J. F. HENNING.

FENCE POST BRACE CONSTRUCTION.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 5, 1916.

1,252,569.

Patented Jan. 8, 1918.

Fig. 1

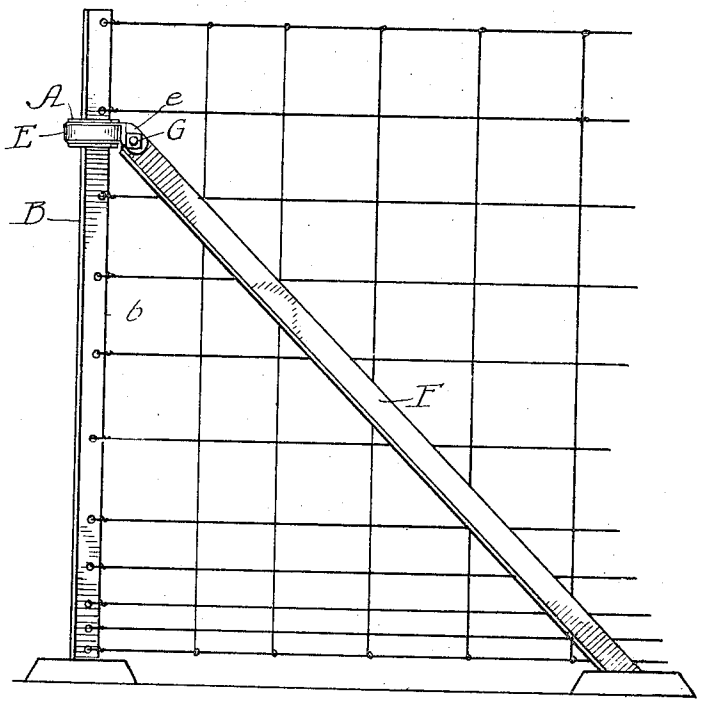
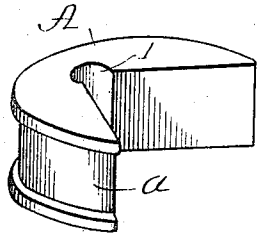


Fig. 5



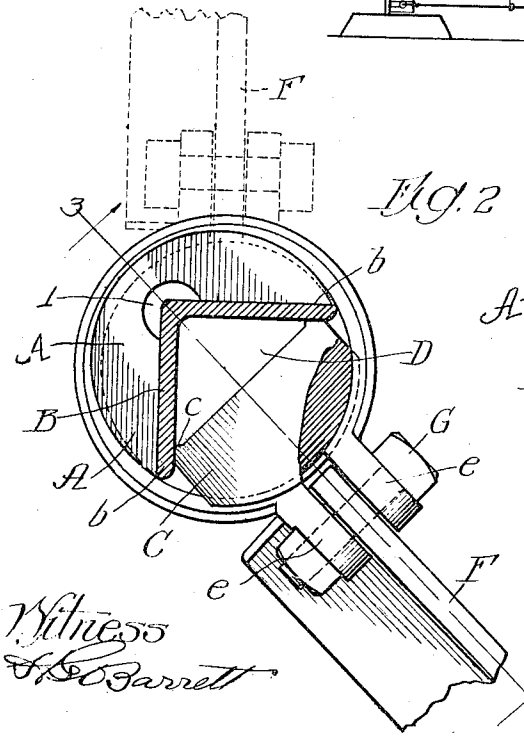


Fig. 2

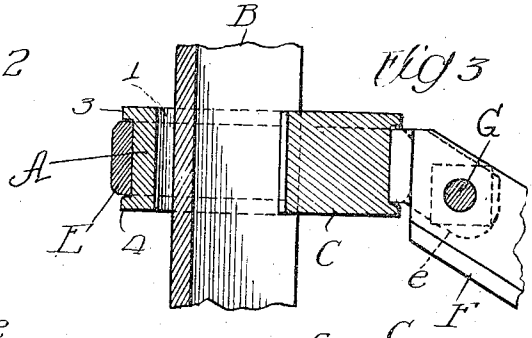


Fig. 3

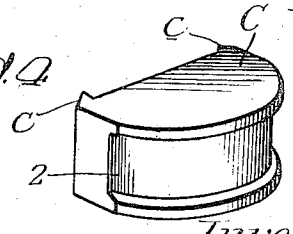


Fig. 4

Witness

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FENCE-POST BRACE CONSTRUCTION.

