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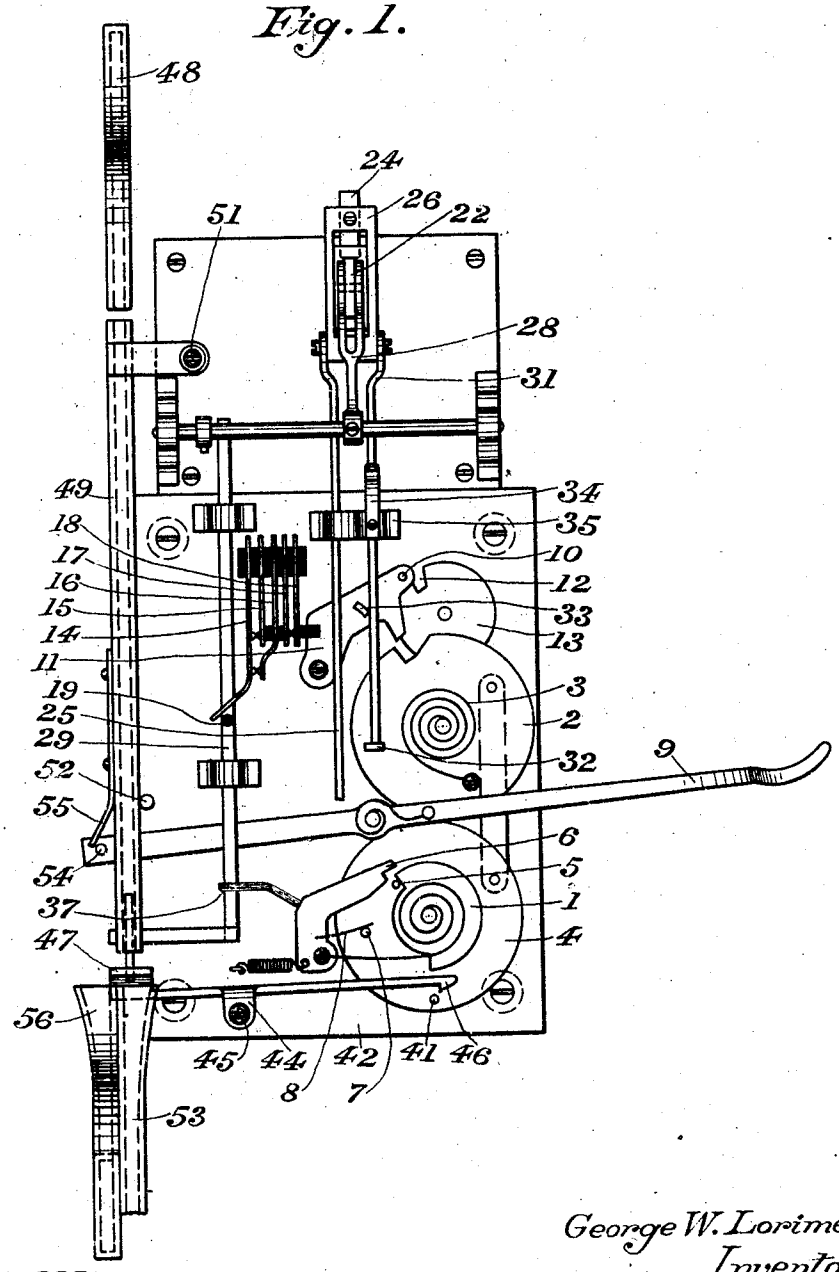
COIN PREPAYMENT SUBSTATION TELEPHONE.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 30, 1906. RENEWED JULY 10, 1912.

1,047,667. Patented Dec. 17, 1912.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.



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COIN PREPAYMENT SUBSTATION TELEPHONE.

