(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

# B. A. STEVENS.

## TELEPHONE BOX OR CABINET.

No. 445,721. Patented Feb. 3, 1891.

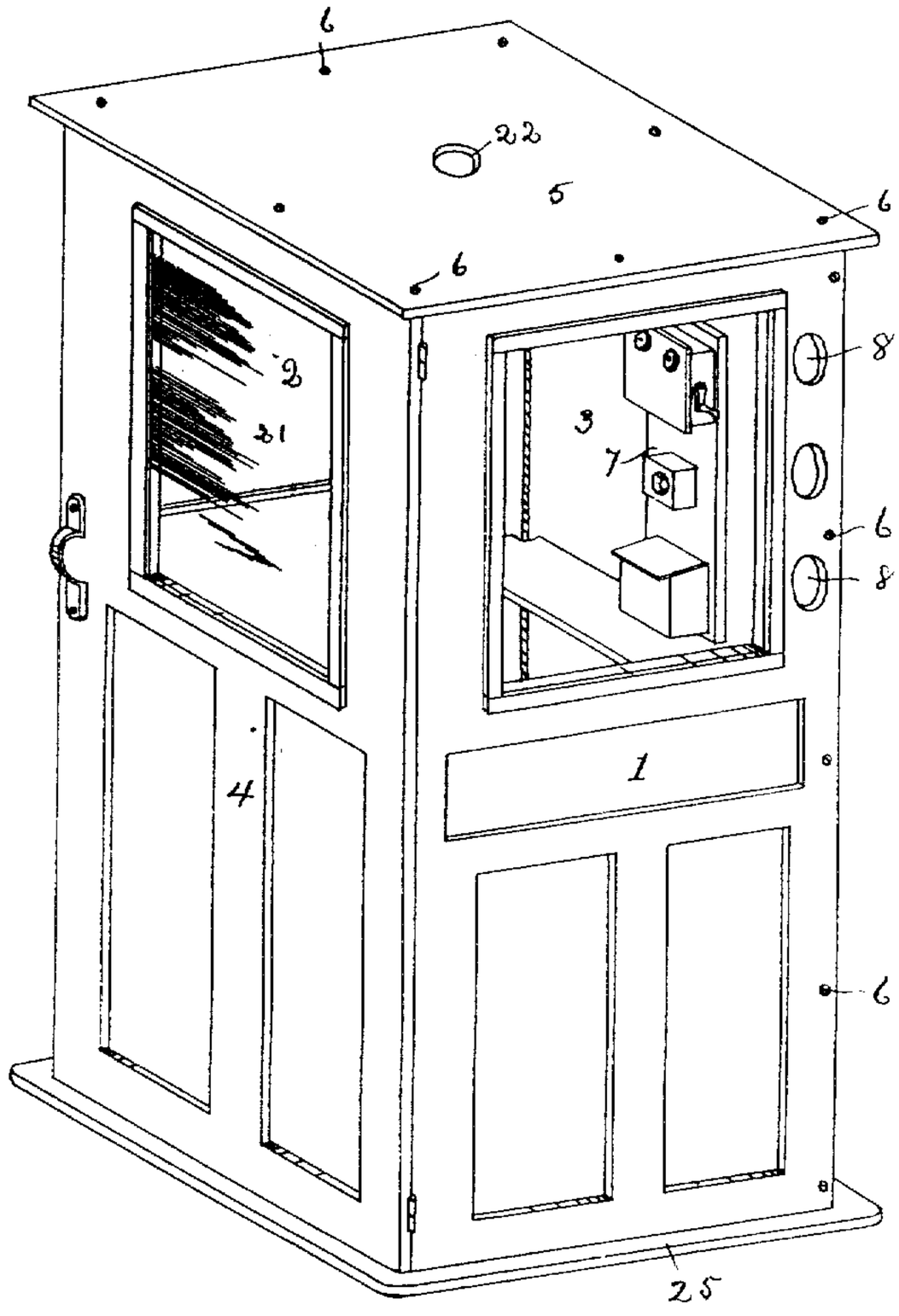


Fig 1.

