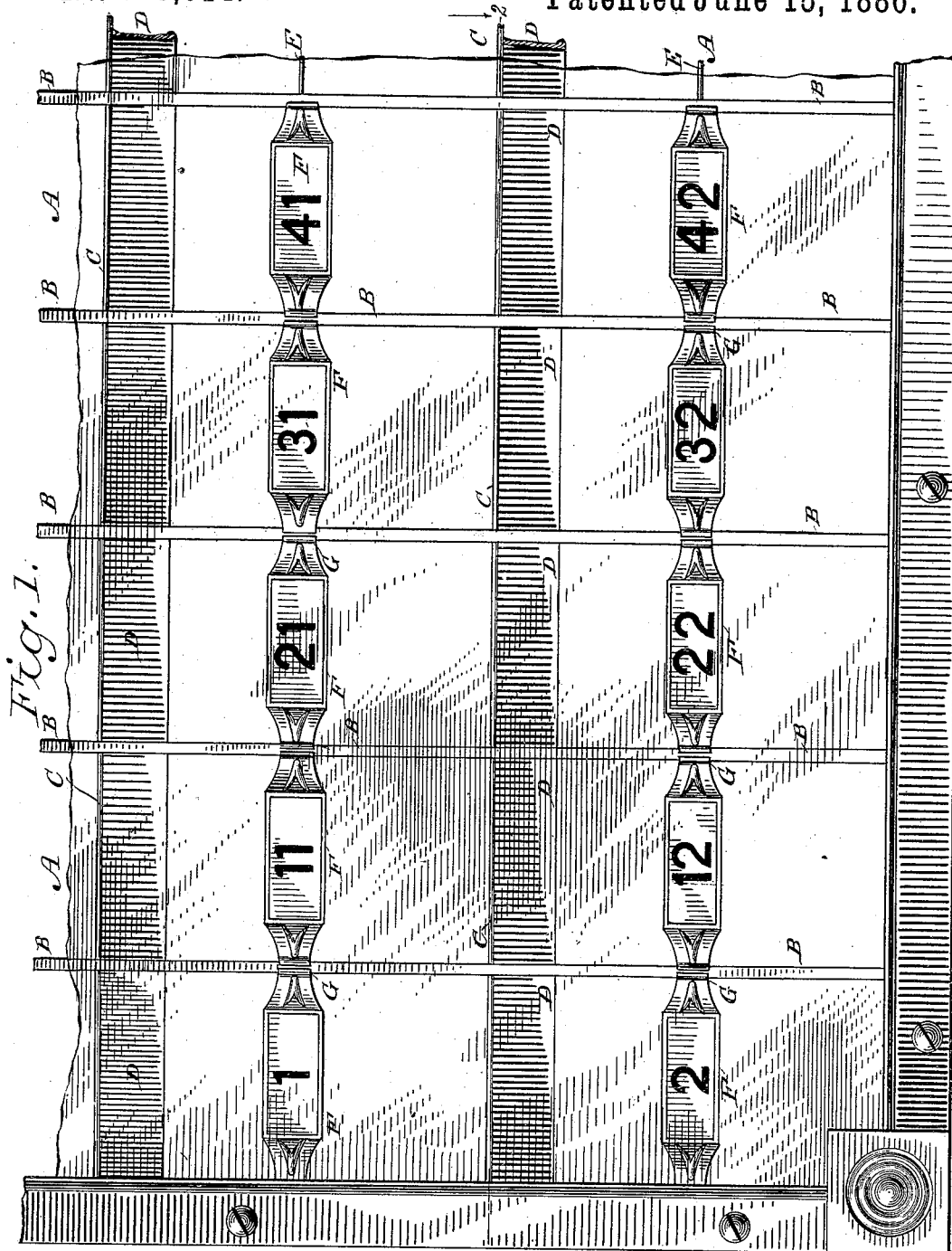


H. R. TOWNE.

PIGEON HOLE OR POST OFFICE CALL BOX.

No. 343,614.

Patented June 15, 1886.



WITNESSES

Ed. A. Newman.
Al. C. Newman.

INVENTOR

Henry R. Towne,
By his Attorneys
Baldwin, Hopkins, & Peyton.

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 3.

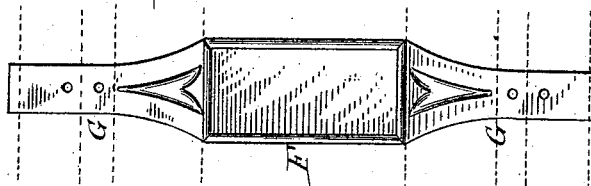


Fig. 4.

