H. C. Foote,

Portable Fence,

No. 33,937. Patented Dec. 17, 1861.

Fig. 1.

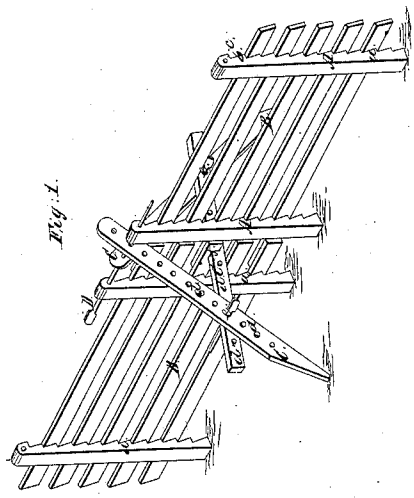


Fig. 4.

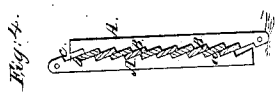


Fig. 5.

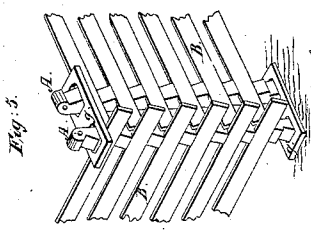


Fig. 6.

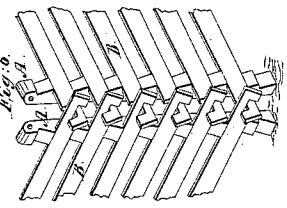


Fig. 4.

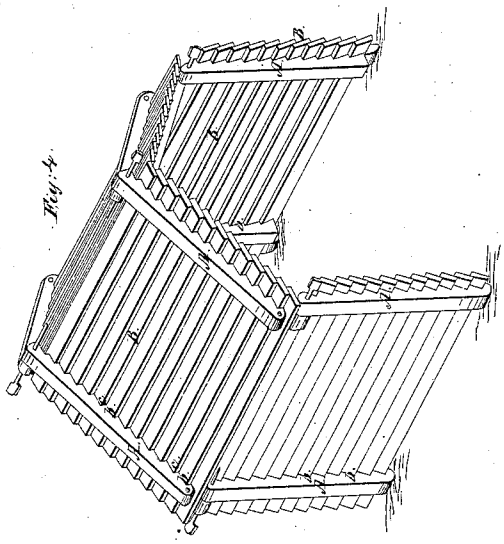


Fig. 3.

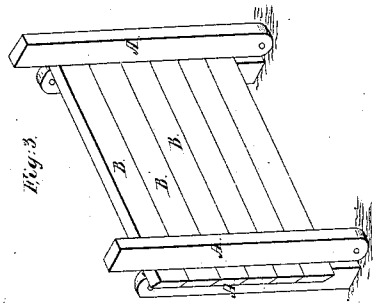
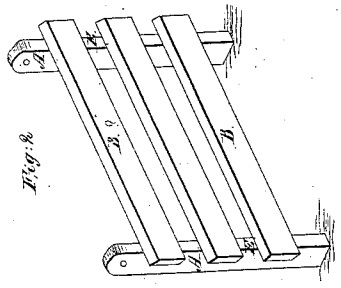


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:
Edward Gotwick
R. L. Cobbs.

Inventor:
H. C. Foote
by Robt. W. Fenwick & Co
DeWitt C. Laurence
Attorneys

N. PETERS, PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

H. C. FOOTE, OF JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY.

IMPROVED PORTABLE FARM-FENCE.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **33,937**, dated December 17, 1861.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, H. C. FOOTE, of Jersey City, in the county of Hudson and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Portable and Convertible Farm-Fencing; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention as applied in the construction of an open summer fencing. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a modification of the same. Figs. 3 and 4 are perspective views of the same fencing as adjusted and used in the erection of closed winter structures or portable barns, sheep-pens, cabins, shanties, or tobacco-houses. Figs. 5 and 6 are perspective views of the invention applied to worm or zigzag fencing.

Similar letters of reference in each of the several figures indicate corresponding parts.

