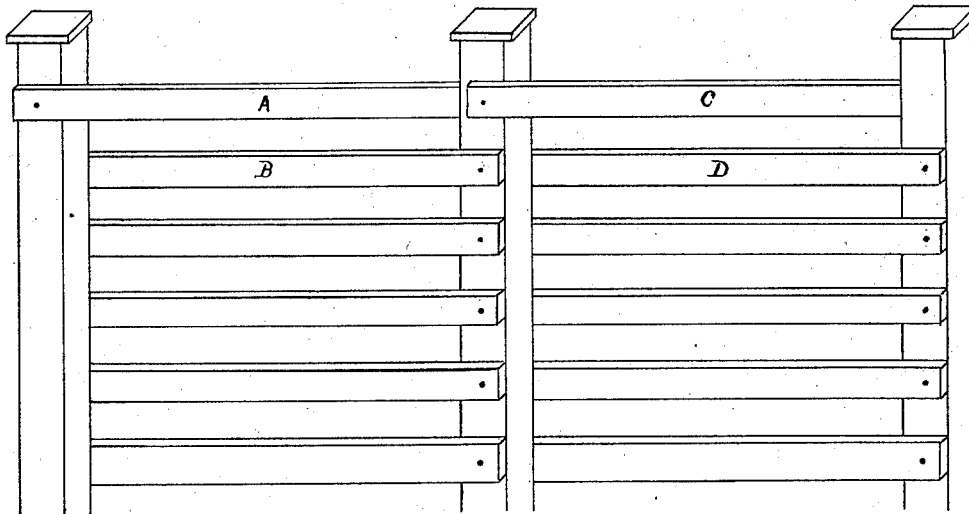


W. H. SEAT.
Fence.

No. 216,353.

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Witnesses,
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WILLIAM H. SEAT, OF FINCASTLE, VIRGINIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FENCES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **216,353**, dated June 10, 1879; application filed March 21, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM HENRY SEAT, of Fincastle, in the county of Botetourt and State of Virginia, have invented a new and useful Improvement in the Construction of Fences, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to the construction of fences composed of rails, poles, or planks, nailed or otherwise fastened to posts fixed in the ground, or otherwise placed erect suitably for this purpose.

Heretofore rails, poles, or planks, when nailed to posts in the construction of fences, have been fastened either with both of their ends on the same side of the line of posts, or, more rarely, with their opposite ends on the opposite sides of the line of posts.

The first method is objectionable, in that stock, in attempting to break over or through the fence from one of its sides, would press wholly against the nails, and not against the posts.

The second method is objectionable, in that at one end of every panel on each side of the fence the force of an invading animal would be against the nails, and not against the posts. This method would, however, have the effect of bracing the fence, and thus of rendering it stronger and more steady.

My invention, while using this second method—i. e., of nailing the rails, poles, or planks with their opposite ends (in the same panel, of course) on the opposite sides of the line of posts—consists in the fastening of the top rail, or pole, or plank, and the next one to it below, in severed positions as to the line of posts, so as that the ends of the two poles, or rails, or planks extending in the same direction shall be fastened on the opposite sides of the post to which they may be attached, the two rails, or poles, or planks thus crossing each other diagonally between the posts, as shown in the accompanying drawing, which is a part of this specification.

This arrangement of the two upper courses

is designed not only to brace the fence, (constituting, as it does, a double or locked brace,) but, further, and mainly, to render effectual the resistance offered by the fence to the encroachments of stock, especially of the larger kinds. For example, a horse pushing against the fence at the end of the panel, where the top rail, or pole, or plank is between him and the post, he would press against the post, and not against nail or nails fastening it to the post, while at the opposite end of the same panel, though the top rail, or pole, or plank would be on the opposite side of the post, yet the next rail, or pole, or plank below, being its own thickness and that of the post nearer to him, would receive the pressure, and, being fastened between him and the post, would convey the pressure to the post; and this would be the case on both sides of the fence and along its whole extent.

As showing the practical relation of the two reversed courses as above described, embraced in my invention to the fence as a whole, it may be stated that these two courses might constitute, as fastened to the line of posts, the entire fence—if, for instance, designed only for horses. One course might be added for cattle, one more below for sheep; while for a full fence for all stock six rails to the panel, or at least five, would be requisite. The fence would thus be found, especially when rails or poles are used, very economical.

What I claim is—

In a fence, and in combination with fixed posts, a series of rails or bars, of which the upper rail of each series or panel, and the rail next below it, are attached at their opposite ends to the opposite sides of the posts, the upper rail diagonally crossing the plane occupied by the rail next below it, substantially as set forth.

WILLIAM HENRY SEAT.

Attest:

R. R. PRICE,
F. W. DILLON.