L. H. BURT.
Metallic Fence.

No. 196,332. Patented Oct. 23, 1877.

Fig. 1.

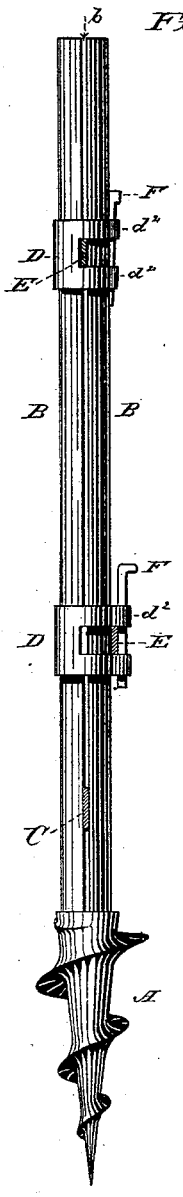


Fig. 2.

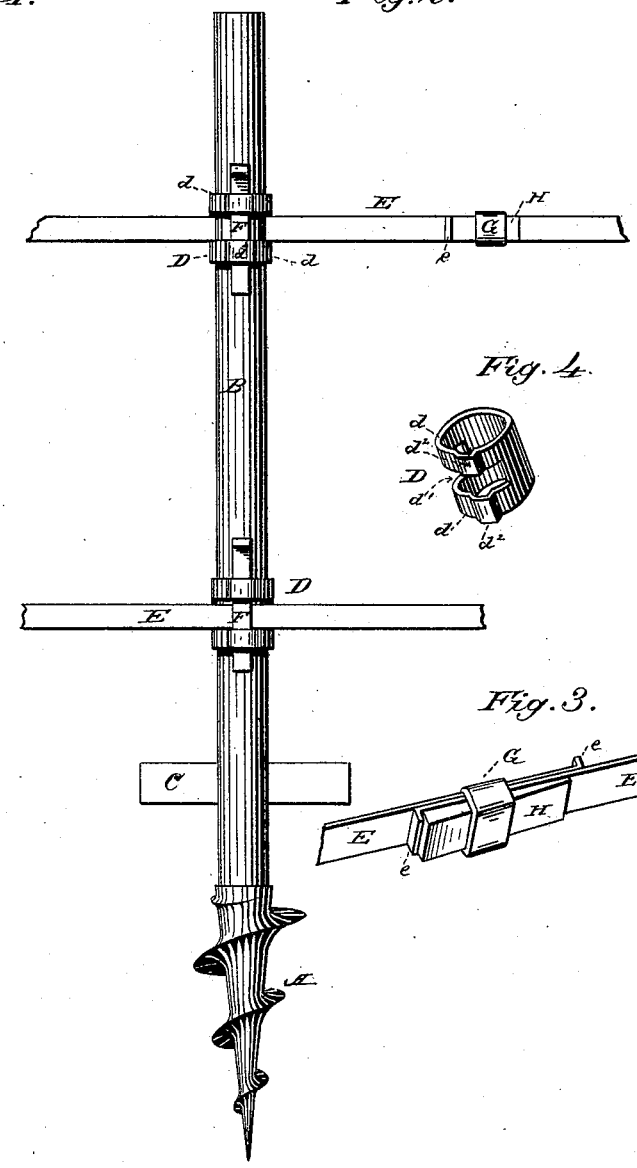
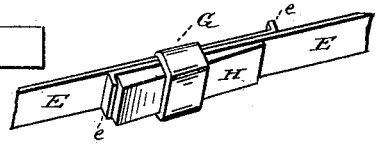


Fig. 4.

Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEONARD H. BURT, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN METALLIC FENCES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **196,332,** dated October 23, 1877; application filed September 19, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEONARD H. BURT, of the city of New Haven, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Portable Metallic Fences; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The nature of this invention consists in constructing a metallic fence-post in two vertically-divided sections, united at the base to a screw-threaded auger-like point; also, in providing said post with certain clasping devices for holding the rails between or against the said post-sections; also, in a horizontal brace for preventing the lateral motion of said post; and, finally, in certain devices for splicing the rails, all as hereinafter fully and particularly set forth and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a side elevation of my improved fence-post with the rail-fastening devices attached. Fig. 2 represents a front elevation of the same, showing the horizontal brace and rails. Fig. 3 is a detail view of the rail-splicing devices. Fig. 4 is a detail view of one of the clasps or ferrules used for holding the rails to the post or between the sections thereof.

A designates the solid metallic point of my fence-post, which is screw-threaded like an auger, in order that it may more easily enter the ground and more tenaciously hold thereto. B B designate the vertical sections of the post, which are attached at their lower ends to point A, and have sufficient flexibility to be pressed together at will, and sufficient elasticity to regain their ordinary position when the pressure is removed. There is then between them a narrow vertical space (marked *b*.)

C designates a flat, thin horizontal bar or brace, which is inserted in said space *b*, near the lower part of the post. When point A is forced down into the earth, brace C follows it therein until its upper edge is flush with the surface. It then operates to prevent said post from being overturned by lateral strain, or twisted out of its proper position, since the broad, flat sides of said brace meet with great resistance from the earth, against which they press when any attempt is made to move said brace from a straight and vertical position.

D designates two post clasps or ferrules, one of which is shown in detail in Fig. 4. The general shape of each clasp or ferrule D is a broad ring or short cylinder adapted to slip over and embrace the sections B B, and partly cut away on one side, so as to leave two semi-circumferential bands, *d d*. The space d^1 between said bands allows a rail, E, to be thrust directly through the center of said ferrule, between said sections B B, while said ferrule embraces the same. Each band *d* is provided with an offset, d^2, and these offsets are so shaped and so arranged relatively to one another as to receive a tapering key or wedge, F, which is forced down from above. The said wedge or key, in combination with the said clasp or ferrule, operates to compress the said post-sections against the said interposed rail, so as to securely clamp the latter.

If preferred, the rail may be passed through space d^1 outside of the post and clamped, as before.

A post made in one piece may thus be used with the clamping devices above described.

By alternately loosening and tightening the above-described clamping devices and slipping them up and down the post, while loosened, with the rail, the latter may be adjusted to any desired height, and there firmly held. All the ferrules, keys, and rails are, respectively, of similar construction; but the ferrules and keys used on the lower part of the post, where compression is more difficult, are preferably larger and stronger than those on the upper part of it. Their offsets d^2 are also made larger, so as to accommodate larger keys. Any convenient number of rails and fastening devices may be employed; but only two are shown, as being sufficient to illustrate my invention.

The several rails forming the fence are spliced together by means of the devices shown in detail in Fig. 3. These consist of a metallic clasp or broad band, G, which embraces the contiguous overlapping ends of two rails, and of a wedge or key, H, which is thrust into said clasp so as to bind them to-

gether. Each end of each rail has a small flange, *e*, turned outward, so as to prevent said wedge and band or clasp from being displaced. When the post is in one piece, the horizontal brace is attached outside, like the rails.

The above-described devices may be modified in various ways without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having thus fully described said invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination of a fence-post with rail E, ferrule D, and key F, a portion of said ferrule being removed on one side, and the remaining parts above and below being provided with offsets to form a key-seat, substantially as set forth.

2. Elastic sections B B, in combination with brace C, ferrule D, and key F, said brace being clamped by said ferrule and key, substantially as set forth.

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

LEONARD H. BURT.

Witnesses:
GEORGE TERRY,
FREDERIC NORTON.