Oct. 18, 1927. 1,646,293

J. W. HUDNALL

PORTABLE FENCE PANEL

Filed April 9, 1927 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

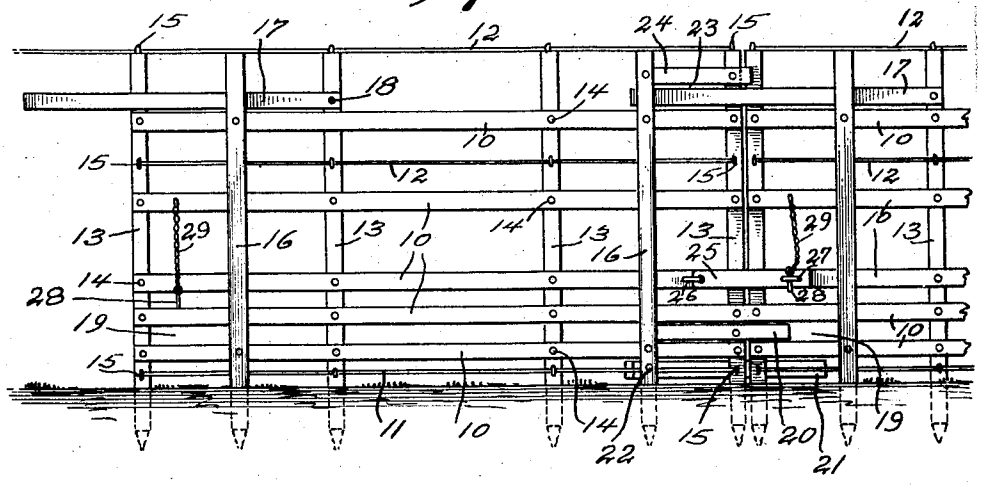


Fig. 2.

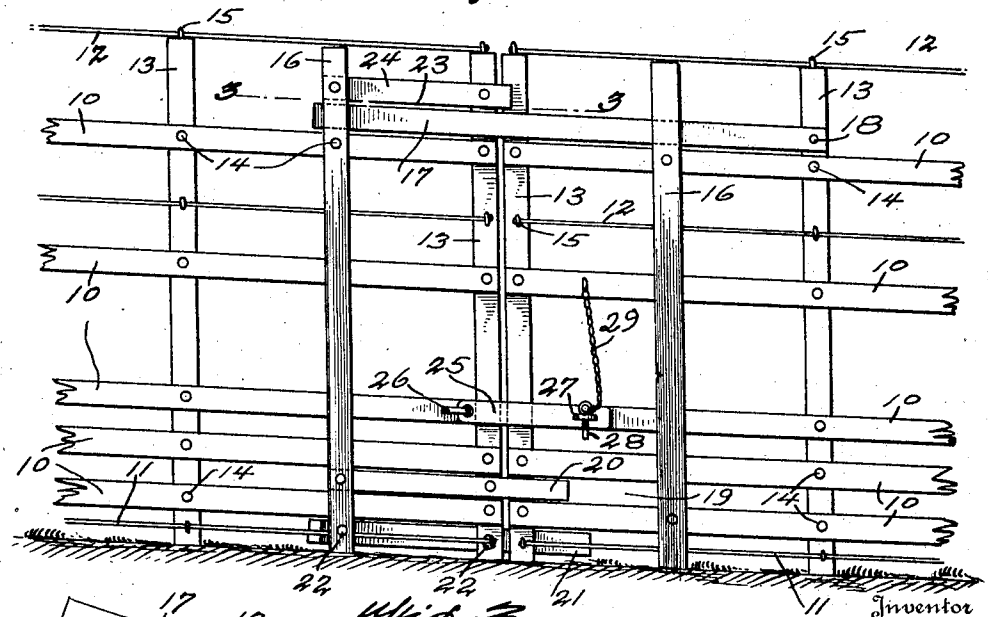
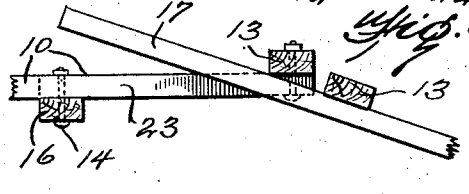


Fig. 3.



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Filed April 9, 1927 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 4.

