

(No Model.)

H. B. SWARTZ.
FENCE WIRE FASTENER.

No. 535,637.

Patented Mar. 12, 1895.

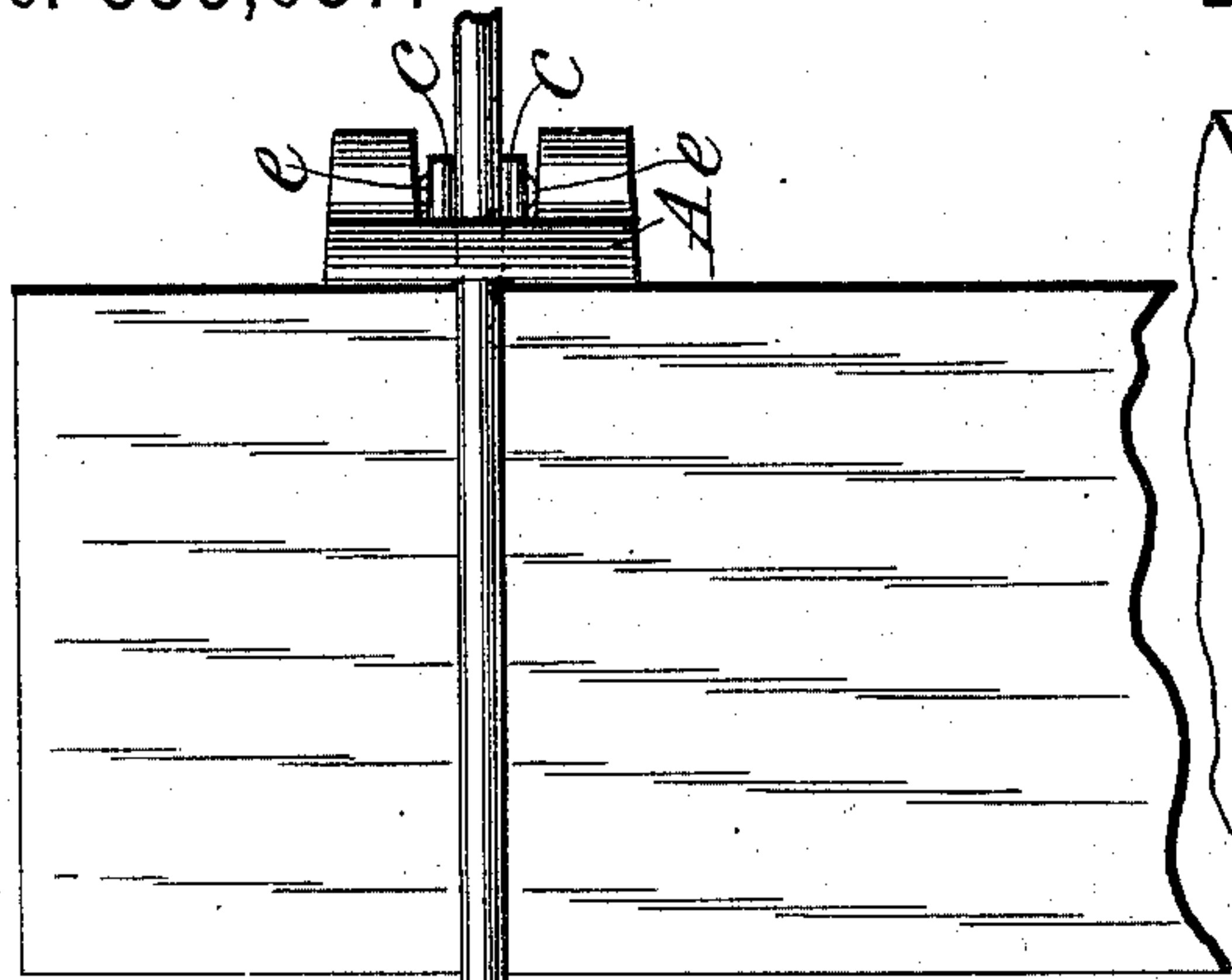


Fig. 1.

