M. BURTLESS.

Portable Fences.

No. 165,439. Patented July 13, 1875.

Fig. 1.

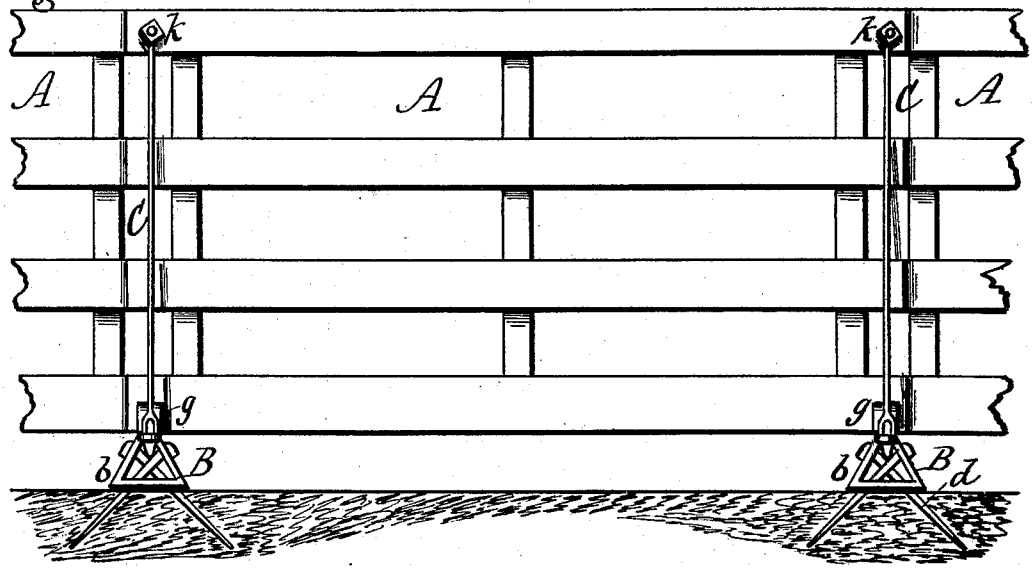


Fig. 2.

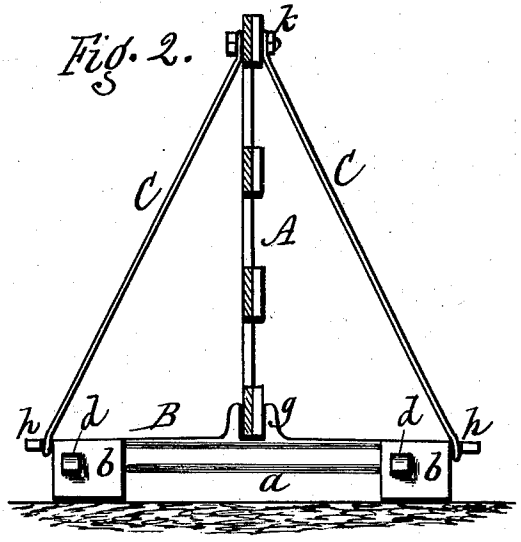


Fig. 3.

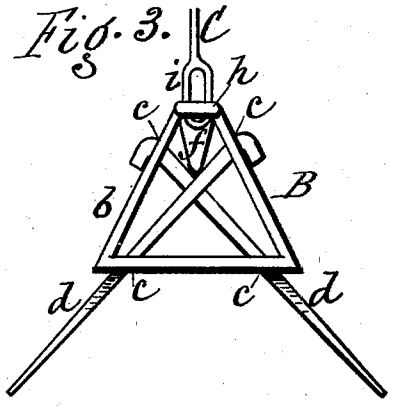
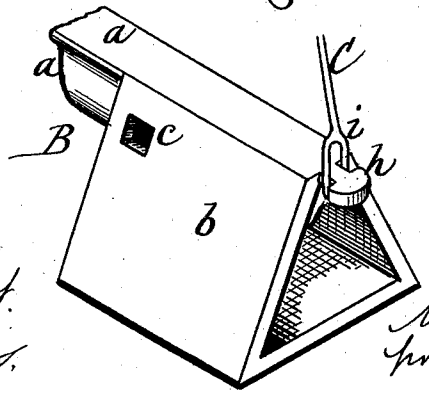


Fig. 4.



