April 4, 1944. N. T. MacKENZIE 2,346,111

PICKET FENCE

Filed Jan. 16, 1943

Fig. 1

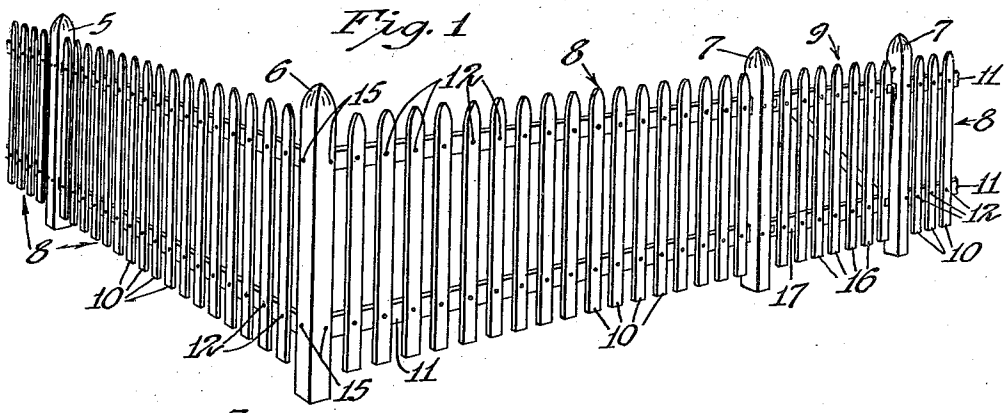


Fig. 2

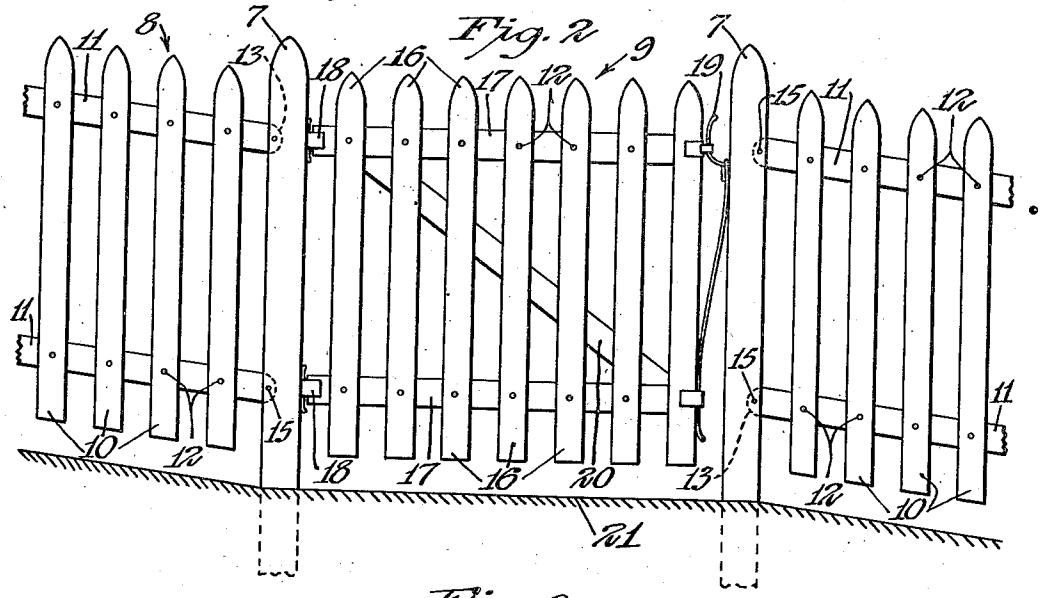


Fig. 3

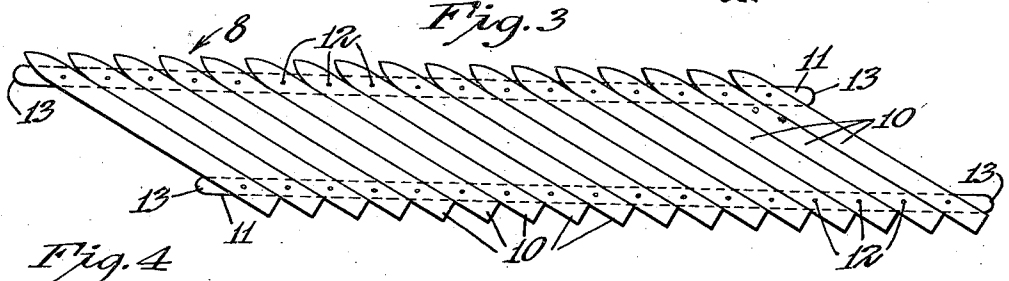
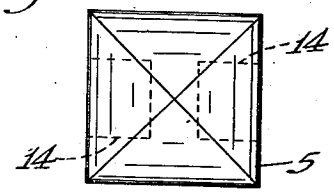


Fig. 4



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2,346,111

PICKET FENCE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 256—67)

It is an object of this invention to provide a novel and inexpensive, prefabricated picket fence which is adapted to be erected quickly and easily, requiring the use of a minimum number of fastening members in situ.

A particular object is to provide a wooden fence having prefabricated sections so constructed that they may be shipped in compact form and having pickets and rails pivotally connected together, the rails being adapted to be connected at various angles to the posts so that the fence conforms to irregularly sloping ground and presents an unusually neat appearance.

