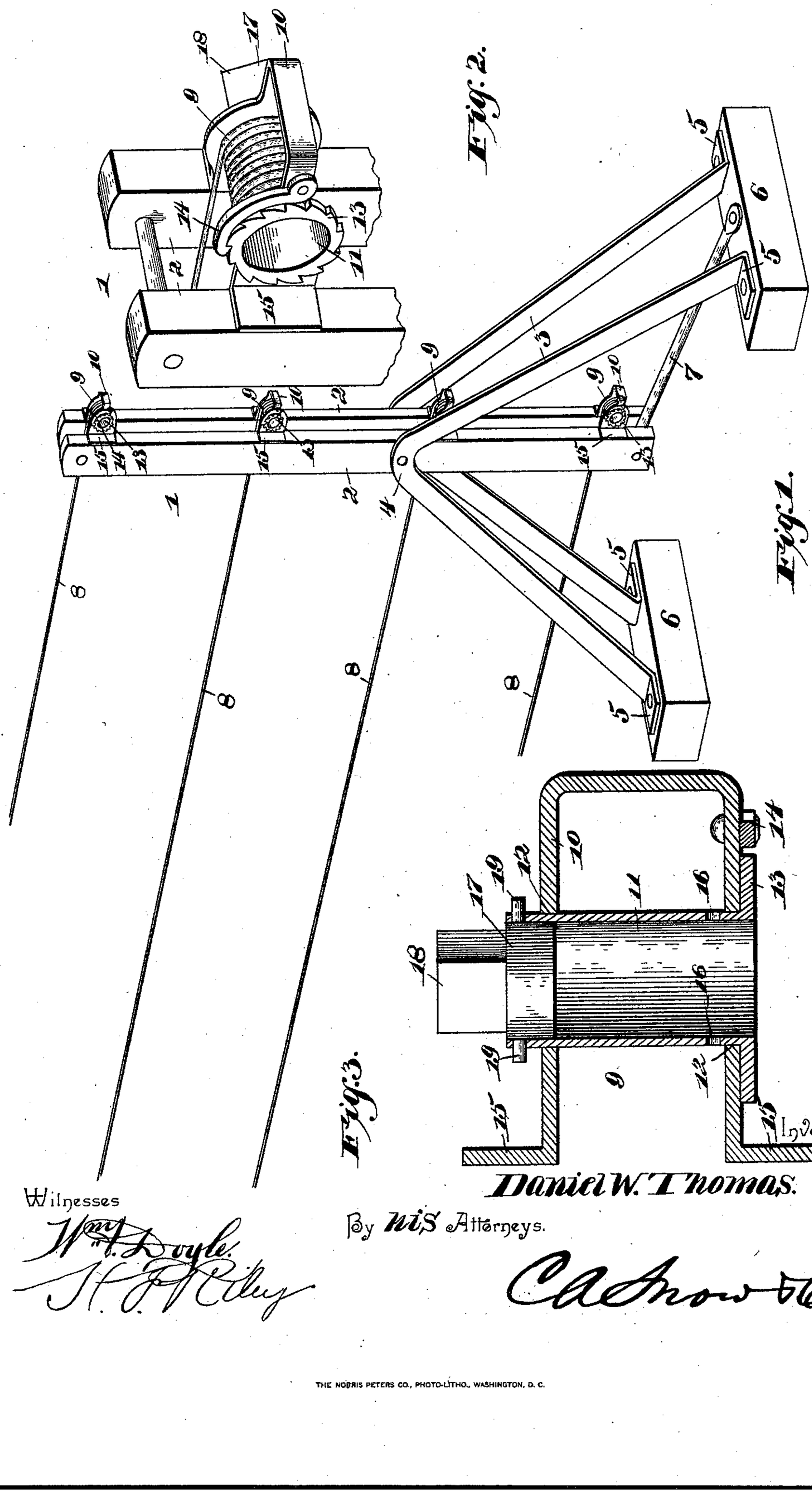
(No Model.)

D. W. THOMAS.

FENCE.

No. 528,828. Patented Nov. 6, 1894.



Wilnesses
Wm. L. Doyle.
H. C. Riley

Daniel W. Thomas.
By his Attorneys.
Cachow & Co.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DANIEL W. THOMAS, OF PITTSBURG, OHIO.

FENCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 528,828, dated November 6, 1894.

Application filed April 6, 1894. Serial No. 506,623. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANIEL W. THOMAS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pittsburg, in the county of Darke and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Fence, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to improvements in fences.