Witnesses.

Edwin B. Scott.

John C. Burns.

Inventor.

Mahlon Burtless.

per R. F. Osgood,

Atty.

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

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MAHLON BURTLESS, OF SENECA FALLS, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN PORTABLE FENCES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **165,439**, dated July 13, 1875; application filed May 24, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MAHLON BURTLESS, of Seneca Falls, in the county of Seneca and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Fences; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation. Fig. 2 is a cross-section. Fig. 3 is an end elevation of the supporting-base and its cross-stakes. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of one end of the supporting-base.

My improvement relates to a wooden fence supported on iron bases or beds. The invention consists in the special construction of the iron base used in connection with angular stakes, as hereinafter more fully set forth.

A A A represent the several panels of the fence. B B are the bases or beds. They are made of cast-iron, preferably about three feet long, more or less, and are arranged crosswise of the fence at the intersection of the panels. Each base consists of a bar, *a*, and two hollow feet, *b b*, formed at the ends of the bar. These feet are of angular form, as shown, the base at the bottom, the apex at the top, and their size is such as to give a firm and solid support to the fence on top of the ground. The feet are hollow, and formed with sockets or holes *c c* in the sides and bottom, as shown, through which pass iron stakes *d d*, crossing each other in angular direction, thereby pinning the feet to the ground. The bar *a*, which projects downward, extends into the hollow feet, giving strength, and resting above the stakes, as shown at *f*. In the center of the bar is an open socket, *g*, which receives the ends of the coincident panels of fence, and at the ends are hooks *h h*, which receive loops *i i* of tension-braces C C. These braces extend to the top of the panels, and are secured by screw-bolts *k k*, which pass through the two abutting ends of the upper rails of the panels.

In putting up or taking down the fence, the loops *i* are connected with or removed from the hooks *h* by simply turning them flatwise and slipping them over the heads, and when in place they are held securely and without danger of accidental displacement.

Iron posts for supporting wooden fences are well known. Various forms of iron bases have also been used for this purpose. Cross-stakes have also been used in connection with wooden supports. I therefore claim none of these, broadly.

My invention consists of the special construction of the iron base, as above described, secured by the cross-stakes to the ground. The feet *b b* form not only firm supports to hold the fence and prevent sinking into the ground, but they also serve as the attachment for the cross-stakes and the braces.

An important advantage of the angular feet is, that a double socket or bearing, *c*, for each stake is furnished, one at the top and the other at the bottom, at some distance apart, whereby the stakes are kept stiff in their angular position, and cannot be easily thrown out of the ground by frost or violence. By means of this double bearing of the stakes in their sockets the feet and the stakes are firmly connected together as a whole, and can neither be easily raised from the ground nor sunken into it, nor be thrown sidewise. In addition to this the hooks *h* for the attachment of the braces are formed entire with the feet.

The fence thus constructed is cheaper than wooden fence with iron posts or ordinary iron supports. The bases B weigh from seven to eight pounds.

This fence is adapted to all localities where fence is required; but more particularly to a prairie country, where fencing-posts cannot readily be obtained; and, from its portable character, it can be put up or taken down with great expedition, which will recommend it to use in the western country.

Having thus described my invention, I do not claim, broadly, an iron base or support for a wooden fence, neither do I claim, broadly, the use of cross-stakes, as such have been used with a wooden base; but

What I claim as new is—

The cast-iron base B, consisting of the bar *a*, and hollow angular feet *b b*, constructed with the sockets *c c* for receiving the angular stakes *d d*, and with the socket *g* for holding the panels of fence, as herein shown and described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

MAHLON BURTLESS.

Witnesses:

R. F. OSGOOD,

E. B. SCOTT.