The nature of my invention consists in so constructing the panels of portable farm-fencing that they can be set up to form an open structure or fence, and at will every alternate panel thereof can be readily disconnected and inverted or reversed and the rails of the same slipped into the spaces between the rails of the panels which are not inverted in such a manner as to make double or compound panels, which are closed and water-proof, and which will answer for erecting winter shelters for gathered produce of the farm, and for animals, &c.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

In the drawings, Fig. 1, one side of the posts A are provided with right-angle notches *a*, of uniform sizes and terminating in one another after the manner of ratchet-teeth spaces, each of said notches presenting an inclined surface *b* and a shoulder *c* for the rails B to rest and abut against, as shown. The rails B are placed singly in every alternate notch of every pair of posts and are then nailed securely. Panels of fencing thus formed are held together in a straight line and sustained firmly by means of braces C and pivotal pins D, the braces being adjustable in height by means of holes *d* and pivotal pins *e e*, or in any other approved known way.

It will be observed from the drawings that the pins D pass through the upper ends of the posts and inclined bars of the brace; also, that the pivotal pins *e e* pass through the ends of the transverse and inclined bars of the brace C, and likewise that a notch *f*, large enough to admit the two overlapping ends of every central pair of rails, is cut in the center of the transverse bar of the braces, for the purpose of confining the panels against independent lateral play.

In Fig. 2 the posts A are made without notches, and as a substitute for the notches shown in Fig. 1 diamond-shaped spaces E, of a size equal to the rails, are left between every pair of the rails of each panel, said spaces being formed by beveling both the upper and under edges of each of the rails in the same direction and nailing the rails at equal distances apart to the posts. Panels of fencing thus formed are held together and supported in substantially the same manner as shown in Fig. 1, by braces and pins, or in any other approved way.

In Figs. 5 and 6 the posts are notched and the rails set in the notches and nailed to the posts, substantially as shown in Fig. 1. The ends of the rails, however, are alternately extended beyond the posts or notched, so as to admit of the panels being set worming or on a zigzag line. When the panels are thus constructed and arranged, slotted pieces *g g* only are used in place of the braces C to hold the fence together.

In Fig. 4 the fencing shown in Fig. 1 is represented as converted into closed frames and used in the erection of winter shelters or structures for the reception of the gathered produce of the farm, or the animals, &c. To effect this change, all that has to be done is to remove the braces C and separate the panels, and then to invert each alternate panel and adjust the ends of the rails thereof opposite the spaces between the rails of the panels which have not been inverted and shove the inverted panels along a sufficient distance to cause the rails thereof to occupy the said spaces and the posts of each pair of panels to come opposite one another, as shown. The

panels, thus doubled, are set up in the form of a shanty, "barracks," pen, or other desired structure, and sustained or held together as shown in Fig. 4 or in any other manner that the conveniences of the farmer may suggest.

If the panels shown in Fig. 2 are used, the same operation of disconnecting and inverting each alternate panel and slipping one within another may be resorted to in order to form closed or double frames, Fig. 3, as also is the case if the plans shown in Figs. 5 and 6 are adopted in the first erection of the fence.

It is obvious that the same principle of operation is involved in all of the styles of fencing shown, and that the end desired to be attained—viz., an open summer fence which is capable of being converted into a closed winter water-proof structure—is secured from the use of either style.

My improvement is very essential, as it places within the reach of the farmer who has not the means to erect both a stationary substantial fence around his farm and water-proof structures for the gathered produce and stock or animals thereof a fencing which will answer all his purposes during the warm seasons of the year, and when no longer required for guarding his growing crops can be readily taken down and converted into pens, outbuildings, &c., for sheltering the stock and protecting the gathered produce, the structures thus formed effectually shedding the rain both at sides and top, owing to the oblique set of the rails of the panels or the diamond lap thereof.

Having thus described my portable and convertible fence, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The manner, substantially as herein described, of constructing the panels of an open farm-fence, whereby the panels can be doubled at will, so as to form closed frames with a rain-proof lap-surface, for the purposes herein set forth.

H. C. FOOTE.

Witnesses:

DAVID BEDFORD,

C. T. FRAZER.