No. 669,244. Patented Mar. 5, 1901.

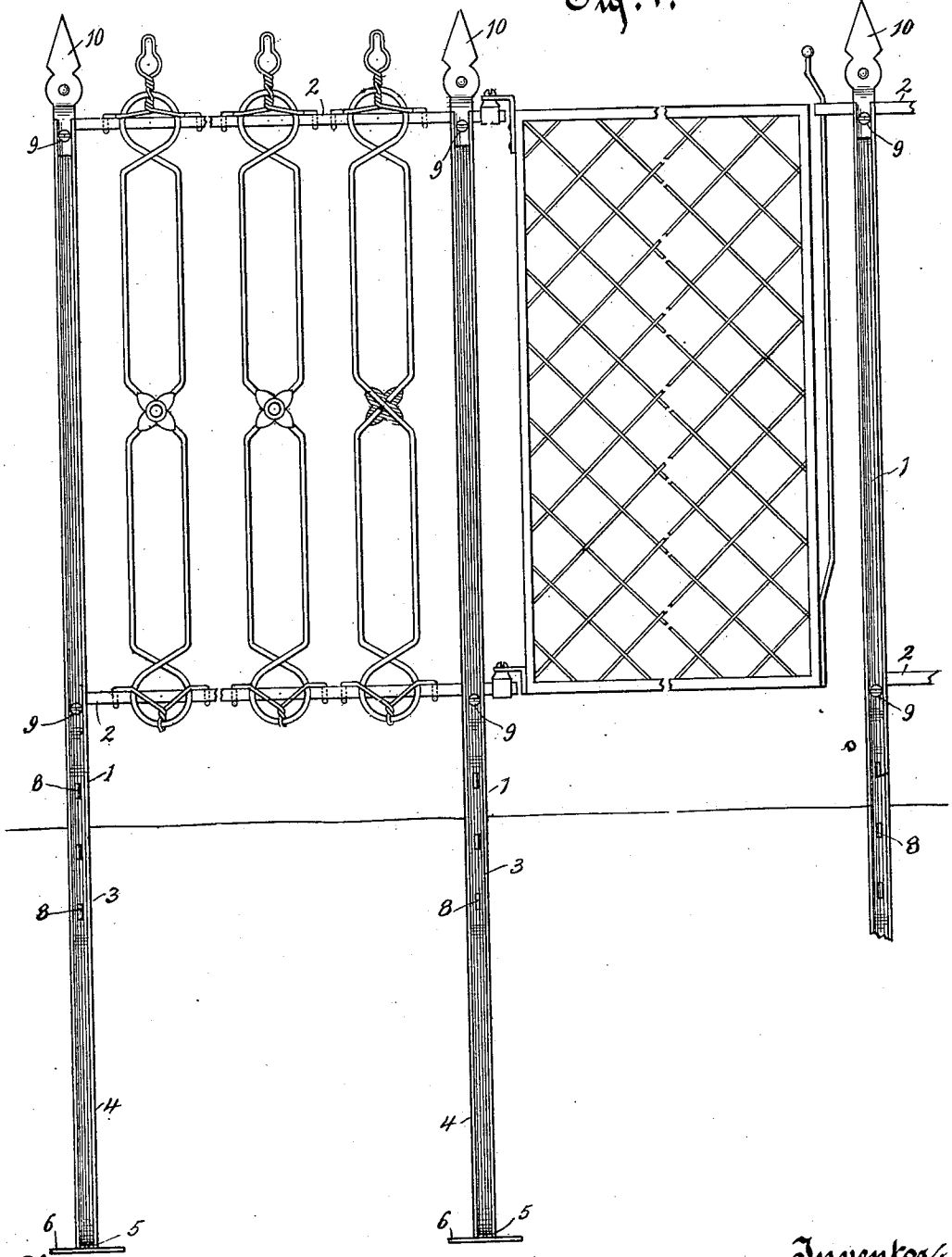
F. LICHTFELDT.

FENCE.

(Application filed Nov. 24, 1899.)

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig. 1.



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(No Model.) 2 Sheets--Sheet 2.

Fig. 2.

