

(No Model.)

C. N. TALBOT.

TELEGRAPH AND MESSENGER SERVICE BOX.

No. 258,152.

Patented May 16, 1882.

Fig. 2.

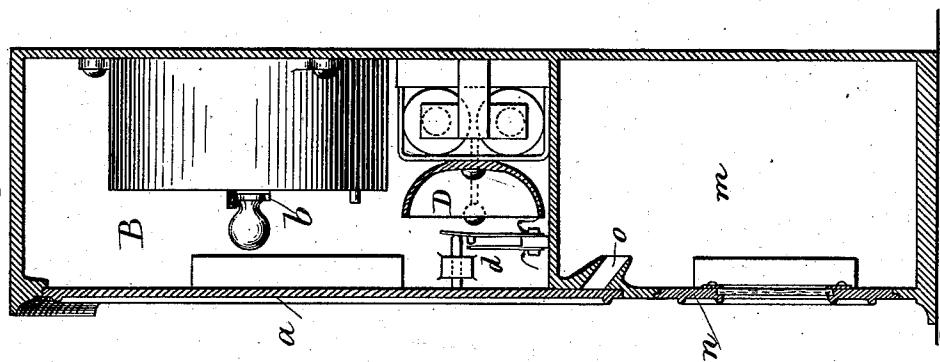
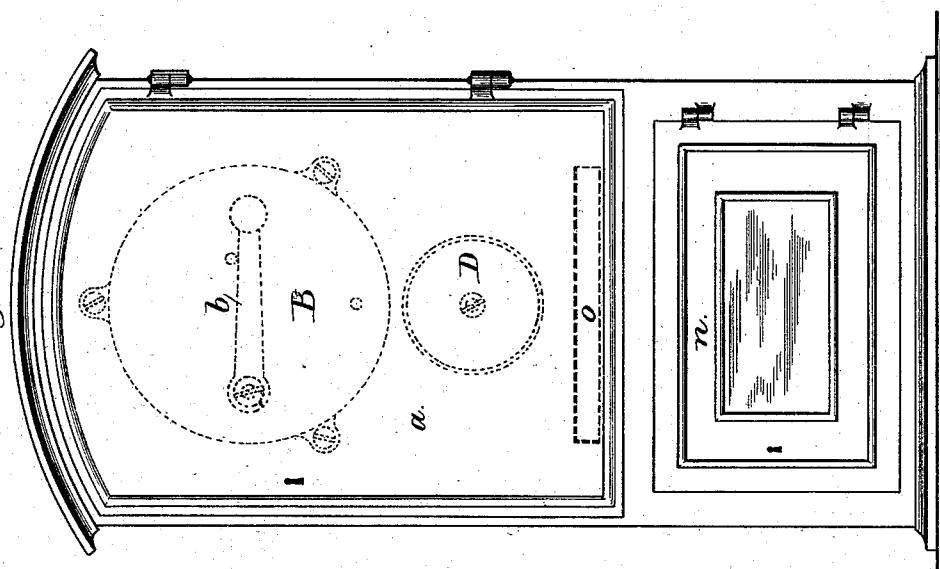


Fig. 1.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TELEGRAPH AND MESSENGER SERVICE BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 258,152, dated May 16, 1882.

Application filed November 25, 1881. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES N. TALBOT, of the city and State of New York, have invented an Improvement in Telegraph and Messenger Service Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

In many towns and cities, especially in the suburbs, there are dwellings and small manufactures that do not require messenger or telegraph facilities sufficiently often to make it worth while for each person to have a call-box. The same is true in buildings containing offices, and under all such circumstances telegraph and messenger service would be a great convenience. I provide one signal-box for the use of several persons, families, or business-men, the same being located at a convenient place for the use of such parties, and I provide a system by which the person requiring the service will be indicated at the signal-box, so that on the arrival of the messenger at the signal-box he will be enabled to know who wants him or what is wanted.

In carrying out my invention I find it advantageous to employ a signal-box having the capacities hereinafter set forth.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation of a signal-box adapted to my system, and Fig. 2 is a vertical section of said box.

The various signal-boxes in a city or given district are all numbered or designated in such a manner that when the door *a* of the box *B* is opened and the crank or handle *b* pulled down a set of electric pulsations will be sent to the main or central office, indicating that particular box, so that a messenger can be sent off to such box. The means for giving these electric calls usually consist of a circuit make-and-break wheel or slide that is operated by moving the handle.

It is also customary to provide a bell, *D*, and electro-magnet, and to use a circuit-breaking device, *d*, operated by the door *a*, so that when the door is opened the circuit is closed to the bell-magnet, and the distant operator can telegraph back, so that the person operating the call-box can wait a moment and see whether his call has been understood and a messenger sent. I do not limit myself to any particular kind of electric call or answering signal as employed in my system.

The peculiar feature of the call-box is a provision by which the person sending the call

can leave in the box a device by which the messenger, on coming to the box, can tell what is wanted. This might be accomplished by each person in the particular district having a numbered key or check-card or similar device, and placing the same in the call-box, so that the messenger, on arriving at the box and opening the same, would know where to go to obtain his instructions. This, however, might be tampered with or removed by a second person coming to the same signal-box. I avoid this by making a receptacle, *m*, below the instrument in the call-box and providing a slit at *o*, which is covered by the door *a* when said door is shut, and through which the card, message, numbered check, telegram, or other thing intended for the messenger can be inserted into the box and will fall to the bottom. The messenger has a key by which to open the door *n* of this receptacle, so as to ascertain what is wanted, and either go to the place designated for instructions or take the telegram to the general office to be sent, or deliver the note or message to the place designated. It is preferable to introduce a glass into this door *n*, or sides of the box, so that the messenger or sender can see whether there is anything remaining in the box.

If the signaling-box is provided with numbers or multiple calls operated by push-buttons or other devices, the person sending in the call may indicate at the signal-box the thing wanted by a prearranged code, and the messenger or express-man would have to go to the signal-box to find out where the call came from.

I claim as my invention—

The combination, in a box for telegraphic messenger service, of an electric calling device, *b*, within the box, a receptacle, *m*, for a message, a separate door, *n*, for said receptacle *m*, an opening, *o*, in the case, through which the message or card is passed into the receptacle *m*, and a door, *a*, that gives access to the electric calling device, and also covers the opening *o* when shut, substantially as set forth.

Signed by me this 22d day of November, A. 100
D. 1881.

CHARLES N. TALBOT.

Witnesses:

GEO. T. PINCKNEY,
HAROLD SERRELL.