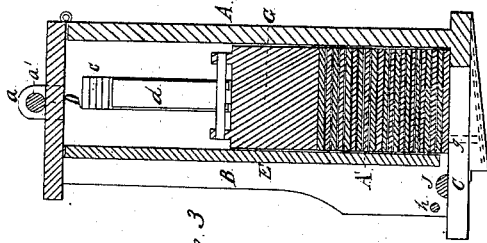
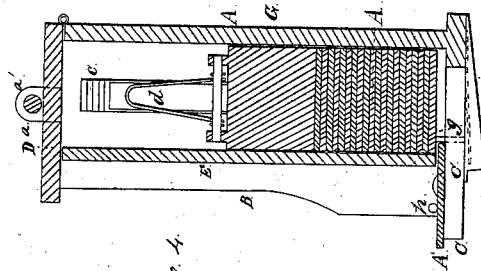


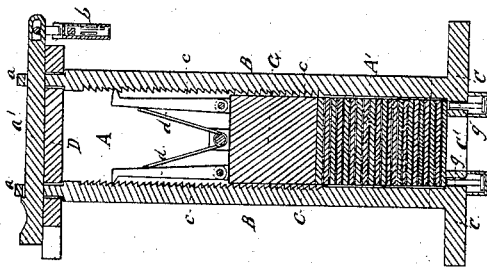
*J. P. Conkling*  
*Detecting Check Boxes.*  
*N<sup>o</sup> 54,866. Patented May 22, 1866.*



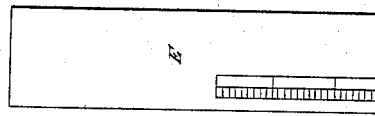
*Fig. 3*



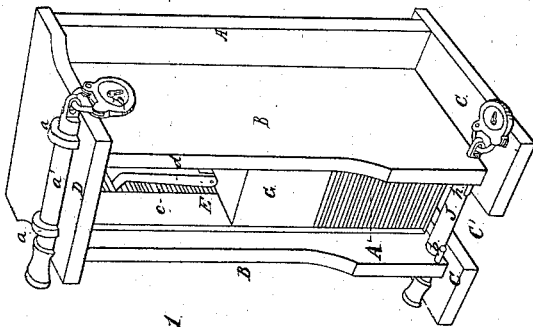
*Fig. 4*



*Fig. 2*



*Fig. 5*



*Fig. 1*

*Witnesses*  
*R. T. Campbell*  
*Edwards*

*Inventor*  
*John P. Conkling*  
*by his atty,*  
*Mason, Fenwick & Lawrence*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN P. CONKLING, OF BATCHELLERVILLE, NEW YORK.

## IMPROVEMENT IN DETECTING CHECK-BOXES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 54,866, dated May 22, 1866.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN P. CONKLING, of Batchellerville, in the county of Saratoga and State of New York, have invented a Universal Detector; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved detector, showing it locked at top and bottom. Fig. 2 is a vertical section through the instrument. Fig. 3 is a vertical section of the instrument, taken in a plane at right angles to the plane of the sectional view, Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a sectional view, showing the manner of removing checks from the bottom of the instrument. Fig. 5 shows the glass face-plate of the instrument detached therefrom.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

This invention relates to a new and improved instrument which is designed for the detection of fraud by persons whose business it is to handle money or paper representing money value. It is intended more particularly for use in banks, restaurants, hotels, on railroads and other public conveyances, and at places of amusement, and, in fact, wherever money is received or paid out. It is so constructed that a number of checks or tickets can be put into it and locked up by the proprietor of any business place before giving it to the employé whose duty it is to draw said checks, one at a time, corresponding in money value to the sale made by him. These checks cannot be introduced into the instrument again, when once they have been removed from it, except by the person holding the key; consequently every ticket or check drawn must be accounted for by the drawer, in whose charge the instrument is confided.

The object of the invention is to so construct such an instrument that when it has been supplied with tickets, and these locked up in it by the owner, they can be readily withdrawn, one at a time, but not replaced again without unlocking the instrument, as will be hereinafter explained.

To enable others skilled in the art to understand my invention, I will describe its construction and operation.

The receptacle for containing the checks may be made of wood, metal, or other suitable material, of any required capacity. It consists of a closed back, A, and closed sides B B, with an open bottom, C, a hinged top, D, and a sliding face-plate, E, which latter may be made of glass or any other substance.

The hinged cover D is slotted at two points, for receiving through it two perforated ears, *a a*, which are adapted for receiving through them a bolt, *a'*, for holding the cover securely in place when it is fastened by a padlock, *b*. When the lock and bolt are removed the cover D can be thrown up and the contents of the box removed.