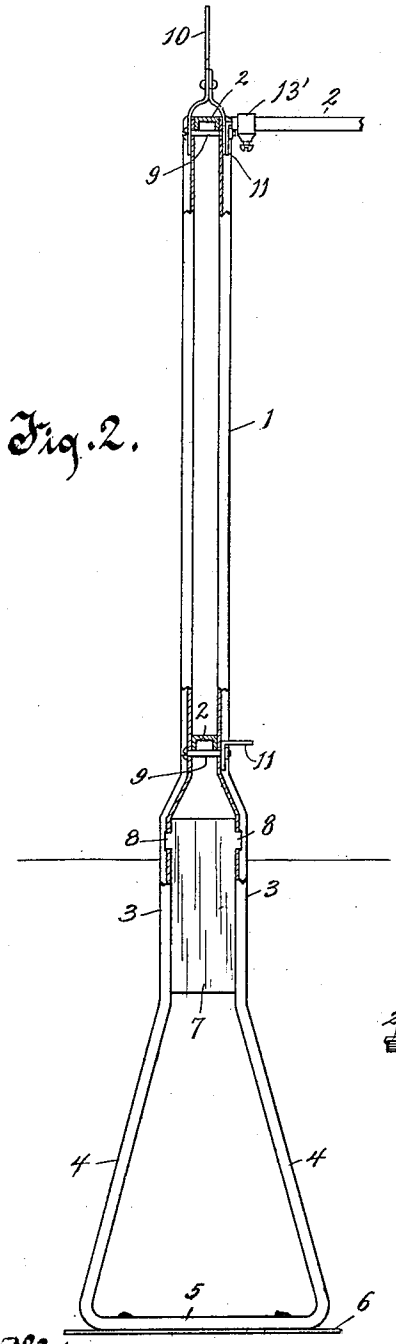


Fig. 3.

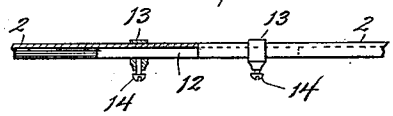
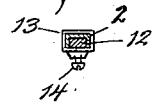


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK LICHTFELDT, OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

FENCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 669,244, dated March 5, 1901.

Application filed November 24, 1899. Serial No. 738,184. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK LICHTFELDT, of Milwaukee, in the county of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fences, of which the following is a description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which are a part of this specification.

The object of my invention is to provide an improved post that is simple and comparatively inexpensive in construction, that is adapted readily and easily to be put up by any one with only a few tools commonly in use, that is neat and attractive in appearance, and that is strong and durable in a fence.

The invention consists of the post and its parts and combinations of parts, as herein described and claimed, or the equivalents thereof.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation of a fragment of my improved fence, parts being broken away for convenience of illustration. Fig. 2 is an elevation of a corner-post, parts being shown in section, the view being at a right angle to the view of the posts in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a detail, partly in section, showing the means for connecting together two abutting ends of rails. Fig. 4 is a cross-section of the construction shown in Fig. 4.

The post of my improved construction is entirely of metal and mostly preferably of steel. The post 1 is constructed of a metal bar, and preferably of a channeled bar of steel, integral throughout its length and bent as shown in Fig. 2, forming two upright legs united by the medial bend of the bar at the bottom. These two legs of the post for the greater portion of their lengths are when the fence is in position above ground parallel and opposite each other and only so far apart as to readily take the rails 2 2 between them. A little above that portion of the post that is in the ground when the fence is set up the rails are bent and carried laterally, forming a medial widened portion 3 3, and below this the legs spread obliquely apart, forming the lower terminal branching portion 4 4, the lower extremity of which branching portion of the post is connected by the bottom cross portion 5. To this bottom cross portion 5 a substantially flat plate-foot 6 is riveted, the foot being adapted to rest firmly on the earth at the bottom of the post-hole in the ground and support the post in upright position. In the space between the two legs 3 3 of the widened medial portion of the post a web or plate 7 is inserted and is conveniently secured to the legs of the post by tongues 8 8, integral with and projecting from the edges of the web-plate, that enter slots therefor, in the bar of which the legs of the post are constructed, and these tongues being opposite or headed down in the channels of the legs secure the plate in place in the post. When the post is in the ground, the earth bearing against this web on both sides of it prevents the post from being tilted over in the direction against which the web resists against the earth.

