O. ALLEN.
Fence-Post.

No. 204,275. Patented May 28. 1878.

Fig: 1.

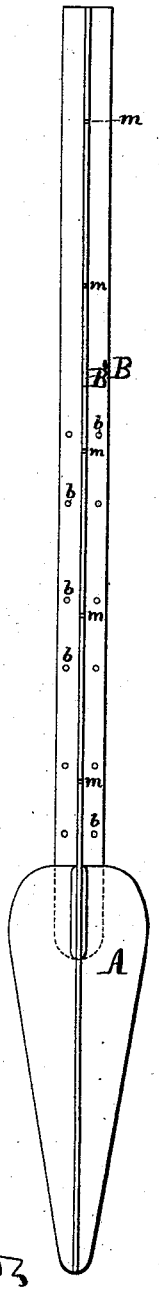


Fig: 2.

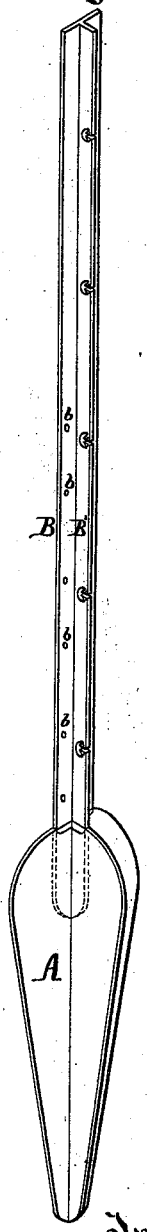


Fig: 3.

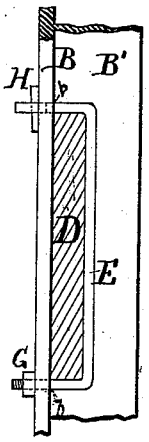


Fig: 4.

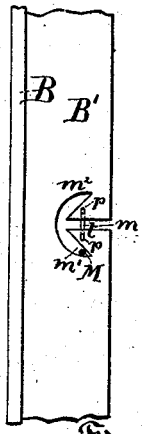
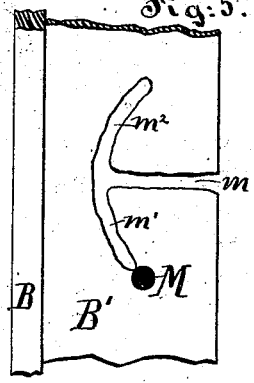


Fig: 5.



Witnesses:
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W. F. Stetson

Inventor:
Oscar Allen
by his attorney
Thomas D. Stetson

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OSCAR ALLEN, OF MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF HIS RIGHT TO W. E. SARGENT, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN FENCE-POSTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **204,275**, dated May 28, 1878; application filed November 6, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OSCAR ALLEN, of Marshalltown, Marshall county, in the State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements relating to Fence-Posts, of which the following is a specification:

My improved post is of metal, and is adapted to serve either with wires or with boards below and wires above, as is frequently required for turning hogs.

I propose to produce the posts in proper lengths by machinery ready to be inserted into suitable bases, or, if preferred, can form each with a sufficient length to stand in the ground alone.

My post has a flat body and a flange standing at right angles therefrom, making the section a T. This flange is provided with a straight notch, slot, or passage, leading into a curved branch passage extending above and below the straight slot, the wire being introduced into the straight slot and forced into the curved branch, where it is securely held, and this construction of slots in the flange of the post to hold the wires forms the main feature of my invention, the boards attached by staples to the lower part of the fence-posts for turning small animals forming a construction of parts old in itself.

When boards are applied to the lower part of the fence to turn hogs or small animals, wires being applied to the upper part of the post, they are held against the body and abut their ends against the flange.

Straps are provided, which apply in holes in the body, to hold the boards through the aid of nuts or keys. When wires are applied, they are let into peculiarly-formed notches in the flange. They may be held with sufficient force for most purposes by their simple engagement in the notches; but I provide for holding them further by metal fastenings inserted in holes provided.

The following is a description of what I consider the best means of carrying out the invention.

The accompanying drawings form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a face view of the post alone. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the same. Fig. 3 represents a portion with a board in place. Fig. 4 represents a portion with a wire in place. Fig. 5 represents the same on a larger scale, with the addition of a thick coat of paint or the like applied after the wire is in place, and which aids to retain it.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts in all the figures.

