

(No Model.)

Z. FOWLER.
FENCE.

No. 460,960.

Patented Oct. 13, 1891.

Fig. 1.

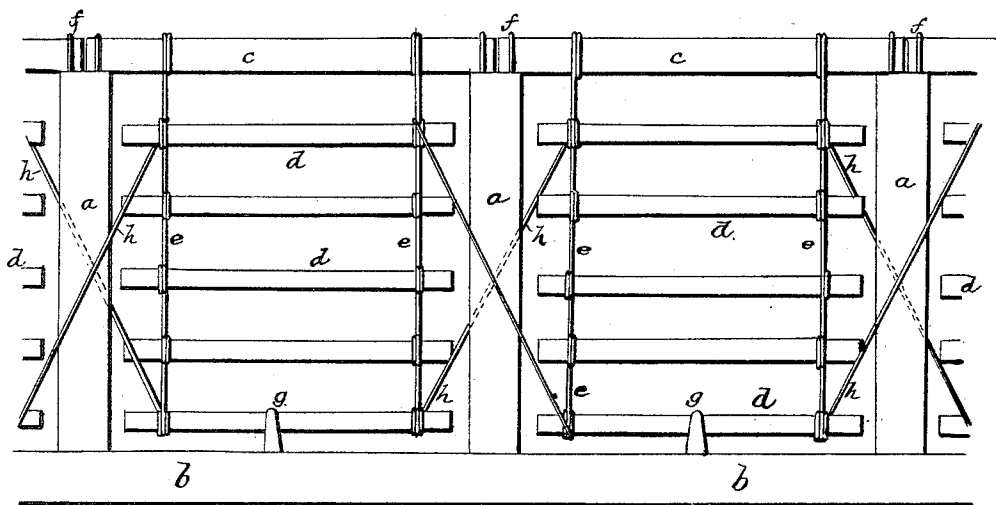
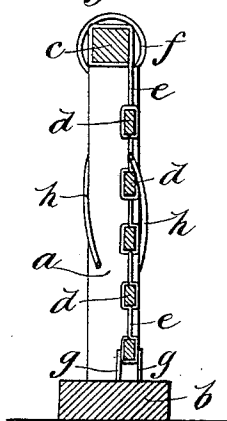


Fig. 2.



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FENCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 460,960, dated October 13, 1891.

Application filed April 14, 1891. Serial No. 388,877. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ZADOC FOWLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Fowler's, in the county of Brooke and State of West Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fences; and I do 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to fences.

The object of my improvements is to provide a fence which is at once simple, cheap, and effective for the fencing of farms, lots, and for other purposes to which it may be applied.

The invention consists in the following construction and combination of parts, which will be first fully described in detail, and the points of novelty believed to be new then set forth in the claim.

In the drawings, Figure 1 represents the invention fully by a side elevation. Fig. 2 is a transverse section and elevation thereof.

In the drawings, *a* represents a series of vertical posts. These posts may or may not be provided with a base-rail *b*. When the base-rail is omitted, the posts *a* are set in the ground in the usual way.

c are the top rails of the fence. These I generally prefer to spike on the tops of the posts, though I may secure them in any suitable way.

d are the intermediate rails. These rails are slightly shorter than the distance between the posts, and there may be any desired number of them.

e represents the wire connections of the rails.

All the rails *d* are hung by the wires *e* from the top rails *c*. The wires *e* are twisted round the top rails, and also in succession around each panel-rail *d* and secured thereto.

They may, however, be hung in any other analogous manner.

My improved fence is very cheaply and easily constructed, because there are no rail-mortises to make in the posts and the rails *d* can all be wired flat or upon the ground and then be easily swung into place. The weight of the rails and the stiffness of the wire prevent the panels from being swung unduly aside, while at the same time the fence is well adapted as a flood-fence in valleys and lands subject to periodical overflow.

Barbed wire may be used in place of the wire *e*, if desired.

The spikes *f* may represent straps or staples driven into the tops of the posts, so that, if desired, the top rails *c* may be rotated, in order that the lower panel-rail *d* may be adjustably set at different elevations to make it conform to the inequalities of the ground or to be elevated during a flood or for any other purpose. The rails *c* may be square, so they will hold the panels at every quarter of the turn in the straps *f*.

It is very essential in building this class of fence, where the panels are constructed complete before they are mounted, to have a ready means for adjustably setting the panels after they are secured to the top rail. This I accomplish by rotating the square top rail, and which is automatically locked by the weight of the panel at each quarter-turn of the top rail.

If it should be desired to hold the panels vertically by any other force than by gravity, I may use projections *g*, or I may employ diagonal braces *h*, which connect the adjacent diagonally-opposite corners of the panels, and pass on either side of the posts for the same purpose.

I claim, furthermore—

In a fence, the combination of a series of posts, a series of panel-rails between the posts, wires connecting and supporting each panel series, straps or staples upon the posts, a series of top rails having angular or square bearings upon the tops of the posts, from

which the panels are suspended by said wires, whereby the top rails may be adjustably rotated and locked upon the posts by the weight of the panels for the purpose of adjusting the height of the panels, a series of
5 diagonal wires, each leading from the top panel-rail on one side of the post to the bottom panel-rail on the other side of the post, and a projecting piece from the base-rail or

ground embracing the lower panel-rail, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ZADOC FOWLER.

Witnesses:

N. C. HUNTER,

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