

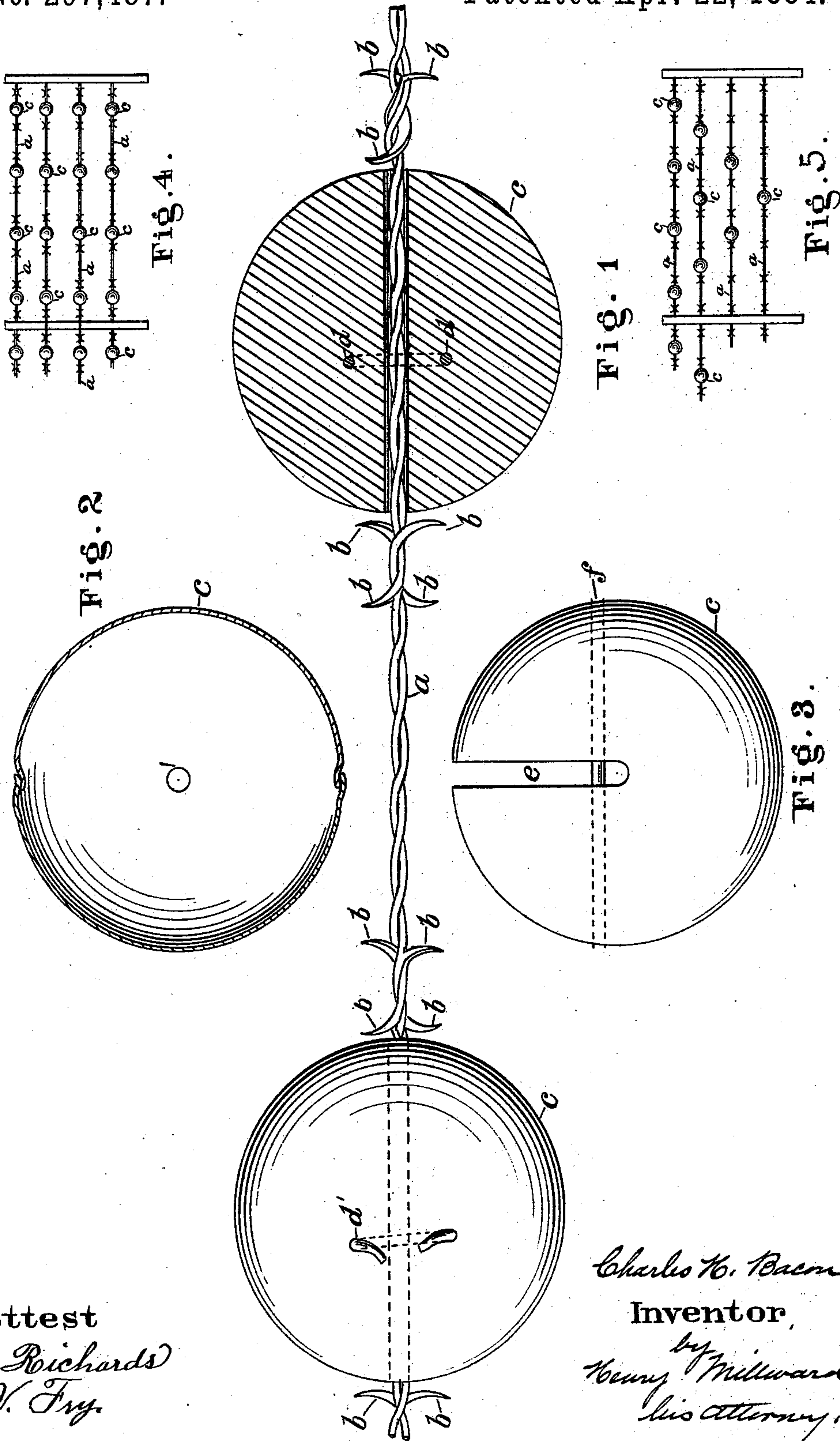
(No Model.)

C. H. BACON.

WARNING DEVICE FOR BARBED FENCES.

No. 297,487.

Patented Apr. 22, 1884.



Attest  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES H. BACON, OF SPRINGFIELD, OHIO.

## WARNING DEVICE FOR BARBED FENCES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 297,487, dated April 22, 1884.

Application filed August 11, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES H. BACON, of Springfield, county of Clark, State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Barbed Fences, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has for its object to provide barbed fences with devices that not only serve as visible signals to warn animals, but also as projecting guards to prevent an animal running or passing sidewise along the fence from being seriously injured or lacerated by the barbs, such combined signals and guards being visible from all avenues of approach, and permitting the barbs to perform their usual function should a direct attempt be made by an animal to break the fence.

The object of my invention I accomplish in the manner and by the means hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of a portion of a barbed-wire fence with my invention applied thereto, one of the signals and guards being in elevation and the other in section; Fig. 2, a sectional view of one of the signals and guards, showing a modification of the invention. Fig. 3 is an elevation showing another modification; and Figs. 4 and 5, elevations of part of a barbed fence on a reduced scale, showing my invention applied thereto.

