(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. C. WYGANT.

FENCE.

No. 370,513. Patented Sept. 27, 1887.

Fig. 1.

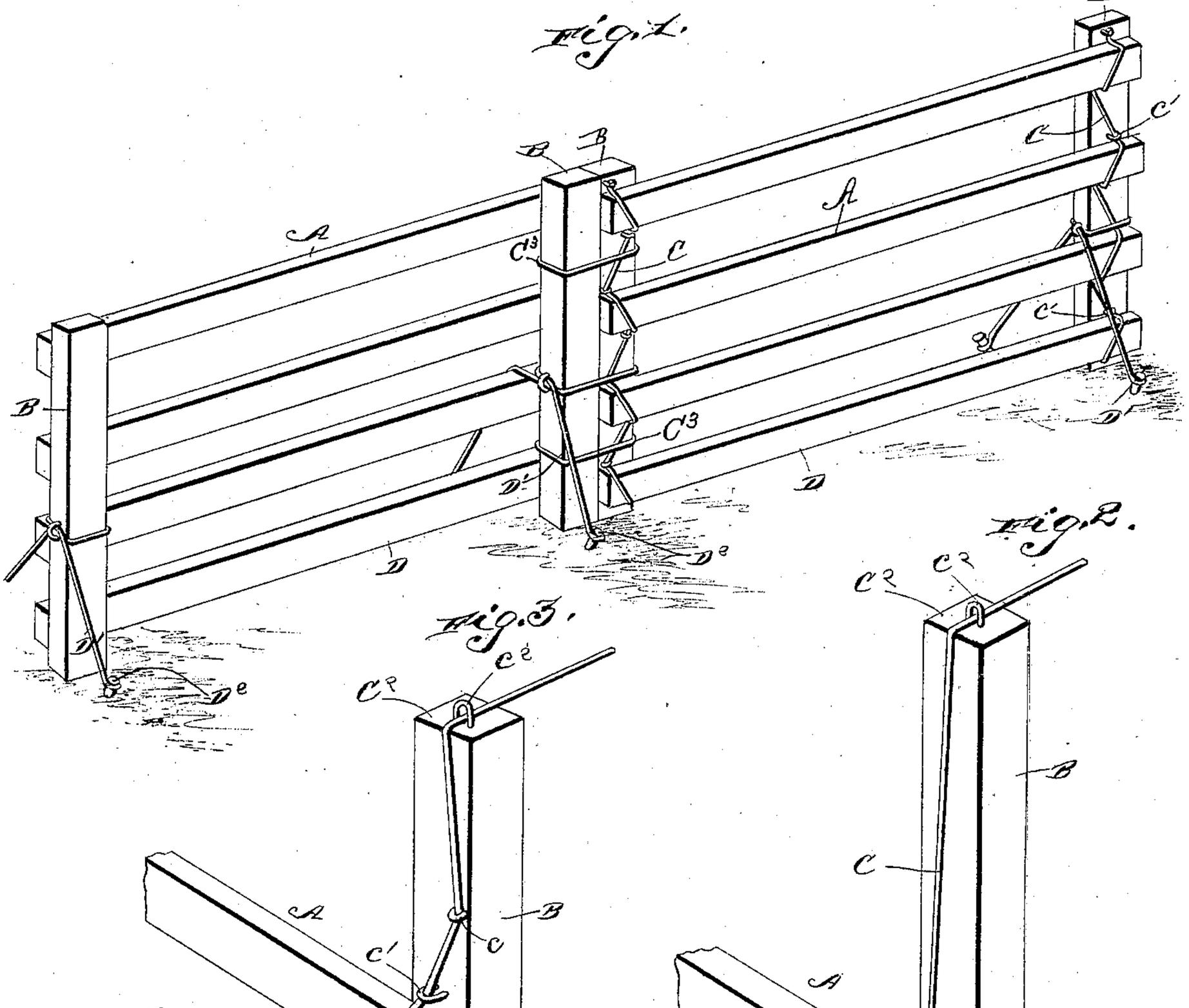

Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

Witnesses
C. L. Taylor
E. L. Siggers

Inventor
John C. Wygant
By his Attorneys,
C. A. Snow & Co.

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 4.

