July 16, 1929. L. H. SCOTT. 1,720,859

FENCE POST

Filed Nov. 20, 1926

Fig. 1

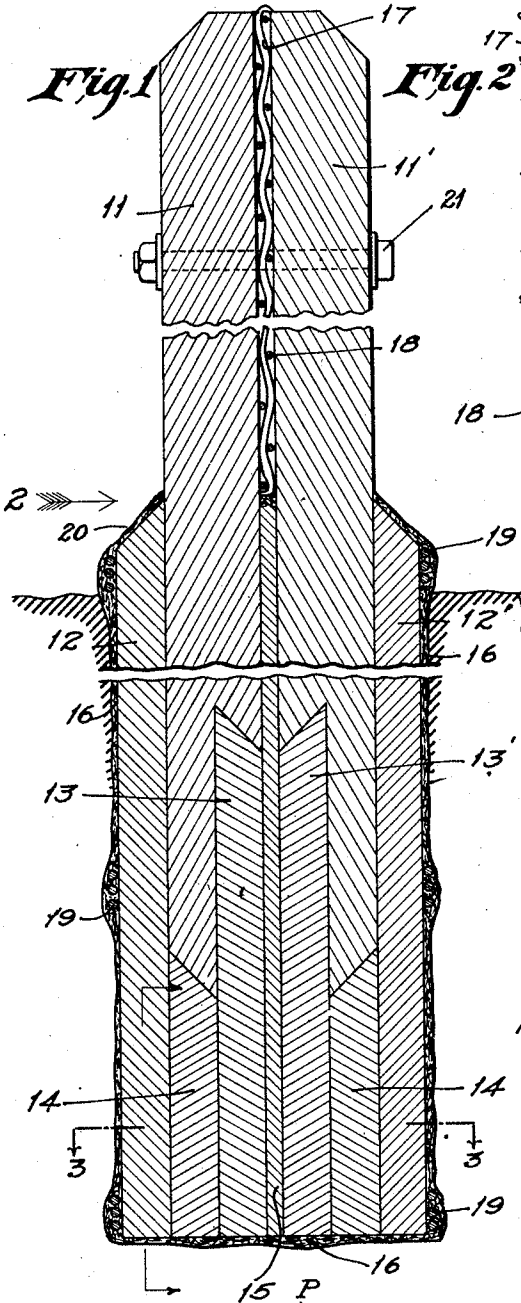


Fig. 2

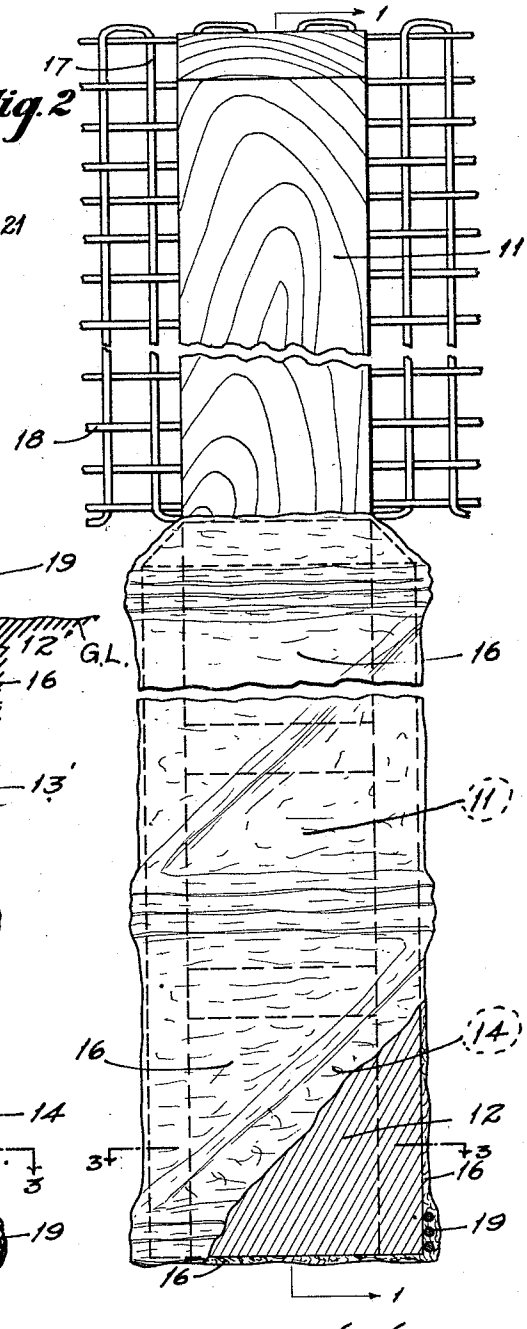
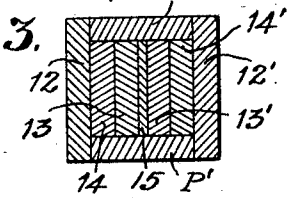