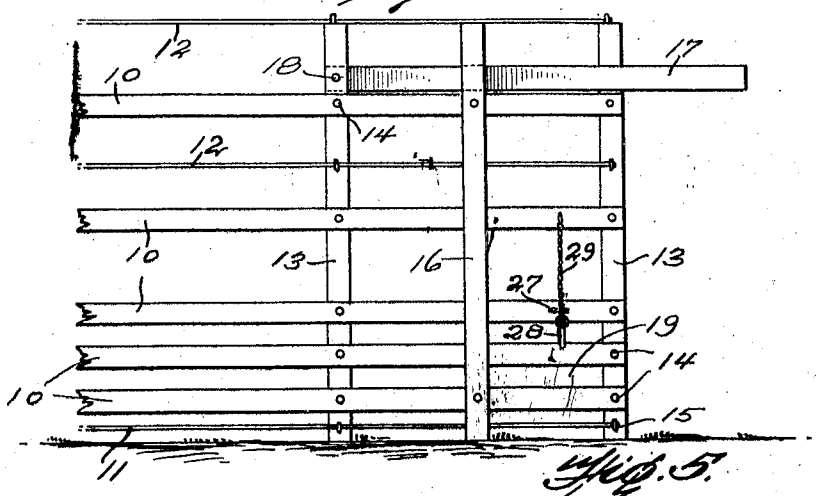


Fig. 5.

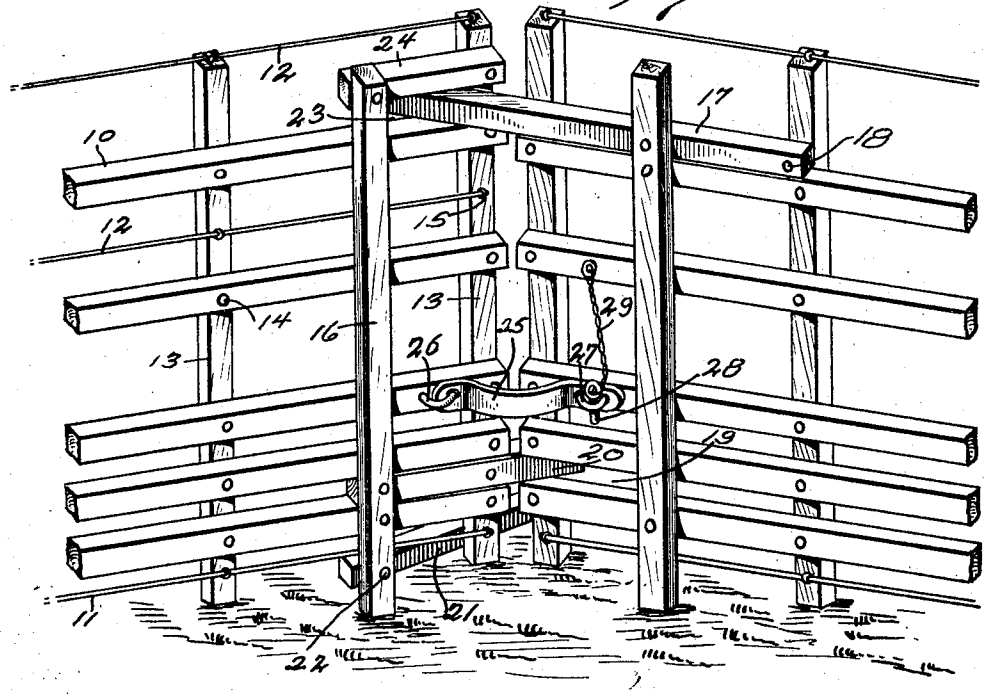
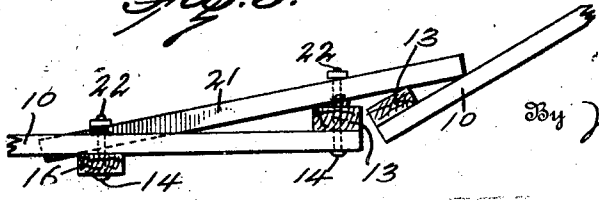


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PORTABLE FENCE PANEL.

Application filed April 9, 1927. Serial No. 182,354.

The present invention relates to fences, and more particularly to that type which is made up of a plurality of portable panels.

An object of the present invention is to provide a sectional fence comprising a number of panels so constructed as to interlock at opposite ends in either straight line formation or at angles, and wherein the interlocking may take place when the fence is set up on a hill-side or on ground which is unlevel, the character of the ground having no effect upon the interlocking features.

