(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

W. CALLAWAY, Sr.

MACHINE FOR WIRING FENCE PICKETS.

No. 479,626. Patented July 26, 1892.

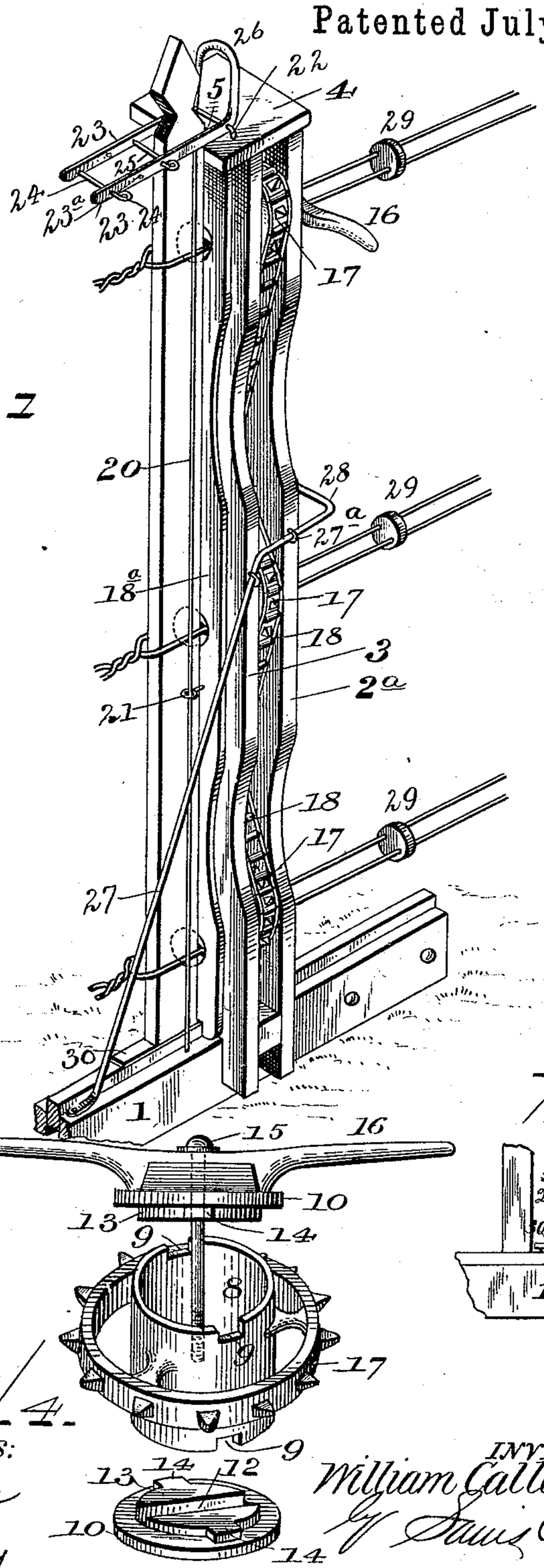

Fig. 1.

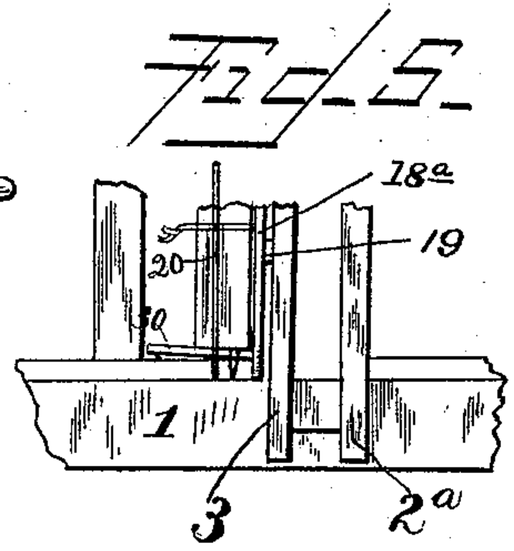

Fig. 5.

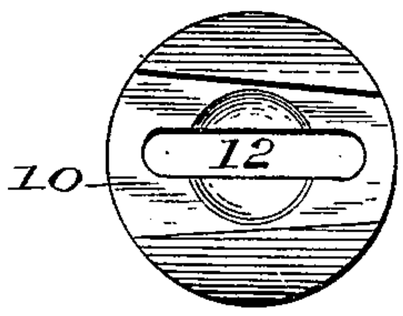

Fig. 4.

