

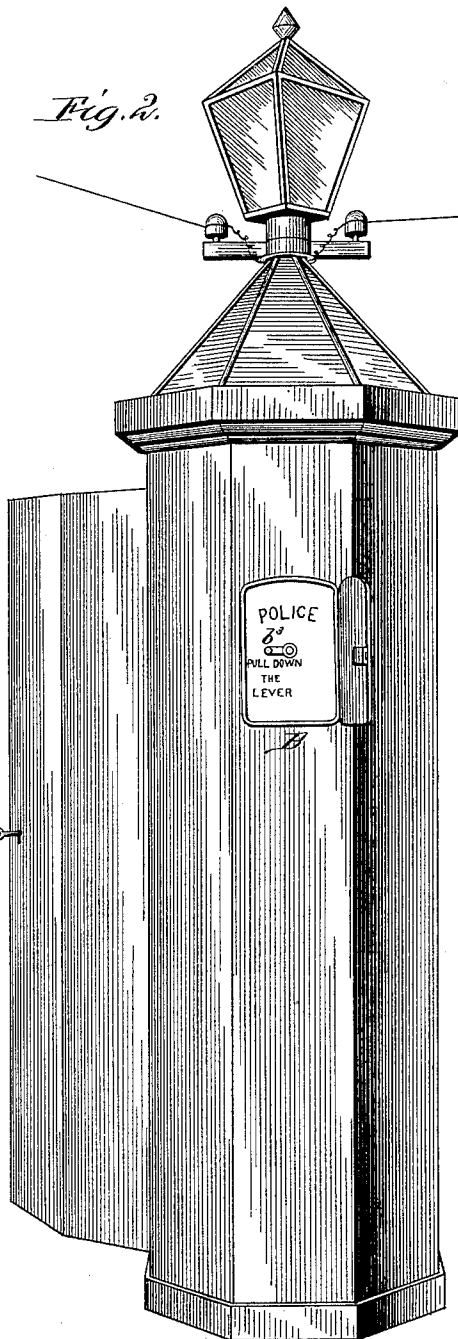
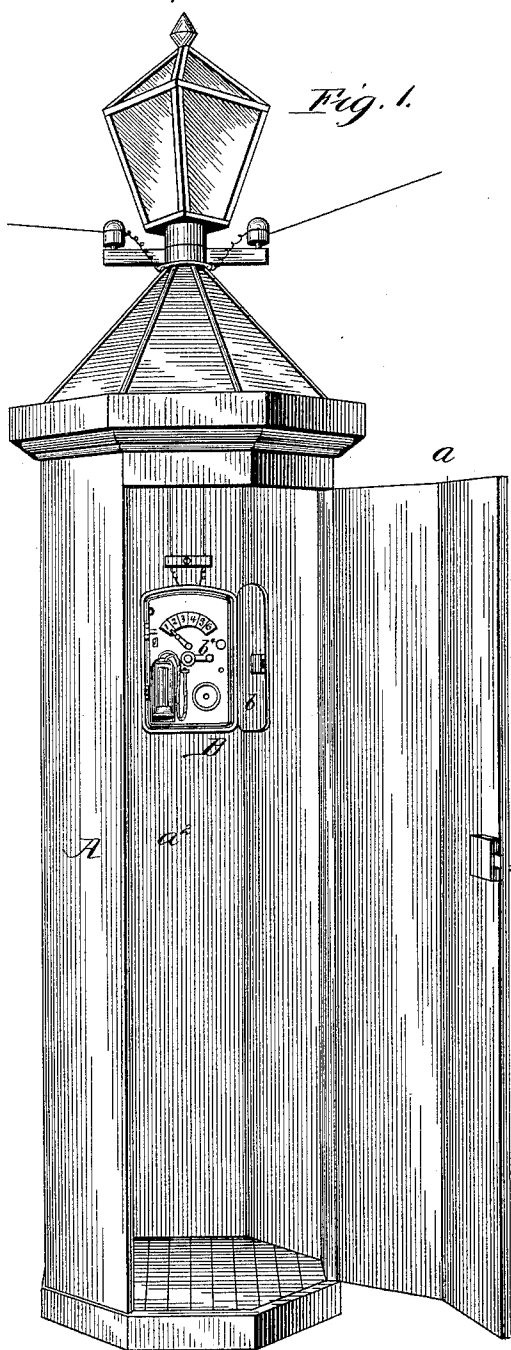
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

