(No Model.)

J. HARRIS.

FENCE.

No. 382,806. Patented May 15, 1888.

Fig 1.

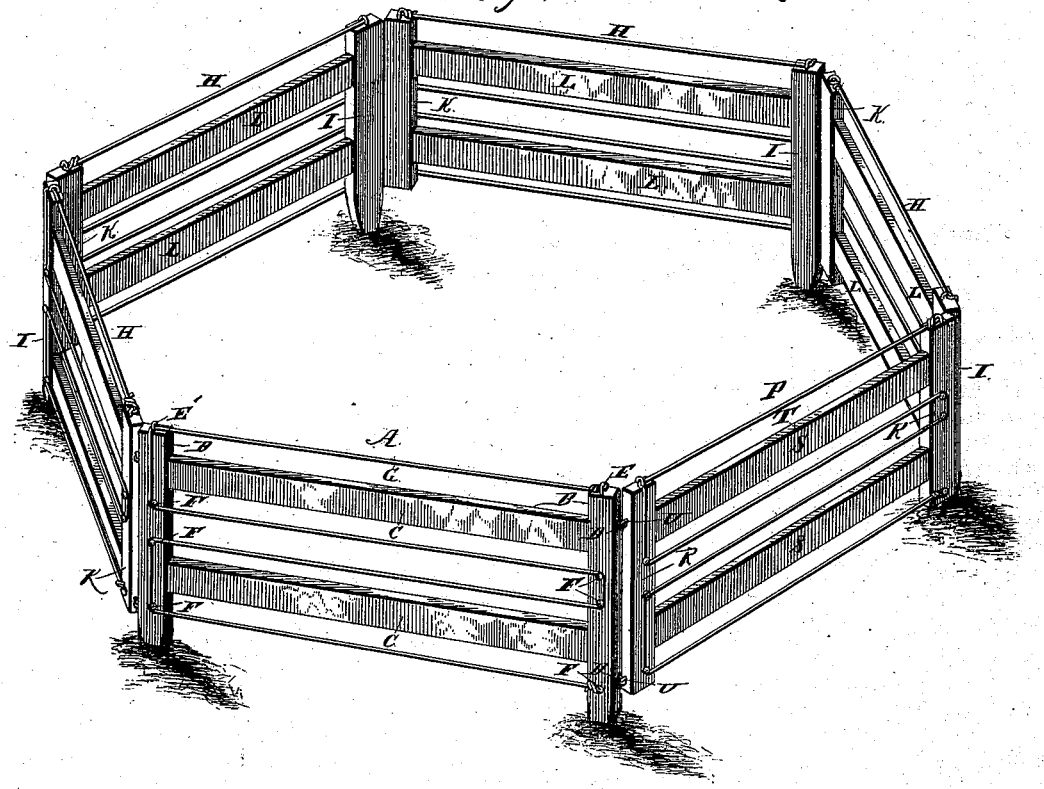
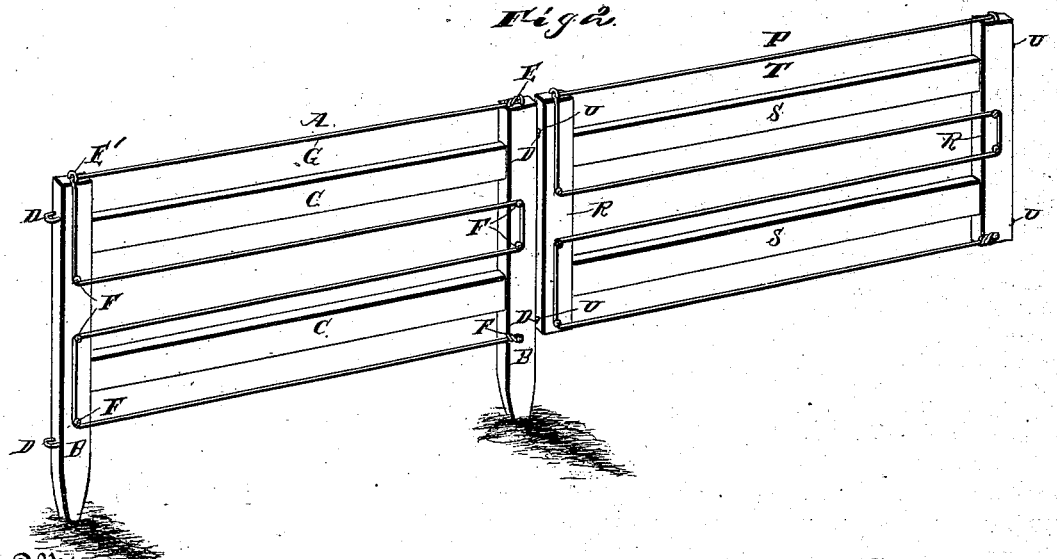


Fig 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES HARRIS, OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI.

FENCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 382,806, dated May 15, 1888.

Application filed September 12, 1887. Serial No. 249,489. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES HARRIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Columbia, in the county of Boone and State of Missouri, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fences, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in portable fences; and it consists in the peculiar construction and combination of devices, that will be more fully set forth hereinafter, and particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portable fence embodying my improvements, showing the panels of the same arranged in a circle. Fig. 2 is a detached perspective view of two of the fence-panels.

A represents the initial panel of the fence, which comprises a pair of vertical posts, B, having their lower ends pointed, and thereby adapted to be driven firmly into the ground.

C represents a pair of longitudinal bars or rails, which have their ends mortised into the posts B at suitable distances apart. On the outer sides of the said posts B are secured U-shaped keepers or staples D, and on the upper ends of the said posts are similar staples or keepers, E E'.

F represents a series of headed pins or nails, which are driven into the posts on one side thereof at suitable distances above and below the rails C. A wire, G, which may be either barbed or plain, has one end secured to one of the keepers E, is then stretched across the top of the panel and passed through the keeper E on the upper end of the opposite post, is then passed downward on the said post around the uppermost pin or nail, F, is stretched from the said pin or nail to the similarly-situated pin or nail on the opposite post, thereby arranging the wire below the topmost rail, C, is then bent downward and caused to pass around the pin or nail, above one end of the lower rail, C, is then passed over the opposite pin or nail on the other post, then passed downward under one of the pins or nails under the lower rail, C, and is finally stretched under the lower rail, C, and secured to the lowermost pin or nail on the post to which the first end of the wire is attached. The wire is stretched so tightly between the posts that it cannot sag.

H represents a series of intermediate panels, each of which is composed of a post, I, at one end, a vertical bar, K, at the opposite end, which is shorter than the post, a pair of horizontal rails, L, which have their ends mortised into the post I and vertical bar K, and wires M, which are stretched on the said panels H in the same manner as previously described. One end of each panel, H, is provided with a pair of hooks, U, adapted to engage the staples D at one end of the panel A, and the opposite end of each panel H is provided with similar staples.

P represents the terminal panel of the fence, which comprises a pair of vertical bars, R, a pair of longitudinal rails, S, having their ends mortised into the bars R, and a wire, T, which is stretched on the panel P in the same manner as previously described. At each end of the panel P is a pair of hooks, U.

The operation of building a fence with my improved fence-panels is as follows: The panel A is first arranged at the starting-point of a fence and has its post B driven firmly into the ground. The intermediate panels H are then arranged in series, one end of the first panel H being hooked to the keepers D at one end of the panel A, the hooked end of each adjacent panel H being engaged with the staples or keepers O at the opposing end of the adjacent panel. As the panels H are arranged successively in line, they are secured against accidental displacement, and against being overturned by wind or animals, by driving their posts I firmly into the ground. When the fence is arranged in a circular line, as shown in Fig. 1, so as to inclose a haystack or other object, the panels H are employed until within a suitable distance of one end of the panel A, and the terminal panel P is then arranged in the space between the opposing ends of the last panel H and the panel A, and is secured in position by engaging its hooks U into the keepers on the ends of the said panels A and H.

When the fence is arranged in a straight line, and not in a circle, the panel P will be dispensed with and two of the panels A will be employed, one at each end of the line of fence.

A portable fence thus constructed is very

cheap and simple, is strong and durable, may be readily erected and as readily taken down and stored away when not in use.

The fence is thus composed of detachable panels, requiring but one panel having securing-posts at each end. The other panels need have but one securing-post each, which post is inserted in the ground and stands at the opposite end to that attached to the starting-panel. The wire C in each panel keeps the posts and rails thereof bound closely together, so that the same cannot separate and can be much more quickly and readily attached than a number of longitudinal wires could.

The strands of wire are arranged in pairs, the members of which are equally distant from the adjacent rail above and below the same, so that the pull of the wire on the joint formed by the tenons of the rails and mortises of the posts will be at right angles to the latter, and the tenons will be held squarely in the mortises.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

The herein described fence, consisting of a starting-panel having posts at each end pointed at their lower ends for insertion in the ground, and a number of similar panels having but one end post similarly pointed, the said panels being connected by hooks and staples at their meeting edges, and each panel composed of the mortised end posts and tenoned rails fitted to each other without bolt or pin, and the continuous wire having one end secured to the top of one of the end posts at E, running thence through the staple E′ on top of the other posts, and over the pins F, secured in the side of the posts, and having its lower end secured to the first end post vertically below its upper end, the strands of wire adjacent to each rail being at equal distances above and below the latter, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JAMES HARRIS.

Witnesses:
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