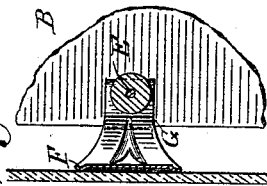
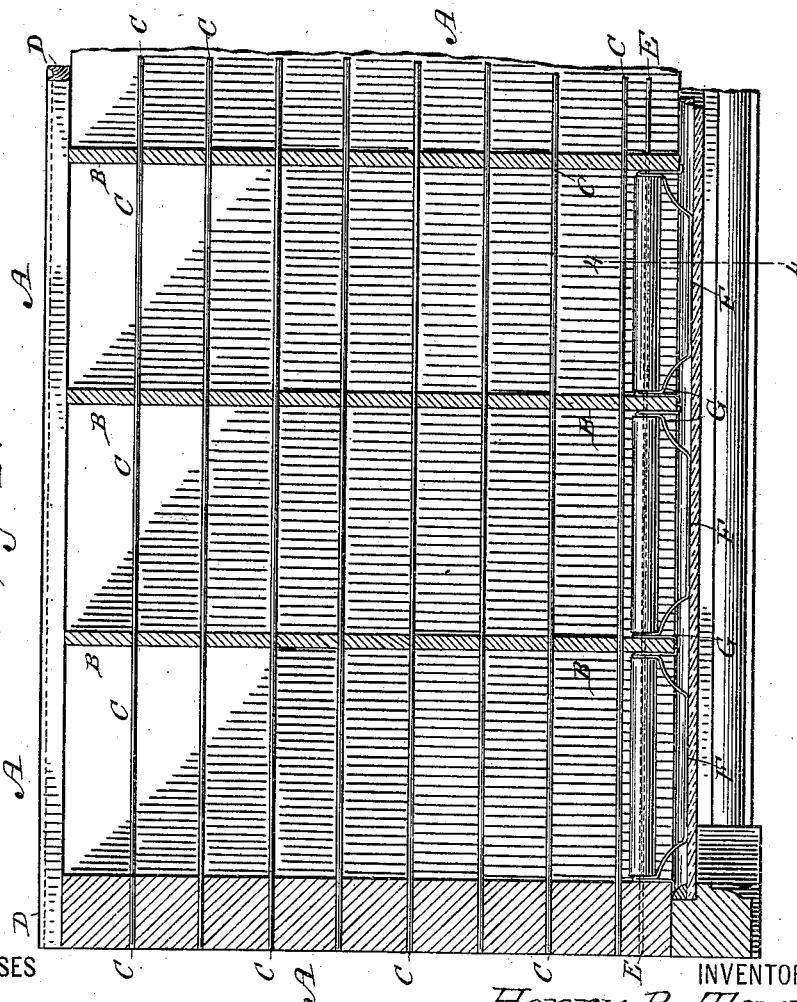


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY R. TOWNE, OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO THE YALE
& TOWNE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

PIGEON-HOLE OR POST-OFFICE CALL-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 343,614, dated June 15, 1836.

Application filed April 2, 1836. Serial No. 197,574. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY R. TOWNE, of Stamford, in the county of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Pigeon-Holes or Post-Office Call-Boxes, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

My improvements relate to that class of call-boxes known as "wire-bottomed call-boxes," in which vertical partitions are made of thin wood, while the horizontal partitions are made of wires, the wires passing through holes bored in the vertical partitions, and not serving to hold the partitions in place. Where nests of such call-boxes are of usual height—say eight or ten tiers high—the vertical partitions, if not held in some manner, will warp and twist out of place, or be displaced by pushing mail-matter into the boxes. It is therefore necessary that some means should be provided for holding the vertical partitions in place parallel to each other. This has heretofore been accomplished by fastening wooden strips to their edges; but this method is awkward and not ornamental.

By my invention I provide for the fronts of the call-boxes what I term "combined number plates and separators." These consist of metallic plates, preferably brass, of such form as to project over the ends of the vertical partition and extend back into the boxes, so that a wire may be passed through a hole in each plate, and through the vertical partitions, to secure the plates or stays in position. These plates may be made of very thin metal, if desired, and stiffeners of wood or other material may be placed upon the wires between the partitions, to act as stays or braces in conjunction with the thin metallic plates; but such wires and stiffeners may be dispensed with, and the metallic plates themselves may be made heavier and stronger, so as to be sufficient in themselves, when secured in place by any ordinary means, to properly brace and stay the vertical partitions.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating my improvements, Figure 1 is a front view of a nest of pigeon-holes. Fig. 2 is a section on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a plan of

the number plates and separators before their ends are bent as they are when applied, and Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4 4 of Fig. 2.

Referring to the letters upon the drawings in aid of a description in detail of my improvements, A indicates a nest of call-boxes. B indicates the thin vertical wooden partitions of this nest. C indicates the ordinary wire horizontal partition.

D indicates ordinary stay-pieces, of wood, secured to the rear of the nest of boxes, which stay-pieces are preferably provided with small projecting beads above and below, between which the number and name cards of the box-renters may be placed, so as to show from the inside of the post-office.

E indicates the fastening-wire, passing through holes in the metallic number-plates F, and through the vertical partitions near their front edges, as illustrated. These number-plates, it will be observed, are provided each with a panel in front adapted to receive the number-cards, as indicated in the drawings. Each number-plate can be struck up from a single plate of metal into form, so that the panel shall project near to or against the glass front of the nest of call-boxes, while the inclined or curved ends of the plates extend backward into the boxes, so as to bear against the sides of the vertical partitions and stay them. The form of end bearings, consisting of a lip, G, bent back upon the plate, as illustrated in Fig. 2, is preferable; but I do not limit my invention to any particular form of stay-plate, the idea being to have a metallic plate capable of being made of a single piece of plate metal of such form as to go between the partitions and serve to stay them, and at the same time present a number-panel projecting forward sufficiently. It is desirable that the lips be bent so as to each cover one-half the front edge of the vertical partition; but that is not essential.

H indicates stiffeners or stay-pieces, of wood or other material, bearing at their ends against the wood partitions.

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

1. As a new article of manufacture, a me-

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tallic stay or separator for pigeon-hole partitions, having ends adapted to bear against and brace the inner sides of the partitions, and a central panel for a number, substantially as set forth.

5 2. The combination of the metallic number-plate and stay or separator adapted to bear against and brace the inner sides of the partitions with a supplemental stay-rod or stiffener located between the points of attachment of the metallic stay to the partitions, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination, with pigeon-holes having horizontal partitions of wire and a glazed front, of the metal stays or separators having number-plates located within the glazed front and between the vertical partitions, substantially as set forth. 15

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name.

HENRY R. TOWNE.

Witnesses:

SCHUYLER MERRITT,
GEO. E. WHITE.