C. A. ROLFE.
POLICE SIGNAL TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.

No. 462,741.

Patented Nov. 10, 1891.



Witnesses
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(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 3.

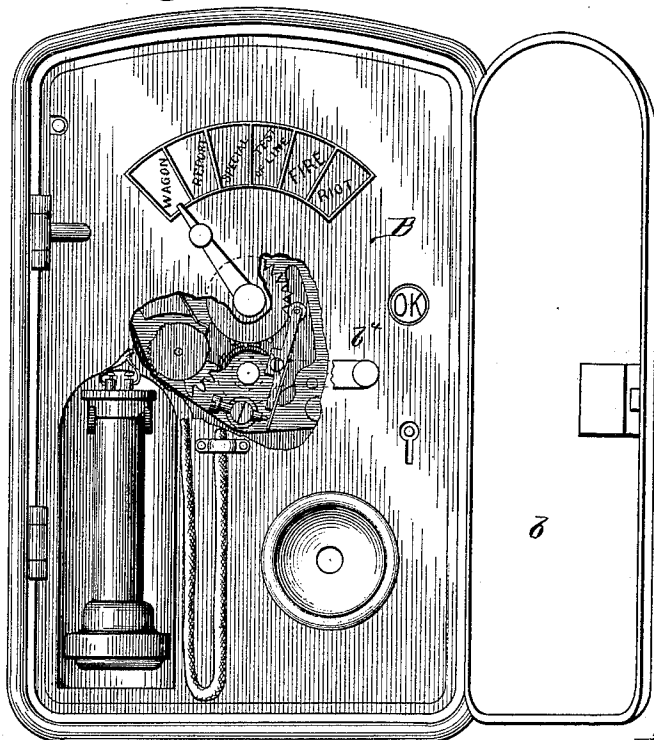


Fig. 4.

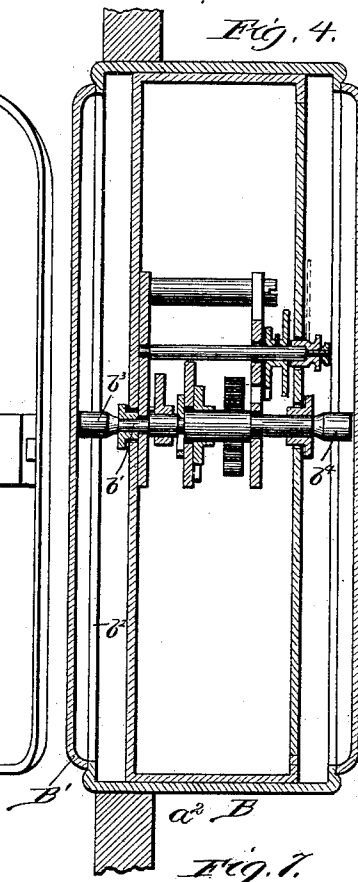


Fig. 5.

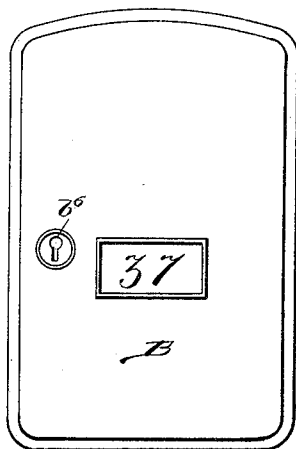


Fig. 6.

