

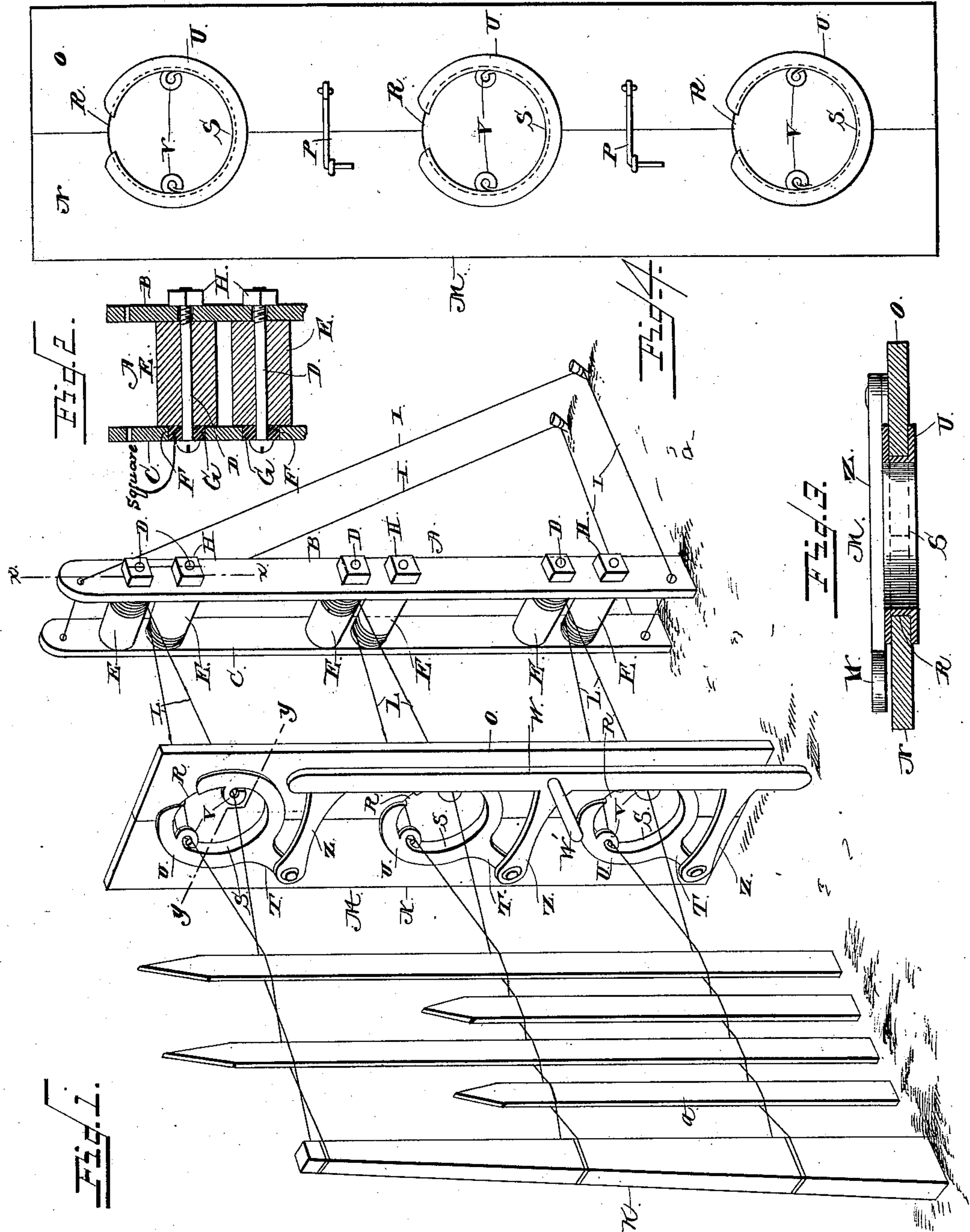
(No Model.)

J. A. MINNICK.

MACHINE FOR MAKING PICKET FENCES.

No. 351,646.

Patented Oct. 26, 1886.



Witnesses

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MACHINE FOR MAKING PICKET-FENCES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 351,646, dated October 26, 1886.

