J. E. LOEFFLER.

FENCE.

APPLICATION FILED APR 19, 1921.

1,429,084. Patented Sept. 12, 1922.

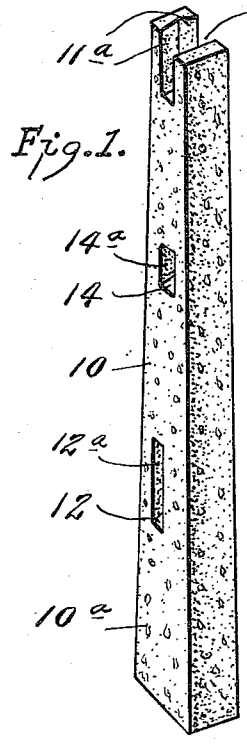


Fig. 1.

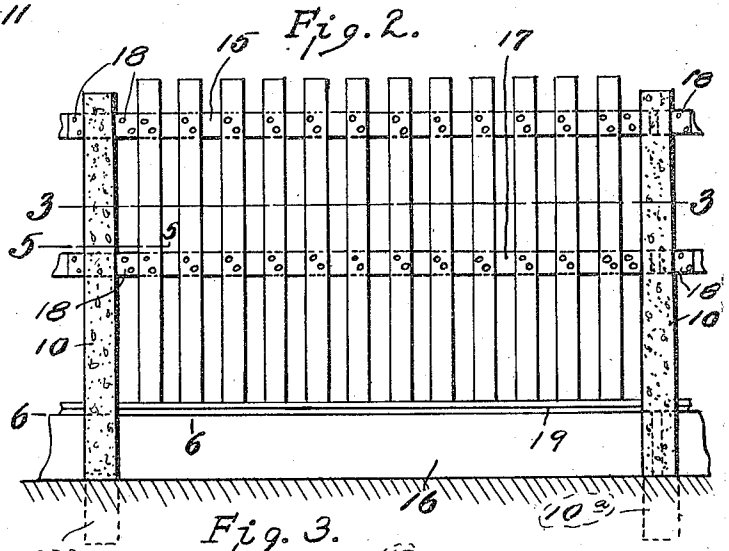


Fig. 2.

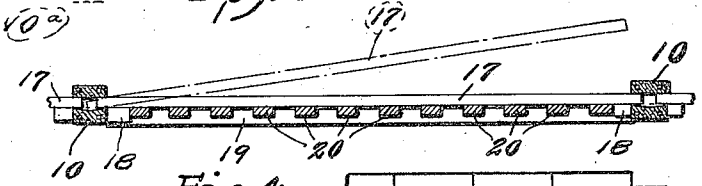


Fig. 3.

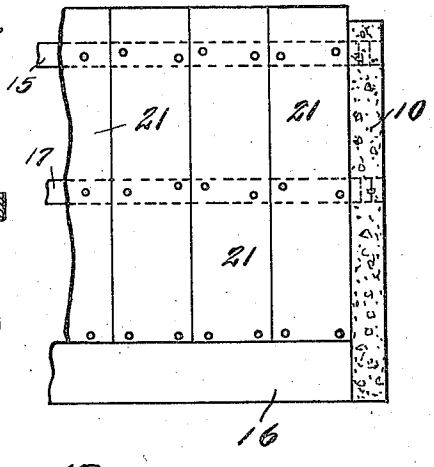


Fig. 4.

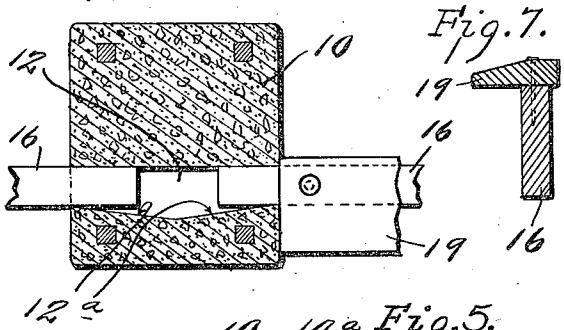


Fig. 6.

Fig. 7.

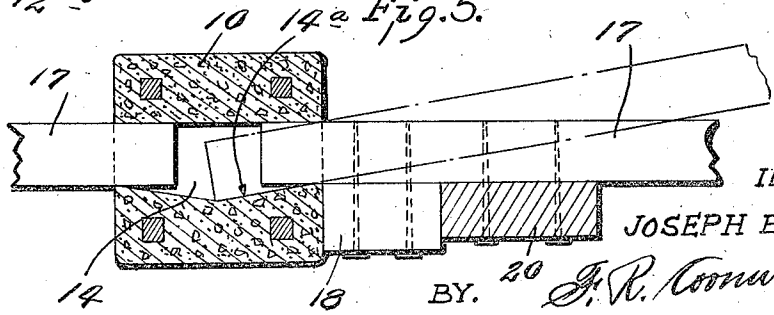


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH E. LOEFFLER, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

FENCE.

Application filed April 19, 1921. Serial No. 462,496.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH E. LOEFFLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis, Missouri, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Fences, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this application.

This invention relates to improvements in fences. The principal objects of the invention are: To provide a fence which can be quickly and easily erected; which is inexpensive to maintain, and which can be readily repaired.

A further object of the invention is to provide a fence in sections whereby said sections can be removed without dismantling or destroying any portion of the fence.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved fence post having receiving sockets arranged therein, the walls of which are divergent whereby the removable fence sections can be placed in position between their respective fence posts after said posts are anchored in the ground.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, my invention consists in certain novel features of construction and arrangement of parts, hereinafter more fully described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one of the fence posts.

Figure 2 is a front elevation of a section of my improved fence.

