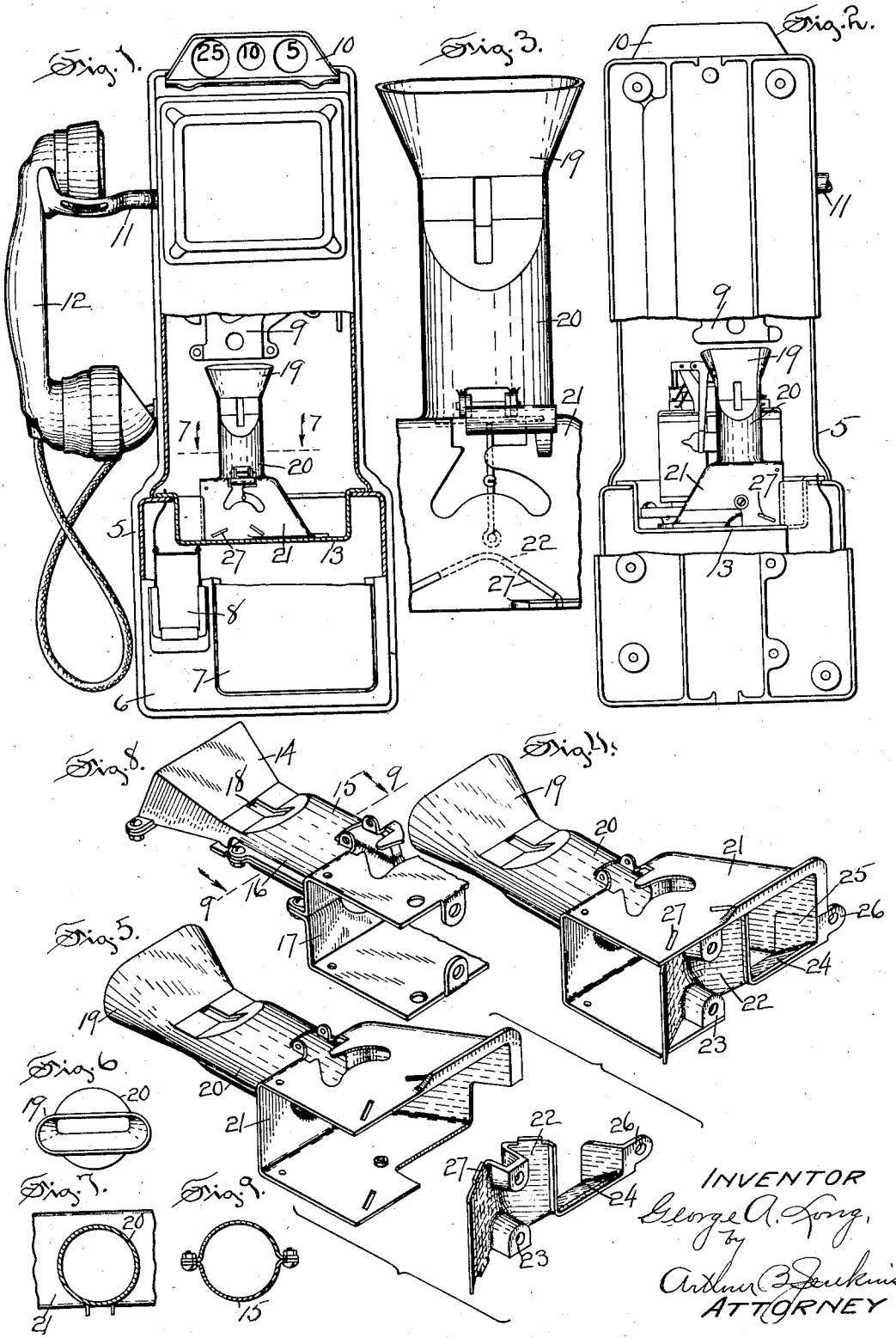
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COIN HOPPER FOR TELEPHONE TOLL COLLECTING APPARATUS

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COIN HOPPER FOR TELEPHONE TOLL COLLECTING APPARATUS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 232—44)

My invention relates to the class of devices employed in connection with coin collecting apparatus, more particularly as used in telephones, in which the coins are received from the coin chutes, and an object of my invention, among others, is to provide a coin hopper into which the coins may drop and through which they may pass without danger of being wedged within the structure.

