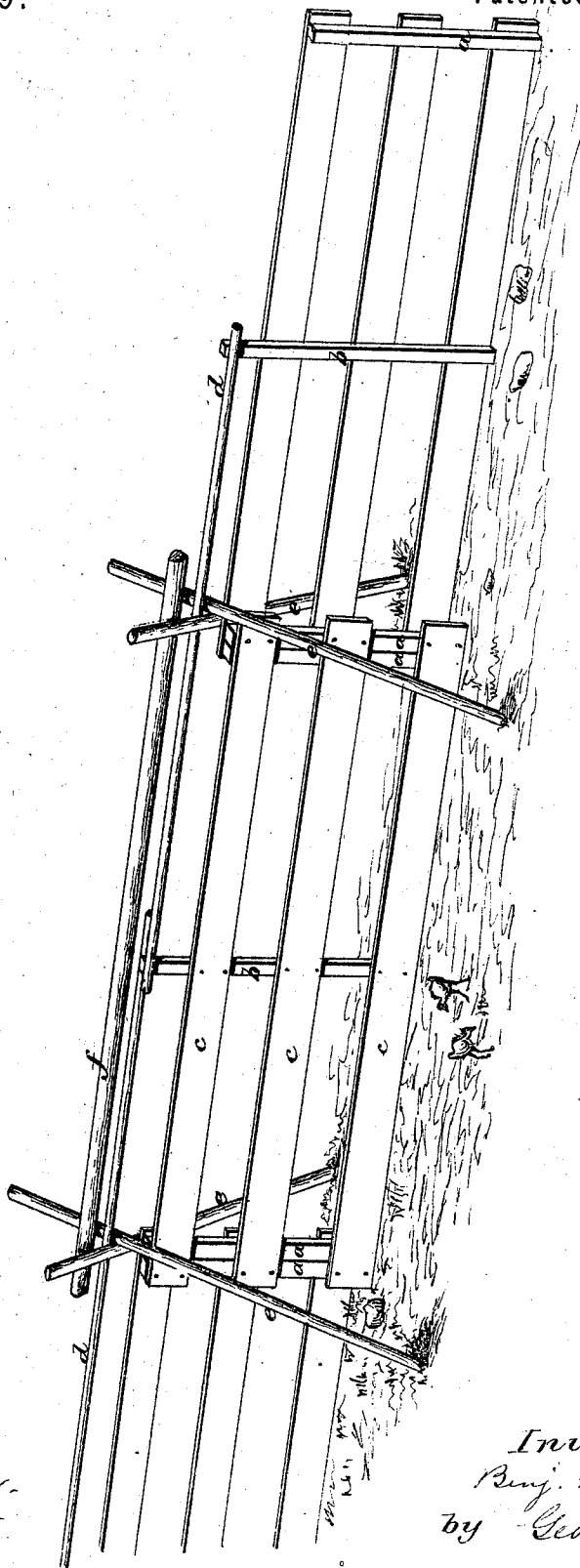


BENJAMIN F. MEARS.
Improvement in Fences.

No. 120,989.

Patented Nov. 14, 1871.



Witnesses.
C. F. Brown.
E. A. Elewaut.

Inventor.
Benj. F. Mears.
by Geo. E. Brown.

Atty

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN F. MEARS, OF WASHINGTON, INDIANA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FENCES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 120,989, dated November 14, 1871.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN F. MEARS, of Washington, Daviess county, Indiana, have invented an Improved Portable Fence, of which the following is a specification:

This invention relates to a portable fence constructed in sections, each of which has three vertical posts, one at each end and the third in the middle, the sections being connected by cap pieces extending from the top of each middle post to the tops of the two adjacent middle posts at each side, and the fence being upheld by crossed stakes driven above the cap pieces at the lines of junction between the sections.

Referring to the drawing, in which the figure is a perspective view, *a* are the end vertical posts of each section of the fence therein represented. *b* are the middle posts. *c* are the horizontal boards, which, together with the end and middle stakes, make up the several sections. *d* are the cap pieces, connecting the middle posts of contiguous sections. *e* are the crossed stakes, driven into the ground opposite the lapped ends

of the sections above the cap pieces. *f* are riders resting on the crossed stakes.

By means of the cap pieces the rigidity imparted to the fence at the lapped ends of the sections is communicated to the middles thereof. The stakes are placed at the weakest parts of the fence, where they are most needed, and which are further strengthened by the cap pieces. No other parts of the fence are driven into the ground except the stakes *e*.

I am aware that neither crossed stakes nor cap pieces are in themselves new as constituent elements of a portable fence.

I claim as my invention—

The sections of a portable fence combined with the crossed stakes *e* placed at the junctions of the sections, and with the cap pieces *d* connecting the middle stakes of the sections, and with the riders *f*, all arranged as specified.

BENJAMIN F. MEARS.

Witnesses:

EMANUEL BEITMAN,
FREDERICK S. MEARS.

(52)