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FENCE POST.

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The general character of my invention being indicated by the above title, I state at the outset that this invention aims at a utilization of short-length lumber; and at the production of superior fence posts at a moderate cost, from materials not heretofore considered fit for such use.

It is one object of this invention to provide fence posts which include a longitudinal kerf or opening suitable for the insertion of wires or a wire mesh, this kerf or opening being, if provided, preferably terminated above the ground level and being optionally formed by the interposition of a thin piece of board centrally between symmetrically disposed short-lengths of lumber,—said lengths being preferably held together by means comprising an external wrapping of wire, over which a coating of tar, or the like, may be so applied as to exclude water from the entire organization.

The utilization of short-lengths has been recognized as constituting an important problem in the conservation of lumber (see, for example, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Departmental Bulletin 393, issued in July, 1926) and it is an important object of my invention to provide means whereby the ordinary householder or homesteader may participate in such advantages as result from the assembly of short-lengths into structural units suitable for use in enclosing individual estates. I aim to provide a method whereby waste lumber units, differing in length and in thickness, may be expeditiously assembled in such manner as to produce a sound and durable post,—inner members being preferably surrounded by rot-proof elements and/or otherwise entirely protected from contact with the soil, as may be best appreciated from the following description of an illustrative embodiment of my invention thereof, taken in connection with the appended claims and the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 may be referred to as a vertical or longitudinal section, taken substantially as indicated by line 1—1 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view, taken substantially as indicated by the arrow 2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a diagrammatic cross-section.

Referring to details of the illustrated embodiment of my invention, although certain features of my invention might be utilized in connection with a post comprising a single timber, longitudinally kerfed, split or slotted to within (say) two feet of the ground, I show the body of my post as comprising two similar lengths 11, 11′ of a comparatively thick but possibly inferior stock, these lengths being symmetrically disposed and the lower ends thereof being laterally protected by short pieces of board 12, 12′, and downwardly extended by still shorter pieces of board 13, 13′ and 14, 14′,—which upwardly terminate in inclined surfaces.

The main upwardly extending lengths 11, 11′ may be spaced apart by means such as a comparatively thin piece 15 of short-length lumber; and, even though some or all of the mentioned short-lengths formed from a rot-resistant stock, such as redwood, and/or beveled in such a manner as to interfit and/or interlock, substantially as illustrated in Fig. 1, I consider it advantageous not only to give the resultant enlarged base a substantially rectangular configuration, as by interfitting side plates P, P′ between the boards 12, 12′ (assuming these to be wider than the shorter sections 13, 13′ and 14, 14′) but also to apply a coating 16, of tar, or the like, over the entire exterior of an enlarged or built-up butt or below-ground section formed in the described manner. This coating is desirable when my posts are to be used in wet ground, even though all of the pieces 12, 12′, 13, 13′, 14, 14′ and P, P′ be formed of a rot-resistant material such as redwood.

It should be understood that the central plate 15, when employed, is intended to be of sufficient thickness to assure, above the top thereof, a slight opening between the upwardly extending lengths or main elements 11, 11′ to permit the insertion of separate strands of wire or the interposition of a wire mesh to complete a fence comprising vertical strands 17 and horizontal strands 18; and it should be understood that my employment of short sections (as, 13, 13′, 14, 14′ and/or 15) in addition to the outside sections 12, 12′ (and/or the side sections, P, P′) may depend not only upon the character and dimensions of material at hand, but also upon the prospective location and condition of use of the completed posts,—the provision of the disclosed inclined sur-

faces at the upper ends of short sections, and the use of rot-resistant materials in said sections, and also a preliminary saturation or coating of said short sections in advance of the assembling thereof, for a waterproofing or rot-proofing effect, being entirely optional; and, even in case it is considered permissible (by reason of the character of the stock employed and for intended use of my posts) to dispense with an exterior coating, applying pressure to hold all parts in their indicated relationships, I may bind the same with wire 19, somewhat as indicated in Fig. 2; but I prefer to do this in advance of the mentioned application of "tar" or other waterproofing material.

