W. J. HALSALL.

FENCE POST.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 9, 1912.

1,068,765.

Patented July 29, 1913.

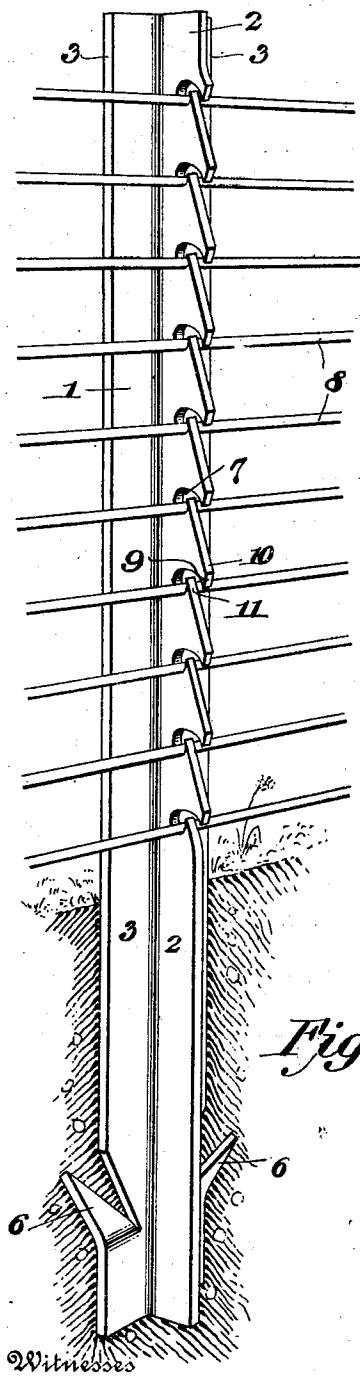


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

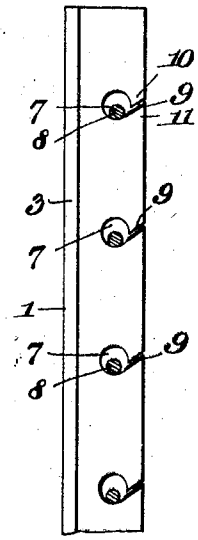
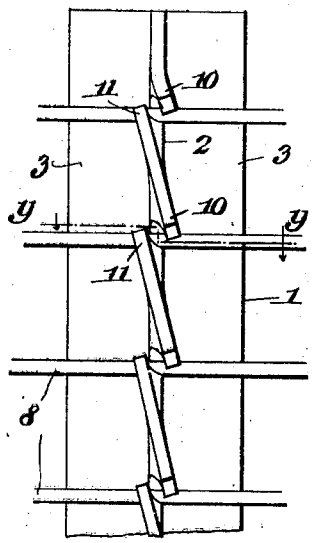
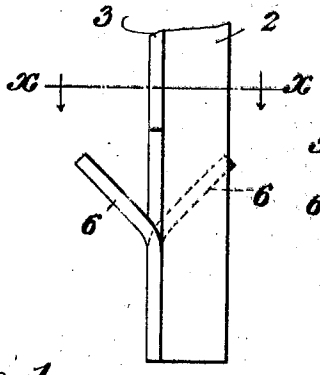
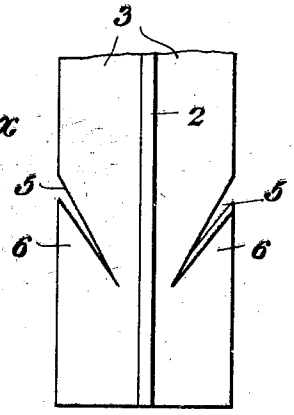


Fig. 3.







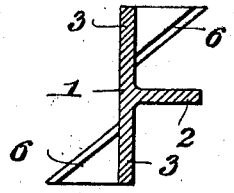


Fig. 4.

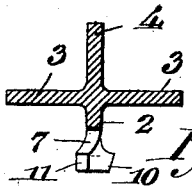


Fig. 5.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FENCE-POST.

