

United States Patent Office.

JOHN AUGSPURGER, OF TRENTON, OHIO.

Letters Patent No. 79,624, dated July 7, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN PORTABLE FENCES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, JOHN AUGSPURGER, of Trenton, in Butler county, in the State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Portable Fences; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The drawing represents four panels of my improved fence, connected together.

The object of my present invention is the construction of a reversible portable board fence in such a manner as to adapt it to be successfully used upon undulating ground or upon "side-hills," as will be herein fully set forth.

The panels I II III IV may be made with two posts, *a b*, and five boards, *c*, and the latter may be placed at equal distances apart. The panels designed to be used upon level ground are strengthened by the cleats *d*, which are nailed to the several boards of the panel. But the panels best adapted to be used upon inclinations and undulations are represented at I and II, which are made with two cleats, *e f*, secured to the opposite sides of the lower board *C*; and these cleats are connected by a screw-bolt and nut, *g*; and the five boards, *c*, are secured to the posts *a b*, by means of pivot-nails or screws, which will admit of the boards turning upwards or downwards, in relation to the posts to which they are so pivoted.

The screw-bolt which connects the cleats *e f*, which are upon the opposite sides of the boards *c*, passes between the two uppermost boards, as represented in the drawing. As the ends of all the boards *c* of the panel are free to move upon their pivot-nails, which connect them with the posts *a b*, the entire panel may be adjusted from a rectangular form to that of a rhomboid, as shown in the drawings I and II, and the degree of the angles made by thus adjusting the panels may be varied to accommodate the undulation or inclination of the ground upon which the fence is to be erected.

When the adjustment above described is to be made, the nut *g* will be loosened for the purpose, and afterwards the nut *g* will again be tightened, which will cause the cleats *e f* to clamp the boards *c*, and firmly fasten the panel in the position to which it is adjusted.

The panels may be secured together to form a fence, by means of hooks and eyes, or staples, and the posts *b* are made to extend above the upper board of the fence, and the post *a* extends below the lower board, as represented at I in the drawing. And these projecting ends of the posts may be provided with blocks *i*, to serve as an anchor, to be slightly embedded in the earth, and thereby more firmly secure the fence in its position upon the ground.

By providing the projecting posts *b* at one end of each panel, the entire fence may be reversed to rest upon the projections of posts *b*, when the ends of posts *a* which rest upon the ground have become decayed from long use.

The devices used to prevent the panels from being detached from each other, which are marked *O*, are described in my patents numbered 63,829 and 63,825, and need not to be described herein.

From the foregoing description, it will be understood that my improved fence is capable of being used upon lands of irregular surface, as the adjustment of the panels I and II may be made to any desired extent necessary to conform the structure to various declivities or undulations.

To accommodate the fence to slight undulations, I propose to use screw eye-bolts, as indicated at *x x*, as these may be screwed into or through the posts, so as to give a greater or less space between the posts, at either the top or bottom of the fence.

It is obvious that the screw-bolt and nut *g* may be dispensed with, and any mechanical equivalent, to cause the cleats *e f* to clamp and hold the panel firmly in its adjusted position, could be substituted.

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

The clamping-cleats *e f*, screw-bolt and nut *g*, in combination with the adjustable panels I or II, constructed and used in the manner and for the purpose substantially as described.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, this 8th day of February, 1868.

JOHN AUGSPURGER.

Witnesses:

H. P. K. PECK,

B. B. BARNITZ.