J. G. Inskeep,

Portable Fence,

No. 31,667. Patented Mar. 12, 1861.

Fig. 1.

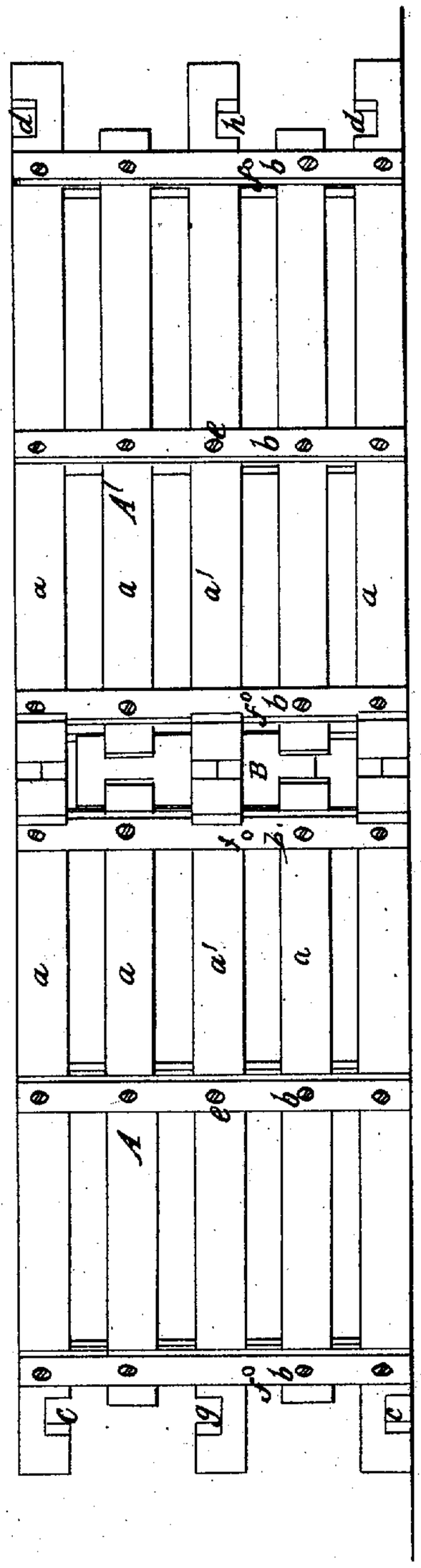
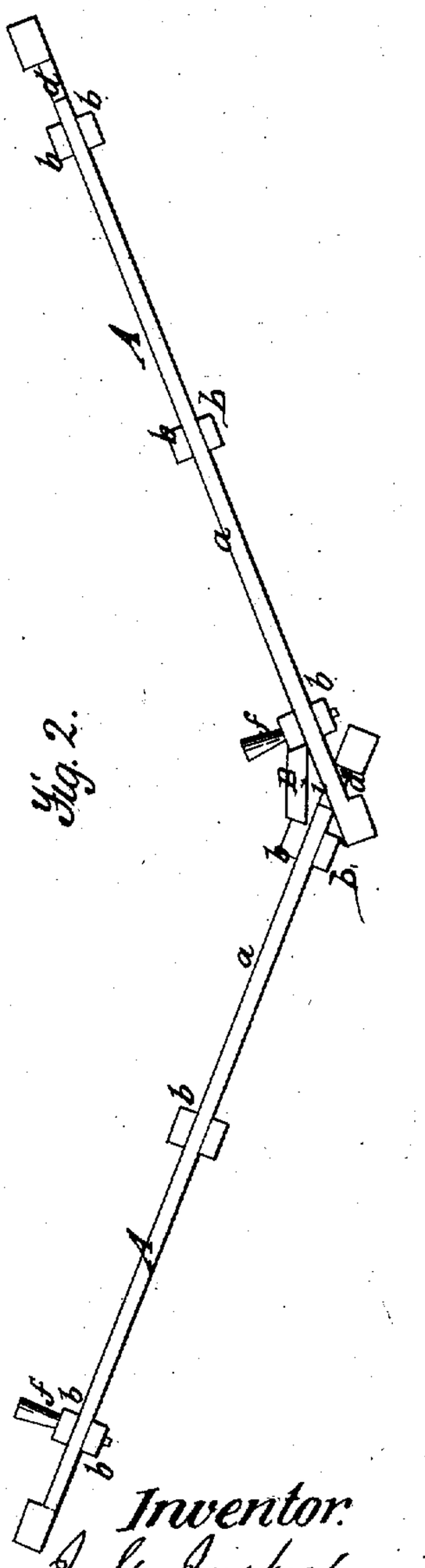


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.
J. W. Coombs.
R. S. Spencer

Inventor.
J. G. Inskeep.
per Munn & Co
attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ISAIAH G. INSKEEP, OF WEST MIDDLEBURG, OHIO.