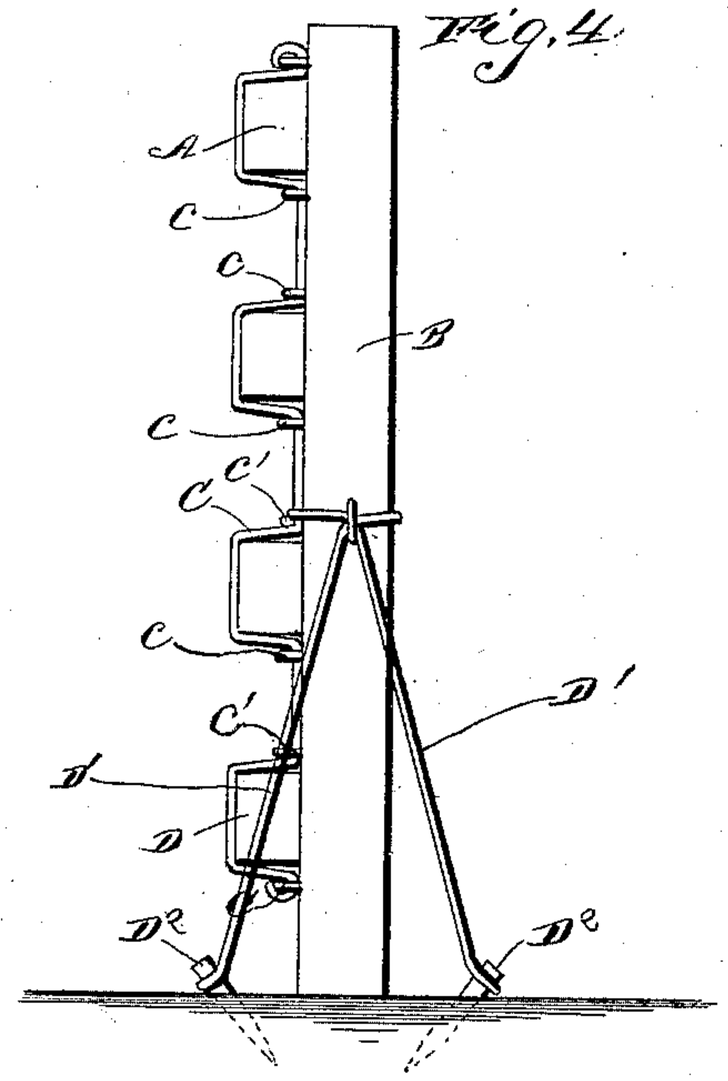
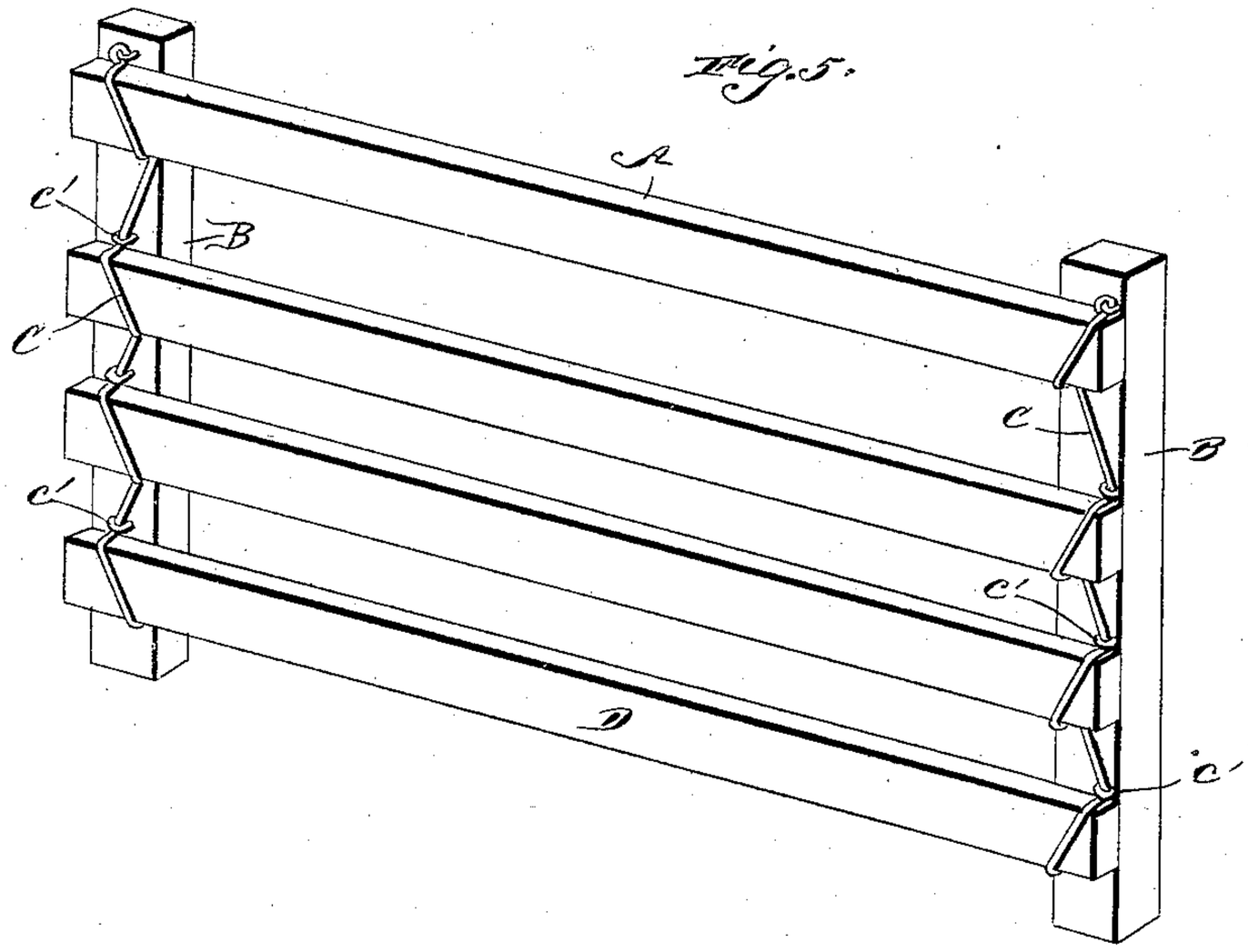


