

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH J. McMAKEN, OF MIDDLETOWN, IOWA.

IMPROVEMENT IN PORTABLE FENCES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 132,916, dated November 12, 1872.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH J. McMAKEN, of Middletown, county of Des Moines and State of Iowa, have invented certain Improvements in Portable Fences, of which the following is a specification:

Nature and Objects of the Invention.

The nature of my invention relates to improvements in that class of farm-fences known as portable fences; and the invention consists in so combining and arranging a link and auxiliary braces with the main braces and panels as that they may serve to lock the panels securely together, and at the same time hold them firmly in an upright position, all as hereinafter fully described.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the adjacent ends of two panels of fence, showing my improvement; Fig. 2 is a sectional view of Fig. 1 on the line *x x*; and Fig. 3 is a view of detached parts, showing the adjacent ends of the upper boards of two panels.

Referring to the parts by letters, letters A represent the horizontal boards of a panel of fence, held together by vertical slats *a*, of which there may be any desired number. Letters B represent the horizontal boards of a corresponding panel to A, and are secured in panel by the slats *b*. C C are the main braces, beveled at their upper ends and contiguous sides, as shown in the drawing. D is a link, placed transversely with the fence and below the upper boards A' B', its ends encircling the upper ends of the braces C C, and resting in notches *c c* therein, while its central part rests in

notches *d d* in the lower sides of the boards A' B'. E E are auxiliary braces, their adjacent ends cut to shoulders *e e*, or other means of securing to the lower or next lower boards A' B'', and their outer ends secured by nails or screws to the lower portions of the main braces C C.

In setting up this fence the ends of the panels are placed together slightly lapping, as shown in the drawing; the main braces C C and link D are then put in place, when, by pressing their lower ends apart, they will act as levers in compressing the boards A' B' between their upper ends, the ends of the link D acting as fulcrums for the levers. The auxiliary braces E E may be now secured in position, as shown, for the purpose of holding the braces C C in the position last described. The lower boards of the panels of fence being held above the surface of the ground, it will be evident that weight upon the fence will only serve to bind the boards between the upper ends of the braces C C all the firmer. The notches *d d*, resting on the link D, will prevent longitudinal displacement of the panels.

What I claim as my invention is—

The combination of the main braces C C, auxiliary or extension braces E E, and panels A B, with the link D, when the latter is passed over the braces C and beneath the upper rails of the panels, in manner described, for the purpose set forth.

JOSEPH J. McMAKEN.

Witnesses:

PLATT R. RICHARDS,
B. F. ARNOLD.