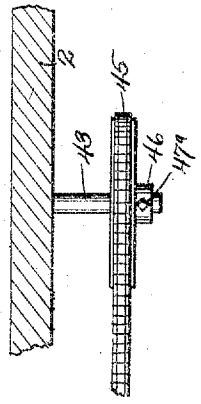


Fig. 16.



WITNESSES
L. McMulligan
Chas. R. Fairbanks

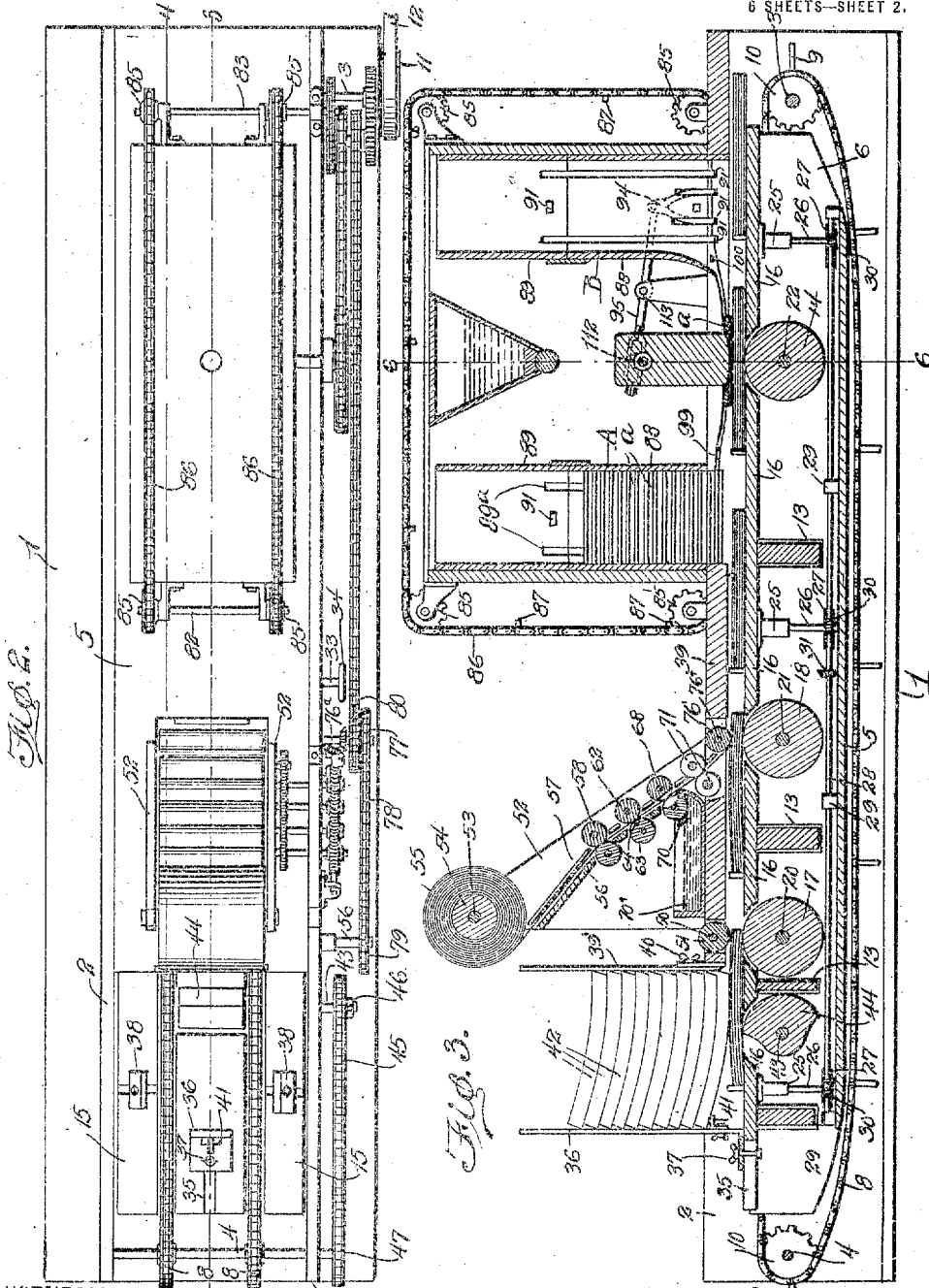
BY

INVENTOR
L. McMulligan
 BY *Richard B. Owen*
 ATTORNEY

1,206,345.

Patented Nov. 28, 1916.

6 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



WITNESSES
Spuff. Mulligan
Benj. H. Furcub.

INVENTOR
Levi McMillan
BY *Richard Bowen* ATTORNEY

1,206,345.

Patented Nov. 28, 1916.