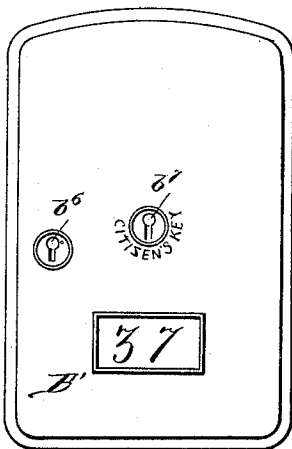
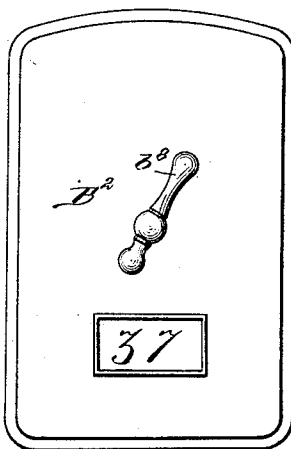


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES A. ROLFE, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

POLICE-SIGNAL-TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 462,741, dated November 10, 1891.

Application filed March 9, 1891. Serial No. 384,285. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES A. ROLFE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook, State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Police-Signal-Telegraph Systems, of which the following is a specification.

Police-signal-telegraph systems as now generally adopted comprise a series of lines or circuits radiating from different police-stations and connecting with street-stations which are available to officers and other authorized persons, and where it is so desired these street-stations are also similarly connected with the fire department. The most approved system involves at each station a booth or sentry-box, within which the signal mechanism is arranged. The signal mechanism is contained within a box or case which is secured upon the inner wall of the sentry-box, and in connection therewith a telephone is generally provided. The sentry-box is constructed with a door which is kept under lock and key and which must be unlocked and opened to permit an officer or other authorized person to enter the sentry-box for the purpose of sending off a signal, it being the usual practice to furnish certain citizens with what are known as "citizens' keys," so that in the absence of an officer the holder of a citizen's key can signal for police assistance, and in some instances also send in an alarm of fire. When an arrest has been made, it is the duty of the policeman making the arrest to open the sentry-box, enter the same, and send off a signal for assistance—such, for example, as a wagon call. It is likewise his duty to either report a fire or send off a fire-alarm signal in accordance with the capabilities of the signal mechanism, and in addition to the foregoing it is his duty to enter the sentry-box at stated times and report. It is also at times desirable that he should enter the box and call for assistance or instructions and attend to other like business. While it has been found desirable to provide persons other than policemen with keys, so that in the absence of the police from the vicinity of a street-station an alarm of fire or a wagon call may, when necessary, be sent, it has been found highly objectionable in many instances to allow such citizens to enter the sentry-box, since in so doing they

frequently send the wrong signal. Thus it is common to provide the signal box or case which contains the signal mechanism and which is arranged within the sentry-box with a dial or index indicating the several calls or signals, such as No. 1, telephone; No. 2, thieves; No. 3, riot; No. 4, test of line; No. 5, fire, and also a sixth for police wagon, and to provide an index-hand which can be turned to any one of the foregoing in conformity with the signal required, and hence a person other than a drilled policeman frequently sends the wrong signal.

While it is desirable that persons other than policemen should be enabled to send certain signals, it is not desirable that they should be allowed to enter the sentry-boxes. When it becomes necessary for a policeman who has made an arrest to summon assistance from the nearest station, he must first unlock and open the door of the sentry-box and then enter the sentry-box, so as to send the proper signal for a wagon. It frequently happens, however, that such mode of procedure involves great labor and difficulty. Thus where a policeman has arrested a refractory person he must, while holding his prisoner, open and enter the sentry-box and when once within the same send off the proper signal. At times such method is impracticable, and then the policeman must either put the prisoner in charge of a by-stander or hand his key to a by-stander and instruct him how to use it; but should there be no one around to thus relieve the policeman he may have to club his prisoner into submission.