Fig. 3 is a diagrammatic horizontal sectional view, on a smaller scale, intended only to indicate preferred relationships between short-lengths of lumber, suitably cut and interfitted, in producing the base, butt or below-ground portion of a fence post embodying my invention. This view may be regarded as taken in a plane such as that indicated by the line 3—3 of Figs. 1 and 2.

By reason of the inexpensive character of the materials utilized in the production of a post in the described manner, such posts may be manufactured and sold at considerably less cost than one-piece posts,—the latter being, moreover, commonly provided only in lengths which necessitate a serious waste in the shortening of the same for use in the construction of ordinary low fences; and the economy resultant from my described method may be illustrated by the fact that my built-up posts, when comprising separate lengths 11, 11′ and extensions, can be retailed at a cost of about twenty-five cents each, under such market conditions as necessitate a price of about forty to fifty cents for a one-piece post, as heretofore obtainable.

I suggest the production of posts in which the enlarged butts or base portion may constitute about ¼ of the total length,—assuming the latter to be about 8 feet; and, although I show my novel posts as rectangular in cross-section, it should be understood that the upwardly extending or main elements 11, 11′, may be comparatively thin,—as by utilization of 1″-board stock therein, for the production of low fences (say, 4 feet in height, above the ground); and, in any event, after the posts (preferably assembled from parts having finished surfaces) are set at a suitable level (such as to bring outwardly inclined surfaces 20 slightly above the ground level G. L.) wire strands or a wire mesh may be interposed (preferably by laying the same on the ground, parallel with a row of posts, and then dropping the same into the illustrated vertical slots) and the elements 11, 11′ (which may be regarded as constituting, with or without the interposed thin board 15, the main body of each post) may be drawn and held together, to grip the interposed wires, by means such as transverse bolts 21.

Although I have herein described a single embodiment of my invention, suggesting various alternatives as to detail, it should be understood not only that various features thereof might be independently employed whether for the purpose of utilizing short lengths, or for the purpose of building posts from materials which are deficient in length, or for the purpose of providing against rapid deterioration in use, or for the purpose of facilitating the attachment of wires or a wire mesh) but also that numerous modifications of my invention, additional to those herein suggested, might easily be devised by those skilled in the arts to which this case relates,—without the slightest departure from the spirit and scope of my invention, as the same is indicated above and in the following claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A fence post comprising: a main body composed of separate sections spaced apart and having a substantially uniform cross sectional area throughout its length and an externally reinforced lower end, said external reinforcement comprising separate pieces of short-length lumber applied to the lower exterior surface of said main body; and means for holding said main body and said separate pieces in assembled relationship.

2. A fence post of the general character defined in claim 1, in which said main body is extended by additional pieces,—of less length than the mentioned separate pieces of short-length lumber.

3. A fence post comprising: a main body to whose lower end separate pieces of short length lumber are applied; and means for holding said main body and said separate pieces in assembled relationship, said main body being extended by additional pieces which have less length than the mentioned separate pieces of short-length lumber,—abutting faces of said main body and said additional pieces being similarly inclined.

4. A fence post of the general character defined in claim 1, in which said main body is extended by additional pieces having less length than the mentioned separate pieces of short-length lumber,—a resultant enlarged butt being provided with a protective coating.

5. An organization of the general character defined in claim 1, in which said main body is formed of symmetrically disposed like elements spaced apart by means comprising a thin board, interposed between the lower ends thereof and extending substantially the length of said reinforced lower end.

6. A fence post comprising: a main body to whose lower end separate pieces of short

length lumber are applied; and means for holding said main body and said separate pieces in assembled relationship, said main body being of symmetrically disposed-like elements spaced apart by means comprising a thin board,—said symmetrically disposed elements and said thin board being protected at the lower ends thereof, by means comprising additional short-lengths applied between the mentioned pieces of short-length lumber.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Los Angeles, California, this 12th day of November, 1926.

LEON H. SCOTT.