6 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

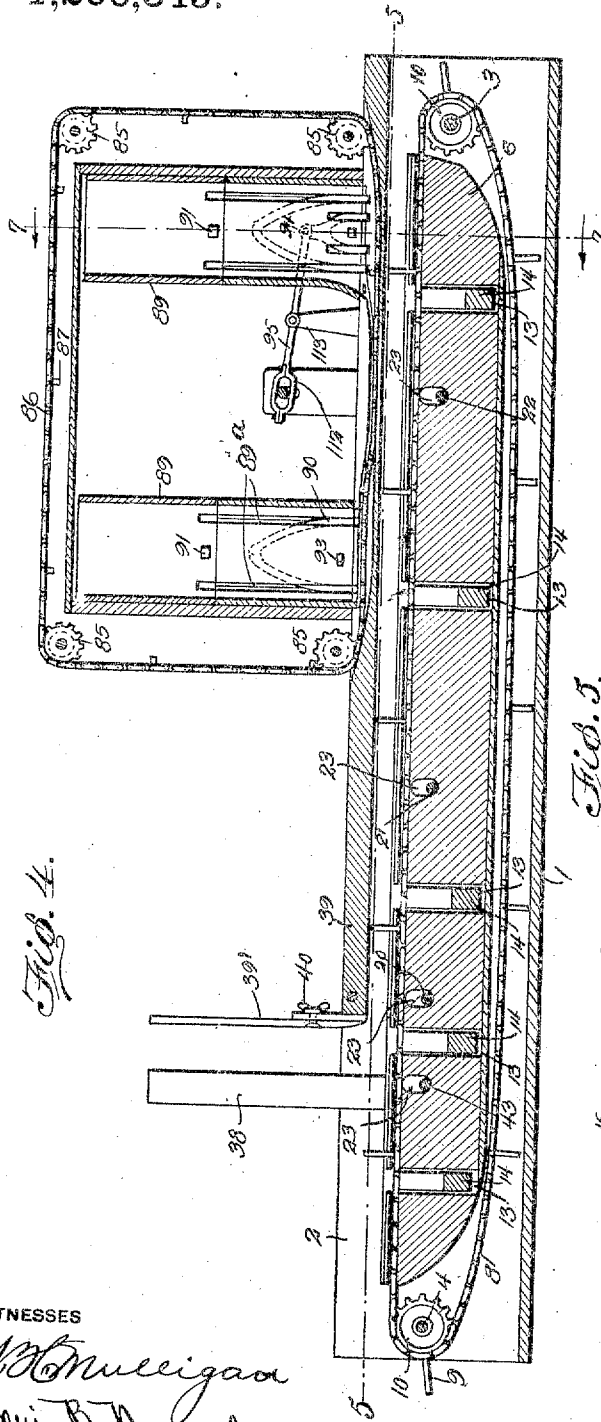
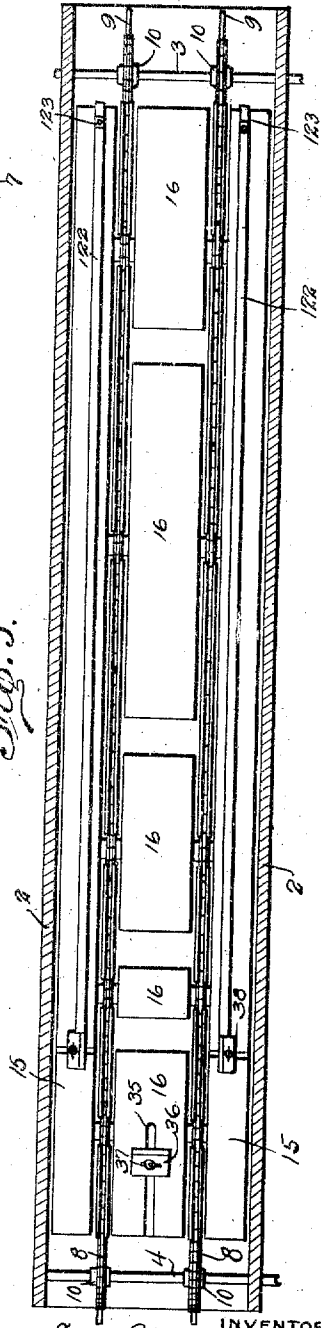


Fig. 5.