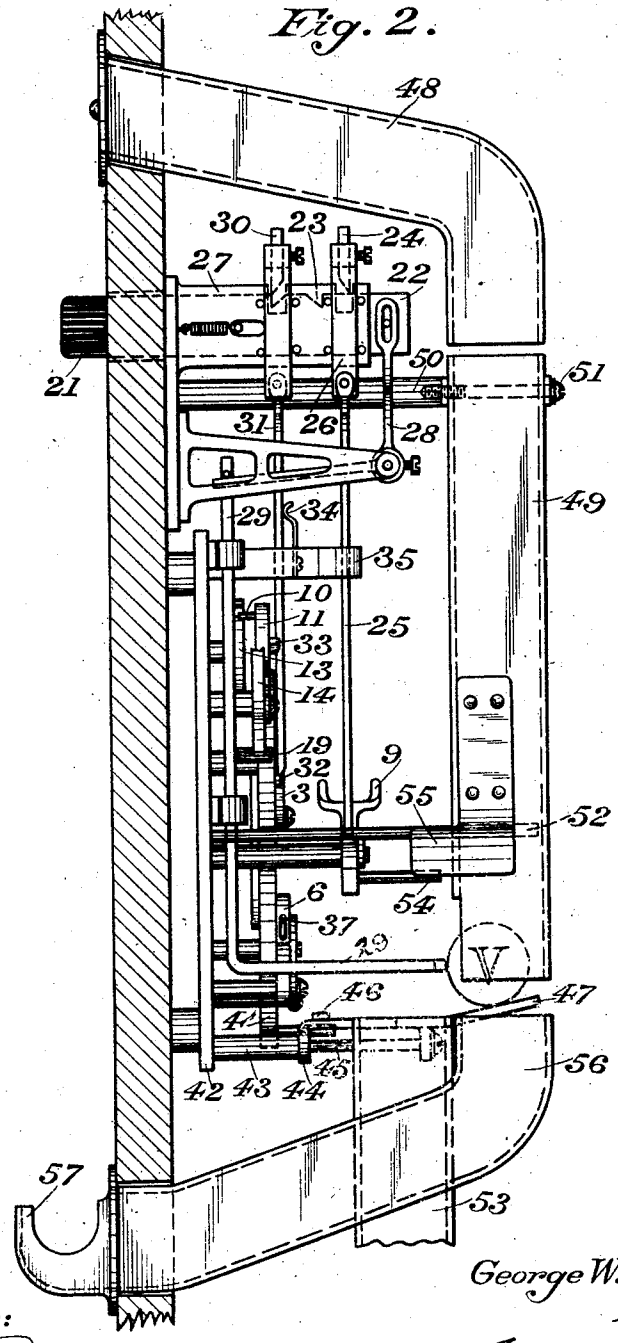
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3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.



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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 3.

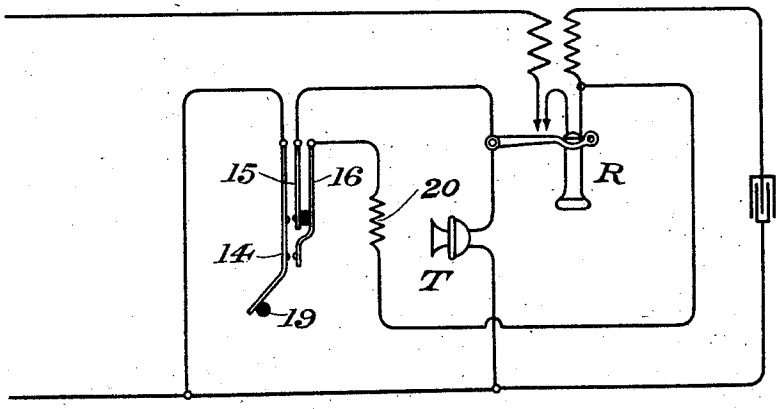
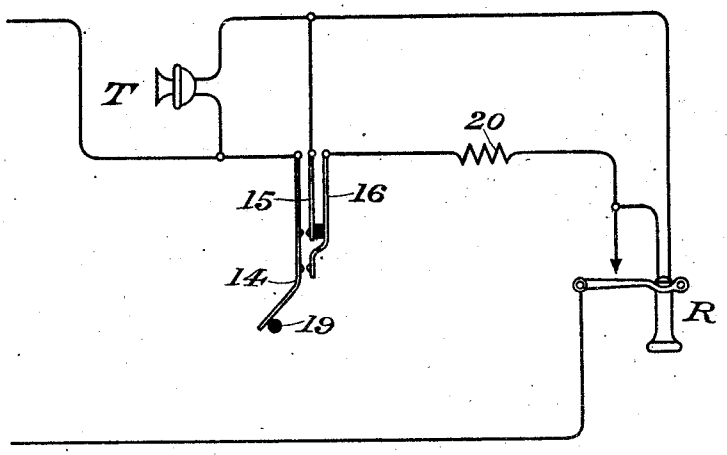