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Fig. 2.

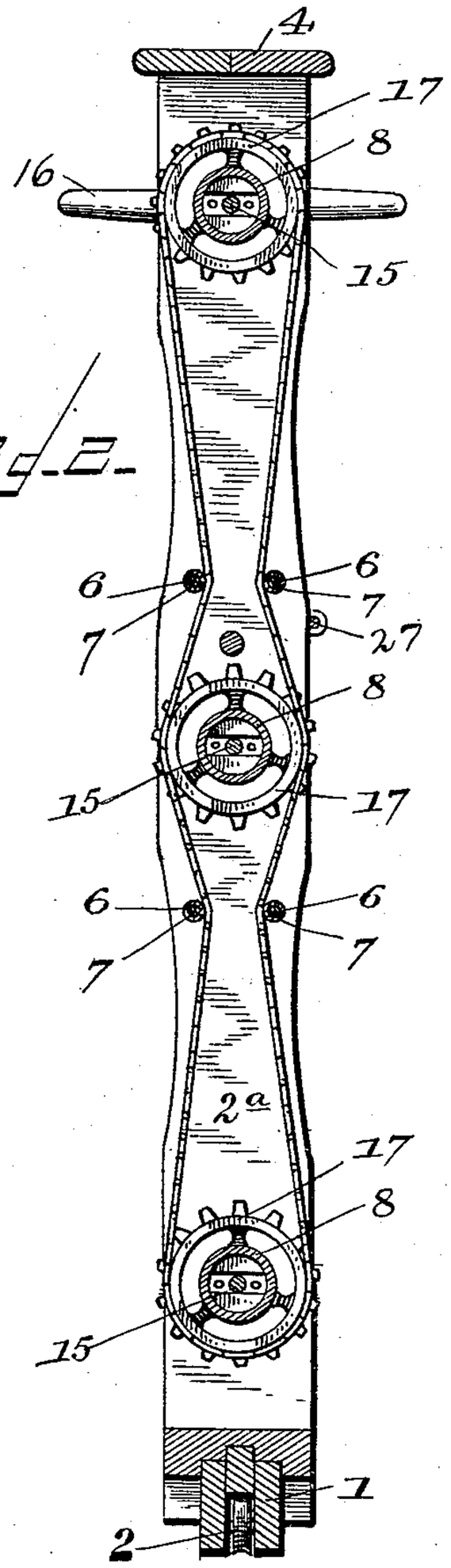
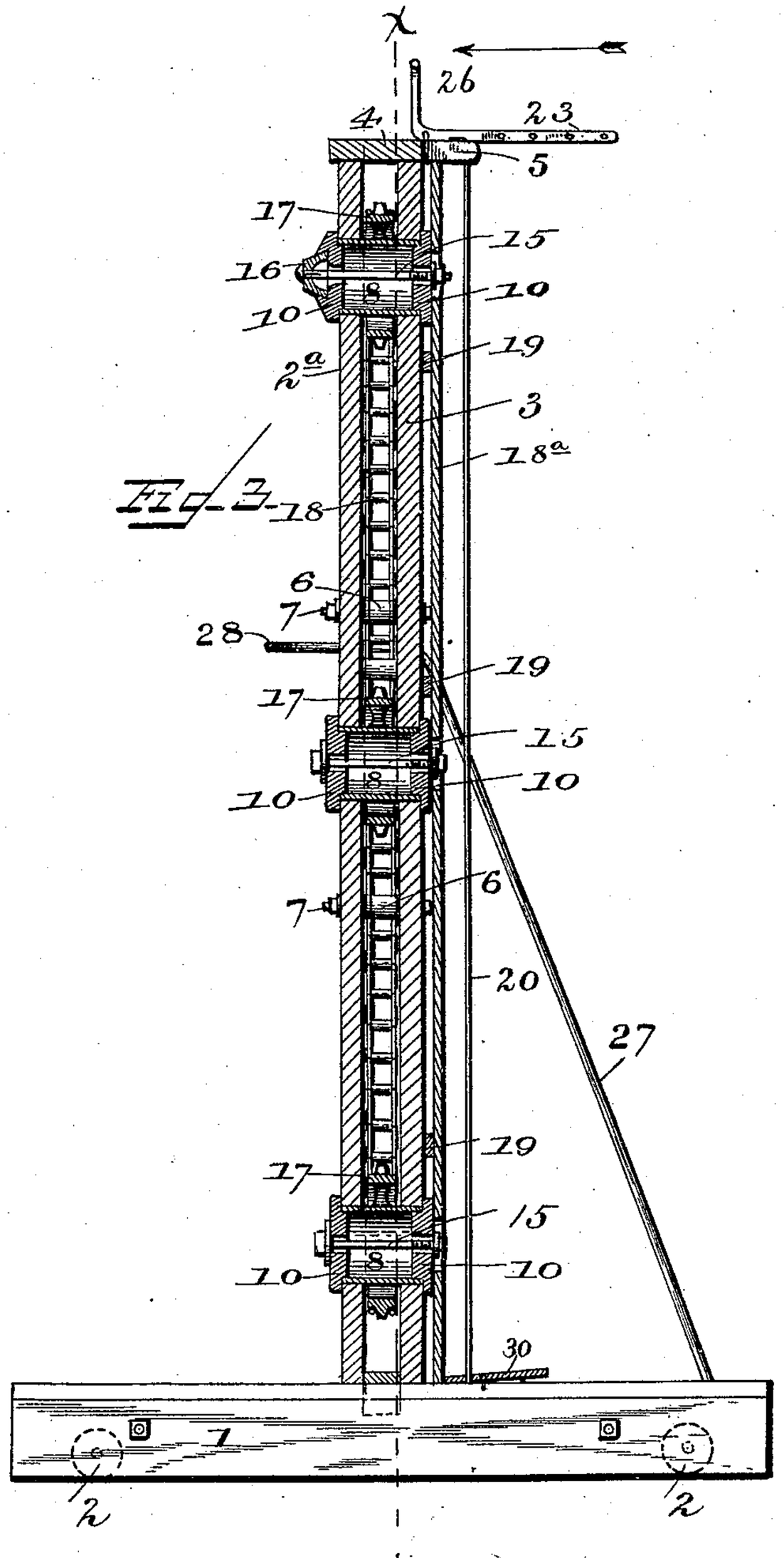