WITNESSES

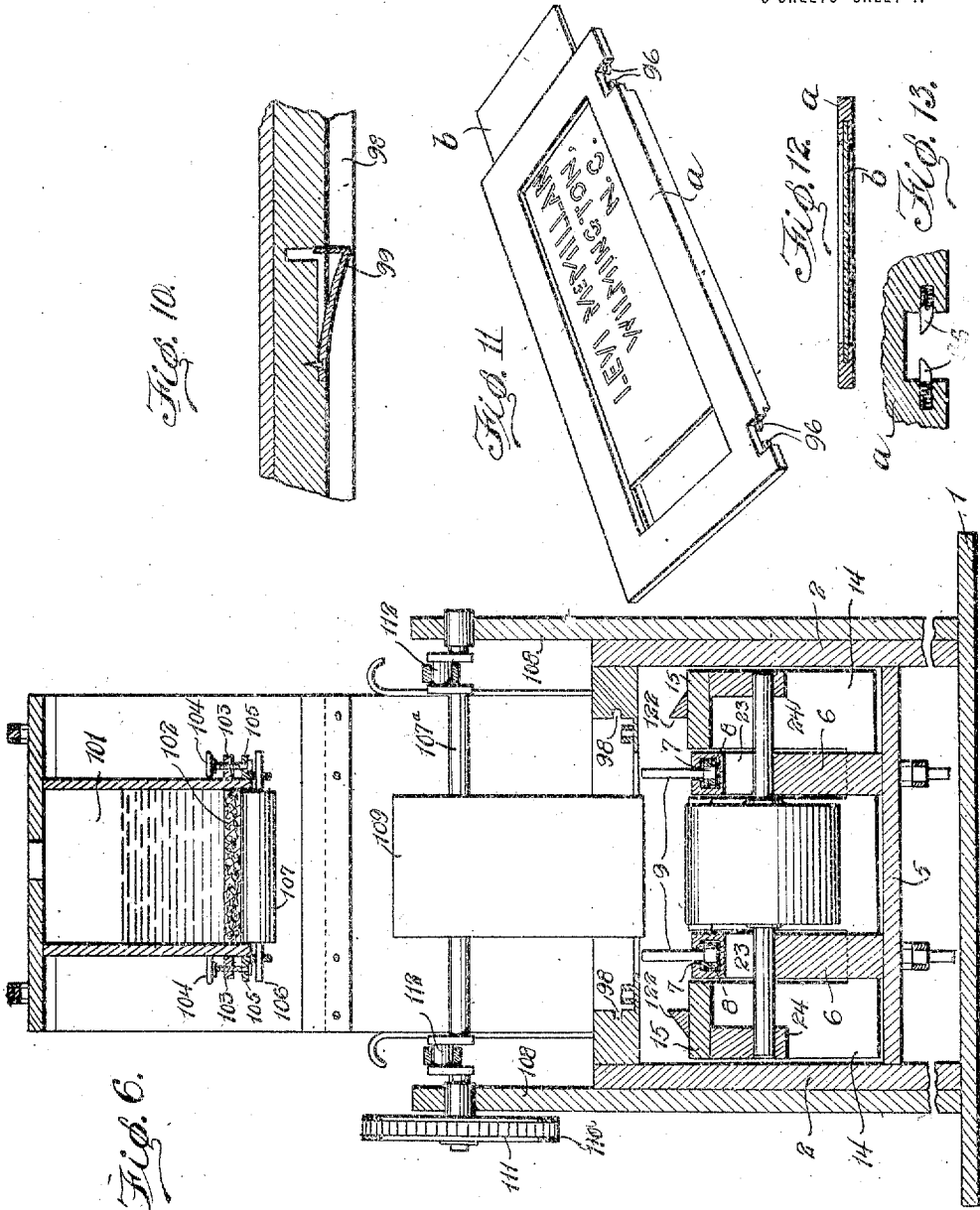
W. H. Mulligan
Benj. B. Newcomb

INVENTOR
Levi McMillan

BY *Richard Owen* ATTORNEY

1,206,345.

Patented Nov. 28, 1916.
 6 SHEETS—SHEET 4.



WITNESSES
W. B. Mulligan
Benj. P. Fawcett

Levi McMillan INVENTOR

BY *Richard Owen* ATTORNEY

1,206,345.

Patented Nov. 28, 1916.
6 SHEETS—SHEET 5.

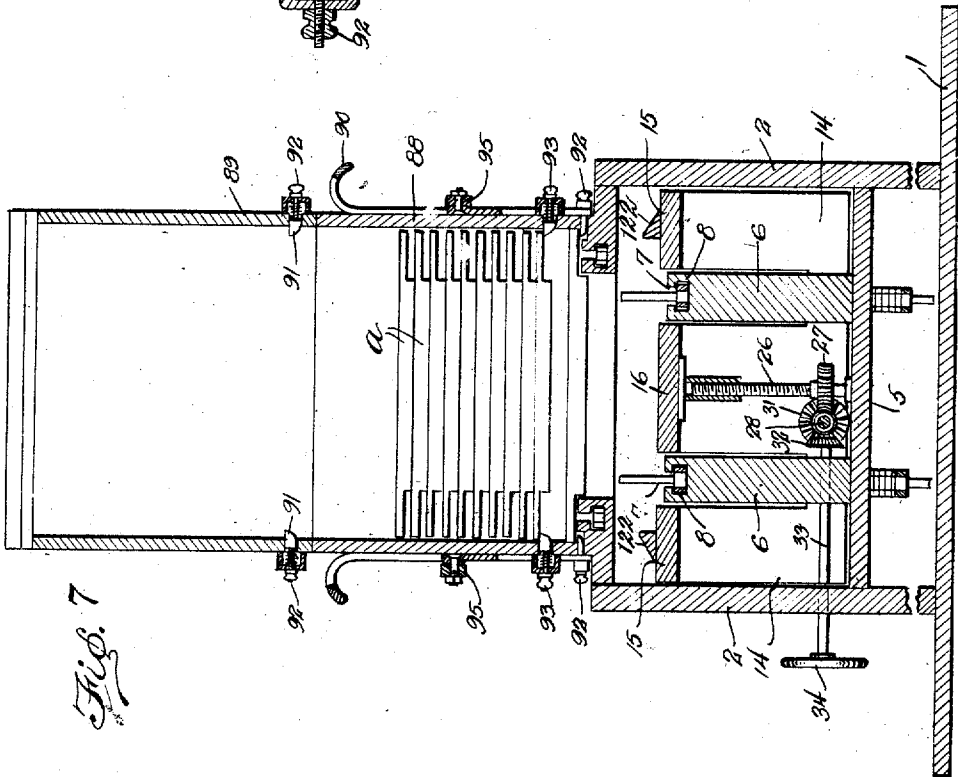
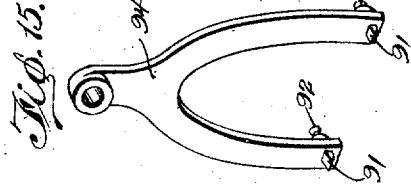
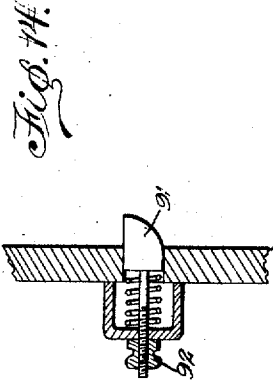


Fig. 7

Fig. 14.

Fig. 15.

WITNESSES

W. H. Mulligan
Benj. R. Newcomb

INVENTOR,
L. McMILLAN

BY

Richard Owen

ATTORNEY

1,206,345.