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE W. LORIMER, OF PIQUA, OHIO, ASSIGNOR, BY MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO WESTERN ELECTRIC COMPANY, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS.

COIN-PREPAYMENT SUBSTATION-TELEPHONE.

1,047,667. Specification of Letters Patent. **Patented Dec. 17, 1912.**

Application filed April 30, 1906, Serial No. 314,371. Renewed July 10, 1912. Serial No. 708,739.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. LORIMER, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Piqua, county of Miami, and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Coin-Prepayment Substation-Telephones, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to coin collectors for telephone substations, and has for its object, in a coin-prepayment system of charging for telephone service, to provide means whereby a telephone patron may be permitted to prepay at his substation, one by one, the conversations which he holds from that substation; to compel such prepayment to be done as a means of securing the desired service, and to permit payment only at such time as the securing of the service paid for is made certain. My method of securing these results pertains to systems in which a mechanical action is required for the making of a telephone call, and is a method which consists of locking means preventing a mechanical action necessary to sending a call. This locking means is adapted to be unlocked by the deposit of a coin or token; after the unlocking of the calling means, the sending of a call will render the transmitter inoperative, and, if the call be unsuccessful, the hanging up of the telephone receiver will refund the deposited coin or token; if, however, the call be successful, the transmitter may be restored to usefulness by operating a press-button, accomplishing two ends: first, permitting the calling telephone patron to engage in conversation with the called party, and, second, passing the deposited coin or token to the coin box of the coin collector, thus collecting the coin and not permitting it to be returned to the depositor upon the hanging up of the telephone receiver after the conversation has been finished.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which similar characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views, and in which,—

Figure 1 is a rear view of the coin collector and the associated telephone mechanism; Fig. 2 is a side view of the same; Fig. 3 is a conventional view of the circuit as adapted to one system of transmitting and receiving speech, and Fig. 4 is a conventional view of the circuit as adapted to another system of transmitting and receiving speech.

Referring to Fig. 1, the coin-collecting device and its associated parts are shown in conjunction with elements of a substation equipment of a type adapted to be used in an automatic exchange. The elements of a substation equipment of this type coöperate to enable the subscriber to institute a call by turning a handle attached to the disk 1, which in turn rotates the disk 2, winding up the main spring 3. The disk 4 is a link in this winding, being a disk not attached to the handle of the disk 1, but adapted to be turned by the latter through pressure of its tooth on the pin 5. The pawl 6 is adapted to engage this same tooth of the disk 1, unless prevented from so doing by pressure of the pin 7 against the spring 8, holding the pawl 6 out of such engagement. The switch hook 9 is provided with a stud, not shown in Fig. 1, but adapted to engage a notch in the disk 2 when the latter is in its normal position. It results, therefore, that unless the switch hook 9 be depressed, the main spring 3 may not be wound up and therefore no call may be instituted. The winding of the main spring 3 is succeeded by an operation of a gear train omitted from these drawings, and contacts made by wipers driven by the gear train coöperate with central office mechanism to set up the desired connection. After a conversation has been held and the receiver restored to its hook, a normal condition results, in which a new winding of the mechanism may take place. The condition of parts during a conversation initiated at this station, is that which is shown in the drawings, in which it will be noted that the pin 10, of the pawl 11, is not yet in the notch 12 of the disk 13. By electrical or mechanical means this disk 13 is turned far enough at the end of conversation to enable the pin 10 to fall into the notch 12 and as a consequence contacts are broken between all of the five springs 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18. In Fig. 2 certain contacts of these springs are shown to be made. It is seen by this that the sending of a call involves the turning of the disk 4. Upon the disk 4, I install the pin 41, and upon the base plate 42 I install the stud 43. Upon the stud 43, a latch 44, shown in the drawings as a gravity latch, is sustained loosely by the shouldered screw 45;

