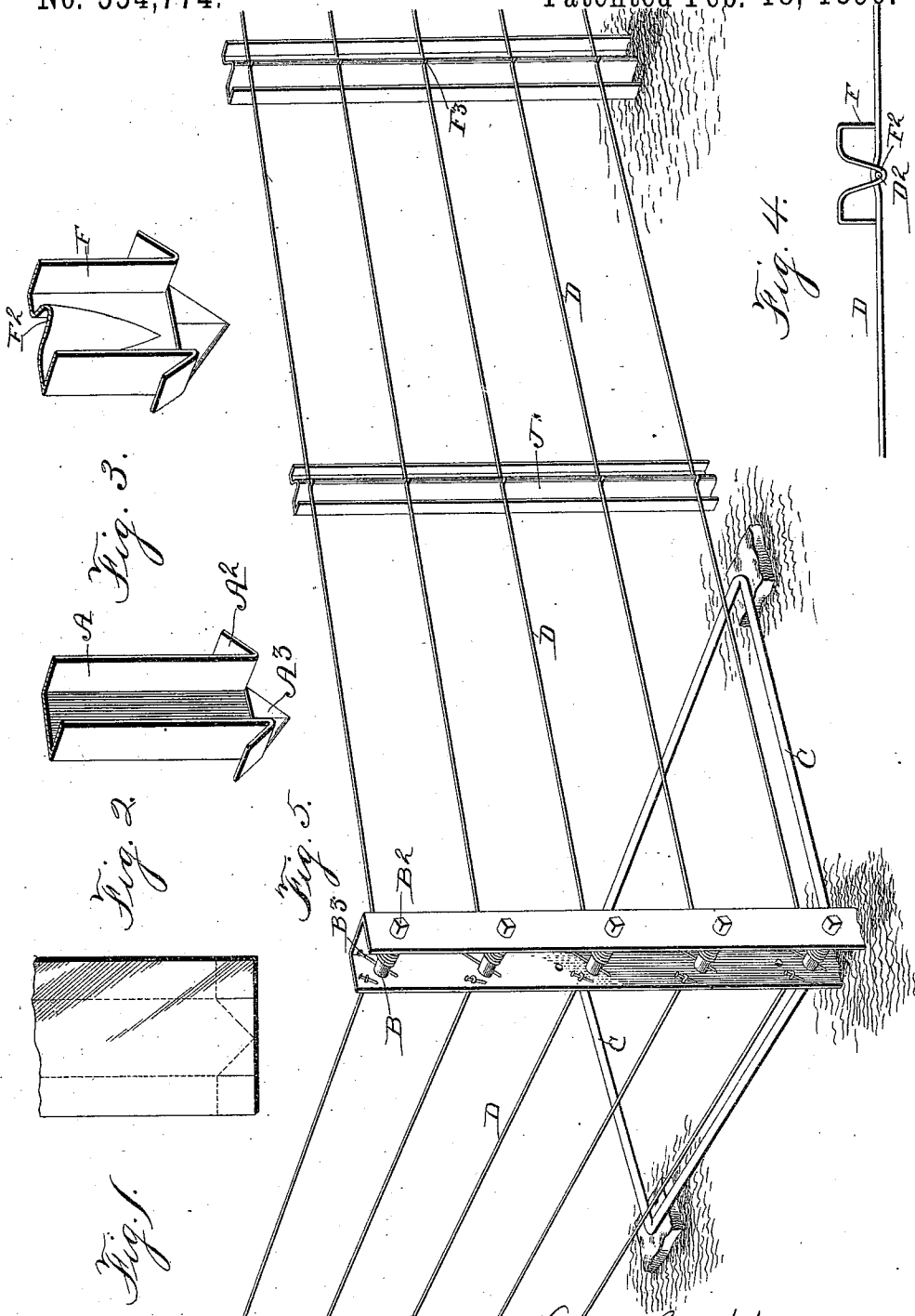


(No Model.)

W. CRABB.
WIRE FENCE.

No. 554,774.

Patented Feb. 18, 1896.



Witnesses:

W. J. Sanker,
R. E. Orwig,

Inventor: William Crabb,

By Thomas C. Orwig, Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM CRABB, OF DES MOINES, IOWA.

WIRE FENCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 554,774, dated February 18, 1896.

Application filed June 4, 1895. Serial No. 551,694. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM CRABB, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Des Moines, in the county of Polk and State of Iowa, have invented a new and useful Sheet-Metal Post, of which the following is a specification.

The object of this invention is to produce a simple, strong, and durable wire fence in which the posts are composed wholly of sheet metal bent into proper form and adapted to be driven into the ground and firmly held therein and to have a fence-wire quickly and securely connected therewith.

My invention consists in certain details in the construction of the post, as hereinafter set forth, pointed out in my claim, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 shows one end of the sheet-metal blank from which the post is formed. The dotted lines indicate the bends and the solid lines show where the cuts are made. Fig. 2 shows the lower end of a corner post. Fig. 3 is a like view of a fence-post. Fig. 4 is a top view of a fence-post, showing the fence-wires in position therein; and Fig. 5 shows the corner of a fence.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, the corner post is seen to be formed from a single piece of sheet metal, with its edges A bent at right angles in the same direction, with their lower ends bent upwardly and outwardly at a^2 , and its central portions folded inwardly at a^3 to form a wedge-shaped lower end for the post, so that it may readily be driven into the ground. By thus doubling the pointed end it is stiffened and strengthened and better adapted to be forced into the ground.

B indicates bars passed through suitable openings in the sides of the post and having on one end an angular formation B^2 , whereby a wrench may be applied to turn the shaft, and also having a bore extended transversely therethrough near its opposite end to admit a nail B^3 , as shown in Fig. 5.

C indicates a brace for the corner post, comprising a metal rod bent into V shape and adapted to be bolted to the lower end of the post, extended horizontally in the direction of the fence-wires and then bent backwardly and upwardly, and adapted to be bolted to the post near its central portion. The outer

end of said brace is adapted to rest upon a stone or other support and thus prevent the post from inclining in the direction of the fence-wires.

The fence-post is adapted to be readily driven into the ground and then securely anchored by means of the brace. The side edges of its upper portion are bent at right angles at F and its central portion F^2 is bent outwardly in the same direction as the sides and projects a slight distance beyond the sides. A series of horizontal slots F^3 are formed in this central portion and adapted to admit the fence-wires. To secure the wires in place a nail or rod is inserted between the wire and central portion of the post, as shown in Fig. 4. These posts are practically M-shaped in cross-section and adapted to engage each fence-wire at three distinct points, so that the wires will materially aid in bracing the sheet-metal posts by such contact.

Stays J are provided to hold the fence-wires separated the proper distances between the posts. These stays are of the same shape as the upper portions of the fence-posts and are connected with the fence-wires in the same manner.

In practical use the posts are first driven into the ground a certain distance, and then the ground is packed down firmly between the upturned ends of the posts and the sides thereof, or else stones are placed in position to rest on said ends, thus preventing the post from rising and firmly anchoring it in the ground. The wires are then stretched and placed in the slots in the posts and secured therein by placing nails between the wires and central part of the post, as shown in Fig. 4.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new therein, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States therefor, is—

A post for wire fences formed of a piece of sheet metal with its edges bent outwardly at right angles, the ends of said side pieces bent upwardly and outwardly and the lower end corners of the central portion doubled inward to produce a rigid point, substantially as and for the purposes stated.

WILLIAM CRABB.

Witnesses:

J. RALPH ORWIG,
THOMAS G. ORWIG.