The object of my invention is to overcome all of the foregoing objectionable features pertaining to street-stations, and to such end I provide a sentry-box with a signal mechanism which for certain purposes is available from the outside of the sentry-box, whereby certain signals can be sent without opening the main door of the sentry-box and entering the same. By such an arrangement a policeman who has made an arrest can with less difficulty send off a signal or wagon call; or, in case he should request a by-stander to send such signal, such party in complying with the request cannot fail to send the proper signal, since he will have no selection, such as he would have in the event of his entering the

signal-box. Also, mistakes on the part of the holders of citizens' keys are avoided, and hence a source of annoyance to the police department removed.

5 In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents, in perspective, a booth or sentry-box with its door swung open, so as to expose the interior of the same and further show a signal-case secured upon the inner wall of the
10 sentry-box and having its door swung open. Fig. 2 is a rear view of the sentry-box and illustrates the back of the signal-case of the preceding figure, the rear door of such signal-case being swung open. Fig. 3 represents on
15 a larger scale the signal-case shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a vertical section through the signal-case on line 4 4 in Fig. 3. Figs. 5, 6, and 7 are rear views of signal-cases and illustrate variations in means for operating the signal
20 mechanism, Fig. 5 being illustrative of the signal-case of preceding figure.

The booth or sentry-box A is constructed with an entrance-door *a*, which can be opened so as to permit access to be had to the interior of the structure. The door is provided
25 with a lock *a'*, which prior to my invention has usually been a trap-lock, so constructed that whenever a citizen's key is used it cannot be withdrawn until released by a master-key in the hands of an officer. Since, how-
30 ever, I propose to dispense altogether with the custom of permitting citizens to open and enter the sentry-box, the use of a trap-lock on the sentry-box door can be dispensed with
35 and a lock of less complicated construction used.

The signal-case B is secured upon the inner wall *a²* of the sentry-box and is provided at its front with a door *b*, which in Figs. 1 and
40 3 is shown in an open position.

The signal mechanism shown in the signal-case is with the exception hereinafter noted of known construction and need not therefore be described. The foregoing-mentioned
45 exception consists in the extension of the arbor or spindle *b'* through the back *b²* of the signal-case. The rear of the signal-case is exposed at the rear outside wall *a³* of the sentry-box, and to such end the signal-case
50 can be fitted within an opening in the rear side of the sentry-box, substantially as in Fig. 4. The back of the signal-case is provided with the rear door *B'*, which, when open, exposes the rear side of the arbor *b'*.
55 The arbor can be provided with a crank *b³*, arranged upon its rear end, in addition to the crank *b⁴*, usually arranged upon its forward end. The crank *b³* at the back of the signal-case can, for example, be used for the purpose
60 of signaling for a patrol-wagon, and can be used not only by any officer, but also by a citizen having in his possession a key to the lock *b⁵* on the rear door *B'* of the signal-case. If preferred, however, the rear crank *b³* could
65 be dispensed with and the rear end of the arbor be so constructed as to require the use of a key for operating it; but in either case

it will not be necessary for a citizen to enter the sentry-box in order to send a wagon call, and in cases of emergency an officer can
70 without entering the sentry-box simply open the rear door of the signal-case and summon assistance.