One form of a coin hopper embodying my invention and in the construction and use of which the objects herein set out, as well as others, may be attained, is illustrated in the accompanying drawing in which—

Figure 1 is a front view of a telephone apparatus equipped with my improved coin hopper, parts being broken away to show construction.

Figure 2 is a similar back view of said apparatus.

Figure 3 is a view in elevation, on enlarged scale, of my improved coin hopper shown as attached to its support.

Figure 4 is an isometric view of the structure shown in Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4 but showing parts disconnected but in relative positions to be assembled.

Figure 6 is a view looking into the upper end of my improved hopper.

Figure 7 is a view in section on a plane denoted by the dotted line 7—7 of Fig. 1.

Figure 8 is an isometric view of an old type of coin hopper.

Figure 9 is a view in section on a plane denoted by the dotted line 9—9 of Fig. 8.

In the accompanying drawing the numeral 5 denotes the back board of a set of telephone instruments having a case secured thereto and comprising at its lower end a coin box 6 having a coin drawer 7 and a coin return chute 8, the upper end of the case containing a coin chute 9 with a coin plate 10 into which coins are placed for travel along the chute 9. The numeral 11 denotes a hook supporting a transmitter and receiver 12 herein shown as of the monophone type. A table 13 within the coin box supports the coin hopper and mechanism appurtenant thereto, all of the parts thus far described being of old and well-known construction.

Coin hoppers heretofore constructed have been composed of several pieces, the hopper 14 and the coin tube 15 leading therefrom having been composed of a trough shaped front piece and a similarly shaped back piece 16 secured together as by means of screw bolts and nuts, as shown in Fig. 8 of the drawing. The case 17 for containing the coin directing mechanism has also been formed in two parts each integral with the parts 15 and 16.

A slot 18 in the vertical wall of the chute receives a pivoted trip finger, not herein shown, which is operated by the weight of a coin to effect electrical connections, such apparatus not being described herein as it will be readily understood by those skilled in the art.

In the use of this old type of apparatus much annoyance and difficulty arises from the fact that the coins become wedged in the seams between the different parts of the coin hopper and particularly of the coin tube, this being occasioned by the use of worn coins, as dimes, that become exceedingly thin, and this difficulty is increased from the fact that the nuts become loose allowing the seams to open to a greater or lesser extent in which such coins are wedged.

It is a purpose of my present invention to so construct the hopper and coin tube that this difficulty cannot arise, my improved structure comprising a hopper 19 and a coin tube 20 together with a case 21 all formed of a single piece of metal, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5 of the drawing, the bottom of the case comprising a coin directing plate 22 having integrally formed bosses 23 for the reception of screws as a means for attaching the structure to the table 13. This plate also comprises an apron 24 to guide the coins into proper position to drop into the drawer 7. A wing 25 projects from the apron at about right angles thereto, and an ear 26 is formed at the bottom of the wing 25 for the reception of a fastening screw, said wing fitting flush within a notch in a wall of the case 21 and as shown in Fig. 4 of the drawing. This coin directing plate is secured to the case 21 as by means of lugs 27 projecting into openings in the sides of the case 21 and as shown in Figs. 4 and 5 of the drawing.

From the foregoing description it will be noted that I have produced a coin hopper with the tube projecting therefrom and the case without seams or joints within which coins may become lodged, thereby preventing use of the telephone, said hopper and coin tube particularly having smooth unbroken inner surfaces throughout to effect free and unobstructed movement of the coins through said parts.

I claim:

1. A case for a coin hopper and a tube rising therefrom and of curved contour in cross section, all being formed of a single piece of metal

and said case being open at the bottom and having a notch in one wall, and a separately formed bottom having an opening for discharge of coins therefrom and a wing fitting within said notch.

2. In a device of the character described, a one-piece construction comprising a coin hopper, a tube and a case having uninterrupted inner faces, a separate bottom for the case, said case having a notch in one wall thereof, a wing on the bottom fitting within the notch, the bottom having a coin discharge opening therein and an apron adjacent the opening for directing coins therethrough and apertured bosses carried by the bottom to facilitate anchoring of the device in service position.

GEORGE A. LONG.