Another object of the invention is to provide a fence panel of this character with a shoe at one end adapted to interfit and hold the opposite end of an adjacent panel at an angle to the first panel, so that the two panels will be interlocked and interbraced with and against each other, and wherein the shoe is constructed to receive the opposite end of the adjacent panel when disposed at substantially any angle within practical limits with respect to the first panel.

Another object of the invention is to provide a fence panel of this type which may be constructed of a relatively small amount of lumber or other material, and wherein the structure embraces a peculiar arrangement of rails and uprights pivotally connected together.

With these and further objects in view as will in part hereinafter become apparent and in part be stated, the invention comprises certain novel constructions, combinations and arrangements of parts as subsequently specified and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings,—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a portion of a fence constructed according to the present invention, and showing the fence mounted on substantially level ground.

Figure 2 is an enlarged, fragmentary view of the same showing the connection between adjacent panels and showing the fence erected on a hillside or on inclined ground.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary, enlarged section taken substantially on the line 3—3 of Figure 2, and showing the locking rail of one section fitting in the socket of another section and at an angle thereto.

Figure 4 is a side elevation of one end of the improved panel, the same showing the locking rail and staple on the opposite end of the panel from that shown in Figure 1.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a pair of opposite panel ends interlocked and secured together at an angle, and

Figure 6 is a horizontal section through the lower end of the opposite ends of adjacent panels fitted together and engaged in the shoe for interbracing the parts.

Referring to the drawings, the fence is made up of a plurality of panels which may be made for right or lefthand interlocking, as shown in Figures 1 and 4, and may comprise any number of these panels disposed in either a straight line or at angles to one another, according to the requirements.

Each panel of the fence comprises a plurality of longitudinal rails 10 of suitable length, and which are spaced apart above one another any suitable distances, according to the nature of the fence, and which may be interbraced or strengthened by a base wire 11 and one or more top wires 12. The rails and wires 10, 11, and 12 are supported upon a plurality of uprights or posts 13, which are secured by single rivets 14 to the rails 10 and by staples 15, or the like, to the wires 11 and 12. The use of single rivets 14 at the crossing portions of the rails and posts admits of the swinging of the rails upon the pivots when the panel is erected on inclined ground, so that the posts 13 may be maintained upright or vertical while the rails 10 may assume a position substantially parallel with that of the surface of the ground. This arrangement of the fence is shown in Figure 2.

For the purpose of reenforcing the fence and providing interlocking and supporting portions, the rails 10 are provided with an upright 16 near each end of the panel, but disposed upon the side of the panel opposite to that at which the posts 13 are secured. The posts 16 are spaced from the posts 13, lengthwise of the panel, and are also spaced from the opposite ends of the panel.

A locking bar 17 is pivoted at 18 upon one of the intermediate posts 13 near one end of the panel, the bar 17 being disposed preferably immediately above the top rail 10. The bar 17 is attached to the inner side of the post 13 so as to overlie the top rail 10, and the locking bar 17 extends outwardly between the posts 13 and 16 and beyond the adjacent end of the panel. The lower rails 10 of the panel are suitably spaced apart to provide a slot 19 therebetween, and the slot 19 is adapted to receive a tongue 20 which

is carried by an adjacent panel at its opposite end and which is secured between the lower rails 10 and the adjacent posts 13 and 16. The said posts 13 and 16 carry a shoe 21 which is disposed in spaced relation below the tongue 20, but which does not lie within the plane of the lower rails 10 of the panel, but which is secured at its inner end by a rivet 22 to the lower end of the post 16, and which is inclined laterally of the panel and engages across the outer or end post 13, as shown in Figure 6, so as to dispose the shoe 21 at an angle to the panel. The shoe 21 extends beyond the panel and is adapted to engage the end post 13 at the opposite end of the adjacent panel, so that the post 13 may be bolted into different angles against the shoe 21 for supporting the panels one against the other irrespective of the angular disposition of the same. From Figures 5 and 6 it will be noted that the tongue 20 engages one side of the end post 13 of the righthand panel, while the shoe 21 engages the opposite side of said post. The post is thus confined between the tongue and the shoe but is permitted to turn therebetween into different angular positions. The shoe 21 flares outwardly with respect to the tongue 20, and, consequently, the post lying between the tongue and shoe may be wedged to a more or less extent into interlocking position.