1,068,765. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 29, 1913.

Application filed October 9, 1912. Serial No. 724,711.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. HALSALL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Greenfield, county of Hancock, and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fence-Posts, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to fence posts and particularly to metallic fence posts.

The object of my invention is to provide an improved metallic fence post which may be readily anchored and firmly fixed in the ground without braces or concrete or stone bases.

A further object of my invention is to provide a fence post of such construction that the wires or longitudinal parts of the fence may be readily secured thereto without tools or fastening devices and from which the wires can not be readily removed after the wires are stretched.

Other objects will appear hereinafter.

My invention will be more readily understood by reference to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a fence post embodying my invention in its preferred form. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same upon an enlarged scale with the central portion broken away, Fig. 3 is a similar front elevation, Fig. 4 is a section on the line, *x*—*x* of Fig. 2 and Fig. 5 is a section on the line *y*—*y* of Fig. 3, illustrating a slightly modified form of the device.

Referring now to the drawings 1 indicates the post which is formed of metal and of uniform cross section throughout its length. As shown in Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive the post is T-shaped in cross section and when of this form old or discarded railroad rails may be employed in making the post by removing the ball of the rail, the web of the rail forming the main flange 2 of the post and the base flanges forming the oppositely disposed lateral flanges 3—3 of the post. If preferred the post may be of cruixiformed cross section as illustrated in Fig. 4, in which case an additional flange 4 is provided opposite the flange 2. Adjacent the lower end of the post the flanges 3 are cut diagonally, inward and downwardly as at 5 forming tongues 6 which are bent in opposite directions as illustrated to form an anchor for the post when placed in the ground, the said anchor to be used where there would be any tendency for the completed fence to pull the post out of the ground after the post is set and the fence attached, this anchor to be used where needed. Posts to be made of plain steel and galvanized where advisable.

The portion of the flange 2 which is designed to extend above the ground is provided with a plurality of perforations 7, preferably circular, and which are adapted to receive and hold the longitudinal parts or wires 8 of the fence. Slots 9 extend upwardly and outwardly from the apertures 7 to the outer edge of flange 2, said slots being tangential to the lower portion of the said apertures, forming oppositely opposed tongues 10 and 11 respectively, when the post is completed.

The portions of metal between the adjacent slots 9 are bent slightly at an angle, as illustrated clearly in Figs. 1 and 3 to separate the tongues 10 and 11 a sufficient distance laterally to admit the free passage of the wire 8 into the aperture 7 before or after the wire or fence is stretched tight, the adjacent tongues 10 and 11 are bent, when the post is made, sufficiently to allow the wire 8 to freely pass into the aperture 7, after the wire 8 is passed into the aperture 7 the tongues 10 and 11 are then closed together by bending the same so that the points of said tongues will be in direct contact, thereby preventing the wire 8 from getting out of the aperture 7 thus making the outside edge of the flange 2 again comparatively smooth and preventing the same from having a rough and ragged edge upon which stock might become maimed or crippled. This construction obviates the necessity of threading the wires through the apertures 7 and it is clear that when the tongues 10 and 11 are bent so the points are in contact that it will be impossible to remove the wires from the apertures without again bending these flanges out of contact. It is understood that the slots 9 are very narrow, such as would be made from sawing or shearing and when tongues 10 and 11 are closed there would be practically no space between them.

By forming the flange 2 containing the securing means, intermediate the width of the flanges 3, the flanges 3 protect flange 2 from view and on account of the cross section of the post it will resist all ordinary forces tending to displace the same in the ground.

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

In a fence post a vertically disposed flange provided with a plurality of superimposed perforations, narrow slots extending tangentially from said perforations and to the outer edge of said flange forming a pair of oppositely disposed tongues adjacent each perforation, and the entire body of metal between said slots being bent at an angle with its upper and lower ends upon opposite sides of said flange to space the adjacent tongues a sufficient distance apart to admit of passage of the wires, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM J. HALSALL.

Witnesses:
JOHN M. HINCHMAN,
JOHN B. HALSALL.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."