WITNESSES

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P. W. Ellis

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Attys.

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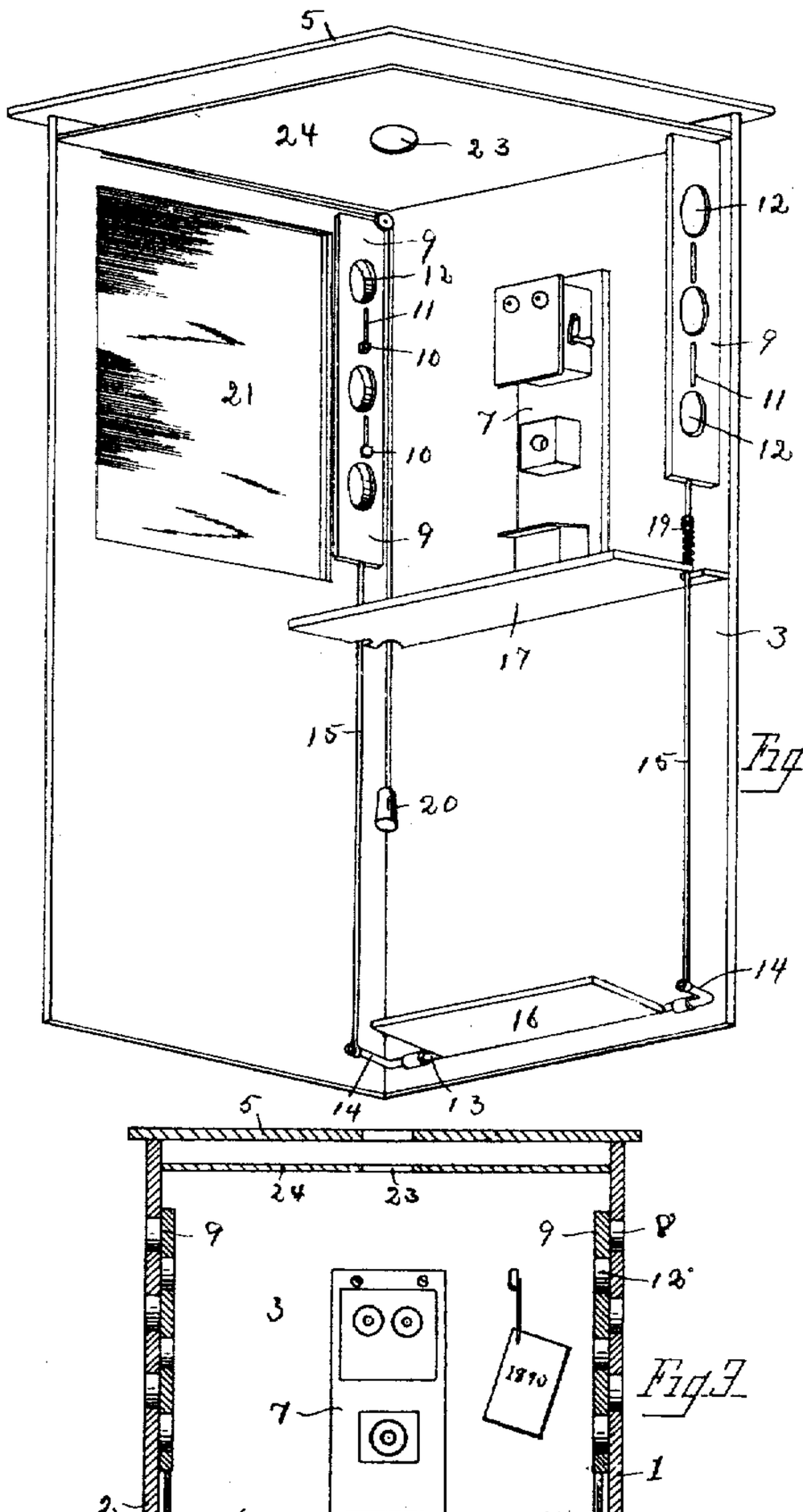


