

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ABRAHAM SHAFFER, OF COLO, IOWA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FENCE-POSTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **198,694**, dated December 25, 1877; application filed September 29, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Beit known that I, ABRAHAM SHAFFER, of Colo, in the county of Story and State of Iowa, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Fence-Posts; 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 front view of my fence-post. Fig. 2 is a sectional plan view. Figs. 3 and 4 are sectional detail views; and Fig. 5 is a perspective detail of the same.

My invention relates to wire fences; and it consists in the construction of cast-iron posts for the same, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

The annexed drawing, to which reference is made, fully illustrates my invention.

My improved fence-post is formed of a flat bar, A, with flanges B B projecting rearward from the sides, as shown. These flanges are made tapering at their lower ends on that portion of the post which is inserted in the ground, and the widest portion of said flanges will be just at or near the surface of the ground. From this point the flanges B B may be of the same width to the top, or slightly tapering, if desired, and let the top, the bar A, and flanges B B form a solid head, C.

On the sides of the post are curved flanges B' B', extending from the bottom upward for a suitable distance, the widest portion of said curved flanges being on a level with the widest portion of the rear flanges B B. On the front of the post thus formed are formed two series of hooks, *a* and *b*, on the flange D. (See Fig. 1.) The hooks *a* curve downward, and the hooks *b* curve upward, and the ends of the

hooks *a* and *b* are tapered, so as to form an inclined slot, *c*, for the passage of the fence-wires, and the wires of the fence are passed through these hooks, so as to have a support both above and below.

The two series of hooks *a* and *b* may be all formed in one flange, D, running centrally from top to bottom of the bar A; or each series may be formed in a separate flange, D', at or near the sides of the bar A, one of the flanges, D', having a series of hooks, *a'*, projecting downwardly, and the other flange, D', a series of hooks, *b'*, projecting upwardly.

In some cases I may only use the upwardly-curved hooks *b*, the hooks *a* being entirely dispensed with.

At the corners of the fence I use an L-shaped post, G, with a flange, G', projecting at the angle. The two sides of this post are perforated with a number of holes for the passage of the wires, and is also braced in both directions by means of round braces *d d*, connecting with short flanged posts I, substantially as shown.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A cast-iron fence-post, consisting of the bar A, rear flanges B B, side flanges B' B', and solid head C, and provided on the front with devices for holding the fence-wires, as set forth.

2. The L-shaped corner-post G, with flange G', in combination with the braces *d* and posts I, as and for the purposes herein set forth.

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

ABRAHAM SHAFFER.

Witnesses:

C. W. GRASS,
J. W. KINSELL.