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CAVEAT.

PETITION.

The petition of Antonio Meucci of Clifton in the County of Richmond and State of New York, respectfully represents:

That he has made certain improvements in Sound Telegraphs, and that he is now engaged in making experiments for the purpose of perfecting the same preparatory to applying for Letters Patent therefor. He therefore prays that the subjoined description of his invention may be filed as a Caveat in the Confidential Archives of the Patent Office.

ANTONIO MEUCCI.

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OATH.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
County of Richmond, } ss.:

ANTONIO MEUCCI, the above-named petitioner, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he verily believes himself to be the original and first inventor of the improvement in Sound Telegraphs, described and claimed in the foregoing specification; that he does not know, and does not believe, that the same was ever before known and used; and that I am a citizen of the United States.

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ANTONIO MEUCCI.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, }
this 23d day of December, 1871, }

JOSEPH DOYLE,
Justice of the Peace.

The following is a description of the invention sufficiently in detail for the purposes of this Caveat:

I employ the well-known conducting effect of continuous metallic conductors as a medium for sound, and in-

crease the effect by electrically insulating both the conductor and the parties who are communicating. It forms a speaking Telegraph without the necessity for any hollow tube. I claim that a portion or the whole of the effect may also be realized by a corresponding arrangement with a metallic tube. 121

I believe that some metals will serve better than others, but propose to try all kinds of metals.

* *

Isolating or not. It may be founded necessary for the person communicating the message to be isolated, but* the person receiving to be in electrical connection with the ground

Both the utensils for mouth & ears *must* be metallic conductors of electricity

The system on which I propose to operate and calculated, consists* in isolating two persons* separted at considerable distances from each other by placing them upon glass insulators employing glass, for example, at the feet of the chair or bench on which each sits and 122 putting them in communication by means of a telegraphic wire. I believe it preferable to have the wire of larger area than that ordinarily employed in the electric telegraph but will experiment on this. Each of these persons holds to his mouth an instrument analogous to a speaking trumpet in which the word may be easily pronounced and the sound concentrated upon the wire. Another instrument is also applied to the ears in order to receive the voice of the opposite party. 123

All these, to wit, the mouth utensil and the ear instruments communicate to the wire at a short distance from the persons. The ear utensils being of a convex form like a clock glass enclose the whole exterior part of the ear and make it easy and comfortable for the operator. The object is to bring distinctly to the hearing the words of the person at the opposite end of the telegraph.

NOTE.—Marginal notes on this Exhibit K are in *red ink*, beginning with the *stars* and the word *isolating*, and ending with the word *electricity*. (See certificate to the caveat.)

124 To call attention, the party at the other end of the line may be warned by an electric telegraph signal or a series of them. The apparatus for this purpose and the skill in operating it need be much less than for the ordinary telegraphing.

When my sound telegraph is in operation the parties should remain alone in their respective rooms and every practicable precaution should be taken to have the surroundings perfectly quiet. The closed mouth utensil or trumpet and the enclosing the persons also in a room alone both tend to prevent undue publicity to the communication. I think it will be easy by these means to prevent the communication being understood by any but the proper persons.

125 It may be found practicable to work with the person sending the message insulated and with the person receiving it in free electrical communication with the ground. Or these conditions may possibly be reversed and still operate with some success.

Both the conductors or utensils for mouth and ears should be,—in fact I may say—must be—metallic and be so conditioned as to be good conductors of electricity.

I claim as my invention & desire to have considered as such for all the purposes of this Caveat

The new invention herein set forth in all its details, combinations and sub-combinations.

And more specifically I claim—

126 FIRST—A continuous sound conductor electrically insulated.

SECOND—The same adapted for telegraphing by sound or for conversation between distant parties electrically insulated.

THIRD—The employment of a sound conductor which is also an electrical conductor as a means of communication by sound between distant points.

FOURTH—The same in combination with provisions for electrically insulating the sending and receiving parties.

FIFTH—The mouth piece or speaking utensil in combi- 127
nation with an electrically insulating conductor.

SIXTH—The ear utensils or receiving vessels adapted to apply upon the ears in combination with an electrically insulating sound conductor.

SEVENTH--The entire system comprising the electrical and sound conductor insulated and furnished with a mouth piece and ear pieces at each end adapted to serve as specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my name in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

128 ANTONIO MEUCCI

Witnesses:
SHIRLEY MCANDREW.
FREDK. HARPER.

[K3319]