Application filed September 4, 1886. Serial No. 212,716. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES ALONZO MINNICK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Elwood, in the county of Madison and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Machines for Making Picket-Fences, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in machines for making fences; and it consists in the peculiar construction and combination of devices that will be more fully set forth hereinafter, and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a machine embodying my improvements, showing the same in operative position to build a wire and paling fence. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the tension device, taken on the line *xx* of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a horizontal sectional view of the wire-twisting device, taken on the line *yy* of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a rear elevation of the same.

A represents the tension device, which comprises the vertical bars B and C, the bolts D, connecting the same, and the drums E, journaled on the said bolts. The bar C is provided at the outer ends of the openings, through which the bolts D extend, with openings or recesses F, in which are located rectangular blocks G, through which the headed ends of the bolts extend. On the threaded ends of the bolts are screwed clamping-nuts H, which are adapted to bear against the outer side of the bar B so as to clamp the bars B and C against the ends of the drums E with any desired pressure.

The tension device is supported in a vertical position at one end of the proposed line of fence by means of guide-wires I, which are attached to stakes that are driven in the ground. At the opposite end of the proposed line of fence is planted a vertical post, K.

Three pairs of the drums E are journaled between the bars B and C of the tension device, and to each drum is attached one end of a wire, L. The other ends of the wires are secured to the post K, and the wires are stretched between the post K and the tension device in three horizontal pairs.

M represents the wire-twisting device. Boards N and O, of suitable width, length,

and thickness, have their inner edges secured together by means of hooks P, or other suitable devices, and between the meeting edges of the boards are made circular openings R, the centers of which register with the spaces midway between the pairs of drums E.

S represents twisting-disks, which are made of cast or malleable iron, and form open rings having projecting handles or arms T. The said disks are provided with annular flanges U, into which the sides of the openings R are fitted, and the said twisting-disks are attached to the boards M and N by closing the said boards together, so as to cause the opposite sides of the openings formed in their meeting edges to enter opposite sides of the annular grooves formed in the twisting-disks, and the boards N and O are then secured together on the twisting-disks by means of the hooks, as before described. On opposite sides of each twisting-disk are formed engaging hooks or keepers V, having openings through which the wires L are passed.

W represents the vertical operating-bar, which is provided at its center with a projecting handle, W', and from the inner edge of the said bar project arms Z, which have their inner ends pivoted to the ends of the arms T of the disks by means of suitable pivotal bolts, as shown.

From the foregoing it will be readily understood that the twisting device is free to be moved laterally on the wires L, and that the three pairs of wires are spread apart by the twisting-disks. In order to build a fence, the twisting device is first moved till within a slight distance of the post K, and a picket, *a*, is then inserted vertically between the wires. The operator then grasps the handle of the bar W, and moves the same so as to cause the twisting-disks to move through half a rotation in one direction in the openings R, thereby twisting the wires L on the outer edge of the picket. The twisting device is then moved laterally from the picket for a suitable distance, and another picket is inserted vertically between the wires, and the twisting-disks are then caused to move through half a circle in the reverse direction, thereby twisting the wires on the second picket, and so on until the pickets have been inserted between the wires throughout the entire line of fence. The req-

2
uisite tension is maintained on the wires L by means of the clamping bolts on which the drums E are journaled.

5 Having thus described my invention, I claim—

10 1. The twisting device comprising the boards N and O, having their inner edges secured together, and provided with the openings R, made in the meeting edges of the said boards, and the twisting disks journaled in the said openings, and having the hooks or keepers V for the wires, and the handles T, by means of which the twisting disks may be rotated, substantially as described.

15 2. The combination of the boards N and O, having the openings R made in their opposing

inner edges, and secured together by the hooks or other suitable devices, the twisting disks having the annular grooves to receive the inner edges of the openings R, and provided with the hooks or keepers V for the wires, and the arms T, and the bar W, having the arms Z Z attached to the arms T of the twisters, for the purpose set forth, substantially as described.

25 In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JAMES ALONZO MINNICK.

Witnesses:

A. B. WILSON,

J. S. LAYNE.