A is a cast-iron base, formed with wings, and pointed to allow of being driven, according to a long-approved pattern. The upper end of the base is socketed in a suitable platform to receive the body, which may be firmly secured by melted sulphur or analogous cementing means, if desired.

The body of the post is marked B, and the flange B′. Holes *b* are punched or otherwise produced at proper distances in the body, and a peculiarly-formed notch or deep incision with branches is formed in the flange B′, as indicated by $m\,m^1\,m^2$. This notch may be formed by any means which will not weaken the remaining iron. I propose, for example, to effect it by punching at two operations, holding the iron firmly on a suitable female die and punching out the part $m^1\,m^2$. This can be readily effected while the iron all around is intact. Afterward I shift the iron onto another support or female die, and the connecting-incision *m* is then produced by another punch adapted to make the straight cut required.

Small holes *p* are produced at the same or a different time, which, after the main wire of the fence is inserted in the notch, may receive a staple, *t*, which may be secured by bending the protruding ends.

M is one of the main wires of the fence. In ordinary situations it drops by gravity into the lower part m^1 of the peculiar notch. On the top of a hill or knoll it is drawn down there very tightly; but in a hollow tightly-drawn wire is liable to lift, and will lie the most part of the time in the upper part m^2. In either situation it is liable, in gales of wind or when acted on by any animal, to be lifted, and to shift from the extreme of the part m^1 to the extreme of the part m^2 and back again. The form of the notch allows it to make these

movements many times without any tendency to escape through the lateral part *m*. But to guard against a possibility of such failures, I provide the fastener *t*.

D represents one of the boards, and E a bent piece of small iron, serving as a strap. The board being held firmly in its place, the straps E may be made to engage in two of the holes *b*, and driven forcibly home. It may be retained there by bending the projecting ends of the strap E. If it be desired to hold it more elaborately, the straps E may be threaded and made to receive nuts, as indicated by G, or may be perforated and made to receive keys, as indicated by H.

The above-described means of attaching boards to a fence-post is common, and is employed by me to attach boards to the lower parts of the posts of a wire fence for the purpose of turning hogs and small animals.

It is important that the mode of attaching the wire to the post does not require the wire to be bent or slackened in any wise. All that is necessasy to engage my wire is to push it laterally through the part *m* and to allow it to sink into the part m^1 or rise into the part m^2. The clip or fastening *t* being then applied, the wire is very safely secured.

The parts m^1 m^2 are preferably only a very little wider than the main wire M, which they are to receive, and of uniform width throughout. A gentle force will suffice to push the wire M into its place in the extreme bottom of the part m^1 or top of the part m^2, and it may then be very effectually secured by touching with a solution of sal-ammoniac, which will induce a sufficient rusting of the adjacent surfaces to prevent the wire from ever returning.

The preferable mode of attaining the same end is to paint the post with any thick, cheap paint, or to coat with coal-tar or melted asphalt, or the like.

In Fig. 5 the clip *t* is omitted, showing what I believe may be generally practiced with absolute security when the bending is properly done.

The paint or coal-tar obviously increases the durability of the fence.

Many modifications may be made in the details. Figs. 4 and 5 are two forms of the notch, either of which may be adopted. I prefer the form shown in Fig. 5, for the reason, among others, that the smoothly-rounded ends of the recesses m^1 m^2 avoid the tendency to break the iron which is incident to the employment of sharp angles.

When it is desired to employ one of my posts to support the middle of the length of boards, I turn the post around and cause it to present its flat face against the boards, and then secure the boards thereto by the straps E and their nuts or keys, as will be obvious. In using my post with wires, I present only the narrow edge of the flange B′ thereto. The narrowness of the bearing is important in the use of barbed wire, because it diminishes the chances that a barb will come in contact with the post.

The union of the base with the post may be formed, if desired, in the act of casting the base, the molding in such case receiving the lower end of the wrought-iron part, and the melted iron flowing around it, and thereby uniting strongly therewith.

I claim as my invention—

1. An improved metallic fence-post having the flange B′, provided with the slots *m* m^1 m^2, formed as shown, and for the purpose set forth.

2. An improved metallic fence-post having the flange B′, provided with the slots *m* m^1 m^2, formed as shown, and staples *t*, as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my name in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

OSCAR ALLEN.

Witnesses:
W. E. SNELLING,
J. M. HOLT.