

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MILTON MURRAY, OF WILLIAMS WHARF, VIRGINIA.

FENCE-POST.

1,057,260.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Mar. 25, 1913.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MILTON MURRAY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Williams Wharf, in the county of Mathews and State of Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fence-Posts, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawing.

10 This invention relates to fence posts and the principal object of the invention is to provide an improved type of wire engaging means which will connect the wire with the post at any point, and which may be readily connected with the post. It should also be noted that if by any chance the wire engaging means should slip loose after the fence has been constructed that it will remain on the wire and will not drop to the ground.

20 The principal advantage in this connector is that it holds the wire under a tension at all times so that there is no danger of the wire slipping out of position, this being absolutely necessary since no other securing means is used, and therefore, if the wire were not held under tension, the whole fence might slip down the post.

This invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

30 Figure 1 is a perspective view of the post showing a wire connected therewith. Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the post shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an enlarged view in elevation showing the wire securing device in position. Fig. 4 is a top plan view of a slightly modified form of post, and showing a slightly modified form of wire securing means. Fig. 5 is a plan view of the wire securing means shown in Fig. 4.

40 In the drawings it will be seen that this post is formed from sheet metal which has its major portion rolled to form the substantially cylindrical body portion 10 having the longitudinally extending slot 11 formed therein by the edges of the strip of metal being left in spaced relation. It is, of course, obvious that this major portion of the post may be made of any shape desired, although the shapes shown in Figs. 2 and 4 are the preferred forms. The lower portion of the post is left flat to form the base 12 which is provided with the tapered end portion 11 to assist in driving the post into the ground. Anchor plates 14 which are preferably provided with the tapered lower portions 15 have their flanges 16 secured to the

base 12 of the post, the tapered portions of the anchor plates and lower end portion 13 of the base being brought together to form a penetrating point for the post. It will thus be seen that it is not necessary to dig post-holes when using these posts since the post can be set up in the desired position, and then driven into the ground. If desired, the anchor plates at the corners of the fence may be straight throughout their length, thus giving the post a firmer support. It should be noted that the lower portion of the post merges into the base, thus forming a substantially conical lower portion which compacts the dirt as the post is driven into the ground thus causing the post to be very firmly embedded and preventing the post from being drawn out of vertical position. After the posts have been driven into the ground, the wires 24 are connected with the posts by means of the improved securing device which forms part of this invention. This attaching means can be used for securing fences which are formed from straight wires, twisted wires, or barb wires or may be used in connecting one of the wire-mesh-type, the connecting means being mounted upon the longitudinally extending wires. The connecting devices are formed from resilient wires which are bent to form a centrally located wire engaging pocket from which there extends the coiled arms which engage the post at each side of the slot in the post. These wire engaging devices are better illustrated in Figs. 2 and 4, and referring to these figures, it will be seen that the wire is bent at points adjacent the center and brought together in overlapping relation to form the pocket 25, the outer wall of which is crimped to form the seat 26 in which the wire is adapted to fit. The fact that the connecting device is formed from spring metal holds the overhanging portions together so that if the device were to slip loose from the post, it would hang to the wire and thus be prevented from getting loose. The arms 27 which extend from the pocket 25 are coiled to form the spring portions of the connecting device and have their end portions bent to form the hooks 28. These hooks may be either bent outwardly as shown in Fig. 2 or may be bent inwardly as shown in Fig. 4, and are intended to be engaged by a pair of pincers when connecting the device with the post. If they are bent outwardly as shown in Fig. 2 they en-

gage the post at each side of the slot so that the device is more firmly connected with the post, thus making it more difficult for the device to slip loose.

5 When connecting the wires with the post, the connecting devices are slipped upon the wire so that the wire is positioned in the pocket 24, and the connecting device is then turned and passed through the slot formed
10 in the post. After the connecting device has been inserted through the slot, the hooks 28 are grasped by a suitable pair of pincers and the arms compressed so that the connecting device may be turned to the position shown,
15 with the hooks contacting with the post at each side of the slot as shown in Fig. 2, or with the arms in contact with the inner face of the post adjacent the slot. In order to turn the connecting device to this position,
20 it will be necessary that the arms be compressed so that the wire is held tightly in the seat 26, and thus placed under a tension, the tension being constantly maintained by the resilient arms. This causes the wire to
25 be tightly gripped between the pocket 25, and the edges of the post, thus causing the edges of the post to bend the wire slightly, and thus securely holding the wire against any slipping. It should be noted that when
30 it is desired to replace the wire in a fence, where a series of wires are used to form the fence that it is not necessary to release the wires above the broken one in order to remove the broken wire, but it is simply necessary to turn the securing device so that it is
35 out of engagement with the post, and then draw it through the slot, thus releasing the wire from the post.

What is claimed is:—

40 1. In combination with a hollow fence post provided with a vertical slot, of a spring wire engaging means positioned within the post in spaced relation thereto and having its end portions engaging the post
45 near the side edges of the slot, the intermediate portion being adapted to engage a wire for holding the wire in firm engagement with the post.

50 2. In combination with a hollow fence post, provided with a vertical slot, of resilient wire engaging means positioned within said post in spaced relation thereto and having one portion extending through the slot formed therein to engage a wire to
55 yieldably connect the wire with said post.

3. In combination with a hollow fence post, having a vertical slot formed therein, of wire engaging means formed from a single length of resilient material bent to

60 form a wire engaging pocket having arms extending therefrom, said wire engaging means being positioned within said post in spaced relation thereto, and said arms being coiled to form resilient members engaging the post adjacent said slot whereby the
65 wire engaging means may be inserted through the slot and turned to an operative position.

4. A wire engaging means adapted to be connected with a hollow post having an opening formed in its wall comprising a
70 strip of resilient material bent to form a wire engaging member having resilient arms extending therefrom, said arms being adapted to engage the fence post adjacent the opening formed therein and the remaining
75 portion of the wire engaging member being in spaced relation to the post.

5. A wire engaging device adapted to be used in connection with a hollow post having a slot formed in its wall, said wire engaging device formed from a strip of resilient material bent at points adjacent its center to form a bridge and having arms
80 extending therefrom in an overlapping relation to form a wire receiving pocket, the end portions of said arms being separated and coiled to form spring members adapted to engage the post adjacent the slot formed
85 therein.

6. A wire securing device adapted to be used in combination with a hollow post having a slot formed therein, said wire engaging device being formed from a strip of resilient material bent to form a wire receiving
90 pocket, having arms extending therefrom, said arms forming spring members and having their end portions bent to form hooks whereby said arms may be bent to permit said wire engaging device to be inserted through said slot and turned to grip
95 the post adjacent the slot formed therein.

7. A fence post comprising a hollow cylindrical body portion having a vertical slot formed therein and removable resilient wire
100 engaging means positioned within said post and extending through said slot to engage a wire and having its end portions contacting with said post and its remaining portions positioned in spaced relation to the
105 post.

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

MILTON MURRAY.

Witnesses:

THOMAS A. LESTER,
JOHN J. WILMARTH.