

(No Model.)

J. L. FERGUSON.

Fence.

No. 242,619.

Patented June 7, 1881.

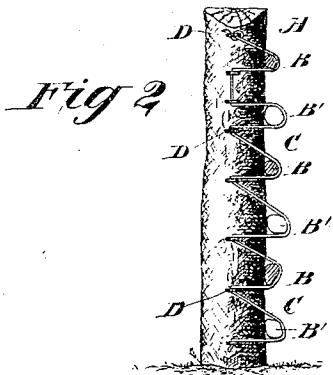
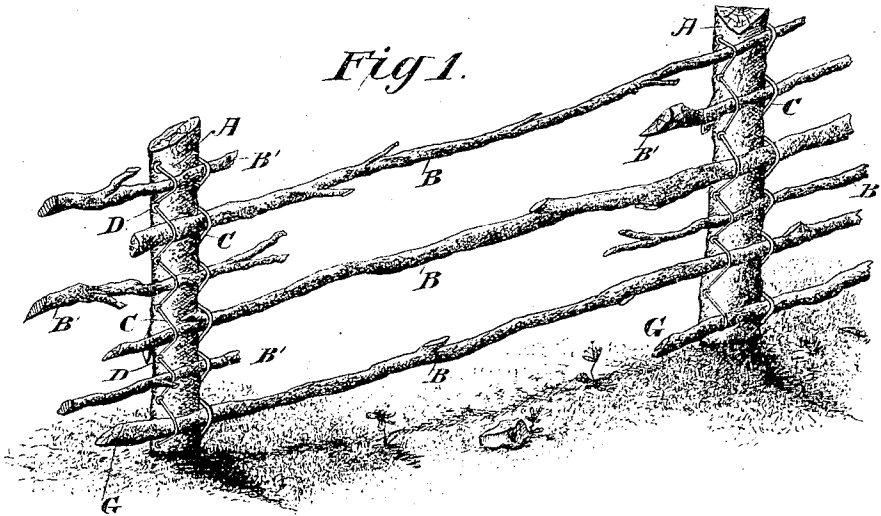
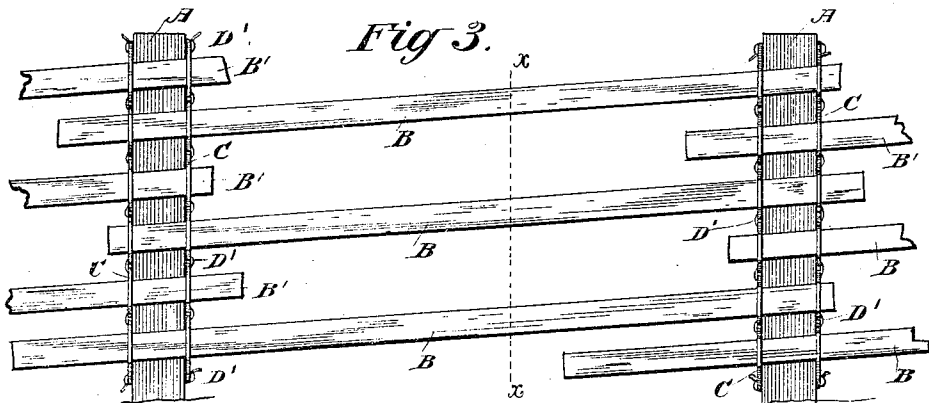
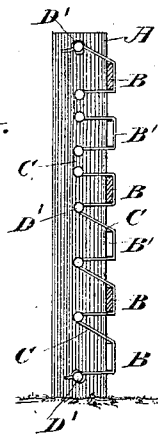


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN L. FERGUSON, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

FENCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 242,619, dated June 7, 1881.

Application filed September 17, 1880. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN L. FERGUSON, of the city of St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Fences, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification.

My invention relates to those fences in which the rails are secured to the posts by means of wire and staples or nails.

