W. B. & L. A. HENNING.

FENCE POST.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 15, 1909.

952,807. Patented Mar. 22, 1910.

Fig. 1.

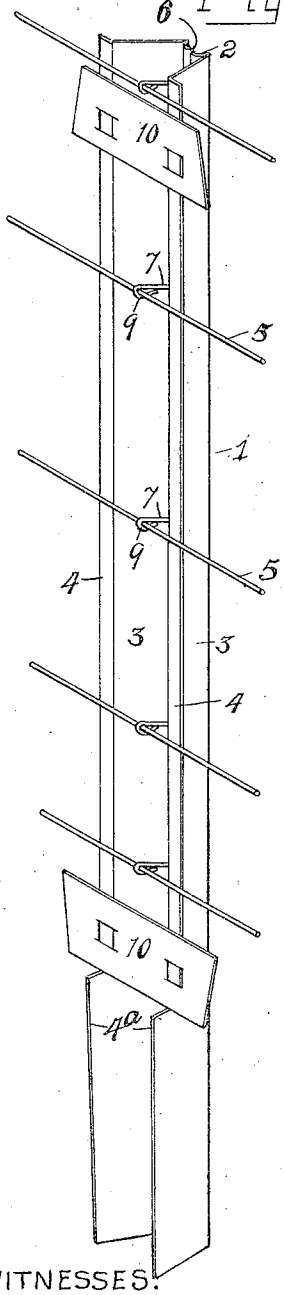



Fig. 2.

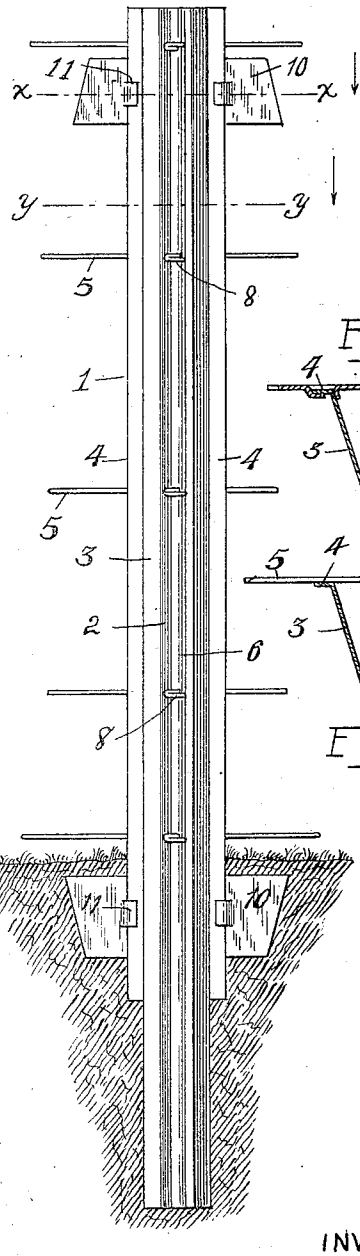
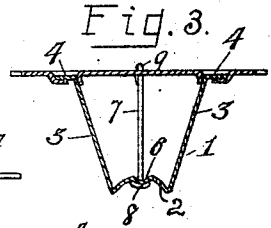



Fig. 3.



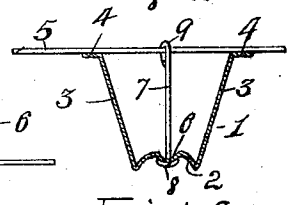




Fig. 4.

WITNESSES:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## FENCE-POST.

952,807. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 22, 1910.

Application filed January 15, 1909. Serial No. 472,448.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, WILLIAM B. HENNING and LOUIS A. HENNING, citizens of the United States, and residents of North Baltimore, in the county of Wood and State of Ohio, have invented a certain new and useful Fence-Post; and we do hereby 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 figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Our invention relates to metallic fence posts and particularly to posts of the channel type which are especially adapted for the fastening of line wires or woven wire fences thereto, but is not restricted for use in such connection.

The object of the invention is the provision of a post of this nature, which is light, strong and durable in its construction, economical of manufacture, and provided with simple and efficient means for relatively bracing the legs or flanges from the sides of the post, which means may also serve as an anchor and centering means for the post.

A further object of the invention is the provision of novel and improved means for attaching the line wires to the post whereby such wires are securely held thereto and are at the same time permitted to have free longitudinal contracting and expanding movements relative to the post under changing weather conditions, without loosening or in any way injuring such securing means.

