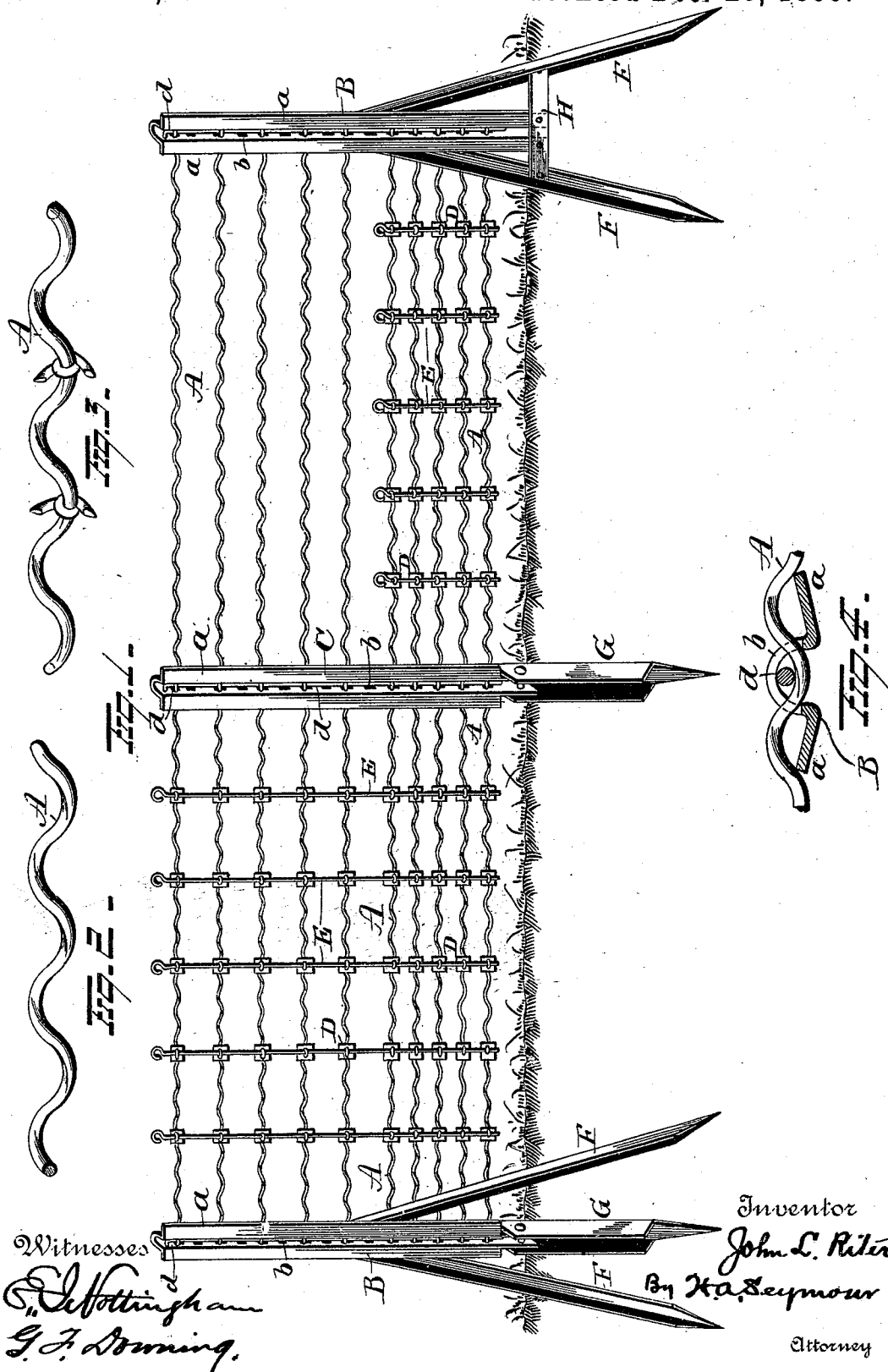


(No Model.)

J. L. RITER.  
WIRE FENCE.

No. 511,458.

Patented Dec. 26, 1893.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN L. RITER, OF BROWNSVILLE, INDIANA.

## WIRE FENCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 511,458, dated December 26, 1893.

Application filed August 25, 1892. Serial No. 444,071. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN L. RITER, of Brownsville, in the county of Union and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Wire Fences; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to an improvement in wire fences and more particularly to the cables employed in constructing the fence, the object being to provide cables, each sufficiently elastic to yield or give under pressure and resume or fly back into its normal position as soon as the pressure is withdrawn, and also free to expand or contract and adapt itself to changes in temperature without injury.