Fig 2

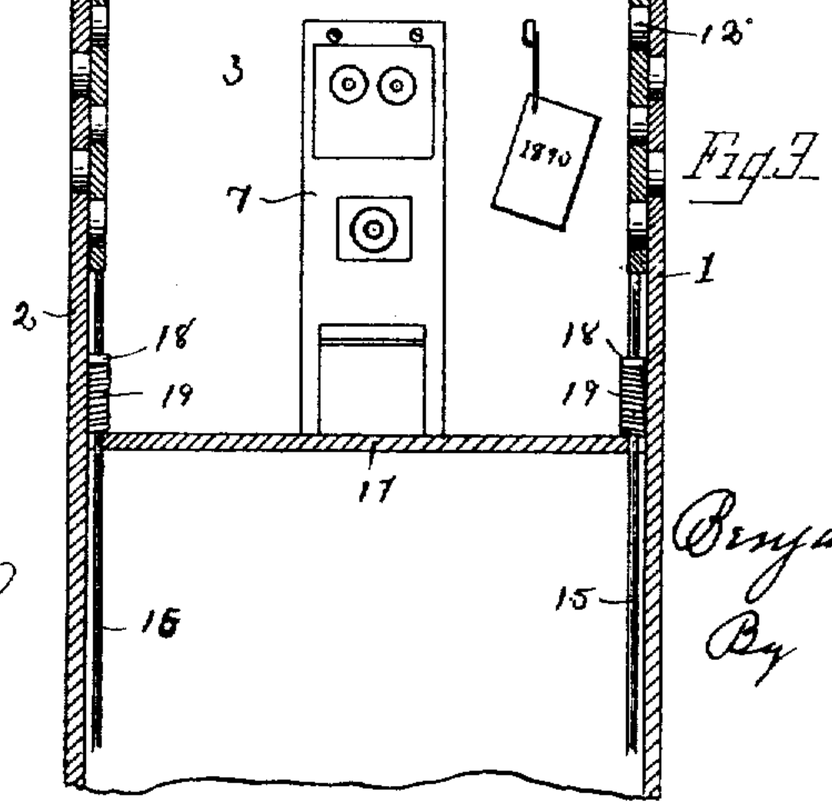


Fig 3

WITNESSES

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN A. STEVENS, OF TOLEDO, OHIO.

## TELEPHONE BOX OR CABINET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 445,721, dated February 3, 1891.

Application filed May 26, 1890. Serial No. 353,206. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN A. STEVENS, of Toledo, in the county of Lucas and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in a Telephone Box or Cabinet; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form part of this specification.

This invention relates to a telephone box or cabinet.

Heretofore it has been customary in business establishments to have the telephone located either in the private office or in an outer room where ready access can be had to it by any of the employés. It has been found in practice that the former arrangement is objectionable, for the reason that its use would disturb those occupying that room, and the latter for the reason that messages of a private character cannot be sent without making the same known to all present in the room in which the instrument was located.

It is the object of this invention to overcome these obstacles by producing a telephone box or cabinet which shall be of such construction that while the alarm will be plainly audible, the message sent will be inaudible to those in the room in which the cabinet is located.

A further object is to produce a "knock-down" telephone-cabinet, whereby it may be shipped from the factory to the purchaser and set up without the necessity of employing skilled labor for that purpose.

A further object is to produce a telephone box or cabinet which shall be simple of construction, efficient and durable in use, and comparatively inexpensive of production.

With these objects in view the invention consists in providing a suitable casing containing a telephone with a series of normally-open sound-vents and means whereby the said vents are closed when the telephone is in use.

The invention further consists in providing a casing containing a telephone with a series of normally-open sound-vents, slides having openings adapted normally to register with the sound-vents in the casing, and mechanism connecting with the slides to cause them to close the said vents, and thus prevent the sound from leaving the cabinet when the instrument is used.

The invention still further consists in providing a casing with a series of sound-vents and mechanism for opening and closing the same, and also with a non-resonant ceiling or partition having an air-vent, whereby the occupant of the cabinet will be supplied with air without leaving the door of the casing ajar for that purpose.

