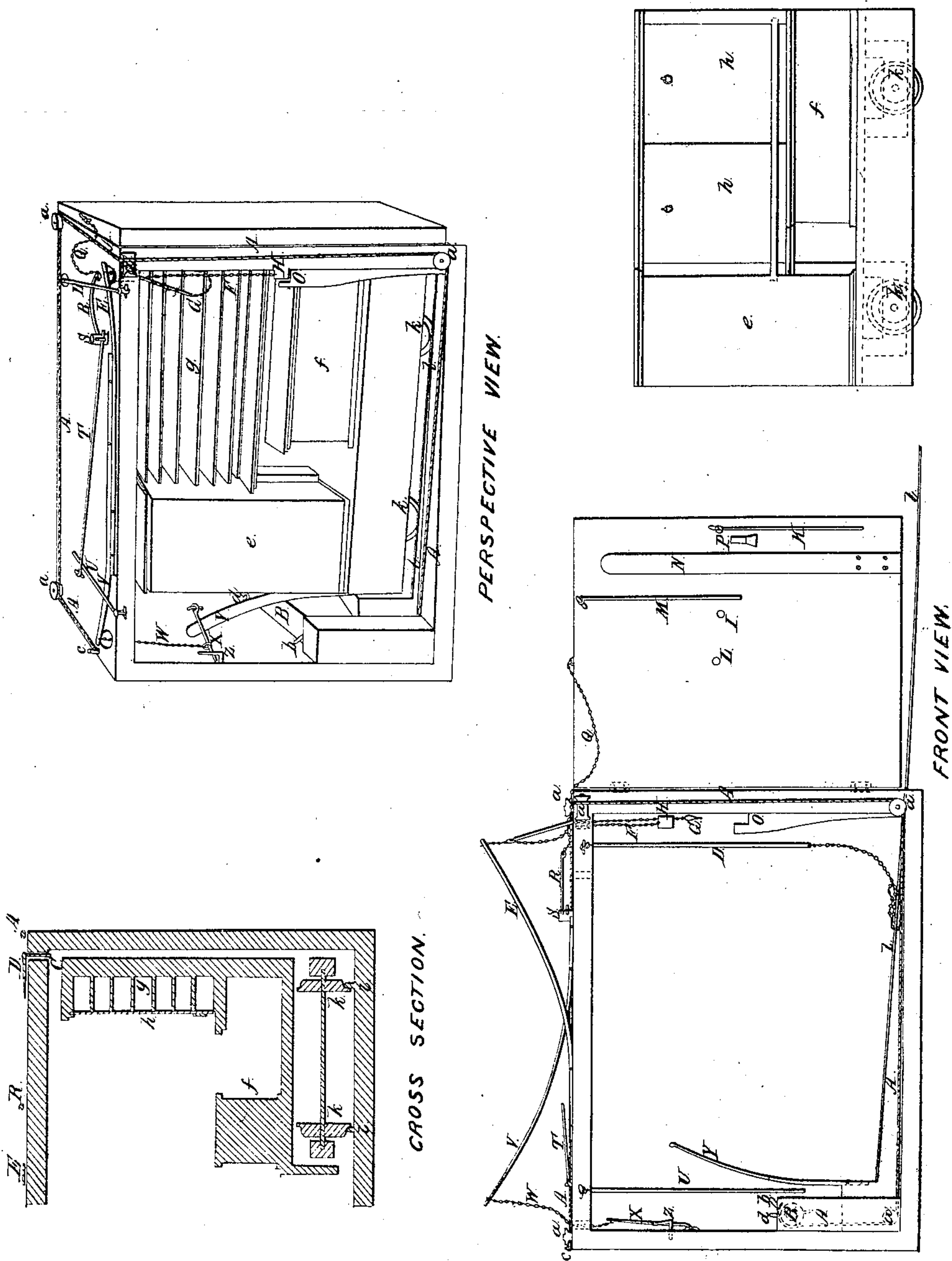


*Portable House.*

## Portable House.

N<sup>o</sup> 5,445.

*Patented Feb. 15, 1848.*



FRONT VIEW.

**CROSS SECTION:**

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RALPH D. CURTIS, OF ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA.

STORE, COUNTING-ROOM, &c., FOR PRESERVING PROPERTY IN CASE OF FIRE.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 5,445, dated February 15, 1848.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, RALPH D. CURTIS, of Erie, county of Erie, State of Pennsylvania, formerly of Flint, Genesee county, State of Michigan have invented a new and Improved Mode of Saving Goods, Records, Money, &c., in Case of Fire; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description.

10 My invention consists in providing offices, stores, storehouses, &c., with door and railway with the counting room shelves, counter, &c., and the springs, levers, bars, catches, pulleys, cylinders, chains, cords, &c., by which the whole is rendered in case of fire self-acting for the purpose of removing goods, records, money, &c., out of the building.

20 To enable others to use my invention I will describe its construction and operation.

I construct my store with doors large enough for counting room counter and shelves to pass out which are built firm on wheels and on a railway which extends out of the building front or rear railway inclines 2 inches to 50 feet wheels 10 inches in diameter. I place a cylinder B at the rear end of the store (if I wish to have the goods come out at the front). I attach to this cylinder a cord A A A A to pin *b*. I extend this cord over pulleys *a a a a* to different parts of the building and fasten it at its termination to pin *c*. I have 4 curved springs, one on the door, one near the cylinder and two on the second floor, one at the front, the other at the rear end of the store. I place bar D over the end of spring E on the second floor in front and bring the spring on the floor. I have chain C at the end of bar D. I bring this chain down through the floor and back of the counting room and shelves and make it fast on pin *d* on cylinder B. At the end of spring E I have 2 chains. Attached at

the end of these chains are block H and pin G. When the door is closed notch P shuts close to notch O. Block H fits both which bars the door. I bring bar M lengthwise of spring N and bar K across the end of bar M. I rest bar K against point L and make it fast by placing pin G in hole I. I place bar U across the end of spring V and bar T across the end of bar U, placing the end of bar T under pin S. I have a lever R attached to pin S and connected with the top of the door by chain Q. I place bar X across the end of spring Y and place the end of the bar in catch Z. Spring V and bar X are connected by chain W.

In case of fire cord A A A A burns off and releases cylinder B which turns and lets off chain C attached to bar D which releases spring E which draws up chains F and G and block H which bars the door and pin G which fastens bars K and M and spring N. This spring throws the door open. As the door opens it draws in chain and lever R which draws pin S off from the end of bar T which holds bar U and spring V. This spring draws up bar X (being connected to it by chain W) which releases spring Y which springs against a part of the counting room and sets the whole in motion.

What I claim as my invention and wish to secure by Letters Patent is—

The combination of the door and railway with the counting room counter, shelves, &c., and the springs, levers, bars, cylinder, catches, chains, pulleys, cords, &c., (as above mentioned) by which the whole is rendered in case of fire self-acting for the purpose of removing counting room counter shelves &c., out of the building.

Erie, Erie county, State of Pennsylvania.  
RALPH D. CURTIS.

Witnesses:

T. D. INGERSOLL,  
R. W. AYRES.