1,252,569. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 8, 1918.

Application filed October 5, 1916. Serial No. 123,811.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN F. HENNING, a citizen of the United States of America, and resident of Janesville, Rock county, Wisconsin, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Fence-Post Brace Construction, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to fence posts which are made of angle-iron or T-iron, or some similar form of structural iron, and more particularly to those used at the ends and corners of wire fencing or in any other situation where the post requires to be braced against the longitudinal pull of the fence.

Generally stated, the object of my invention is to provide a novel or improved method of connecting the brace to the post, whereby the brace may be readily turned in any direction, and may also be readily adjusted up and down on the post, thereby facilitating the building of fences having end and corner posts of this character.

It is also an object to provide certain details and features of construction and combinations tending to increase the general efficiency and desirability of a fence post and brace construction therefor of this particular character.

To these and other useful ends, my invention consists in matters hereinafter set forth and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings:—

Figure 1 is an elevation of a fence post provided with a brace-connection embodying the principles of my invention.

Fig. 2 is a horizontal section, on a larger scale, of said post, showing the brace-construction in plan, and indicating the rotary adjustment of said connection to another position in dotted lines.

Fig. 3 is a vertical section on line 3—3 in Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a perspective of one of the filler-blocks in the connection between the upper end of the brace and the post.

Fig. 5 is a perspective of the other filler-block of said connection.

As thus illustrated, my invention comprises a filler-block A which is shaped to engage the outer surface of the angle-iron post B (see Fig. 2), and which is provided with a curved outer surface having a channel *a* between upper and lower flanges. Preferably, said block is cut away at 1 to provide a clearance for the outer corner of the post. The other filler-block C is provided with corner portions *c* to engage the inner surface of the post, adjacent the outer edges of the flanges of the angle-iron, so that an opening D, of substantial size, is left between this block and the post. This block C, like the block A, is provided with a curved outer surface having a channel 2 between upper and lower flanges. The split collar E encircles the two blocks A and C, and is held in place thereon by the upper and lower flanges 3 and 4 of said blocks, whereby the said collar is provided with a bearing upon which it can rotate about a vertical axis. The split portion of said collar is provided with ears *e* which are directed downward to receive the upper end of the brace F, which latter may also be of angle-iron. A bolt G is inserted through the ears *e*, and through the upper end of the brace F, and by tightening this bolt the collar E is tightened upon the filler-blocks A and C, causing these blocks to tightly clamp the post, thus holding the upper end of the brace in position. Of course, before the collar E is contracted, and before the post is inserted, the blocks A and C can be inserted, as they have sufficient movement toward each other to allow their top flanges to pass upward through the collar. In this way, the blocks are so shaped and are of such proportion that they can be inserted in the collar when the driver is not on the post, but after the post is inserted the flanges on the blocks permit their removal, so that each block is held by the post against removal from the collar. If desired, the insertion of the block A in the collar may be further facilitated by gradually tapering the flanges thereof (see Fig. 2) so that it can be moved upward and into the collar and then forward to cause the wide middle portions of the flanges to extend above and below the collar. The lower end of the post B, and also the lower end of the brace F, are preferably set in concrete.