Patented Nov. 28, 1916.

6 SHEETS—SHEET 6.

FIG. 9.

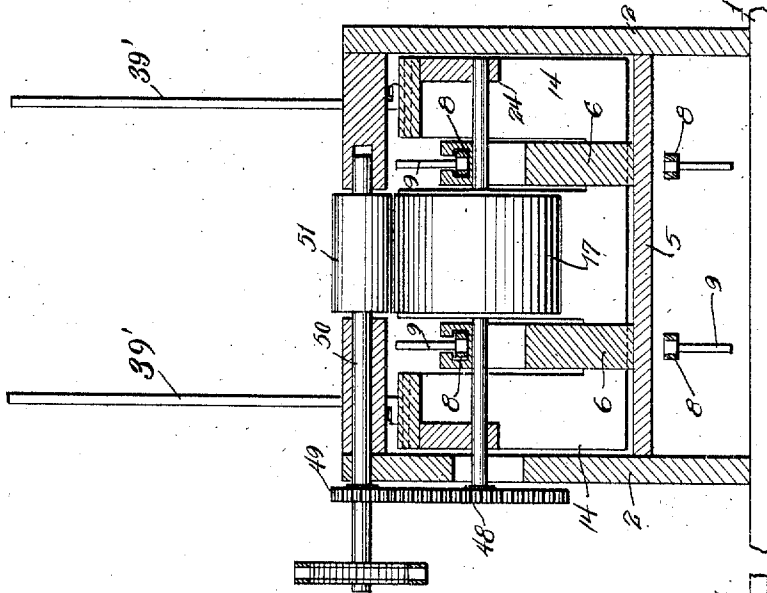
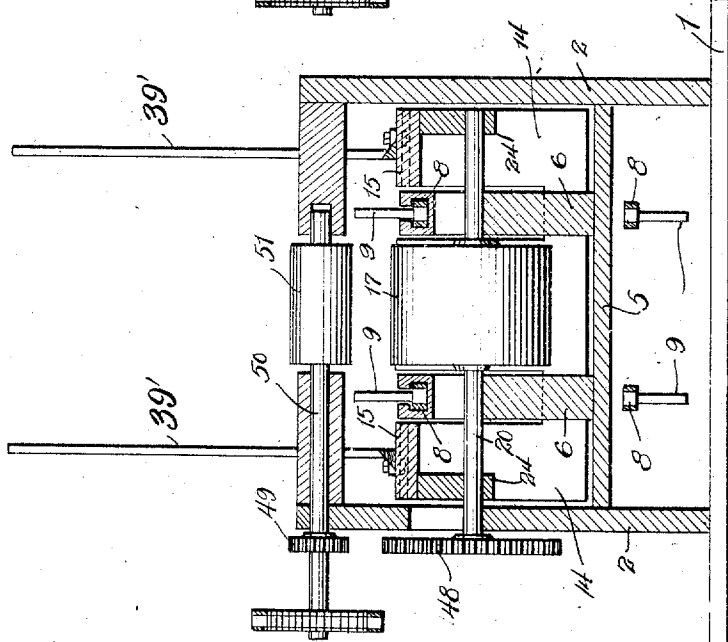


FIG. 8.



Levi McMillan INVENTOR

WITNESSES

W. C. Mulligan
Benj. H. Newcomb

BY

Richard Owen

ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEVI McMILLAN, OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA.

ADDRESSING-MACHINE.

1,206,345.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 28, 1916.

Application filed August 28, 1915. Serial No. 47,724.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEVI McMILLAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wilmington, in the county of New Hanover and State of North Carolina, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Addressing-Machines, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a new and improved machine for addressing articles in quantities, and specifically speaking, it may be stated that the present invention has reference to an improved construction over that type of machine described and claimed in United States Patent #1,150,784, issued to me on August 17, 1915.

One object of the present invention resides in providing a machine for addressing articles, such as periodicals, newspapers, post cards, circulars and the like, in which a continuously operated conveying means has a fixed path of movement and engages and carries the articles through the machine in successive order, while the articles themselves are supported on a member adjustable with respect to the conveying means to adapt the machine for articles of varying thicknesses.

Another object resides in providing mechanism for affixing a label to the article during passage through the machine, and subsequently printing on said labels, said mechanisms being capable of continuous operation simultaneous with the means for conveying the articles to be addressed through the machine, and thus the affixing of the labels and the printing on it, together with the passage of the articles through the machine is a continuous automatic performance and does not depend on intermittently actuated mechanism.

A further object is to provide means for accommodating a plurality of articles to be addressed and selecting one article at a time to be delivered in a specified relation to a conveying means which carries the articles singly through the machine in successive order, and in a proper path to be acted upon first by the label-affixing mechanism and then by the address printing means.

