

Fence.

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IMPROVEMENT IN FENCES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **217,323**, dated July 8, 1879; application filed February 21, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NORMAN N. BLAKE, of Johnsonville, in the county of Wayne and State of Illinois, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Fences; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a representation of a perspective of my fence. Fig. 2 is also a perspective view, and Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view, of the same.

This invention relates to an improved fence which shall be cheap and substantial in construction, and which will offer an effectual barrier to stock of all descriptions.

To this end my invention consists of a fence the upper and lower rails of which are clamped between two uprights, which are connected near their upper ends with inclined stakes on opposite sides of the fence, said stakes being connected at their lower ends by means of stays to the uprights in such manner that as the stakes are pressed apart by the weight of the fence they will bind the uprights against the rails and hold the same firmly in place.

In the drawings, the letters A A' represent the upper and lower rails of the fence, respectively; and B B', two uprights, located one at each side of the rails at suitable intervals.

The letters C C' represent two inclined stakes located on opposite sides of the fence. Said stakes incline toward each other, and are secured to the uprights at or near their upper ends to opposite sides of the uprights B B' by means of stout fence-wire clamps D D', which form flexible joints and permit the lower ends of the stakes to be spread apart, for the purpose hereinafter explained.

The letters E E' represent two stays, attached by means of flexible wire connections to the uprights B and B', the stay E being secured to the upright B', and the stay E' to the upright B, so that when the stays are

pulled in opposite directions, as the stakes are spread apart, they will bind the lower parts of the uprights against the lower rails. The upper parts of the stakes will, at the same time, through the medium of their connections D D', bind the upper rail between said uprights.

In Fig. 1 a fence having but two rails is shown, said rails being secured in mortises *a a'* in the uprights, and the section between the uprights being provided with upright palings F, to form a barrier to the passage of stock.

In Fig. 2 is represented a modification of my fence, in which a series of parallel horizontal rails or boards is employed, said rails being clamped between the uprights, as before mentioned.

Fig. 3 represents still another modification of my fence, which is designed for large stock, in which but two rails are employed, the lower one being elevated a considerable distance above the ground to save timber. In this case the stakes are continued above the upper rail, and form a seat for a beam, G, which sits under a wire connection, and is forced between said connection and its seat, so as to spread the stakes forcibly apart and insure the binding of the uprights against the rails, irrespective of the weight of the fence.

The letters H H, Fig. 2, represent the fence-posts or middle stays, which are bound to the rails by wire connections *h h*, and are pointed at their ends and driven in the ground, as shown.

I I, Fig. 3, represent rings secured to the lower ends of the stakes, through which pins K K may be driven into the ground to support the fence upon hilly ground or in marshy places.

The letter M represents a hasp and staple secured to the posts to hold the same in position during the building of the fence.

I claim—

1. The combination, with the upper and lower rails of a fence, of two uprights located at opposite sides of said rails, flexibly connected to two inclined stakes at or near their upper ends, and by means of stays to the lower ends of said stakes, whereby the weight

of the fence will bind the uprights against the rails and secure the same in place, substantially as specified.

2. The combination, with the upper and lower rails, the uprights, and the stakes connected to the same, as described, of a beam sitting in a seat at the juncture of the inclined stakes, and confined therein by a wire connection, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

NORMAN NELSON BLAKE.

Witnesses:

GEO. A. ALVIS,

WILLIAM L. TENNEY.