The sliding face-plate E is fitted into slots formed in the sides B B of the box, and can only be removed when the cover D is open. This face-plate E extends down nearly to the bottom plate, C, leaving a space only sufficient for the withdrawal of one ticket at a time from the bottom of the pile of tickets A', which are confined in the box, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The bottom plate, C, is constructed with an opening, C', in it, which exposes a portion of the bottom ticket of the pile, to be pressed upon and withdrawn edgewise by the fingers from the box. This bottom plate projects inside of the lower ends of the side plates, B B, sufficient distances to afford a support for the pile of tickets in the box, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and to allow the lowermost ticket in the pile to be slipped forward beneath the face-plate E.

On the inside faces of the side plates, B B, I form rows of racks or ratchet-teeth *c c*, directly opposite each other, which are intended for engaging with the hooked upper ends of spring-dogs *d d*, that are pivoted to a loaded follower, G. This follower is simply a rectangular block of metal fitted to slide freely up and down within the instrument, and to act by its gravity to keep the pile of tickets down closely upon the bottom plate, C, and also to serve as a feeder to move the tickets downward as rapidly as they are drawn out, one at a time, from the bottom of the pile.

The tickets or checks used should all be of a uniform thickness; but they may be rectangular, or of any other form which is adapted to fit loosely within the receptacle of the instrument. They may be made of metal, ivory, wood, paper,

or of any other suitable material, and should have appropriate letters, numbers, or other characters upon them by which their value is indicated. These checks or tickets are introduced into their receptacle by opening the cover D and removing the follower G or face-plate E, after which the parts which were removed are returned and the cover D locked down in its place, the key being retained by the owner. Another key is given to the employé, by which he can unlock and remove a transverse bar, J, when he desires to withdraw the tickets from the bottom of the pile. This bar J passes transversely through the side plates, B B, directly in front of the lowermost ticket of the pile, so that no ticket can be removed when said bar is in its place, as above mentioned. This bar J is for the protection of the employé, and the bar or bolt *a'* is for the protection of the employer. The locks which are applied to these bars should be differently constructed, so that the key of one lock shall not unlock the other.

In order to guard against the possibility of inserting a check beneath the pile of checks in the box when one check has been withdrawn from beneath this pile, I employ pins *g g*, which are acted upon by concealed springs that press said pins up against the bottom check of the pile, as shown in Figs. 2, 3, and 4. Should a person press upon the bottom of the check which is next above the lowest one during the act of withdrawing the latter, and thus prevent the descent of the follower G, it will be seen that without the safety-pins *g g*, applied as above shown, another check could be inserted in place of the one withdrawn; but by having the safety-pins they will spring up behind a check, as shown in Fig. 4, and prevent its being returned to its place when once withdrawn.

The pawls or spring-dogs *d d* are used to prevent any upward movement being given to the follower G by an upward pressure on the checks. Instead of using the spring-dogs, as shown in the drawings, toothed pinions or ratchet-wheels and dogs can be employed in their stead.

I do not confine my invention to the use of pins *g g*, as other equivalent devices which will answer the purpose for which these pins are intended may be adopted in conjunction with a follower having arresting-pawls applied to it.

If desirable, a spring or springs may be employed, in conjunction with the gravitating follower G, for assisting in keeping the checks in

place upon the bottom plate of the instrument, so that the bottom check will always be forced down and held in a position to be withdrawn.

In Fig. 5 I represent a glass face-plate, E, having certain marks engraved upon it, which will indicate at a glance the number of checks, if any, which have been drawn from the instrument. The marks indicate fives, tens, and hundreds, are properly gaged upon the glass, their distance apart being equal to the thickness of the checks.

In Fig. 1 I represent two studs, *h h*, projecting from the plates B B opposite each other, which studs are so arranged with reference to the opening beneath the plate E that they keep the checks down flat upon the bottom plate, C, until withdrawn entirely from the instrument.

Should the instrument be so constructed that the checks could be feloniously introduced into it by inclining or inverting it, then I contemplate the application of a weight or some other suitable device to the instrument, which will always indicate if it has been thus tampered with.

In practice I propose to have a number of these instruments suitably connected together and arranged side by side, each instrument containing checks indicating a different value, with its appropriate number marked conspicuously upon it to prevent any mistake in drawing the checks.

In most cases the instruments will be established in some convenient place, although they may be constructed with the view of having them portable when it is desired to move them from one place to another.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination of ratchets and pawls *c d* and gravitating follower G, substantially as and for the purposes described.
2. The open-bottom ticket-box, in combination with the follower G, or its equivalent, substantially as described.
3. The stops *g g*, substantially as and for the purposes described.
4. The use of locking-bars *a'* or J, applied substantially as described.
5. The movable transparent graduated face-plate E, in combination with a ticket-holder, substantially as described.

JOHN P. CONKLING.

Witnesses:

R. T. CAMPBELL,  
EDW. SCHAFER.