The invention still further consists in providing means for insulating the cabinet from the floor.

The invention finally consists in the various novel details of construction of a telephone box or cabinet, as will be hereinafter fully described in the specification, illustrated in the drawings, and more particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, and in which like numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts, I have illustrated one form of cabinet embodying the essential features of my invention, although the same may be carried into effect in other ways without in the least departing from the spirit thereof, and in these drawings—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the complete cabinet, showing it as it appears when ready for use. Fig. 2 is a similar view with the door and one side removed, showing the internal construction of the device; and Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view showing more particularly the arrangement of the slides for covering the sound-vents.

Referring to the drawings, 1 and 2 designate the sides of the cabinet; 3, the back; 4, the front, which in this instance forms the door, and 5 the top. The sides, back, and top are secured together by screws 6 or other equivalent form of fastening device which will admit of being removed for the purpose of taking the cabinet to pieces when desired.

Within the cabinet, and preferably to the back thereof, is secured the telephone 7, and at a point adjacent thereto, and preferably in the sides 1 and 2, are formed a series of sound-vents 8, through which the alarm from the telephone may be heard. The sound-vents

are closed and opened by means of two apertured slides 9, which are held in place upon the sides of the cabinet by pins or bolts 10, which engage slots 11, formed in the said slides. The apertures 12 in these slides normally register with the apertures 8 in the sides, as shown in Fig. 2, and in order to draw the slides over the apertures in the sides so as to close the same, a shaft 13 is provided, which is journaled near the bottom of the cabinet, and carries two cranks 14, to which are connected two rods 15, secured one to each of the slides, and a foot-piece 16 for partially rotating the said shaft.

At a point adjacent to the telephone is arranged a shelf 17, which serves as a desk upon which writing may be done or as a support for the elbow of the operator, and upon each of the rods 15 is rigidly secured a collar 18, between which and the said shelf are mounted springs 19, the normal tendency of which is to keep the apertures in the sides and slides in line.

Having thus fully described my device, I will explain the manner of its operation. When the alarm from the telephone sounds, the operator opens the door 4, which is kept normally closed by means of a weight 20 or its equivalent, and steps upon the foot-piece 16, thus partially rotating the shaft 13, and through the rods 15 drawing down the slides and closing the sound-vents, light being admitted to the interior of the cabinet by means of panes of glass 21, which are set in the sides and door of the same. While the operator is taking the message air is supplied to him through an opening 22 in the top 5, and through an opening 23 in a non-resonant partition 24, the function of which is to deaden the sound and prevent what is being spoken within the cabinet from being heard by those without. As soon as the operator has finished he steps off the foot-piece 16, when the slides, through the agency of the springs 19, will be caused to resume their normal position, and thus open the sound-vents. As there is always more or less danger attending the use of telephones during thunder-storms, an insulator 25 is employed, which will thus break communication between the operator and the floor of the building. The insulator may be of any suitable material and made in the form of a base, as shown; or, if desired, the casing may be elevated upon legs made of a like material.

I would have it distinctly understood that I do not limit myself to the exact construction claimed herein, but may vary therefrom in carrying my invention into effect.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a telephone box or cabinet having a series of sound-vents, devices for normally holding the vents open, and mechanism actuated in the use of the cabinet for closing the vents.

2. A telephone box or cabinet having a series of normally-open sound-vents, slides having openings adapted normally to register with the said sound-vents, and mechanism connecting with the said slides to cause them to open or close the said vents.

3. In a telephone box or cabinet having a series of sound-vents and a non-resonant ceiling provided with an air-vent, devices for normally holding the sound-vents open, and mechanism actuated in the use of the cabinet for closing said vents.

4. In a telephone box or cabinet having a series of sound-vents, a non-resonant ceiling or partition, and an insulated base or support, devices for normally holding the sound-vents open, and mechanism actuated in the use of the cabinet for closing said vents.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I hereby affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

BENJAMIN A. STEVENS.

Witnesses:
R. M. ELLIOTT,
C. A. KEEN.