C. B. De WOLFE.

Fence-Post.

No. 221,449. Patented Nov. 11, 1879.

FIG. 1.

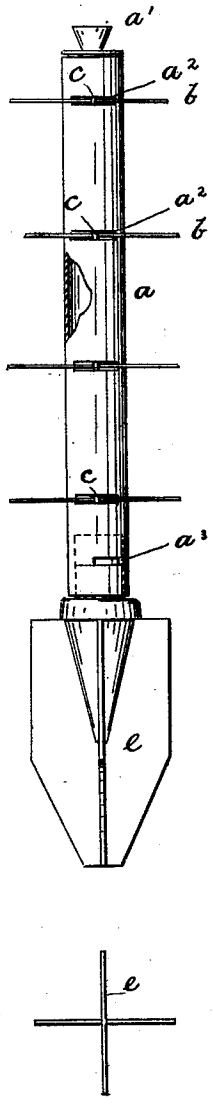


FIG. 2.

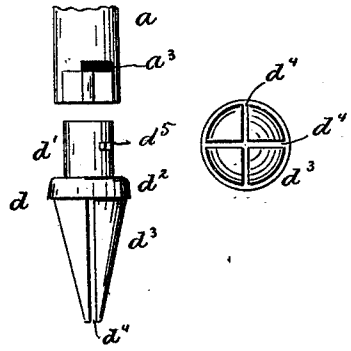
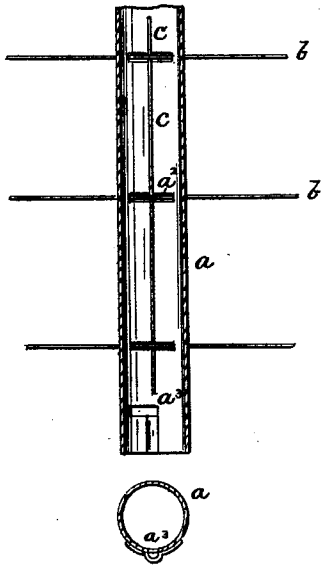


FIG. 3.



Witnesses:

Saml R. Turner

P. B. Turpin

Inventor:

Charles B De Wolfe

By R. S. & A. P. Lacey

Atty's

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES B. DE WOLFE, OF MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FENCE-POSTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **221,449**, dated November 11, 1879; application filed August 26, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES B. DE WOLFE, of Michigan City, in the county of La Porte and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fence-Posts; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to that class of fence-posts specially adapted to support wire fences, employed where the ground is free from stones or other solid obstructing substances.

It consists in the peculiar construction of the base and post, and in the manner of securing the wire to the post, all of which will be hereinafter fully explained, and pointed out in the claim.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation of the post and its base constructed according to my invention. Fig. 2 shows the base and post detached, and also shows the peculiar form of such base. Fig. 3 shows the method of attaching the wire to the post.

a is the hollow post, made, by preference, from ordinary gas-pipe. Its upper end is closed by a removable plug, *a'*, to exclude water, while its lower end is left open and slides down over the upper end of the base, hereinafter described. It has formed in its side the series of cross or horizontal slots a^2, within which the cable or wire *b* is placed, and in its lower end is formed the L-shaped slot a^3, which may be partially or wholly covered by a suitably-formed cap, for the exclusion of water or earth.

The wire *b*, after it is pushed back into the slot a^2, is held by a straight rod, *c*, pushed down between it and the inside of the post, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3.

The rod *c* is made long enough to serve as a fastening for all the wires employed in the fence, and is inserted from the top of the post. It makes a substantial fastening, and is easily applied or removed.

The bar or rod *c* should have a small loop or hook turned on its upper end to give ready means for holding it in the hand when it is being inserted or withdrawn from the post.

d is the base, composed of the head *d'*, projecting shoulder or rim d^2, and the inverted conical-shaped point d^3, all formed together in one solid piece.

The head *d'* fits snugly in the lower end of the post *a*, and it is provided in its side with a projecting pin, d^5, which is arranged to enter the L-slot a^3 and lock the post to the base.

The rim d^2 projects outward equally in all directions from, and forms a substantial rest for, the foot of the post *a*.

The conical part d^3 is inverted, as shown, having its base on, and of about equal diameter with, the rim d^2. It is tapered to a point, so that it may be readily driven into the earth. It is divided by the two cross-slots d^4, arranged, preferably, at right angles to each other, and extending upward to the rim a^2, as shown.

Within the slots d^4 I place the wings *e*, the upper ends of which abut firmly against the under side of the rim d^2. The wings are held in place by any suitable means, such as soldering, or by pins, or by any other well-known mechanical fastening. The wings are tapered slightly to their lower ends, so that they will more readily cut their way into the earth.

This post is readily set up. The base *d* is driven into the earth by pounding on the head *d'*. If the instrument for driving be made of metal, a wooden cap, fitting over the head *d'*, should be first placed on the base to prevent the said head from becoming crushed. The conical point readily enters the earth, which is compacted outward, making a firm surrounding earth casing. The base is driven till the rim d^2 rests firmly on the surface of the ground. The wings *e* prevent lateral sagging of the post. After the base is set, the post *a* is placed on the head *d'* and locked, as hereinbefore explained.

What I claim is—

The herein-described post, consisting of the

base d, provided with the round head d', pin d^5, and cone-shaped bottom d^3, having cross-slots d^4, the wings e, fixed in the slots d^4, and the top a, having in its lower end a circular opening and the L-shaped slot a^3, and fixed to the base d, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES B. DE WOLFE.

Witnesses:

JONATHAN SNOOK,

J. F. TAYLOE.