A. R. SPROUT.
Farm-Fence.

No. 219,319. **Patented Sept. 2, 1879.**

Fig. 1.

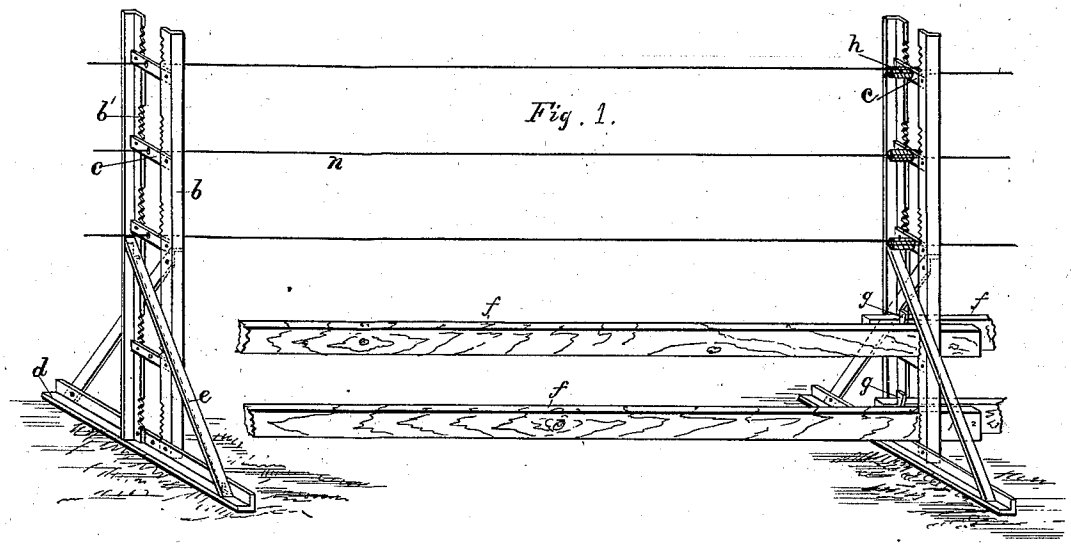


Fig. 3.



Fig. 2.

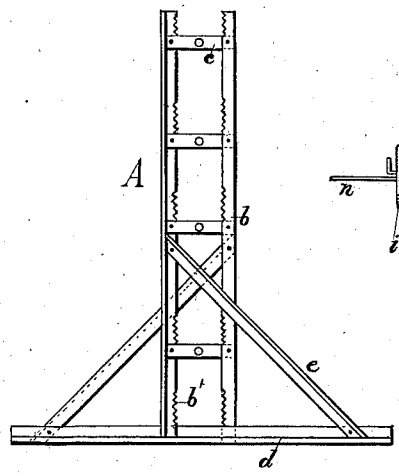


Fig. 4.

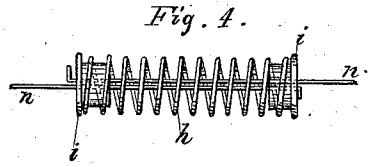


Fig. 5.

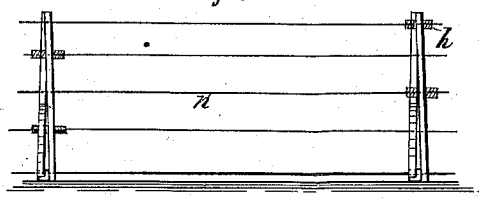
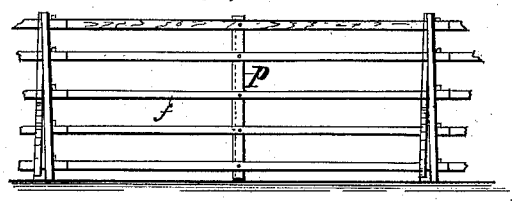


Fig. 6.