A still further object consists in providing means for regulating the operation of the various mechanisms constituting the complete machine, so that the affixing of the label and the subsequent printing of it may

take place at a desired position upon the articles conveyed through the machine.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a side elevation of a machine constructed according to my invention, and with a portion of the casing inclosing the address printing means broken away to show the details to a better advantage. Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the machine shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a sectional elevation on the plane of the line 3—3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a sectional elevation on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a horizontal section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4. Fig. 6 is a vertical section on the line 6—6 of Fig. 3. Fig. 7 is a vertical section on the line 7—7 of Fig. 4. Fig. 8 is a vertical section on the line 8—8 of Fig. 1, with the mechanism in position to accommodate an article of considerable thickness. Fig. 9 is a similar section on the line 8—8 of Fig. 1, but with the mechanism in a position to accommodate an extremely thin article such, for instance, as a sheet of paper or post card. Fig. 10 is a detail sectional view showing the arrangement of the stops to prevent back movement of the printing plates. Fig. 11 is a perspective view of a stencil printing plate used in connection with the addressing means. Fig. 12 is a sectional view transversely through the structure shown in Fig. 11. Fig. 13 is a horizontal sectional view through a portion of the stencil printing plate, and showing details of the catch mechanism. Fig. 14 is a detail sectional view of the catch mechanism or latch employed in connection with the stencil plate receptacles. Fig. 15 is a perspective view of one of the members employed to raise the stencil plates from the stencil-plate conveying means. Fig. 16 is a fragmentary detail view showing the arrangement of parts of the motion transmitting mechanism at the feed end of the machine. Fig. 17 is a view similar to Fig. 16 showing the power transmitting means at the printing and discharge end of the machine.

In detail: The addressing machine, as shown, comprises a main bed 1 carrying two upright frame members 2 disposed in parallel relation. At each end of the machine and journaled in the upright frame members 2 are the transverse shafts 3 and 4, the former being the power shaft. Between the frame members 2 and above the main bed 1 is a supplemental bed plate 5, which carries

the upright track members 6, the latter being substantially equal in length to the distance between the shafts 3 and 4. The track members 6 are recessed, as shown at 7, to receive the endless conveyer chains 8 provided with spaced engaging and carrying fingers 9. The shafts 3 and 4 each carry two sprocket wheels 10 over which the conveyer chains 8 are trained, and thus if power be supplied to the shaft 3 the conveyer will be set in operation, and for this purpose the shaft 3 carries a pulley wheel 11 connected with any suitable prime mover by means of a belt 12.

The track members 6 are apertured as shown at 13 to admit vertically movable cross-members 14 which carry the side members 15 of the mechanism for supporting the articles during passage through the machine. The members 14 also carry the table sections 16 forming a part of the article supporting mechanism and located centrally between the conveyer chains 8. In the spaces between the table sections 16 are roller members 17, 18 and 19, which are carried by the shafts 20, 21 and 22, respectively. The said shafts extend through vertically elongated apertures 23 in the track members 6 and are journaled in the depending members 24 carried by the article supporting mechanism, and thus rendering the said roller members 17, 18 and 19 vertically adjustable in conjunction with the remainder of the supporting mechanism.

To provide for convenient adjustment of the supporting mechanism, each of the table sections 16 carries a threaded nut member 25 which is engaged by a jack screw spindle 26 provided at its lower end with a worm gear 27. A shaft 28 journaled in bearings 29 carries a plurality of worms 30 for engagement with the worm gears 27 and further, the shaft 28 carries a bevel gear 31 meshing with a bevel gear 32 carried by a spindle 33 for rotation by a hand wheel 34 to actuate the jack screw means to raise or lower the supporting mechanism relative to the conveying chains 8, and it is herein deemed advisable to call attention to the fact that this differentiates from previous constructions in that the entire article supporting mechanism is adjustable independently of and relative to the means for conveying the articles to the machine.

In order to deliver the articles to be addressed to the conveying means, the table section 16 immediately adjacent the shaft 4 at the head end of the machine, is slotted as shown at 35 and carries the upright gage member 36, said gage member being adjustable in slot 35 by means of the thumb screw clamp 37. The side members 15 of the article supporting mechanism carry similarly adjustable gage members 38, and directly opposite to said gage member 36, and fixed

to a cover plate 39 extending over the major portion of the top of the machine is a gage member 39' vertically adjustable through the medium of a thumbscrew 40. The gage member 36 carries the vertically adjustable member 41, which, when a plurality of articles 42 are held by the gage members, engages the rear edge of the lowermost articles so as to tilt the latter as shown. In the opening between the first and second table sections 16, and carried by a shaft 43 supported in the same manner as the shafts 20, 21 and 22 is a segment of a roller 44 which is preferably made of rubber or other material which will exert frictional carrying action against members with which it may come in contact. This member 44 is driven at the same speed as the shaft 4, through the medium of a chain 45 trained over sprocket wheels 46 and 47 carried by shafts 43 and 4 respectively, the sprocket 46 being adjustable relative to its carrying shaft by means of set screw adjusting means 47^a. The member 44 frictionally engages the lowermost article of the pile 42 and draws it forward until it drops flat upon the table sections 16, whence the rear edge of said article is then engaged by the carrying fingers 9 of the endless chains 8 which carry it through the machine. The purpose of providing for the adjustment of the sprocket 46 relative to its carrying shaft 43, is so that the point of delivery of the article relative to the carrying chains may be regulated.

The shaft 20 of the roller 17 is extended and carries a gear 48 which, when the article supporting mechanism is adjusted to its highest point to accommodate very thin articles such as sheets of paper or the like, meshes with a gear 49 carried by a shaft 50 carrying a roller 51, and when the said gears are in mesh the rollers 17 and 51 cooperate to assist in feeding the article through the machine even after engagement by the carrying fingers 9, and particularly for the purpose of allowing the said carrying fingers to gradually and easily pick up the articles, and thus a continuous uninterrupted progress of the articles through the machine is insured. Behind the said article-feeding mechanism is the label mechanism which is supported mainly by the upright brackets 52 carried on members 2 of the frame of the machine. At the top of the brackets is journaled a spindle 53, carrying a roll 54 containing a continuous strip of paper 55 of uniform width, and from which the labels are formed. For guiding this strip of paper a way 56 is provided which has grooved sides 57 to engage the edges of the paper strip. Near the top of the brackets, and immediately below the spindle 53 is a pair of feed rollers 58 carrying intermeshing gears 59 driven from a worm 60 which engages a worm wheel 61. The

shaft 107^a carries a rotatable platen member 109 which is driven by means of a chain 110 running on a sprocket 111, and its operative face first rolls into engagement with the inking roller 107 to receive a supply of ink, and then in contact with the stencil strip *b* to produce printing through the stencil apertures, and here attention is called to the fact that the printing is produced during the continuous movement of all parts involved in the functioning of the machine and without employing any stop mechanism whatsoever.