With these ends in view my invention consists of a cable made of steel wire bent into spiral form.

My invention further consists of the parts and combinations of parts as will be more fully described and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings Figure 1 is a view in elevation of a section of a fence embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a view of a section of one of the cables. Fig. 3 shows a barbed cable and Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view of one of the posts.

Heretofore wire fences have been constructed of flat and round wire corrugated or bent into zig-zag form for the purpose of rendering it elastic. While a fence constructed of this material is elastic to a certain extent the fibers of the wire at the bends are ruptured by the process of bending and the wire necessarily weakened and rendered unfit for the purpose.

I take preferably round steel wire of suitable thickness and coil it spirally as shown, making preferably two to six rounds or coils in the wire to the foot. The diameter of the coils or rounds thus formed is preferably about half an inch more or less, which with posts located at ordinary distances apart gives ample surplus of wire to permit the cable to be forcibly pushed out of line without injury to stock coming in contact therewith. The cables A are in effect springs, and hence as soon as pressure is withdrawn they immediately fly back and resume their normal posi-

tions. The cables can if desired be barbed as shown in Fig. 3. The wires or cables A are secured at their ends to the posts B and are supported at one or more points between posts B by the pivoted posts or supports C. These posts or supports are preferably made of sheet metal bent into approximately U-shaped form transversely and provided at their side edges with flanges *a*. The outer convex face of each post is provided at intervals of preferably an inch, with horizontal slots *b* in which the cables rest. The cables are secured in place by the keys *d* which later are passed downwardly along the concave surface of the posts and in front of the wires or cables thus locking the cables against withdrawal. To prevent the cables pulling longitudinally through the slots, the flanges *a* are bent forward so as to bear against the cables and preferably bend them slightly out of a straight line.

By providing the posts with slots located at predetermined and regular distances apart, the cables can be placed nearer together or farther apart at any point throughout the height of the fences as circumstances demand. Another object in locating the slots close together and at regular intervals apart is that it enables me to make the locks D direct from the posts, by severing the latter at points between the slots thus forming the locks each having a single slot. These locks D are each made of sheet metal bent to form a groove or gutter in one face and a correspondingly shaped ridge on its other face the ridge being slotted to receive the cable. The locks are first placed on the cable after which the stay rods E are inserted in place thus locking the parts together and preventing the cables from being spread apart. These locks are not specifically claimed herein as they form the subject for a separate application filed August 31, 1893, Serial No. 444,648.

The posts A are strengthened by braces F which latter are located in position to support the posts against strains exerted in the direction of length of the cables. The posts can be secured to the metal anchor G embedded in the ground as shown at the left hand of Fig. 1 or they can be secured to the supports H carried by the braces F as shown at the right hand of Fig. 1.

By employing spiral cables as shown, the fence as a whole is rendered elastic and will give or yield under pressure and immediately on the removal of the pressure regain its original position.

It is evident that numerous slight changes might be resorted to in the relative arrangement of parts herein shown without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention. Hence I would have it understood that I do not limit myself to the exact construction shown and described; but,

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

1. In a metallic fence a series of metallic cables each made of a single wire spirally coiled, and the cables arranged on parallel lines to each other, combined with a series of locks and a key, the cables resting in recesses in the locks and being held in place by a key, one face of which bears against the cable and the opposite face of which rests against the inner face of the lock, the lock, key, and cable being pressed out of a right line at their point of contact, whereby all the parts will be locked firmly together, all constructed and combined, substantially as herein shown and described.

2. In a fence a series of metallic cables each made of a single wire spirally coiled and the cables arranged on lines parallel to each other,

combined with a series of rigid posts and an intermediate post or posts pivotally connected at their bases, all the parts being constructed and combined substantially as herein shown and described.

3. In a metallic fence the combination with cables, of a metallic post supporting the cables, the said post consisting of converging braces, a cross piece connecting said braces and a post proper connected to the braces and to the cross piece, substantially as set forth.

4. The post having recesses or slots preferably at regular and short intervals apart its full length whereby the cables may be placed any number of inches apart desired, combined with a series of cables each made of a single wire spirally coiled and the cables being arranged on lines parallel to each other and each cable resting in a recess in the post and said cables being held in place by a key extending approximately the length of the post, all the parts being constructed and combined substantially as herein shown and described.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN L. RITER.

Witnesses:

O. M. BALL,  
G. F. DOWNING.