Referring to the drawings, *a* indicates a strand of a barbed-wire fence, *b* the barbs provided thereon, and *c* the combined visible signals and guards, each of which is of the form of a sphere, with the exterior surface perfectly smooth or plain, and diametrically mounted on the wire strand *a*, for which purpose the sphere is provided with an axial orifice or opening through which the wire strand is passed. The spheres are each made of two equal halves, although they may be constructed from a solid block and of any desired geometrical external form; and in Fig. 1 these hemispheres are provided on their flat surfaces with diametrical channels in which the strand of the fence is arranged, such channels being of such depth that the two halves of the hemisphere can be brought into contact to complete the spherical body, in which position they are secured or tied by a staple, *d*,

passing through perforations in the hemispheres and clinched at its free ends *d'*, Fig. 1.

In Fig. 2 the spherical body is composed of two concavo-convex disks having their edges constructed to be interlocked by springing them together, so as to confine the barbed-fence strand in the diametrical orifices formed by recesses in the edges of the disks. In Fig. 3 the sphere is in a single piece, with a radial slot, *e*, in the bottom of which slot the barbed-fence strand is confined by an axial pin, *f*; but instead of this pin I can use a wedge or a wire, if desired. In all cases the spherical signals and guards are diametrically hung on the fence-strand between the barbs *b*, whereby such spheres project in every direction radially from the strand, and the surface of the spheres, being smooth or plain, cannot tear, lacerate, or seriously injure an animal coming against the same. It will be evident that the spheres serve as a warning to an animal, no matter in which direction it approaches, while the smooth or plain surface projecting outward beyond the length or extent of the barbs, it will be seen that if an animal runs or passes sidewise along the fence the spheres act as guards to the barbs and prevent the latter from tearing or lacerating the animal.

By making the visible signals and guards in two halves or sections, they can be easily manufactured from sheet metal, if desired, and no projecting points will exist to injure an animal.

The spheres, being visible from all avenues of approach, greatly lessen the danger of an animal's coming unexpectedly upon the fence and being injured by the barbs; but if a direct attempt is made to break the fence the barbs are in position to perform their usual function.

By my invention I provide very simple and efficient means to prevent an animal from rubbing sidewise against the barbs, and at the same time present to the animal a visible signal locating the position of the fence.

Heretofore barbed-wire fences have been provided with a plate of thin flexible material, having one end bent around a strengthening-bar and inclosing the wire strands; but while such a device forms an indicator of the location of the fence, there is nothing to prevent an animal from being seriously injured



or lacerated by the barbs when passing side-  
wise along the fence or rubbing sidewise  
against the same. A wire fence has also been  
provided with barbs in the shape of oval or  
5 egg-shaped burrs, from the surface of which  
project spikes or points, such burrs having  
longitudinal orifices, so that they can be  
strung on the wire, or longitudinal grooves in  
their opposite sides for receiving the wires;  
10 but obviously such a device would defeat the  
very object of my invention.

It will be perceived from the foregoing that  
the aforesaid visible signals and guards are  
capable of being turned on their axes or sup-  
15 ports when an animal comes in contact with  
the same, by which means disfiguring of the  
barb-wire or displacement from the barb-wire  
of the visible guards and signals is to a great  
extent avoided. It will also be perceived that  
20 the visible guards and signals are capable of  
having imparted to them a longitudinal or  
shifting movement on the barb-wire when  
pressure or contact is applied to or brought  
upon them by an animal moving or prancing  
25 along in the direction in which the fence ex-  
tends, and that the barbs on the fence limit  
the travel or movement of the visible guards  
and signals. If some provision or means were  
not present on the wire to limit the longitudi-  
30 nal movement of the visible guards and sig-  
nals, the same would be liable to nest or collect  
at one or the other ends of the wire adjacent  
to the posts which support the wire strands or  
cable employed, owing to the action of wind  
35 or to caprices of individuals.

Signal-guards have been seated between two  
twisted strands of wire composing a wire fence,  
each wire being seated in a groove formed on  
the external surface of the signal; but such a  
40 construction is not claimed by me, for the  
valuable results provided for by my invention  
of allowing the turning and the longitudinal  
or shifting movement of the visible signals  
or guards upon their supporting wire or wires  
45 or stringers could not be effected. The in-

vention, without any alteration, is applicable  
to fences already in position.

Having thus described my invention, what I  
claim is—

1. The combination, with the strand of a 50  
fence having barbs thereon, of the combined  
signals and guards axially mounted on the  
strand, and free to turn thereon, and having  
smooth or plain surfaces projecting outward  
beyond the barbs, to prevent the latter from 55  
tearing or lacerating an animal rubbing or  
moving sidewise against the fence, substan-  
tially as described.

2. The combination, with the strand of a 60  
fence, of signals and guards loosely and ax-  
ially hung on the strand, said signals or guards  
constructed and located to have a free longi-  
tudinal or shifting movement imparted to  
them on their axial support, with means on  
the strand to limit the longitudinal or shift- 65  
ing motion of the said signals and guards,  
substantially as described.

3. The combination, with the strand of a  
fence having barbs thereon, of a combined  
signal and guard composed of two sections and 70  
means for connecting the sections, said signal  
and guard being hung on the strand and pro-  
vided with smooth or plain surfaces project-  
ing outward beyond the points of the barbs,  
substantially as described. 75

4. The combination, with the strand of a  
fence having barbs thereon, of spherical sig-  
nals and guards axially hung on the strand,  
and having smooth or plain surfaces project-  
ing outward beyond the points of the barbs, 80  
said spheres each comprising two halves, and  
means for uniting them, substantially as de-  
scribed.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set  
my hand this 8th day of August, 1883.

CHARLES H. BACON.

Witnesses:

HENRY MILLWARD,  
ADOLPH BAKHAUS.