Witnesses:

Geo. A. Boyden

A. C. Eader

Inventor:

A. Rensselaer Sprout

By his Atty

Chas B. Mann

N. PETERS, PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

A. RENSSELAER SPROUT, OF PICTURE ROCKS, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FARM-FENCES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **219,319**, dated September 2, 1879; application filed March 13, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, A. RENSSELAER SPROUT, of Picture Rocks, in the county of Lycoming and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Farm-Fences, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in farm-fences, which will now be described, and pointed out in claims.

Figure 1 is a view of a panel of fence embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a view of the iron post. Fig. 3 is a transverse view of same. Fig. 4 is a view of tension-spring on a larger scale. Fig. 5 is a view of the iron post as used in an all-wire fence. Fig. 6 is a view of the iron post as used in an all-rail fence.

The letter A represents the iron post, which is composed of two pieces, *b*, of angle-bar, connected by flat cross-bars *c*, riveted to the uprights, and the inner edges of each upright are serrated, as shown at *b'*, for the purpose hereinafter described.

A base or foot bar, *d*, also of angle-bar iron, is secured to the uprights, which are stayed by the braces *e*, giving to the post a transverse support.

The angles of the uprights and braces are in a reversed position relative to each other, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, in order that the plain surface of each may be presented toward the other. By this construction the post is light and strong, and adapted to sit on the ground and serve for either portable or stationary fences.

One method of setting up my fence is shown in Fig. 1, and consists in the employment of both wooden rails and iron wires.

f are suitable wooden boards or rails, the ends of which are inserted in the openings in the post with the sides against the serrated edges *b'* and resting on the cross-bars. The ends of the rails of one panel overlap those of the adjoining panel, and a wedge, *g*, is driven in between the rails, which forces their sides against the serrated edges of the opening, thus holding them securely. The wires *n* are now stretched in any suitable manner, the only peculiarity in connection with which being the tension-springs, made of spring-wire spiraled, a view of which, on an enlarged scale, is seen in Fig. 4.

h is the spiral spring, having at each end a head, *i*. The wire *n* passes through one head freely and through the spring, and is made fast to the other head.

When the wires are used in connection with the wood rails these springs are to be employed at suitable intervals—say about forty yards—and their use requires the wire to be cut into corresponding lengths, the ends of the wire in every case being attached to the springs, as described, which serves to compensate for the expansion and contraction of the wire by the varying temperatures.

I deem it preferable to pass the wires through a hole in the cross-bar *c*, on which the spring is placed.

This improved post and tension-regulator for the wires may, of course, be used in an exclusively-wire fence without rails, as shown in Fig. 5, in which case the spans of wire may be about four rods each, and the springs affixed to each alternate post.

This tension-regulator may be used in any wire fence and with any post, and if, when put up, the strain on the springs is such as to hold the wire taut, they will still yield sufficient to permit contraction of the wire by cold weather, and thus is obviated that tendency found in many wire fences to pull the posts out of ground.

The post and wooden rail, with the wedge or key, may be employed without any wire, as shown in Fig. 6, and when thus used angular bar-iron cleats P may be secured to the rails, as shown in Fig. 6, to stiffen them.

This construction affords the advantage of permitting the removal of the fence either in section or bodily.

Having described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent—

1. As an improvement in fences, a post composed of two iron uprights connected by cross-bars, forming openings, the inner edges of which uprights are serrated, in combination with wooden rails placed in the openings with their ends overlapping, and having a

wedge-key driven between the overlapping ends, as set forth.

2. The iron fence-post composed of two angle-bar uprights, *b*, placed with the flanges in a reversed position relative to each other, and connected by cross-bar *c*, a base or foot bar, *d*, and the angle-bar brace *e* on each side, placed with their flanges in a reversed position relative to each other, and with their plain surfaces against the plain surfaces of the uprights, as set forth.

A. RENSSELAER SPROUT.

Witnesses:
A. J. DIETRICK,
DANIEL STECK.