a hook projection 46 of the latch 44 is adapted to engage the pin 41 when the latch 44 is in its normal position of rest; a projection 47 of the latch-part 44 extends into the path of a deposited coin and is adapted to be engaged by it, forming a shelf upon which the coin may rest. This shelf projection 47 is adapted to be depressed by the weight of a deposited coin resting upon it, thus operating the latch-part 44 and lifting the hook 46 out of engagement with the pin 41, this being the position of the latch-part 44 as shown in the drawings. It will be impossible, therefore, for the telephone patron to institute a call by turning the disks 1, 2 and 4, until after he shall have unlocked the calling mechanism by depositing a coin or token to operate properly the locking latch-part 44. A coin chute is provided, consisting of two parts: a fixed part 48, having one end accessible to the telephone patron to receive a deposited coin, and a movable part 49, pivotally sustained by the stud 50 and shouldered screw 51 and normally resting against a fixed stop-pin 52. When the coin or token is deposited in the fixed chute 48, it passes by gravity into the movable chute 49 and rests at the bottom of it, its weight being sustained by the shelf 47 of the latch-part 44, which it operates. The chute 49 has its front wall cut away to permit the coin to leave the chute by rolling forward upon the inclined surface of the shelf 47, but the coin is retained within the chute 49 by an obstruction, at the opening therein, consisting of the bent lower end of the sliding rod 29.

Having instituted a call and secured connection with the desired line, the called subscriber, answering, will send voice currents to the calling station. By reference to Figs. 3 and 4, it will be seen that if springs 14, 15 and 16 are all in contact, as would be true except for upward pressure of the stud 19 against the spring 14, the transmitter T will be short-circuited and the receiver R will be shunted by the resistance 20. The magnitude of the resistance 20 is such as to enable received speech to be heard in the receiver R, while yet not great enough to enable that receiver effectively to be used as a magneto telephone transmitter. The condition of the substation set, immediately upon calling, therefore, is that the calling subscriber may hear the response of the called subscriber but will be unable to speak to him either through his transmitter or receiver, because of the closed condition of a by-path about each. Because of instructions to that effect, the calling subscriber now will press the button 21. This will force the slide 22 in its guides, with two results. First, the tooth 23 of the slide 22 will be engaged by the pin 24 dropping into it, thus lowering the shaft 25, which is connected with the pin 24 by means of the frame 26. Removal of pressure from the button 21 will leave it locked against return because of the engagement of 23 and 24, though the spring 27 tends against that engagement to throw the button outward. The second result of this inward pressure of the button 21 is to rock the angle arm 28, lifting the shaft or sliding rod 29, and releasing the deposited coin, which then rolls upon the inclined shelf 47 out of the chute 49 and into the deposit channel 53, leading to the coin box or till which forms a part of the coin-collecting device. The sliding rod 29 bears the pin 19, previously described as adapted to move the spring 14. The collection of the coin, therefore, accompanied by the locking of the slide 22, breaks and holds broken the contacts of the springs 14, 15 and 16, thus releasing the transmitter from its short circuit and the receiver from its shunt. Conversation may now proceed, and upon its completion the restoration of the receiver to the switchhook 9 will cause the latter to press upward the rod 25 to remove the engagement of 23 and 24 and to permit the button 21 to snap outward into its normal position. The conversation thus will have been paid for, and all parts will have been restored to their normal positions of rest.