At each end the shaft 107^a carries a crank 112 which engages the slotted ends of levers 95, said levers being fulcrumed at 113, and thus upon the rotation of said shaft 107^a the members 94 are raised at the proper intervals to take the used stencil plates from the conveying means and transfer them to a position within the receiving receptacle B wherein they are stacked in an inverse order with respect to their original stacking.

Now, in order to simultaneously operate all the separate mechanisms of the machine, a jack shaft 114 is provided which is driven from the power shaft by means of the gears 116 and 117, the latter gear being carried by the power shaft 3 and provided with set screw adjusting means 115. The jack shaft carries a sprocket 117^a over which a chain 118 runs and engages a sprocket 119 mounted on shaft 84 of the stencil plate conveying means and through which the latter is driven. Furthermore, this jack shaft carries a sprocket 110^a which accommodates the chain 110 for driving the platen and which chain runs over the sprocket 111 for driving the platen. Also a long drive chain 120^a runs from sprocket 120, on the jack shaft, to sprocket 80 on shaft 76^a, which drives the label mechanism. Thus it will be seen that by driving the shaft 3 continuous and simultaneous movement is imparted to all parts of the machine. The purpose of the set screw means 115 is to advance or retard the position of the fingers 9 of the article conveying means, so as to regulate the said conveying means for carrying the articles into operative position relative to the label mechanism and address printing means, and to accommodate articles of different lengths. I find it preferable to completely inclose the address printing means by a cover 121 which, when desired may be removed to afford access to the address printing means.

Reverting to the article supporting mechanism, attention is called to the fact that the side members 15 carry gages 122 which are adjustable toward each other and are co-extensive in length with the said members 15, clamped to the latter members at the free end by means of clamps 123. These members prevent lateral displacement of the

articles in their movement through the machine, and also these members may be removed and replaced by other members similar in construction and of different height so as to accommodate any article from a sheet of paper to a thick magazine.

In the operation of the machine: the articles to be addressed are placed in the gage members at the head of the machine which have accordingly been adjusted and the machine is started by driving the power shaft 3. Immediately the member 44 engages an article and moves it forward whence it is picked up by the carrying fingers 9, the supporting mechanism having first been adjusted to vary the effective height of the carrying fingers to accord with the thickness of the article. While the article is being moved forward a label is being developed in the labeling mechanism and is applied to the article when it comes under the pressure roller; after the label has been applied, the article, the movement of which has been continuous, progresses forward to the addressing means and at this time a stencil plate is carried forward at the same rate of speed as the article and the platen is inked and then rolls into engagement with the stencil slip of the stencil plate which is positioned by this time over the label carried by the article and produces an impression on said label. The stencil plate then moves onwardly without interruption until it is engaged by the members 94 whence it is lifted from the stencil plate conveying means and stacked in the lower part of the receiving receptacle B. The article having the label applied and stenciled is then delivered from the machine and the successive operations upon the singly delivered articles continue.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that I have provided an addressing machine which is continuous in operation and will affix a label and address said label on an article during continued movement of the article through the machine, and the machine will furthermore similarly operate upon a plurality of articles delivered singly and in successive order through the machine. Also, the mechanism of the machine may be so adjusted as to accommodate thin, thick, narrow or wide and long or short articles and will take any articles from a flexible sheet of paper to a stiff unbendable card of any dimension.

While I have herein shown and described a specific form of my invention, it will be understood, that, in practice, changes may be made in the form and arrangement in the several mechanisms without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim—

1. An addressing machine including means for continuously conveying single ar-

paper is fed between these rollers whence it is engaged by a roller 62 rolling into contact with a roller 63 provided with a knife 64 which, upon each revolution, perforates and partially severs a length of paper from the strip equal to the circumference of the roller, and forming a label. The rollers 62 and 63 are driven by gears 65 through the medium of a worm 66 and worm wheel 67. Beneath the severing rollers are the gumming rollers 68 which are formed similar to those in the machine shown in Patent #1,150,784, issued to me on August 17, 1915, and hereinbefore referred to. Said gumming rollers are driven through the medium of a worm gear 69 and receive adhesive from the absorbent wick arrangement 70 drawing its supply from the reservoir 70^a, and applying the said adhesive only to the central portion of the label, so that the label will not stick to the members which subsequently deliver and apply it to the article. After the adhesive is applied to the label the un gummed edges thereof are engaged by the rollers 71 driven by worm 72 and the label is delivered to the surface of the article to which it is to be applied. The label mechanism is driven through the medium of the bevel gear sets 73 and 74 which drive the shaft 75 carrying worms 60, 66, 69 and so forth, at a slower speed than the travel of the article through the machine, but sufficiently fast to form a label for each article. Upon the delivery of the label from the last set of rollers, the leading edge thereof is engaged by a pressure roller 76 which rolls the label onto the article and spreads the adhesive, and, due to the fact that this roller runs at a greater speed than the delivery rollers the label is detached completely from the web. The shaft 76^a carrying the said pressure roller 76 also carries a sprocket 77 and a chain 78 runs over sprockets 77 and 79 so as to simultaneously drive shafts 50 and 76^a. Also shaft 76 carries a sprocket 80 for purposes to be hereinafter set forth. Upon the machine frame, behind the label mechanism, is located the means for stenciling the addresses on the labels and this comprises the shafts 81, 82, 83 and 84 arranged in rectangular order and each carrying two sprockets 85 over which are trained the stencil-plate conveyer chains 86. The said chains 86 are provided with stencil plate carrying fingers 87. There is also provided a stencil-plate delivery receptacle A and a stencil plate receiving receptacle B, each of which is similar in construction and embraces a fixed lower half 88 and interchangeable upper halves 89. In two opposite sides of each of the receptacles A and B are slots 89^a which accommodate the vertically movable members 90 having inwardly turned lower ends 91 for engagement with the stencil plates so that the lat-

