This invention relates to improvements in instruments for receiving printing telegraph messages and more particularly it has to do with an attachment for a tape printing telegraph machine whereby the printed tape can be wound up in a secretive manner and then back-wound into a container for delivery to the addresser.

In certain classes of communication business it is essential that secrecy be maintained in the handling of the messages received. It is the object of this invention to provide a simple means for delivering the message in tape form from the printer in such a manner that it will, at all times, be concealed from the view of the receiving operator.

A further object of the invention is to provide a tell-tale device whereby, in case it is necessary for the receiving operator to uncover the message, a distinguishing mark may be automatically impressed upon the tape extending over such portions thereof as may have been exposed to view. In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a plan view of the invention: Fig. 2 shows an elevation view of the same; Fig. 3 shows a detail of the message box within which a message bearing tape may be wound and delivered to the addressee.

The present device may be described as follows:

The housing 1 contains a winding drum 2 and a cylindrical message box 3. The housing is provided with a cover 4 hinged as at 5. The paper tape is delivered from the printer by means of the rolls 6 and 7 which are a part of the printer. It is then fed through the slots 8 and the spindle 38 in the message container 3, the latter being held from turning while the printer is in operation. Next the tape is fed between the guide rolls 9 to the core 10 of the winding drum. Extending over a small portion of the periphery of this core is a series of notches 11 which are engaged by a dog 12 on the end of an indicating lever 13. This lever is provided with a target 14, one portion or another of which appears through a window 15 as the drum revolves. This indicator arm 13 is held against the core 11 or against the paper which is wound thereon by a coiled spring 16 which surrounds the supporting shaft 17. The winding drum is rotated by a friction roller 18 which engages with a wheel 19, the motion of which is provided by the printer itself. The friction roller 18 is mounted on a member 20 whose axis of rotation is the stud 21. The winding drum 10 is also mounted upon this member 20. A spring 22 held at one end by the adjusting screw 23 provides the proper pressure between the friction rollers 18 and 19. The gear between the printer roller 6 and the roller 19 is such that tension is always provided on the paper tape. This is arranged by making roller 19 a little larger in diameter than roller 6 and driving them at the same rotational speed. When the tension becomes too great it pulls against the spring 22 releasing the pressure between the rollers 18 and 19 and allowing a certain amount of slippage. A cutter 24 is adapted to separate the tape between messages. It preferably consists, as shown, of a knife mounted on a plunger 25 at the end of which is a button 26 for manual depression.

The tell-tale device consists of a suitable stylus or other marking medium 27 which is held away from the paper at all times except when the cover 4 is lifted. This tell-tale device swings on the pivot 28 and is provided with a lever 29 to be engaged with the cover 4 so that the marking impression will be absent while the cover is down. Associated with the plunger 25 is a wedge 30 which rests against one end of a slide rod 31, the other end of which is adapted to engage with a projection 32 on the swinging member 20. This mechanism provides a means for releasing the clutch between the rollers 18 and 19 during the operations of cutting and back-winding the tape.

The re-winding mechanism consists of a crank handle 33 which rotates in the bearings 34. On its shaft 35 is also mounted a bevelled gear 36 engaging with another bevelled gear 37 which rotates the spindle 38 of the message container 3.

Fig. 3 shows a view of the message container and one of the slots 8 through which the paper tape is fed.
The operation of the device may be described as follows:

The receiving operator first threads an unprinted portion of the tape through the mechanism as is clearly shown in Fig. 1. The end of the tape is secured in the slot 39 of the winding drum 10. Any slack in the tape may be taken up by turning the winding drum 10 clockwise by hand. The operator then puts down the cover and as the message is printed the rollers 18 and 19 coast to wind the tape on the drum 10. During part of the first revolution of this drum, the indicator will move up and down as its dog 12 engages with the notches 11. No useful purpose is served by this movement at this time but after the paper is wound over these notches the indicator lever merely acts as a tape tension and the target 14 shows through the window 15 the approximate amount of tape on the drum. After the cover 4 has been let down over the mechanism, it engages with the projection 29 on the tell-tale device, the stylus 27 of which is thus removed from contact with the paper. This stylus makes a spot on the paper, however, when the cover is lifted. The spot becomes a streak if the cover is left open while the printer is running.