In case the call for connection is not successful for any reason, so that the calling patron has no occasion to operate the press-button 21 in order to be able to converse, the deposited coin will remain in the position shown in Fig. 1, and upon the hanging up of the telephone receiver, the downward movement of the hook end of the hook lever 9 will cause an upward movement of the back end of the hook lever, bearing the projecting pin 54; this in its upward movement engages the projecting lip of the spring 55, attached to the movable coin chute 49, and thus the lower end of that chute is moved toward the left, as viewed in Fig. 1. This movement of the coin chute 49, containing the deposited coin, drags the deposited coin beyond the edge of the shelf 47 sustaining it, and the coin drops into the auxiliary coin chute or return channel 56, terminating in the return cup 57, on the outside of the telephone equipment, where the coin is available for recovery by the telephone patron. Thus it is seen that, to institute a call, a coin or token must be deposited by the telephone patron; that, if the call so instituted be successful, the coin is retained by the coin-collecting mechanism, and that, if the call be unsuccessful, the coin is refunded to the telephone patron. In the upward movement of the telephone hook 9, caused by removing the telephone receiver from that hook, the pin 54, in its downward motion, passes the tip of the flexible spring 55, allowing the coin chute 49, to rest against a fixed stop-pin 52. As the system is auto-

matic, and the connection has been broken at the central office as a response to the depression of the switchhook 9, a new call may be instituted, without regard to whether the preceding call had been successful or unsuccessful.

Should a misinformed or non-informed person deposit a coin or token and then attempt to press the button 21 without having instituted a call,—which act would result in the deposit of the coin without service being received,—his success would be prevented by the engagement of the catch 30 in a notch other than 23 in the slide 22. This second notch faces in the opposite direction from 23 and prevents an inward movement of the slide 22 unless the rod 31, carrying the catch 30, is elevated. Thus, after the deposit of a coin or token, a call must be duly instituted before the coin or token can be collected in the till. Rod 31, carrying the catch 30, will be elevated only when the disk 2 is in the position shown in Fig. 1, and in that position the lug 32 engages the lower end of the shaft 31, so holding the catch 30 out of the slide 32 whenever the pawl 11 stands in the position shown in Fig. 1, which is the position permitted by the gear train of the telephone set during a time of conversation resulting from a call instituted by a patron at this substation. But a conversation resulting from a call to this substation will take place with the pawl 11 engaging the disk 2 and also with its pin 10 engaging the notch 12 in the disk 13. There is thus a mechanical difference within the telephone set, between the conversations of a sent and a received call. The inclined plane 33, borne by the pawl 11, is adapted to slide behind the rod 31 when the pawl falls into the notches as described. In so doing, the rod 31 has its lower part swung toward the observer viewing Fig. 1, permitting it to slip off of the lug 32 and to fall because not otherwise prevented. This will cause the catch 30 to engage in the notch in the slide 22. It will be noted that the spring 34 bears against the rod 31, holding it normally in position to be engaged by the lug 32. The bracket 35 is so mortised as to permit the shaft 31 to be moved to clear the lug 32 when that shall be necessary.

The previously described operations will make clear that the slide 22 is only freed by the catch 30 when a call has been instituted, which time only is a proper one for its actuation.

Should a patron attempt to secure successive connections without depositing more than one coin, by holding the button 21 depressed while turning in successive calls, he would find it impossible to institute such calls because of the engagement of the bent portions of the sliding rod 29 with the pin 37. The main spring 3 could not be wound nor a call transmitted during such a holding of the pin 37, as in that position the pawl 6 will engage the shoulder of the disk 1, to which the handle of the device is directly attached.

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

1. In a coin-prepayment telephone, selective call-sending means, coin-controlled locking means therefor, and means whereby the downward movement of the telephone switch hook will relock said call-sending means.

2. In a coin-prepayment substation telephone, selective call-sending means, speech-transmitting means, said speech-transmitting means being rendered inoperative by said call-sending means, locking means for said call-sending means, said locking means being normally in a condition locking said call-sending means but being in condition when influenced by a deposited coin to permit said call-sending means to be operated, and a press-button operable after a call has been sent and operating to restore said speech-transmitting means to operative condition and to relock said call-sending means.