ter may be moved to the upper halves of the receptacles for interchangeability when desired, and the said plates are retained in the upper halves of said receptacles by latch members 91 spring-pressed inwardly and adjustable by means of nuts 92. The bottom of the receiving receptacle B, as well as the bottom portion of the delivery receptacle A is provided with similar latches 93. Carried at the sides of the bottom portion of the said receiving receptacle B are the vertically reciprocable members 94 actuated by movement of the levers 95, and which engage each stencil plate as it is delivered from the stencil plate conveying means and raise the used stencil plates sufficiently to be engaged and retained by the latches 93.

Each stencil plate comprises a rectangular frame *a*, as shown in Fig. 11, which is notched at two points on one edge for engagement by the carrying fingers 87 of chains 86. Said notches are provided with spring-pressed catches 96 which enter recesses in the sides of the notches, and spring out therefrom to engage the said fingers 87 in a releasable but firm manner. The frame of each stencil plate carries the removable stencil strip *b* having the address thereon, and during movement of the stencil plate from one receptacle to the other, the edges of the plate frame are guided in grooves 98 which direct the plate downwardly into a printing position, and thence upwardly to be engaged by members 94. By reason of the fact that grooves 98 gradually incline upwardly until they reach the point beneath the receiving receptacle when they are entirely above the level of the carrying fingers 87, it will be seen that said grooves function to lift the stencil plates off from the carrying fingers 87 whence they are engaged by latches 91 of the members 94. To insure the proper engagement of the carrying fingers 87 with the plate frame, the plate is initially retarded in its movement by springs 99 which are located in grooves 98 which are depressible to permit the plate to pass. Also similar springs 100 are provided adjacent the receiving receptacle and also in the said grooves and prevent backward movement of the stencil plates. Intermediate the receptacles A and B is an ink reservoir 101 having a tapered mouth closed by an absorbent pad 102. Carried by the brackets 103 mounted onto said reservoir, are adjustable screws 104 which support brackets 105 carrying spindle 106 which in turn carries the inking roller 107 in rolling contact with the absorbent pad 102 and receiving ink from the latter.

The platen means for printing consists of a shaft 107^a journaled in bearing stands 108 at each side of the machine, and said

articles to be addressed through the machine in successive order, label affixing mechanism comprising, a web supply, means for severing a label from said web supply, means for supplying adhesive to said label, a pressure roller to affix said label to the article, means for feeding the label with the adhesive applied thereto to the pressure roller, stencil strips to be applied to the article over the label, means to print a name to said stencil strip, and means to remove the stencil strips subsequent to the printing operation.

2. An addressing machine, including means for continuously conveying single articles to be addressed through the machine in successive order, label affixing mechanism comprising, a web supply, means for severing a label from said web supply, means for applying adhesive to a portion of said label, a pressure roller to affix the label to the article, means engaging that portion of each label free from adhesive to guide and feed said labels to said pressure roller, a plurality of stencil strips, means to be brought into operation subsequent to the affixing of the label to place a stencil strip thereover, means to imprint an address through the stencil strip, and means to take up the stencil strip following the printing.

3. An addressing machine including means for continuously conveying articles to be addressed through the machine in successive order, label affixing mechanism comprising, a web supply, means for severing a label from said web supply, means for supplying adhesive to the label, a pressure roller to affix the label to the article and spread the adhesive, means for feeding the label with the adhesive applied thereto to said pressure roller, means for placing a stencil strip upon the article to be carried therewith, a printing roller to imprint an address through the stencil, and means to take up the stencil following the printing operation.

4. An addressing machine including means to engage and carry single articles through the machine in successive order, label affixing mechanism comprising, a web supply, means for partially severing a label from said web supply, means for supplying adhesive to said label, a pressure roller to affix the label to the article, means for feeding the label with the adhesive applied thereto to said pressure roller, and means for driving said article carrying means at a greater rate of speed than said label feeding means to complete the severance of the label.

5. An addressing machine including means to engage and carry single articles through the machine in successive order, address printing means operating upon the articles during passage through the machine, means supporting the articles during passage and printing, and mechanism for ad-

justing said supporting means relatively to the article carrying means to accommodate articles of different thicknesses.

6. An addressing machine including conveyor means to engage and carry single articles through the machine in successive order, means for imparting an initial movement to each article prior to engagement by said conveying means, address printing means operating upon the articles during passage through the machine, means for supporting the articles during passage and printing, and mechanism for adjusting said means for imparting the initial movement and said supporting means relative to said carrying means and the printing means to accommodate articles of different thicknesses.

7. An addressing machine including means to receive a plurality of articles to be addressed, means to engage and carry said articles through the machine in successive order, address printing means operating upon the articles during passage through the machine, means supporting the article during passage and printing, and mechanism for adjusting said supporting means relative to said carrying means and the printing means to accommodate articles of different thicknesses.