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MACHINE FOR WIRING FENCE-PICKETS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 479,626, dated July 26, 1892.

Application filed March 5, 1892. Serial No. 423,890. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM CALLAWAY, Sr., a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Knox, in the county of Starke and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Machines for Wiring Fence-Pickets; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements in machines for wiring fence-pickets, the object being to provide an improved construction of the same, whereby I attain superior advantages with respect to simplicity, economy, and efficiency.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of parts hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a fence in the process of construction by my improved machine; Fig. 2 is a vertical section on the line *x x*, Fig. 3. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section of the same. Fig. 4 is a detail view of one of the twisters, and Fig. 5 is a detail view showing the spring-gage at the lower end of the uprights.

In the said drawings the numeral 1 designates a base provided with rollers 2, which rest upon the ground and enable the machine to be readily moved toward and from the slats or pickets in the performance of the work. Secured to this base are two uprights 2^a and 3, connected together at the top by means of a block or plate 4, one edge of which projects beyond the rear upright 3, and is provided with a slot 5 to receive the edge of the picket to be wired and prevent the same from turning. The uprights 2^a and 3 are a short distance apart, so as to form a space for the twister-operating devices, and intermediate of their ends are also connected by means of screw-bolts 7, provided with sleeves 6, which loosely revolve therein. Near each end and at the center the uprights are provided with aligned annular openings, in which are located the twisters, each consisting of a metallic hub or cylinder 8, having notches 9 at each end. These heads or cylinders are provided with heads 10, having rectangular slots 12 and bosses 13 on their inner sides, provided with lugs 14, which engage with the notches 9. The slots 12 are aligned with each other, and passing therethrough at the center are headed screw-bolts 15, by which the heads are securely held to the hubs, so as to rotate therewith. Through these slots pass the fence-wires, which are separated from each other by the bolts 15. One of said hubs is provided with a recess on its outer face to receive a slotted lever 16, which is held in place by the screw-bolts 15, passing through the slot. At or near the centers the hubs are provided or formed with a series of peripheral cogs 17, with which engages an endless chain 18, which chain, intermediate of the center and top and bottom hubs, passes upon the inside of the sleeves 6, by means of which said chains are forced or bulged inwardly at their points, and consequently are caused to engage with the cogs 17 without liability of being displaced. A short distance from the upright 3 is a parallel board 18^a, secured to the base 1 and block 4 and separated from said uprights by means of spacing-blocks 19. The object of this board is to prevent the pickets from coming in contact with the twisters, and it is provided with openings aligned therewith for the passage of the fence-wires.