3. In a coin-prepayment telephone, selective call-sending means, speech-transmitting means, said speech-transmitting means being rendered inoperative by the operation of said call-sending means, locking means for said call-sending means, said locking means being normally in condition locking said call-sending means but being in condition influenced by a deposited coin to permit said call-sending means to be operated, and means whereby the downward movement of the switchhook of the telephone substation will restore said speech-transmitting means to operative condition and will relock said call-sending means.

4. In a coin-prepayment substation telephone, selective call-sending means, a coin channel, locking means for said call-sending means, said locking means being actuated to unlock by a coin deposited in said coin channel, an extension coin channel leading into a coin-return cup, and means whereby the downward movement of the telephone switch hook will release the deposited coin into the extension coin channel and relock said call-sending means.

5. In a coin-prepayment substation telephone, selective call-sending means, a coin channel, locking means for said call-sending means, said locking means being actuated to unlock by a coin deposited in said coin channel, an extension coin channel leading into a coin box for the reception of earned coins, and manually operated means for releasing a deposited coin into said extension coin channel and for locking said call-sending means.

6. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a coin channel, call-sending means, speech-transmitting means, said speech-transmitting means being rendered inoperative by the operation of said call-sending means, locking means for said call-sending means, said locking means being normally in condition locking said call-sending means but being in condition when influenced by a coin deposited in said coin channel to permit said call-sending means to be operated, an extension coin channel leading into a coin box for the reception of earned coins, and means under control of the calling telephone patron for releasing a deposited coin into said extension coin channel, to restore said speech-transmitting means to operative condition and to relock said call-sending means.

7. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a coin channel, call-sending means, speech-transmitting means, said speech-transmitting means being rendered inoperative by the operation of said call-sending means, locking means for said call-sending means, said locking means being normally in condition locking said call-sending means but being in condition when influenced by a coin deposited in said coin channel to permit said call-sending means to be operated, an extension coin channel leading into a coin box for the reception of earned coins, means operable by the calling telephone patron to release a deposited coin into said extension coin channel, to restore said speech-transmitting means to operative condition, and to relock said call-sending means, and locking means coöperating with said restoring means whereby said speech-transmitting means is held in operative condition until the downward movement of the switchhook of the telephone substation.

8. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a call-sending mechanism, a movable coin channel, a locking latch for said call-sending mechanism projecting into said coin channel whereby a deposited coin may operate said latch to unlock said call-sending mechanism, and mutually engaging projections on said movable coin channel and on the switchhook whereby the downward movement of the switchhook moves said coin channel to release said coin from said channel.

9. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a movable coin channel, a call-sending mechanism, a speech transmitter, said transmitter being rendered inoperative by the operation of said call-sending mechanism, a locking latch for said call-sending mechanism, said locking latch being normally in position locking said call-sending means but being in unlocking position when influenced by a deposited coin, and an operative connection between the movable coin channel and the switchhook whereby the downward movement of the switchhook of the telephone substation will move said coin channel to release a deposited coin and thereby relock said call-sending mechanism.

10. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a selective call-sending mechanism, a movable coin channel, a locking latch for said call-sending mechanism, said locking latch being actuated to unlock by a coin deposited in said channel, an extension coin channel leading into a return cup, mutually engaging projections on said movable coin channel and on the switchhook of the telephone substation whereby the downward movement of the telephone switchhook moves said coin channel to release the deposited coin into said extension coin channel allowing said latch to lock said call-sending mechanism.

11. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a call-sending mechanism, a coin channel, a locking latch for said call-sending mechanism adapted to arrest a coin in its downward movement in said channel and to unlock said call-sending mechanism when a coin is thus arrested, an extension coin channel leading into a coin box for the reception of earned coins, an obstruction guarding the entrance to said extension channel, and a push button coöperating with said obstruction to release a deposited coin into said extension coin channel allowing said latch to relock said call-sending mechanism.

12. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a call-sending mechanism, a speech transmitter, said transmitter being rendered inoperative by the operation of said call-sending mechanism, a coin channel, a locking latch for said call-sending mechanism extending into said channel to arrest a coin therein, said locking latch being normally in locking position but being in unlocking position when influenced by a deposited coin in its arrested position, a sliding rod adapted to retain a coin in its arrested position, and a press-button operable after a call has been sent and coöperating with said sliding rod to release a deposited coin allowing said latch to relock said call-sending mechanism.

13. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a coin chute; a call-sending device; a speech transmitter; a shunt for said speech transmitter; a lock for said call-sending device adapted to arrest and operable by a coin in said chute to unlock said call-sending device; and means under the control of the telephone user after a call has been sent whereby said shunt is removed from said transmitter, the coin is distributed into the till and said call-sending device is relocked.

14. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a coin chute, a call-sending device; a speech transmitter; a shunt for said speech transmitter; a lock for said call-sending device controlled by a coin in said chute and adapted to unlock said call-sending device when a deposited coin is in said chute; means

under the control of the telephone user after a call has been sent whereby said shunt is removed from said transmitter, the coin is distributed into the till and said call-sending device is relocked; and a locking latch for said means in operative relation with said call-sending device whereby said latch is controlled by said call-sending device to unlock said means upon the sending of a call.

15. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a coin chute; a call-sending device; a speech transmitter; a shunt for said speech transmitter; a lock for said call-sending device operable by a coin in said chute to unlock said call-sending device; means under the control of the telephone user after a call has been sent whereby said shunt is removed from said transmitter, the coin is distributed into the till and said call-sending device is relocked; a locking latch for said means, an operative connection between said latch and said call-sending device whereby said latch is controlled by said call-sending device to unlock said means upon the sending of a call and during the existence of a coin in the chute; and further means whereby said first means is locked in its operated condition upon its operation to distribute a coin into the till.

16. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a coin chute, a call-sending device; a speech transmitter; a shunt for said speech transmitter; a lock for said call-sending device operable by a coin in said chute to unlock said call-sending device; means under the control of the telephone user after a call has been sent whereby said shunt is removed from said transmitter, the coin is distributed into the till and said call-sending device is relocked; a locking latch for said means, an operative connection between said latch and call-sending device whereby said latch is controlled by said call-sending device to unlock said means upon the sending of a call and during the existence of a coin in the chute; further means coöperating with said first-mentioned means whereby said first means is locked in its operated condition upon its actuation to distribute a coin into the till; and further means coöperating with said first-mentioned means and the telephone switchhook whereby said first means is restored by the downward motion of the switchhook.

17. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a call-sending device; a speech transmitter; a shunt for said speech transmitter; a lock for said call-sending device operable by a deposited coin to unlock said call-sending device; a press button under the control of the telephone user after a call has been sent; and means controlled by said press button whereby said shunt is removed from said transmitter, the coin is distributed into the till and said call-sending device is relocked.

18. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a coin chute, a call-sending device; a speech transmitter; a shunt for said speech transmitter; a lock for said call-sending device operable by a coin to unlock said call-sending device; an obstruction coöperating with said lock to arrest a coin in said chute and controlling said shunt; a press-button under the control of the telephone user after a call has been sent; an operative connection between said button and said obstruction whereby said shunt is removed from said transmitter, the coin is distributed into the till and said call-sending device is relocked; and a locking latch for said press-button, said latch being controlled by said call-sending device to unlock said press-button upon the sending of a call.

19. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a coin chute; a call-sending device; a speech transmitter; a shunt for said speech transmitter; a lock for said call-sending device operable by a coin in said chute to unlock said call-sending device; an obstruction cooperating with said lock to arrest a coin in said chute and controlling said shunt; a press-button under the control of the telephone user after a call has been sent; an operative connection between said button and said obstruction whereby said shunt is removed from said transmitter, the coin is distributed into the till and said call-sending device is relocked; a locking latch for said press-button, said latch being controlled by said call-sending device to unlock said press-button upon the sending of a call; and a second latch for said press-button in operative relation to the telephone switchhook whereby said press-button is locked in its operated condition upon its actuation to release a coin until the switchhook is restored to its normal position.

20. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a coin chute; a call-sending device; a speech transmitter; a shunt for said speech transmitter; a lock for said call-sending device operable by a coin in said chute to unlock said call-sending device; a branch coin channel; an obstruction guarding said branch channel and controlling said shunt; a press-button under the control of the telephone user after a call has been sent; an operative connection between said button and said obstruction whereby said shunt is removed from said transmitter, the coin is distributed into said branch channel allowing said call-sending device to be relocked; a locking latch for said press-button, said latch being controlled by said call-sending device to unlock said press-button upon the sending of a call; a second latch whereby said press-button is locked in its operated position upon its actuation to release a coin into said branch channel; and means in operative connection with said second latch and the telephone

switchhook whereby said press-button is restored by the downward motion of the switchhook.

21. In a coin-prepayment telephone, call-sending means; a lock for said call-sending means; a speech transmitter; disabling means for said speech transmitter; a coin chute; a return coin channel; distributing means for a coin in said chute whereby a coin may be distributed into said return channel; and means whereby, by the downward movement of the telephone hook, a coin is distributed from its position of suspense into said return channel, said lock is operated to relock said call-sending means, and said disabling means is operated to restore the operative condition of said transmitter.

22. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a call-sending device; a lock for said call-sending device; a speech transmitter; a shunt for said speech transmitter; a coin chute; a return coin channel leading to a coin pocket where a coin will be accessible by a telephone user; distributing means for a coin in said chute whereby a coin may be distributed into said return channel; and means whereby, by the downward movement of the telephone hook, a coin is distributed from its position of suspense into said return coin channel, said lock is operated to relock said call-sending device and said shunt is removed from said transmitter.

23. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a call-sending device; a lock for said call-sending device; a speech transmitter; a shunt for said speech transmitter; a movable coin chute; a return coin channel leading to a return pocket where a coin will be accessible by a telephone user; and means whereby, by the downward movement of the telephone hook, said movable coin chute is moved into registry with said return coin channel, a coin is distributed from its position of suspense into said return coin channel, said lock is operated to relock said call-sending device and said shunt is removed from said transmitter.

24. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a speech transmitter; disabling means for said speech transmitter; call-sending means; means normally locking said call-sending means but operable by a coin for unlocking the same; a coin chute; distributing means for releasing a coin from said chute; a press-button operative to release a coin from said chute allowing said call-sending means to be relocked and coöperating with said disabling means to hold said speech-transmitter operative, and locking means for said press-button.

25. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a speech transmitter; a shunt for said speech transmitter; a call-sending device; a normally locking coin-released lock therefor; a coin chute; an obstruction holding a coin therein; a press-button operating to withdraw said obstruction allowing said lock to relock said call-sending device; means controlled by said press-button to remove said shunt from the transmitter; and a locking latch for said press-button.

26. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a coin chute; a deposit channel; an obstruction for said channel; controlling means under control of the telephone user for removing said obstruction; call-sending means; a lock for said call-sending means and operated to unlock said call-sending means when a coin is deposited in said coin chute; and locking means for said controlling means operatively connected to and actuated by said call-sending means to unlock said controlling means at the completion of the sending of a call.

27. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a coin chute; a deposit channel; a press-button under control of the telephone user for releasing a coin into said channel; a call-sending device; a lock for said call-sending device operative to unlock said call-sending device when a coin is deposited in said coin channel; a locking latch for said press-button controlled by said call-sending device to unlock said press-button.

28. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a coin chute; a deposit channel; means for distributing a coin into said channel, said coin-distributing means being operated by control means accessible by the telephone user; locking means for said control means whereby said control means is locked in its operated position; and means for operating said locking means to unlock said control means upon the downward movement of the telephone switchhook.

29. In a coin-prepayment telephone, a call-sending device; a coin chute; a lock for said call-sending device normally holding said device locked and operating to unlock said device when actuated by a coin in said chute; a return channel for said coin whereby the coin may be conducted from said coin channel to a position where it will be accessible by the telephone user; and means operated by a downward movement of the telephone hook and operating to distribute the coin into said return channel and to relock said call-sending device.

Signed by me at Piqua, county of Miami, State of Ohio, in the presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE W. LORIMER.

Witnesses:

GEORGE A. VANGIER,

JUDD L. PALMER.