FIELD-FENCE.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 31,667, dated March 12, 1861.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ISAIAH G. INSKEEP, of West Middleburg, in the county of Logan and State of Ohio, have invented a new and Improved Portable Fence; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a face view of two panels of a portable fence, connected together according to my invention. Fig. 2 is a plan or top view of the same.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the two figures.

This invention consists in a novel way of connecting the panels of the fence together, substantially as hereinafter fully shown and described, whereby the fence may be erected or put up and taken down with great facility, and the panels so connected that they cannot be detached and thrown down by unruly cattle, or by the action of the wind.

The invention relates to the class of fences known as "worm" or zig-zag, which do not require sunken posts or those firmly fixed in the earth to support them.

To enable those skilled in the art to fully understand and construct my invention I will proceed to describe it.

A A′ represent two panels of a fence. These panels may be constructed in much the usual way, to wit: by securing horizontal boards or strips, *a*, to vertical battens, *b*, which are at each side of the panels, the boards being secured between them. The panels may be any suitable length and height.

The upper and lower boards, *a*, of each panel have their ends project a short distance beyond the end battens, and these projecting ends are notched at their under sides, at one end of each panel, as shown at *c*, and the opposite ends of these boards are notched at their upper surfaces, as shown at *d*. These notches, *c d*, are rectangular, and both are shown clearly in Fig. 1.

Each panel is provided with a central board or strip, *a′*, the ends of which are not permanently secured in the end battens, *b*. These boards or strips, *a′*, however are secured in the panels by a bolt, *e*, to the central battens and are allowed, when their ends are disengaged, to turn on said bolts. The ends of the boards or strips, *a′*, are when not required to move, prevented from doing so by pins, *f*, which pass through the end battens just below the boards or strips, *a′*, as clearly shown in Fig. 1.

The boards or strips, *a′*, are notched at one end in their upper surfaces, as shown at *g*, the opposite ends being notched in their under surfaces as shown at *h*.

The two panels, A A′, are fitted together so as to have oblique positions relatively with each other as shown in Fig. 2, the notches, *c*, of one panel being over the notches, *d*, of the other, and the ends of the boards or strips, *a*, having the notches are interlocked.

The obliquity of the two panels, A A′, forms a dove-tail recess, *i*, between the adjoining battens, as shown clearly in Fig. 2, and in this recess a vertical wedge, B, is driven, the edges of the wedge being beveled to correspond with the oblique position of the battens. By driving the wedge, B, down in the recess, *i*, the adjoining ends of the panels are firmly connected together, the interlocked ends of the notched boards or strips being cramped or strained and drawn together to form close, firm joints.

The central boards or strips, *a′*, have their notches in reverse positions to those of the upper and lower boards of the panels, as is clearly shown in Fig. 1, but they are interlocked in the same way. By this arrangement the panels cannot be disconnected by raising one of them directly upward. This is an important feature of the invention, for unruly cattle frequently make great use of their horns and unhinge large gates, and even throw down quite firm fences. By having, however, the boards or strips, *a′*, notched in a reverse manner to the others, *a*, panels cannot be detached by simply raising one of them. The interlocked ends of the boards or strips, *a′*, require to be first disengaged, which is done by removing the pins, *f*, and turning said boards or strips on their bolts, *e*.

I am aware that panels of fences have been connected together by notching and in-

terlocking together the ends of their rails, boards, or strips, and I do not claim broadly such device separately considered; but

I do claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent,

The upper and lowermost notched boards or strips, *a*, of the panels in connection with the adjustable reversely notched boards or strips, *a'*, and the wedge, B, arranged substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

ISAIAH G. INSKEEP.

Witnesses:

ISRAEL POOL,

TENISON CHESHER.