When a message has been completed and the printer is stopped, the operator depresses the button 26 thereby shearing the tape at the point 40. It will be understood that in order to ensure that the complete message has passed beyond this point that the sending operator will operate the space key on his sending instrument so as to feed several inches of tape beyond the end of the message.

After shearing the tape, the receiving operator then operates the crank 33 to re-wind the message on the spindle 38 in the delivery box 3. As he nears the beginning of the message which was first wound on the drum 10, the indication lever 12 will move up and slide on the drum, and the target 14 will slide back. The operator then prepares to wind the message on the drum 10. The cover may then be lifted and the delivery container removed. Any projecting tape will be blank, and can be pulled out until the name and address appears outside the slot 8 or through the container if this be made of transparent celluloid or similar material. The end of the tape may now be pasted to the outside of the container, and the container itself may be transmitted to the addressee either by messenger or by mail.

What is claimed is:

1. Means to ensure privacy of reception of telegraph messages comprising a housed winding drum, a back-winding spindle, a cylindrical delivery container having peripherally slotted openings for the passage there-through of a message tape, a winding transmission operable from the telegraph receiving instrument, a back-winding gear for said delivery container, a knife to cut the tape between separate messages, and means operable upon operation of the knife to cut the tape to free the winding drum from its winding transmission.

2. The invention set forth in claim 1 comprising a lid for said housing and a tell-tale device operable when the lid is lifted to graphically indicate portions of the message tape that were exposed to view.

3. A privacy ensuring message tape container having peripheral tape slots, and means to coil a message-bearing tape therein beginning at the latter end of the message and leaving the initial portion thereof projecting through one of said slots.

4. An attachment for a printing telegraph receiver comprising a tape winding drum driven from said printing telegraph receiver, a tape channel a portion of which comprises a slotted cylindrical container for message delivery purposes and means to back-wind a message-bearing tape therein.

5. In a device of the class described, a peripherally notched winding drum and an indicating member adapted to engage in the notches thereof when exposed and to indicate approximately the amount of tape wound thereon.

6. In a device of the class described, a printed tape winding and delivery container housing provided with a lid and a tell-tale device adapted to graphically indicate on said printed tape the portions thereof that may have been exposed to view.

7. In a device of the class described, a manually operated knife to separate individual tape printed messages, a back-winding mechanism with interchangeable containers for secretly enclosing said individual tape printed messages, and means rendered effective by actuation of the knife to cut the tape for placing the tape with its printed message therein under control of the back winding mechanism.

8. A device for ensuring the privacy of tape recorded telegraph messages comprising, a housing, means within said housing for winding said tape upon its reception, and means inside of which said tape is re-wound, said latter means being removable from the housing and constituting a closed receptacle within which the message is delivered to the addressee.

9. A device for ensuring the privacy of tape recorded telegraph messages comprising, a housing, means within said housing upon which a message can be wound as it is received, a removable container also disposed within said housing, and means for re-winding the message inside of said container after its reception, said container constituting the
receptacle within which the message is delivered to the addressee.

10. Means to ensure the privacy of tape recorded telegraph messages comprising, a housing, a winding drum within said housing, a back-winding spindle, and a removable delivery container carried by said spindle through which said tape is adapted to pass on its reception and within which it is adapted to be subsequently re-wound.

11. Means to ensure the privacy of tape recorded telegraph messages comprising, a housing, a winding drum within said housing, a tape feed mechanism, a back-winding spindle, a removable delivery container carried by said spindle through which said tape is adapted to pass on its reception and within which it is adapted to be subsequently re-wound, and means for rotating said drum from the tape feed mechanism.

In witness whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name this 14th day of June, 1930.

PARKER HITT