The numeral 20 denotes two stiff vertical wires or small rods secured to the block 4 at each side of the notch or slot 5 and to the base 1, passing through intermediate screw-eyes 21, attached to board 18^a, forming guides by which the pickets are guided to the fence-wires.

Pivoted to a bail 22, secured to the upper side of block 4, is a spacing-gage consisting of a metal bar bent upon itself at the center and then the ends bent at right angles, forming two arms 23, with a series of apertures 23^a to receive the removable spacing-rod 24 and the retaining-rod 25. The other portion 26 of the gage serves as a handle for operating the gage.

The numeral 27 denotes a brace-rod secured at one end to the base 1 and passing up between staples 27^a on the uprights 3 and 2^a

and around and in front of upright 2ª, to which it is secured, forming a handle 28, by which the machine may be moved to and from the pickets.

The operation will be readily understood by reference to Fig. 1. Two parallel fence-wires are passed through the twisters and stretched in the usual manner. A picket is then inserted in the notch or slot in block 4 and forced down between the strands, being guided by the wires 20. The twisters are then operated by turning the lever 16, which will cause all of the twisters to be rotated simultaneously by means of the endless chain and cogs. The number of twists given the wires will of course depend upon the number of turns given to the lever, a half-turn thereof simply crossing the wires without twisting them. The retaining-rod 25 is now removed and the spacing-gage turned up until the arms 23 assume a vertical position. The machine is then drawn away from the wired picket and a new picket is introduced between the strands and the gage turned down until its arms 23 embrace said last-mentioned picket, the arms 24 abutting against said last-wired picket, and the retaining-rod 25 then inserted through the apertures in said arms to hold and retain the new picket in place while being wired. The twisters are then again operated, the gage thrown up out of engagement with the picket, and the operation repeated. By means of the series of apertures 23ª the bar 24 may be moved nearer to or farther from the upright 3, whereby the spacing of the pickets may be varied. The rod 25 prevents backward movement of the picket while being wired.

The numeral 29 designates a circular block of wood, provided with two holes or apertures, through which the fence-wires pass. By this means the wires are held apart and prevented from getting tangled.

Secured to the base 1 in rear of the uprights is a spring-gage for keeping the lower ends of the pickets the proper distance apart. This gage consists of a spring-metal plate 30, one end of which is secured to the base, while the free end projects forwardly, so as to strike or abut against the last picket wired during the operation of twisting. After the picket is wired the apparatus is pulled forward, the plate sliding from beneath the end of the picket, when its free end will spring up so as to strike said picket when the apparatus is pushed back, and thus limit its movement.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. In a fence-wiring machine, the combination, with the base, the uprights, the block at the top, having a slot or notch therein, the gage consisting of the bent metal rod pivoted to said block and having the two arms provided with a series of apertures, the adjustable spacing-rod for said apertures, and the vertical guide-wires, of the twisters having peripheral cogs, the endless chain engaging therewith, the screw-bolts intermediate of the center and end twisters for holding the chain in engagement with the cogs, and means for actuating the twisters, substantially as described.

2. In a fence-wiring machine, the combination, with the base, the uprights, the block at the top, having a slot or notch therein, the vertical guide-wires, the twisters having peripheral cogs, the endless chain, the screw-bolts, and the sleeves loosely mounted thereon, of the gage consisting of the bent metal rod pivoted to said block, having the two arms provided with a series of apertures, the adjustable spacing-rod for said apertures, the spring-gage plate secured to the base, and the rod for limiting the movement of the picket being wired, substantially as described.

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

WILLIAM CALLAWAY, SR.

Witnesses:
WILLIAM GILES,
ISAAC B. IRVING.