Figure 3 is a horizontal section taken on line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a front elevation of a modified form of my improved fence.

Figure 5 is a horizontal cross section on line 5—5 of Figure 2.

Figure 6 is a horizontal section taken on line 6—6 of Figure 2.

Figure 7 is a vertical cross section taken on line 7—7 of Figure 6.

Referring by numerals to the accompanying drawings, 10 designates a fence post, preferably made of reinforced concrete. The side walls of the post are perpendicular while its front and rear walls are tapered upwardly so as to provide a substantially massive base 10^a which, when sunk in position in the ground, will maintain the post in upright position. In the upper end of post 10 is formed a horizontal groove 11, one side wall of which is obliquely disposed, as indicated at 11^a. The lower portion of the post is provided immediately above the ground line with a horizontally disposed slot 12, the ends of which terminate in perpendicular side walls of the post. One side wall of this slot is obliquely disposed, as indicated at 12^a, and the angle of this side wall coincides with the angle of the oblique side wall 11^a of groove 11. This slot 12 is positioned slightly towards the front wall of post 10 so as to be offset with respect to a horizontal slot 14 which is formed in the post 10 intermediately between the slot 12 and the grooved upper end of said post and is provided with obliquely disposed side walls 14^a.

The upper end of the post is arranged to receive the upper longitudinally disposed fence rail 15 and the slot 12 is designed to receive the adjoining ends of baseboard 16, the latter forming the ground, or base, member of the fence. The intermediate slot 14 is adapted to have inserted therein the adjoining ends of intermediate longitudinal fence rails 17.

In erecting the fence, the lower ends of posts 10 are sunk into the ground at a predetermined distance from each other. This distance between the adjacent posts is less than the length of rails 15 and 17 and base board 16, so that when said rails and base board are in their respective positions, the ends of rail 15 will occupy grooves 11. The ends of rail 17 will occupy slots 14, and the ends of base board 16 will rest in slots 12 of the adjacent posts. In order to place the rails or base board in position, one end of the rail or base board is inserted in the corresponding slot of one of the posts with the rail or base board occupying an oblique position, as shown in dotted lines in Figures 3 and 5. The insertion of the ends of the fence members into their respective slots at an angle is made possible by the divergent walls of said slots. The slots are of sufficient length to permit the insertion of the rail or base board a proper distance therein so that the opposite end of said rail or base board clears its corresponding fence post and can be brought into alinement with its respective slot in said post. The rail or

base board is then moved longitudinally so as to seat this end of the rail or base board in its respective slot.

To prevent the accidental longitudinal movement of rails and their displacement from the slots in the posts, blocks 18 are nailed to rails 15 and 17 and abutting each post, whereby said blocks will serve as stops to prevent the longitudinal movement of said rails.

The base board 16 is held against longitudinal movement by a watershed 19 nailed to the top thereof and having its ends abutting the sides of the adjacent posts.

When a picket fence is desired, pickets or pales are nailed to rails 15 and 17 at spaced intervals, the lower ends of said pickets terminating above the watershed 19.

When it is desired to build a board fence, boards 21 are nailed to rails 15 and 17, in which case blocks 18 and watershed 19 are dispensed with, the outermost boards being placed against the sides of the posts and preventing the longitudinal movement of the rails, while the lower ends of said boards rest on base board 16.

In order to remove a section of the fence, blocks 18 are detached from rails 17 and 15, if a picket fence is used; or the outermost members are removed, when a board fence is used. Rails 15 and 17 are then slid longitudinally, thereby freeing or unseating one end of the rails 15 and 17 from groove 11 and slot 14. The fence section is then shifted obliquely to bring the free ends of rails 15 and 17 out of alinement with their corresponding post 10, after which the fence section is moved forwardly so as to unseat the opposite ends of rails 15 and 17 from groove 11 and slots 12 and 14.

To close an opening in the fence, base board 16 is first slid into its position and then the fence sections comprising the rails 15 and 17 and pickets 20, or boards 21, as the case may be, are placed in position, the ends of rails 15 and 17 occupying grooves 11 and slots 14, respectively, and blocks 18 or the detached members 21 are then replaced in order to prevent the displacement of the fence section.

By the use of my improved fence, any one of the sections can be easily and quickly removed to afford a passageway therethrough, or, for the purpose of repairs, can be readily replaced without destroying or damaging the fence or any portion thereof.

My improved fence can be readily built without requiring a great amount of time or labor, and can be easily maintained in proper condition.

What I claim is:

1. In a fence, posts provided with horizontally disposed seats, the side walls of which are divergent, and longitudinal rails, the lengths of which are less than the distance from the center of one post to the adjacent side of the next post to permit said rails to be placed in position, substantially as described.

2. In a fence, posts provided with horizontally disposed seats, and a longitudinal rail adapted to have its ends seated in said seats, the length of said rail being greater than the distance between the adjacent sides of the posts, the seats in said posts being provided with divergent walls to permit said rail to be placed in position, substantially as described.

3. A fence comprising posts provided with slots having divergent side walls, and longitudinal rails adapted to have their ends seated in said slots, the lengths of said rails being greater than the distance between adjacent posts, and less than the distance from the center of one post to the adjacent side of the next post to permit said rails to be placed in position, substantially as described.

4. A fence comprising posts provided with slots having divergent side walls, longitudinal rails adapted to have their ends seated in said slots, the lengths of said rails being greater than the distance between adjacent posts, and less than the distance from the center of one post to the adjacent side of the next post to permit said rails to be placed in position, and means on said rails for preventing the displacement of said rails.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature this 14th day of April, 1921.

JOSEPH E. LOEFFLER.