The end of the panel, opposite that upon which locking bar 17 is mounted, is provided with a socket 23 formed by a short rail 24 which is secured against the inner, opposite faces of the uprights 13 and 16 at the opposite end of the panel, the short rail 24 being spaced above the top rail 10, and the space 23 thus formed being of sufficient height to readily receive the locking bar 17 of the adjacent panel. As shown to advantage in Figure 3, the bar 17 may be projected at any desired angle through the socket 23, the bar 17 engaging the end post 13 and being confined between the short rail 24 and the top rail 10.

For the purpose of securing the panel sections against each other and from accidental displacement, a hasp or strap 25 is hinged at one end permanently by a staple 26 to one end of the panel. The hasp 25 at its other end is adapted to engage over a staple 27 carried on the other end of the panel, and a locking pin 28 may be employed to engage in the staple 27 and hold the hasp 25 thereover. Pin 28 may be permanently attached to the panel by a chain 29 secured at one end to the panel and at its other end to the pin.

The top rails 12 may be spaced apart above and below the top rail 10 so as to make the section cattle-proof, while the base rail 11 may be suitably positioned or constructed to ward off hogs, and other small animals.

In setting up the fence, it is only necessary to bring together the interlocking ends of the panels so that the locking bar 17 of one panel may engage in the socket 23 of the opposite panel. The panels, of course, may be disposed in straight line position, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, or may be set at various angles to each other, such as shown in Figure 5. As the locking bar 17 is brought into the socket 23, the end post of the opposite panel is advanced into the shoe 21, while the tongue 20 engages in the slot 19. The hasp 25 may now be swung into position and secured as above described. When the panels are disposed at an angle, it may be necessary to shorten the hasp, and this is done by merely bending or crimping it, as shown in Figure 5. As the rails are secured by rivets 14 or the like to the posts, the latter may be swung into any desired angle relatively to the rails 10, so as to maintain the posts in upright position at all times, and at the same time maintain the rails 10 at the desired height above the surface of the ground.

It is, of course, understood that various changes and modifications may be made in the details of construction and design of the above specifically described embodiment of this invention without departing from the spirit thereof and being restricted only by the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:—

1. A fence panel comprising spaced rails, spaced posts pivotally connected to the rails at one side thereof, an upright pivotally mounted upon the rails in spaced relation to the end posts of the panel, a locking bar pivoted to one of the posts adjacent the top rail and extending outwardly between the end post and the upright at one end of the panel, and a short rail at the other end of the panel between the end post and the adjacent upright and spaced from the top rail to provide therewith a socket for the reception of the projecting locking bar of an adjacent panel.

2. A fence panel comprising spaced rails, a set of posts mounted upon one side of the rails, a second set of posts secured to the opposite side of the rails and spaced longitudinally between said posts, a locking bar pivoted to a post near one end of the panel and extending outwardly from the post across the adjacent posts, the opposite end of said panel having a socket therein adapted to receive said locking bar, a shoe mounted upon the lower portion of said opposite end of the panel for receiving the end post of the first end of a second panel, and a tongue disposed opposite to said shoe on the end of the panel supporting the shoe for engagement between the rails of the panel to hold said post against the shoe.

3. A fence panel comprising spaced rails, spaced posts pivotally connected to the rails for supporting the latter in parallel relation irrespective of the slope of the ground upon

which the fence is erected, a locking bar pivoted to one end of the panel and disposed across adjacent posts for holding the locking bar from swinging, said panel having a socket between the rails at its opposite end for the reception of the locking bar of an adjacent panel, a shoe carried on one end of the panel and flaring outwardly from said end, and a tongue spaced from the shoe and projecting outwardly from the panel, said tongue and shoe adapted to receive therebetween the opposite end of an adjacent panel and admit the swinging of said end against the shoe into various angular positions relatively to the first panel.

4. A fence panel comprising rails, posts secured to the rails, a projecting portion carried upon the upper part of the panel at one end thereof, a second projecting portion carried by the lower part of the panel at the opposite end thereof, receiving portions disposed complementarily upon the opposite ends of the panel for receiving the projecting portions of adjacent panels, and a flaring shoe carried upon one end of the panel adapted to receive the opposite end of a second panel and support the latter in various positions relatively to the first panel.

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