The invention will be best understood by reference to the accompanying drawing in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing a fence embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary front elevation showing a gate and portions of adjacent sections connected to posts according to the present invention and with the rails inclined to conform to sloping ground;

Fig. 3 is an elevation showing one of the sections in collapsed position for shipping in compact form, and

Fig. 4 is an upper end view of one of the posts.

My improved fence comprises posts 5, 6 and 7, main collapsible sections indicated generally by the numeral 8 and a gate adapted to be mounted between two of the posts 7. Each of the sections 8 has a multiplicity of spaced, parallel pickets 10 connected to a pair of spaced, parallel rails 11, all precut, accurately to dimension, from ordinary lumber. Each connection between a picket and rail is formed by a single pivot member 12 which may cimprise a screw, nail, rivet or other suitable wood fastening device so that the angle between the pickets and rails may be changed at will without disturbing the parallelism of the respective members.

At each end, each of the rails 11 is formed with a substantially cylindrical surface 13 adapted to fit into a mortised recess 14 (Fig. 4) in a post and to pivot therein in a vertical plane. The corner posts 6 have the recesses 14 in two contiguous sides, the gate posts 7 have a single pair of recesses formed in one side only and the posts 5, which are located intermediate of the ends of a straight fence, have the recesses 14 in opposite faces, each pair of recesses being spaced along the post to conform to the vertical spacing of the rails 11. A single nail 15 or other suitable fastening device may be driven into the post and end portion of each rail to fasten it in its recess 14 in the post.

The gate 9 comprises pickets 16 suitably fastened to rails 17 and each of the latter may be connected at one end to one of the posts 7 by a hinge 18. At the opposite edge of the gate a spring latch having a handle 19 is provided for engagement with a detent on the adjoining post 7. The gate is braced diagonally by an oblique member 20 which is fastened to the pickets and end portions of the upper and lower rails 17. The main sections 8 of the fence are prefabricated in lengths adapted to be handled conveniently and, as indicated in Fig. 3, are adapted to be collapsed with the pickets in edge to edge engagement with each other for shipping in compact form. Before applying the diagonal brace 20 the gate may be similarly collapsed.

In erecting my improved fence, post holes are dug in the usual manner in the ground to a uniform depth and at the proper distances apart to accommodate the several fence sections at the site selected. The posts are then inserted, allowing sufficient lateral movement to permit the installation of the fence sections between opposed faces of the posts. As the next operation, the ends of a pair of the rails 11 are inserted in the recesses 14 in the opposing faces of two of the posts and the fastening members 15 are driven. This straightens the posts and retains them in parallel relation to the pickets. Now the other sections 8 of the fence are similarly placed and fastened to the appropriate posts. The gate is then mounted on its hinges 18, the diagonal brace 20 is applied to straighten it and render it rigid and the several posts are finally made fast by filling in earth or other material around their bases and tamping the filling in place.

With the posts in upright position and extending to a uniform height above ground level where each is located, it will be evident that the several sections 8 follow the contour of the ground 21, as indicated in Fig. 2, each pair of rails sloping approximately according to the slope, if any, of the ground beneath. Irrespective of the slope of the rails, the several pickets are automatically held in parallel relation to the posts so that the fence presents an unusually neat appearance. It will be further evident that the rails when connected to the posts straighten and brace the latter in the plane of the fence.

Economies in the cost of construction and use of material are promoted by constructing the rails 11 and 17 from standard two inch by three inch stock, the pickets 10 and 16 and brace 20 from standard one inch by three inch stock, the posts 5, 6 and 7 from standard four inch by four

inch stock and by shaping and cutting all of these parts and cutting the mortises 14 at the factory. A further important feature of my invention is the construction and prefabrication which facilitates the erection of a fence by unskilled labor in a minimum of time. The prefabrication is carried as far as possible consistent with shipping in compact sections, thus minimizing the use of separate fastening devices in situ.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

1. A picket fence having in combination, horizontally spaced posts each formed with a pair of vertically spaced, substantially semi-cylindrical mortises in a vertical face, a pair of rails extending one above the other between said posts and each having substantially semi-cylindrical end surfaces adapted to fit the mortises in the respective posts, means fastening said end surfaces of the rails in contact with the semi-cylindrical mortise surfaces so that the latter constitute pivot bearings permitting the rails to extend in various sloping positions relative to the upright posts and with the posts spaced a predetermined distance apart by contact with the ends of the rails and a multiplicity of vertically extending, horizontally spaced pickets, each having a pivotal connection with each of said rails.

2. A picket fence having in combination, horizontally spaced posts each formed with a pair of vertically spaced, substantially semi-cylindrical mortises in a vertical face, each of said mortises extending not more than half way through a post, a pair of rails extending one above the other between said posts and each having substantially semi-cylindrical end surfaces fitting in said mortises of the respective posts, means fastening said end surfaces of the rails in contact with the several mortise surfaces, the bearings so formed permitting the rails to extend in various sloping positions relative to the upright posts and with the posts spaced a predetermined distance apart by contact with the ends of the rails and a multiplicity of vertically extending, horizontally spaced pickets each having a pivotal connection with each of said rails.

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