Fig. 5.



Witnesses
E. L. Taylor
L. L. Siggers

Inventor
John C. Wygant

By his Attorneys,
C. A. Snow & Co.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN C. WYGANT, OF OUTVILLE, OHIO.

FENCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 370,513, dated September 27, 1887.

Application filed May 4, 1887. Serial No. 237,104. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN C. WYGANT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Outville, in the county of Licking and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Rail Fences, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in rail fences; and it consists in the construction and arrangement of the parts thereof, which will be more fully hereinafter described, and particularly pointed out in the claims.

The essential feature of my invention is the manner or method or mounting the rails in connection with the posts by means of wires in such a manner as to hold firmly the said rails in connection with the posts and prevent the displacement thereof.

The object of my invention is to provide a fence which is simple and effective in its construction, easily and readily set up, and when set up strong and durable and adapted to resist wear and the various forces brought to bear upon a fence of this construction. I attain this object by the construction of fence illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein like letters of reference indicate similar parts in the several views, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of two panels of my improved fence, shown completed and mounted. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a post and a portion of a rail, showing the first step in making the fence and mounting the first rail. Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2, showing the first or lower rail mounted and the second rail in position to be securely fastened to the said post. Fig. 4 is an end view of one of the posts with the rails attached thereto, and anchor-wires secured thereto and to anchor-stakes, which are shown as driven into the ground. Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of a panel of a fence as it appears when finished.

A indicates the rails, and B the posts, composing the fence, which may be of any preferred form of construction. A wire, C, is secured at the lower portion of each post by means of a staple, *c*, Fig. 4, and when the said wire has thus been secured the one end of the rail D is inserted under the wire adjacent to and above the said staple, as shown in Fig. 2. The wire C is thence bent across the rail near its end in a diagonal direction and toward the opposite post, as shown in Fig. 5. A staple, *c'*, is thence driven over the wire and into the post B, but only partially driven home, leaving the wire at this point to have free play therethrough. This staple *c'* is mounted in the said post B, adjacent to the upper side of the rail, being secured so that when it is driven home it will cause a binding of the wire C upon the top surface of the rail. The wire C is drawn through the staple *c'*, and up the stake or post B in a diagonal direction, the reverse of that of the loop retaining the lower rail.