8. An addressing machine including means for receiving a plurality of articles to be addressed, means to engage and carry single articles through the machine in successive order, means for engaging and delivering one article at a time to said conveying means, address printing means operating upon articles during passage and printing, and mechanism for adjusting said supporting and article delivery means relative to said carrying means and the printing means to accommodate articles of different thicknesses.

9. An addressing machine including means for receiving a plurality of articles to be addressed, means to engage and carry single articles through the machine in successive order, means for engaging and delivering one article at a time to said conveying mechanism, means supporting the articles during passage through the machine, and mechanism for adjusting said supporting means and article delivery means relative to said carrying means and article receiving means.

10. An addressing machine including conveyor means to engage and carry single articles through the machine in successive order, address printing means operating upon the articles during passage through the machine, means for supporting the articles during passage and printing and including rollers to reduce the friction of passage, and mechanism for adjusting said supporting means relative to said conveyor and printing

means to accommodate articles of different thicknesses.

11. An addressing machine including conveyer means to engage and carry single articles through the machine in successive order, means for imparting an initial movement to each article prior to engagement by said conveyer means, address printing means operating upon each article at a predetermined position during passage through the machine, means for supporting the articles during passage and printing, and mechanism for adjusting said means for imparting the initial movement and said supporting means relative to said conveyer and printing means to accommodate articles of different thicknesses.

12. An addressing machine including conveyer means to engage and carry single articles through the machine in successive order, address printing means operating upon each article at a previously selected position during passage through the machine, means supporting the articles during passage and printing, and mechanism for adjusting said supporting means relative to said conveying and printing means to accommodate articles of different thicknesses.

13. An addressing machine including continuously operating conveyer means to engage and carry single articles through the machine in successive order, continuously operated address printing means operating upon each article during passage through the machine, means supporting the article during passage and printing, and mechanism for adjusting said supporting means relative to said conveying and printing means to accommodate articles of different thicknesses.

14. An addressing machine including address printing mechanism and conveying means for successively delivering articles thereto, said address printing mechanism comprising delivery and receiving receptacles, a plurality of stencil plates in said delivery receptacle, conveyer means engaging and carrying single plates from said delivery receptacle to a printing position relative to the articles, and means receiving said plates from said plate conveying means and delivering the same to the receiving receptacle.

15. An addressing machine including address printing mechanism and conveying means for successively delivering articles thereto, said address printing mechanism comprising a receptacle for holding stencil plates, a conveyer for moving said plates from said receptacle into a printing position relative to the article, means rolling into contact with said stencil plate to produce an impression, and means receiving the used plates from said conveying means and stacking the same in an inverse order with

respect to the order in said delivery receptacle.

16. An addressing machine including address printing mechanism, conveying means for successively delivering articles thereto, said address printing mechanism comprising delivery and receiving receptacles each having interchangeable removable upper halves, a plurality of stencil plates in said delivery receptacle, conveyer means engaging and carrying single plates from said delivery receptacle to a printing position relative to the articles and thence to the upper half of said receiving receptacle to be subsequently reinserted in said delivery receptacle, and means to print the address when a plate is in printing position.

17. An addressing machine including means for successively conveying single articles through the machine in successive order, mechanism for affixing a label to each article during passage through the machine, means for stenciling an address on each label after the latter has been applied to the article, means for simultaneously and continuously operating said conveying means, label affixing mechanism and address stenciling means, and means for advancing or retarding the periodic operation of said affixing mechanism and address stenciling mechanism with respect to the conveying means to regulate the point at which the label and address are applied to the article.

18. An addressing machine including means for successively conveying single articles through the machine in regulated order, means for affixing a label to each article, means for printing a different address on each label, means for continuously and simultaneously operating said conveying means, label affixing mechanism and address printing means, and means for supporting the articles during passage through the machine.

19. The combination with address printing mechanism, of means for successively delivering articles to said printing mechanism, said means including fixed tracks, endless conveyers running thereon, means carried by said conveyers for engaging and carrying the articles, and means for supporting the articles during passage through the machine, said supporting means being adjustable relative to said tracks and conveyers.

20. The combination with address printing mechanism, of means for successively delivering single articles to said mechanism, said means including means to support the articles during passage through the machine, tracks, endless conveyer chains running on said tracks below said supporting means and provided with carrying fingers projecting thereabove to engage the articles, and mechanism to adjust said supporting means rela-

tive to said fingers to vary the effective height of the latter.

21. The combination with address printing mechanism, of means for successively delivering single articles to said printing mechanism, said means including fixed tracks, endless conveyers running thereon, means carried by said conveyers for engaging and carrying the articles, means for supporting the articles during passage through the machine, and screw and nut mechanism for adjusting the supporting means relative to said tracks.

22. The combination with addressing mechanism, of means for successively delivering single articles to said addressing mechanism, said means including endless conveyers, means carried by said conveyers for engaging and carrying the articles, means for supporting the articles during

passage through the machine, nuts carried by said supporting means, jack screws engaging said nuts, and means for rotating said jack screws to adjust said supporting means relative to said conveyers.

23. An addressing machine including means adjustable to receive a plurality of articles of any size, means to engage and carry single articles through the machine in successive order, means supporting the article during passage through the machine, and mechanism for adjusting said supporting means relative to said carrying means to accommodate articles of different thicknesses.

LEVI McMILLAN.

Witnesses:

C. EVERETT LANCASTER,
BENJ. R. NEWCOMB.