The object of the present invention is to improve the construction of wire fences, to provide a firm and secure support for the same, and to enable the wires thereof to be readily maintained at the desired tension, and to permit the tension of the wires to be readily regulated at any time.

The invention consists in the construction and novel combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings and pointed out in the claims hereto appended.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a perspective view of one end of a fence constructed in accordance with this invention. Fig. 2 is an enlarged detail perspective view of the upper portion of the fence post. Fig. 3 is a horizontal sectional view of the wire-stretcher and fastener.

Similar numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

1 designates a fence post composed of vertical parallel spaced bars 2, constructed preferably of metal, and supported above the ground by a pair of inverted V-shaped braces 3, having rounded apexes 4, secured to the post at opposite sides thereof. The sides of the inverted V-shaped braces incline downward and diverge outwardly, and have their terminals bent at an angle to provide securing plates 5, and are fastened to the upper faces of horizontal anchors 6, which are preferably rectangular in cross-section. The fence post is maintained in a vertical position by an inclined straight brace 7, extending from the lower end of the post to the outer anchor 6, and having its ends secured to the post between the bars thereof and to the upper face of the anchor, the other anchor being arranged at the inner side of the post, below the fence wires 8.

The fence wires 8 pass between the bars 2 of the post, are secured thereto and maintained at the desired tension by a series of wire-stretchers 9, arranged on the outer edges of the bars 2, and maintained thereon by the tension of the fence wires without the employment of fastening devices.

Each wire-stretcher comprises an approximately rectangular horizontally-disposed frame 10, a windlass shaft or sleeve 11, journaled on the sides of the frame in openings 12 thereof, and provided at one end with a ratchet-wheel or flange 13, and a pivoted pawl 14, mounted on the frame adjacent to the ratchet-teeth 13. The inner ends of the sides of the frame are bent outward to provide vertical flanges 15, which fit against the outer edges of the bars 2 of the post 1, and the tension of the wire, as before stated, retains the wire-stretcher on the post detachably. The sleeve is perforated, at 16, at opposite sides to receive the adjacent end of the fence wire, and it has secured in its end not having the ratchet a plug 17, provided with an outer squared portion 18, adapted to be engaged by a wrench or similar tool for rotating the sleeve to tighten a fence wire. The fastening device 19, for securing the plug in the sleeve, also serves to retain the latter in the openings of the rectangular frame.

It will be seen that the fence is simple, inexpensive, strong and durable, that the end post is firmly braced and supported and that the fence wires are maintained at the desired tension and are adapted to have their tension regulated to suit the temperature to prevent them from being broken by contraction, or loosened by expansion.

Changes in the form, proportion, and the minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

What I claim is—

1. In a fence, the combination of a post, a pair of inverted V-shaped braces secured at their apexes to the post, at opposite sides thereof and supporting the same above the ground and a straight brace extending from the fence post below its attachment to the inverted V-shaped braces, and maintaining the post in a vertical position substantially as described.

2. In a fence, the combination of a post, a

pair of inverted V-shaped braces arranged at opposite sides of the post and secured at their apexes thereto, and supporting the same above the ground anchors supporting the lower ends of the sides of said braces, and a straight brace extending from the bottom of the post and secured thereto and having its other end secured between the adjacent sides of the V-shaped braces, and maintaining the post in a vertical position substantially as described.

3. In a fence, the combination of a post composed of vertical parallel spaced bars, the inverted V-shaped braces arranged at opposite sides of the post and supporting the latter above the ground and secured at their apexes thereto, and having their sides diverging, transversely-disposed anchors supporting the braces and secured thereto, and a straight brace having its inner end secured between the bars of the post and having its other end fastened to the outer anchor, substantially as described.

4. In a fence, the combination of a post, wires, and a series of wire-stretchers each comprising a horizontally disposed rectangular frame constructed of a simple piece of metal and having the inner ends of its sides bent at an angle and bearing against the post, said sides being provided with bearing-openings, a sleeve journaled in the bearing-openings and having a wire connected to it and provided at one end with ratchet-teeth, a plug arranged in the other end of the sleeve and having a polygonal portion to be engaged by a wrench, the fastening device 19 passing through the sleeve and the plug and projecting therefrom to retain the sleeve in the frame and a pivoted pawl mounted on the frame and engaging the ratchet-teeth, substantially as described.

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

DANIEL W. THOMAS.

Witnesses:

H. C. SNYDER,

L. EICKELBERGER.