At a suitable predetermined and regular distance above the rail D, as shown in Fig. 4, a staple, *c*, is driven into the post B, over the wire in a manner similar to the lower staple *c*, heretofore described. The wire C is thence drawn tightly through the last staple driven, and through the staple *c'*, which has not as yet been driven entirely into the post, and when the said wire C has thus been drawn through the staple the staple *c'* is driven tightly into the stake or post B, and draws the wire down over the face of the lower rail, D, as shown in Fig. 2, in a diagonal position, heretofore described. Another rail A is then placed under the wire adjacent to and above the upper staple *c* and the said wire C thence drawn across the rail near its end in a diagonal line, in a manner similar to the lower rail just secured. A second staple, *c'*, is then in like manner partially driven into the post *b*, over the wire, and a third-staple *c* driven into the post B, over the wire C, adjacent to the position to be occupied by the third rail, as shown in Fig. 4. The third staple *c* being thus secured in the post B, and confining the wire C thereunder, the said wire C is thence drawn again to stretch it to its fullest extent, and the second staple, *c'*, is thence driven home in a manner similar to the first operation. This operation of securing the ends of the rails A will be continued until the desired number of rails have been mounted in connection with the posts.

In mounting the rails in connection with the posts the wire C will be secured in a zigzag manner, the loops confining the rails all extending obliquely across them near their ends in the same direction. The same construction

is carried out in the other post supporting the other ends of the rails; but in this instance the wire C will be so arranged that the loops passing over the ends of the rails will be inclined in a reverse direction to those confining the ends of the rails at the other posts. By this means it will be seen that it will be impossible to longitudinally displace the rails from connection with the posts B, and being confined by the loops, as described, any vertical movement will also be prevented. Each panel of the fence is adapted to be constructed individually, and then connected to the next panel by wire loops C^3, which are passed around the two posts of the panels, and tightened by twisting to form a positive union between the two panels.

When the wires C are secured to the lower portion of each post, as hereinbefore set forth, a staple, c^2, is removably secured in the top portion of each post, through which the wire C is passed. The said staple c^2 is situated in such a position in the top of the post B, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, that in drawing the wire upwardly before the loops C′ are secured the line of draft brought to bear thereupon will be in the same plane as the face of the stake or post upon which the rails are being mounted. When the rails have all been secured, as hereinbefore set forth, the upper end of the wire C is secured near the top portion of the post B on the upper side of the top rail thereof, as shown in Fig. 5.

This form of fence, in view of its construction, is especially applicable for sections of the country wherein floods and high winds are prevalent, and is also adapted to be removed from one place to another, as may be desired.

As a means of securement for the several posts or sections of the fence, as may be deemed necessary, an anchor-wire, D′, is looped around the post and connected at its two lower ends at each side of each of the posts to two anchor-stakes, D^2, which are driven into the ground and firmly hold the fence or its sections in the desired position.

Owing to the simplicity of construction of my improved fence it requires the labor of but one person to construct the same and set it up in position. The staple c' forms a ready means for tightening the wires across the ends of the rail, thus dispensing with the use of wire-stretchers, or analogous implements, which necessarily saves time, labor, and expense. It may properly be called a "tension-staple."

By means of the diagonal arrangement of the wires C, as herein set forth, the staples are arranged in different lines, and are thereby mounted in different lines of grain of the posts, and splitting and injury of the posts is thereby prevented, rendering the posts strong and durable.

The novelty and utility of my improved form of fence being obviously apparent, it is unnecessary to further enlarge upon the same herein.

It is obvious that many slight variations in the construction and arrangement of parts may be made and substituted for those herein shown and described without in the least departing from the nature and principle of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

In combination with the posts, the rails laid flat against the face of the posts and the wires secured at one end to the bottom of the posts, the said wires being passed diagonally across the ends of the rails, alternately in opposite directions, whereby each rail has one end secured by a wire loop which extends or inclines in one direction, while the wire loop at the other end of the rail inclines in the opposite direction, and thus the tendency of the rails to be displaced or to slip longitudinally is entirely obviated, and the staples securing the wire to the face of the post, a pair of staples for each rail, the bottom staple being secured rigidly in place while the top staple serves as a tension device to draw the wire over the face of the ends of the rails, the wire between the rails extending across the face of the post in an inclined line, the wire tie C^3, connecting the adjacent panels of the fence, and the wire brace D′, connected to the meeting ends of the panels and staked or anchored to the ground, for the purpose set forth.

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

JOHN C. WYGANT.

Witnesses:

E. G. SIGGERS,

MYRTLE STALNAKER.