With the foregoing construction, it will be seen that the brace F can be turned in any direction, depending upon the direction or character of the fence. Furthermore, the upper end of the brace can be adjusted up and down on the post to suit the requirements or the conditions, especially the nature of the ground, and after being thus

properly positioned can be secured against movement by the tightening of the bolt G, so that the collar E and the post are then rigidly connected together. It will be understood, of course, that the collar E can be adjusted up and down before the brace is set in the ground, and either before or after the post B is set in the ground, depending upon the conditions and requirements of each particular case. In any event, though, as stated, the construction provides for the easy and convenient positioning of the brace in the desired manner, without bending or distorting either the post or the brace, or any other metal parts, and facilitates the setting of the posts and the building of the fence.

It will be understood, of course, that the post B may be made of any other form of iron, such, for example, as T-iron, and that I do not limit myself to any particular material for either the post or the brace.

When used on an end post, the invention will require only one rotary ring E, but for a corner post two of these rings can be used, in a manner that will be readily understood, by arranging one above the other.

The openings 1 and D, between the inner edges of the filler-blocks and the post, permit each block, when the split collar E is tightened, to slide forward on the surface of the post until the flanges *b* of the post are clamped tightly and firmly between the opposing corner portions of the two blocks. Thus, slight irregularities in the formation of the blocks or the post will not make any particular difference, as the clamping action will force each block into a firm engagement with the post, and the flanges of the latter may yield a little, while the blocks are forced toward each other, to the powerful contraction of the split collar. It will be understood, however, that the means for engaging the post will necessarily be shaped according to the form or shape of the post.

It will now be seen that the post is preferably of a shape to prevent rotation of the blocks A and C with the collar E and, at the same time, permit up-and-down adjustment of the blocks and collar thereon. Thus the position of the upper end of the brace can be shifted up and down, and the direction of the brace can be changed by swinging it around the post, said blocks serving as a bearing for the collar to turn upon, and said collar and blocks coöperating to tightly clamp the post and hold the brace in position.

What I claim as my invention is:—

1. The combination of a fence post and a brace therefor, adjustable means on the post to permit said brace to extend in different directions, said means including a split collar which encircles the post, a plurality of separate filler-blocks engaging the post, said blocks providing a curved channel-bearing for the rotation therein of said collar, and a tightening and pivoting bolt for contracting said collar and to detachably support the upper end of the brace and clamp said collar and blocks rigidly to the post, so that the brace can be swung up and down and sidewise before having its lower end fixed in place, said post being of a shape to prevent rotation of said blocks with said collar and permit up-and-down adjustment of the blocks and collar thereon.

2. The combination of a fence post and a brace therefor, adjustable means on the post to permit said brace to extend in different directions, said means including a split collar encircling the post to rotate about a vertical axis when the brace is swung around into the desired position, said collar having a tightening and pivoting bolt for detachably supporting the upper end of the brace, so that said collar can be tightened to rigidly clamp said means on the post and whereby the brace can be swung up and down and sidewise before having its lower end fixed in place, and means inside the collar to clamp the post when said bolt is tightened, said post being of a shape to prevent rotation of said last-mentioned means with said collar and permit up-and-down adjustment of the means and collar thereon.

3. The combination, as set forth in claim 1, in which one of said blocks is beveled at each side thereof and forms a wedge extending between two portions of the post, and in which the post is wedge-shaped in cross-section to extend into the other block.

4. The combination, as set forth in claim 1, in which said blocks are of such size and shape that they are readily insertible in said collar when not on the post and have projecting portions to render impossible the removal of either block thereof from said collar while on the post.

5. The combination of (1) a fence post, (2) a clamp slidable up and down on said post and held by the post against rotation thereon, (3) a split collar swiveled on said clamp, (4) means on said clamp to preclude removal thereof from said collar while on the post, (5) a brace for the post, (6) a pivot to support said brace in adjusted position on said collar, and (7) means for utilizing said pivot to tighten said collar and thereby operate said clamp to compress said post.

Signed by me at Janesville, Wisconsin, this 26th day of September, 1916.

JOHN F. HENNING.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."