The two rails 2 2 of the fence are also preferably constructed of channeled steel bars, and these are secured detachably and adjustably to the posts by being inserted between the upright parallel legs thereof above bolts 9 9, passing through the legs of the post, which are made to grip the rails tightly and hold them in place by turning the nuts on the bolts down tightly against the leg of the post within the channel. The rails may be secured in place in horizontal position, as shown in Fig. 1, or where the posts are set in perpendicular positions on the side of a hill the rails may be secured therein in inclined positions. Metal finial ornaments 10 10, provided with furcate lower ends, are conveniently secured to the tops of the posts by placing their furcate ends in the channels of the legs of the posts and putting the bolt 9 through the furcate ends of the ornaments. The widths of these furcate ends of the ornaments are such as to fit snugly in the channels of the legs of the posts, and thus prevent the tilting of the ornaments on the bolt 9 as a pivot. The corner-posts are provided with rail-attaching devices 11 11, that consist of short metal straps bent at an angle medially, (at a right angle for use on level ground and at an oblique angle for use on inclined ground,) which rail-attaching devices are secured to the side of a post, conveniently by putting the bolts 9 9 through one leg of the bent straps or attaching devices. These straps, of which the leg-attaching devices are constructed, are of such width as to fit snugly into the channels of the

posts and the rails, and thus prevent any displacement of the parts by lateral movement.

The rails 2 2, that in constructing a fence abut together end to end, are secured to each other by means of rail-coupling devices consisting of a coupling member 12, which is a short bar of steel, ordinarily about nine or ten inches long, fitted and placed in the channels of the ends of the abutting rails and held thereto by loosely-fitting collars 13 13 about the rail and the member 12 and slidable thereon and provided with holding-screws 14 14, that respectively turn through an enlarged boss-like side of the collar against the member 12, fitting in the channel of the rail and flush with the walls of the channel. These collars are advisably located three or four inches from the ends of the rails, and as the members 12 fit snugly into the channels in the rails the coupling devices hold the rails securely to each other and in position. Collars 13′ of the same form are employed to secure the ends of the rails to the rail-attaching device 11, where the rails are secured to the channeled edges of a post.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. A fence-post, consisting of an integral bent bar of metal, comprising a horizontally-disposed bottom extremity of the post, leg members continuing from the bottom upwardly and obliquely inwardly for a distance, thence at a considerable distance apart upwardly parallel with each other, thence obliquely inwardly, and thence upwardly near to and parallel with each other, and means connecting the upper near-by parallel portions of the legs directly to each other.

2. A fence-post, consisting of a bent integral channeled bar of metal having a horizontally-disposed bottom extremity of the post and two legs extending upwardly therefrom inclined inwardly toward each other upwardly for a distance, thence parallel with each other, thence inwardly toward each other, thence near to and parallel with each other, and bolts through the webs of the bars connecting the legs to each other near their upper extremities.

3. A fence-post, comprising an integral bar of metal bent medially forming a connected lower extremity and two upwardly-extending legs the upper portions of which are adjacent and parallel to each other, a medial widened portion, and a lower more widely branching portion, a web inserted between and secured to the legs of the medial widened portion, and means connecting the upper adjacent parallel leg portions.

4. A fence-post, comprising an integral bar of metal bent medially forming a connected lower extremity and two upwardly-extending legs, the upper portions of which are adjacent and parallel with each other, a medial widened portion and a lower more widely branching portion, a web inserted between and secured to the legs of the medial widened portion, and a bottom plate secured to the connecting bottom portion of the integral bar.

5. A fence-post, comprising an integral channeled bar of metal bent medially forming a connected lower extremity and two upwardly-extending legs, having the channel outwardly, an ornamental finial constructed with furcate members that fit at the top into the exterior channels in the legs of the posts and are held upright thereby, and a bolt through the webs of the legs of the post and through the furcate members of the finial securing the legs of the post near each other and securing the finial in the channels to the post.

6. In a fence, a post constructed of a metal channeled bar, having the channel outwardly, a channeled rail, a rail-attaching device consisting of an angled strap of metal fitted into the channel of the post and the channel of the rail, whereby the members are held against lateral displacement, a bolt securing the angled strap to the post, and a collar with a holding-screw securing the angled strap releasably to the rail.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

FREDERICK LICHTFELDT.

Witnesses:
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