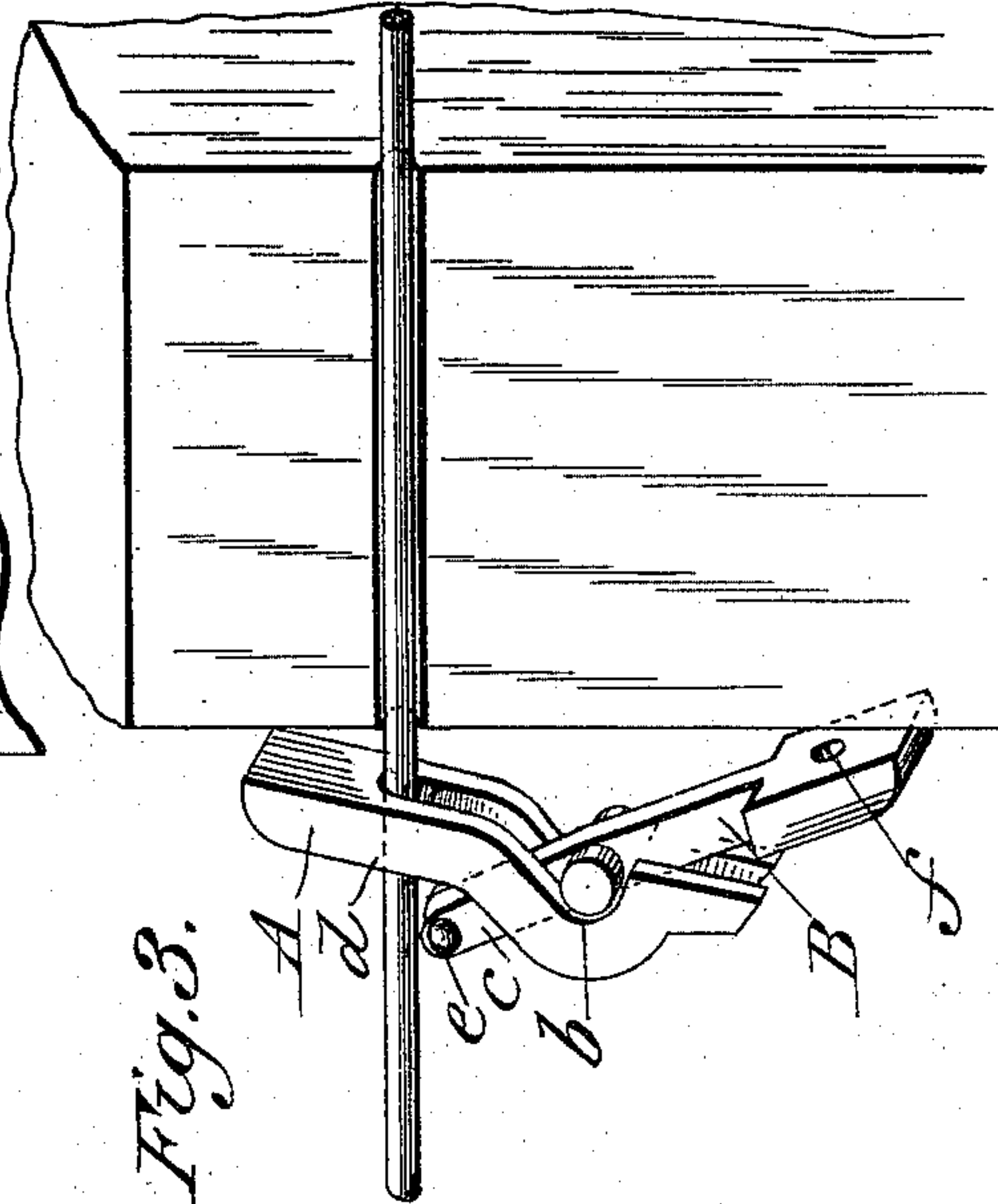


Fig. 3.