Variations in the locks used on the rear doors of the signal-cases and variations in the
75 signal mechanisms and means for operating the same without entering the sentry-box can be made in conformity with various arrangements employed in connection with signal-cases and signal mechanisms heretofore ac-
80 cessible only to persons within the sentry-boxes. Thus, for example, the rear door *B'* of the signal-case can be provided with a key-hole *b⁶*, which will admit keys both in the hands of officers and in the hands of respon-
85 sible citizens, in which case any holder of a key can open the rear door and signal for help by turning the crank or lever *b³*. The crank *b³* may, however, be dispensed with and the arbor
90 be so adapted at its rear end that it can be operated by a key introduced through a key-hole *b⁷* in the rear door *B'* of the signal-case B in Fig. 6. Under such arrangement the key and arbor may be so constructed that after a citi-
95 zen who holds a key has introduced the same into the key-hole *b⁷* and operated the arbor so as to send a call his key will be "trapped" or so held that he cannot withdraw it. The withdrawal of the citizen-key in such case can only
100 be effected by first opening the case, and hence, while both officers and citizens will hold keys for operating the spindle through the key-hole *b⁷*, the officers' keys will be so constructed that they will not be trapped, and
105 in addition to this the officers (but not the citizens) will be provided with keys for opening the rear door *B'* of the signal-case by way of the key-hole *b⁶*. As another arrangement the signal-case may have a permanently-
110 closed rear or back *B²*, exposed at the rear outside of the sentry-box, and the arbor may extend through such back and be provided with a crank or lever *b⁸*, which is available without opening any door. Still further variations can be made—as, for example, two
115 keys can be provided for one key-hole under an arrangement whereby by using one key a signal for a wagon or police assistance will be sent, while by using the other key a fire-alarm signal will be given. It will also be under-
120 stood without special illustration that where a crank or lever is constantly exposed, as in Fig. 7, a gong at the street-station where such crank is turned will be rung, so as to give local notice of the fact that the signal mech-
125 anism has been used.

While it is preferable that the back or rear of the signal-case should form a portion of the back or side of the sentry-box, the arbor or equivalent device for operating the signal
130 mechanism could be reached through a key-hole formed through the sentry-box, although in such case a much longer key would have to be used. As a further arrangement a door

corresponding to the door B' could be hinged to the sentry-box, so that when opened the back of the signal-case would be exposed through an opening in the sentry-box, and as a matter of course the door could be either hinged or be arranged to slide.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. As an improvement in police-signal-telegraph systems, a street signal-station comprising a sentry-box having an entrance-door which can be opened and closed by properly-authorized officers, and a signal-case arranged upon the inner wall of the sentry-box and provided with a signal mechanism accessible for the purpose of sending signals both from the interior and the exterior of the sentry-box, said sentry-box being adapted, substantially as set forth, to permit access to be had from its exterior to an operating member of the signal mechanism at the back of the signal-box, and the signal mechanism being arranged to be available for all of its uses to authorized officers who may enter the sentry-box, and having an operating member at its back also available for certain uses from the outside of the sentry-box both to said officers and to the holders of citizens' keys to whom access to the interior of the sentry-box may be desired, substantially as set forth.

2. In a police-signal-telegraph system, a street signal-station comprising a sentry-box having an entrance-door which can be opened and closed by properly-authorized officers, a signal-case contained within the sentry-box and provided with signal mechanism which is available for operation both from the in-

terior and exterior of the sentry-box, and a door arranged to open at the exterior of the sentry-box and applied to open and close at the back of the signal-case, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a police-signal-telegraph system, a street signal-station comprising a sentry-box having a door which can be opened and closed by properly-authorized persons, a signal-case B, secured upon the inner wall of the sentry-box and provided with a signal mechanism having an operating spindle or arbor b' available within the sentry-box and extended back through the signal-case, so as to be available outside of the sentry-box, substantially as set forth.

4. In a police-signal-telegraph system, the combination, substantially as and for the purposes hereinbefore set forth, of the sentry-box A, the signal-case B, secured within the sentry-box, but having its back accessible outside of the sentry-box, signal mechanism supported by the signal-case and having an operating arbor extended through the back of the signal-case and provided with levers b³ and b⁴, respectively, on its opposite ends, and a door B', arranged for covering and uncovering the back of the case and provided with a lock whereby it can be closed and locked, so as to cut off access to the lever b³, and unlocked and opened, so as to permit access to be had to said levers.

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