My improvement consists in the art of building such fences rapidly, to which end I proceed as follows: I take a wire of suitable length and secure it to a staple or nail on the side of the post, near the bottom; then pull the wire sidewise of the post, and lay the end of a rail on the wire and bend the wire back over the rail and secure the wire to the side of the post, continuing to secure the rails in this manner until the top of the post is reached, when the end of the wire is secured to the top staple. Then all the staples or nails are driven to their seats.

Heretofore the rails have been secured by means of bands nailed to the front of the post, or threaded through eye-nails or threaded through the posts. This construction is objectionable because, first, the nails or eye-nails will pull out, and, secondly, because the perforating of the posts for threading consumes too much time. In another device a series of bands, either independent or connected, have been applied to the sides of posts; but this construction necessitates the construction of the rail ends to fit the loops.

My mode of building overcomes the objectionable construction in a very simple manner, as common rails can be used and a fence of considerable strength can be put up in a short time and at very little expense.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view, showing one panel and the broken ends of the rails of two other panels. Fig. 2 is a transverse section of the fence shown in Fig. 1, the post and wires being shown in side elevation and the rails of one panel being in end view. Fig. 3 is a front view, showing my improvement applied to a board fence. Fig. 4 is a transverse section at $x x$, Fig. 3.

A A are fence-posts. The posts may be made of round timber or of sawed or split stuff.

B B' are rails, poles, or boards secured to the posts by wires C and staples D. The end of the wire is attached to a staple and then carried around a rail, B, and to another staple, as shown, and from that around another rail, and so on. The staples are driven hard into the sides of the posts, so as to take a firm hold upon the wire and prevent its slipping through the staple. Thus, if one loop around a rail gives way, the next loop will not be affected.

I prefer to arrange the rails or poles B B', as shown, to lap past each other at the posts, so that they need not be cut to any precise length.

It will be seen that the rails are inclined or sloped, so that each ground-rail has one end, G, next the ground and the other end above the end of the ground-rail of the next panel, and thus the rails alternate on the posts, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2; but I do not confine myself to this arrangement, for the rails may be placed in a horizontal position, the lowest rail being at each alternate panel.

In the rougher class of fences the ends of the rails or poles may be made to extend through two or more panels, and their ends may lap considerably past the posts, and where two projecting ends lap past each other between the posts said ends may be attached together by a lapping of wire.

In Figs. 3 and 4 is shown the manner of applying my improvement to a board fence, the boards being shown secured by wires C and nails D'.

I do not confine myself to the use of a single staple or nail between each two rails or boards, for I may use two, as shown clearly in the upper parts of Figs. 2 and 4. It will be seen that the wires are hooked upon the staples, so that if any loop should become broken the shape of the wire, as well as the biting of the staple, would interfere with its pulling through the staple.

I claim for my fence that it is strong and durable, and that the first cost of building is very small.

The improvement is very useful in making up fences from old material, such as old rails

from worm fences which have become rotten at the corners where the rails cross, and where they harbor moisture, and with boards of board fences where the nail-holes have rotted out or the boards become split.

I prefer that the rails should not touch each other where they lap past at the posts, so that no moisture shall be harbored and cause the timber to rot. The rails, &c., touch the posts; but the place of contact being vertical, the moisture will quickly drain out and cause no material injury.

In place of the staples D, nails may be used, the wire being merely carried over the nail or turned around the same, and the nail being driven hard in to lock the wire upon it.

The posts may be placed any desired distance asunder.

I claim as new and of my invention—

The improved fence consisting of posts having staples or nails driven in the sides thereof in line with the fence, a continuous wire having loops extending crosswise of the line of fence from the bottom to the top of the post, and inclined rails or poles inserted in said loops on one side of the posts only, to adapt their ends to overlap to prevent injury to animals, as set forth.

JOHN L. FERGUSON.

Witnesses:

SAML. KNIGHT,
GEORGE D. KNIGHT.