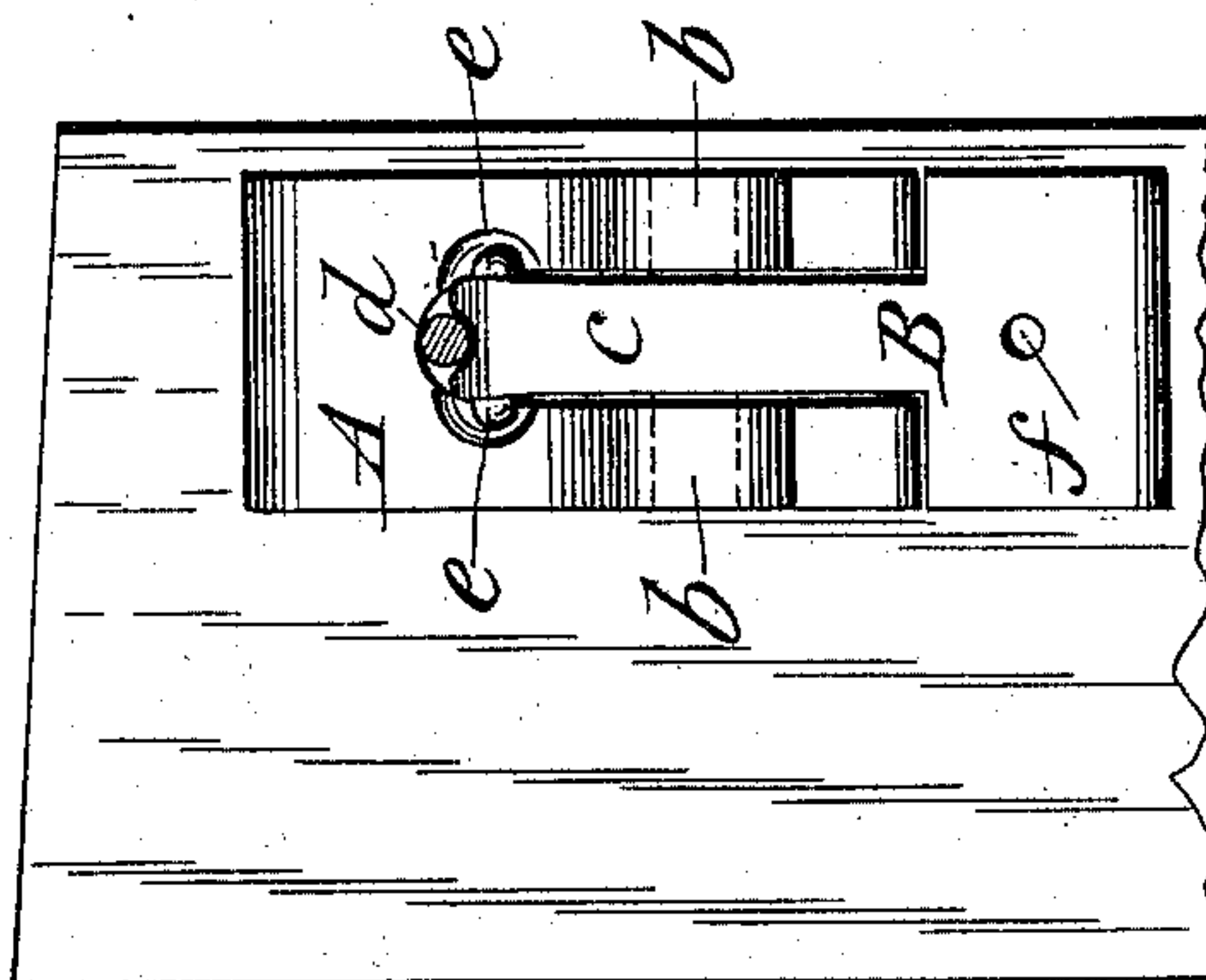


Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HIRAM B. SWARTZ, OF WOOSTER, OHIO.

FENCE-WIRE FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 535,637, dated March 12, 1895.

Application filed May 11, 1894. Serial No. 510,945. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HIRAM B. SWARTZ, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wooster, in the county of Wayne and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Fence-Wire Fastener, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to wire fences and especially to devices for securing the wires thereof. It is applied directly to the post at any point of intersection of a wire therewith and its object is to clasp the wire in such a manner as to secure the same to the post and also admit of any desired tension of the wire and hold it taut thereat or release it entirely as may be desired. Having this object in view it consists of certain features of construction hereinafter specified and particularly pointed out in the claim.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1. is a side view showing vertical sections of fence posts,—the fence wire passing across the same and my improved fastener secured thereto, and holding the wire taut. Fig. 2. is a detached face view of my improved fastener, clasping the fence wire. Fig. 3. is a side view of the same relaxed.

In the drawings similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

A. B. are separate members which are pivoted together at or near their longitudinal centers, *b*, to form a knuckle or toggle joint. The member A is recessed beyond the pivot to receive the extended jaw, *c*, of the member B, which, when the hinge joint is straightened, impinges closely upon the opposite jaw, *d*, formed by the said recess, and thereby secures the wire between the ends of the said opposite jaws as shown, with the power of the toggle joint pressure, when the fastener is straightened by force of the wire acting against the same and the post on which it rests. It is apparent that the more taut the wire is stretched the more strongly the jaws of the toggle joint are drawn together to bite upon the fence wire and thereby secure the same against relaxation, and it is also apparent that the wire may be released at will, by simply opening the jaws of the fastener. To

prevent the jaws from coming together so closely as to bite off the wire by the toggle joint pressure, slight elevations or ears, *e*, are formed upon the jaw, *c*, to bear against the opposite member when the joint is straightened against the post. An opening, *f*, for nail or screw, provides for securing the fastener against the post if desired, but this is in general not necessary.

The wire fastener may be placed either in line with the post or crosswise as preferred.

The fence wires may be drawn either through holes bored in the post to receive the same, or along the side of the post, with or without gains cut therein.

The members A. and B. being made separable, it is apparent that the fastener may be placed upon the wire at any point after the wire is drawn taut, thus securing the same at intermediate as well as at terminal posts of a fence so as to permit passageways to be cut through the fence at any desired locality.

The peculiar feature of my invention being the hinged union of the two members composing the fastener, said members being fitted to clamp the wire, passing between their impinging parts at or near the hinge joint, it is apparent the form of the fastener may be varied to any degree and extent within the knowledge of the skilled mechanic without material departure, so long as this feature is used. Therefore I do not limit my invention to the precise details of construction herein shown and described.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

The combination with the bifurcated member A provided with a transverse bend or recess, and with a contact surface or jaw *d*, of a member B pivotally secured to the member A by means of lugs *b*, and provided with a jaw *c* and laterally projecting stops *e*, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

HIRAM B. SWARTZ.

Witnesses:

SAMUEL D. COULTER,
ANNA M. GRATLER.