The construction and arrangement of the parts of this invention are fully described in the following specification, and a preferred embodiment thereof illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of our post. Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof with its lower end embedded in the ground, and Figs. 3 and 4 are cross-sections on the line $x$ $x$ and $y$ $y$, respectively, in Fig. 2.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates the body of our improved post, which, in cross-section, is of channel shape and comprises the central portion 2 and the diverging webs or extensions 3, 3, which project from the opposite edges of such central portion and have their outer edges bent laterally or fashioned to form terminal flanges 4, 4. These flanges are so disposed relative to their respective extensions 3 as to present flat faces to the line wires 5 of a fence attached thereto and also to give the post greater strength and rigidity, as will be apparent.

The central portion 2 of the post is preferably made concavo-convex in cross-section with its concaved side disposed outwardly relative to the webs 3, 3, and is centrally formed longitudinally thereof with an outwardly disposed transversely rounded ridge 6, which is preferably of less depth than the concavity of the portion 2 for the purpose hereinafter described. The ridge 6 is perforated at suitable distances apart for the reception of wire-fastening members 7, which are headed at one end, as at 8, and are intended to have such heads bear against the ridge 6 and to have their opposite ends bent around the wires 5, as at 9, to hold them securely to the post. In order to securely hold the line wires to a post and at the same time to permit them to freely contract or expand without liability of bending, weakening or breaking the securing members 7 owing to the lateral stresses to which they are subjected by such action of the wires, we form the inner faces of the heads 8 of the securing members in the arcs of circles corresponding to the rounded surface of the ridge 6, thus providing pivotal joints between the post and securing members to permit the said members to have transverse oscillatory movements between the webs 3, 3 when the wires have longitudinal movement, it of course being understood that the perforations in the ridges are sufficiently large to permit such pivotal movement of the members. This permissible pivotal action of the securing members is a very important feature, as one of the main difficulties in wire fence construction has been the pulling out of the securing staples, or the loosening or breaking of other wire securing means due to a contraction or expansion of the line wires. The shallowness of the ridge 6 relative to the concavity of the central portion 2 enables the heads 8 of the securing members 7 to be protected by the extended side edges of such central portion from injury due to animals rubbing against the post or other objects striking the same.

The webs or extensions 3, 3 are rigidly braced against relative movements by one or more truss-plates 10, which have coöperating sets of lugs 11 stamped therefrom, or otherwise suitably provided thereon, to embrace the inner and outer edges of each terminal flange 4, as shown, thus adapting them to brace the webs 3, 3 against both contracting or retracting movements. These plates may also serve as means to which gate hinges may be secured, or for any other purpose.

The lower truss-plate 10 may, if desired, be used as an alining, centering or anchoring means by disposing it below the surface line, as shown in Fig. 2. When used in this connection the plate preferably has its ends cut on an incline relative to a vertical plane with its broad edge disposed upwardly to facilitate the forcing of the plate ends into the firm earth at the sides of a post hole, thus enabling the post to be accurately lined up and firmly held in such position during the filling of the hole, or to support the post at a proper depth in a hole. The plate also serves as a thrust plate to oppose lateral movements of the post in the ground. The flanges 4 may or may not be extended to the bottom of the post as desired, but preferably have their lower end portions continued straight relative to the extensions 3, as shown at $4^a$, to provide stops for limiting the lowering movements of the plate 10 on the post.

We wish it understood that our invention is not limited to the specific form and arrangement of parts shown and described except in so far as such limitations are specified in the claims.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is,—

1. A channel post having its side web terminals flanged in a common plane, and a truss-plate having sets of tongues provided thereon which embrace each side edge of a flange and coöperate to prevent relative contracting or retracting movements of the webs.

2. A channel-post having a central corrugated portion forming longitudinal center and side protuberant ribs and webs projecting from the side edges of such portion and relatively diverging outwardly therefrom, the terminal edges of such webs being angled to form a broadened wire bearing surface for each web, and a plate secured to such bearing surfaces in a manner to prevent relative contracting or retracting movements of the webs.

3. A channel-post having its side web terminals flanged in a common plane for a portion of their lengths and continuing straight relative to the webs for the remainder of their lengths, and a truss-plate having coöperating securing means for slidingly attaching the plate to said flanges and preventing relative lateral movements of the webs in either direction, said straight terminal edges of the web serving as stops for limiting the sliding movements of the plate on the webs.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto signed our names to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM B. HENNING.
LOUIS A. HENNING.

Witnesses:
C. W. Owen,
Hazel B. Hiett.