

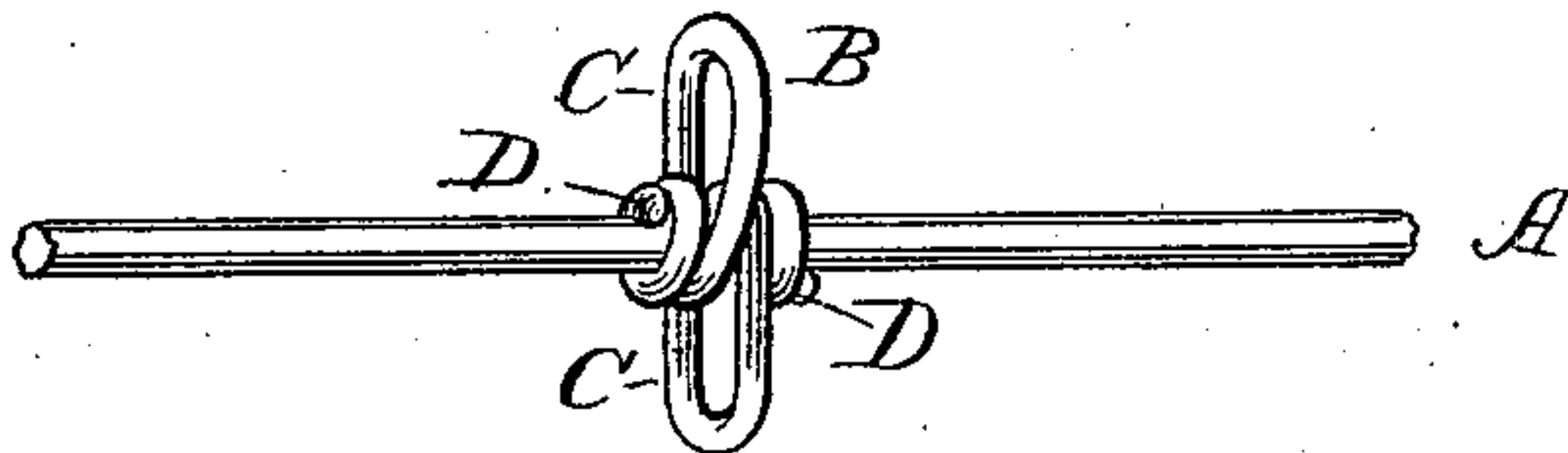
(No Model.)

M. F. McNELLY.  
FENCE WIRE.

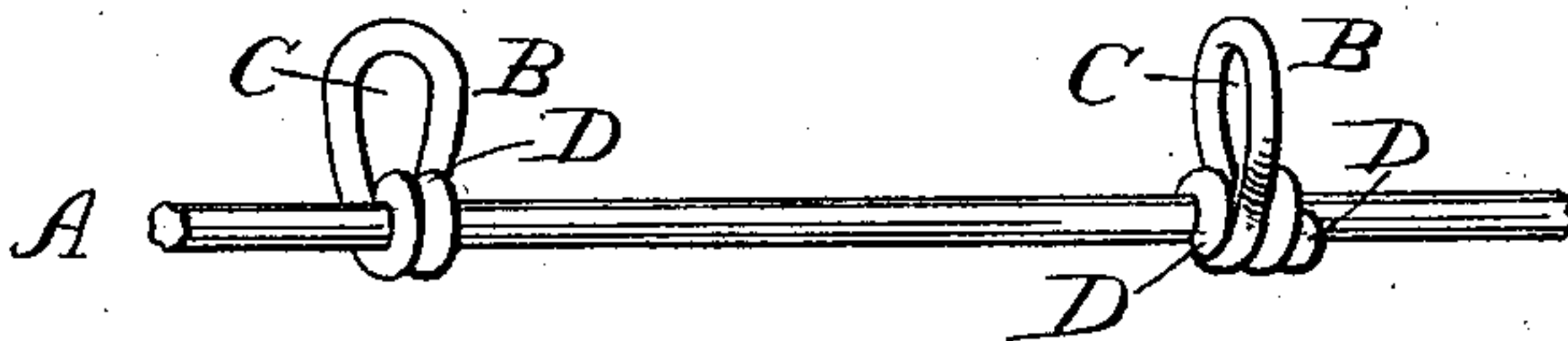
No. 539,390.

Patented May 14, 1895.

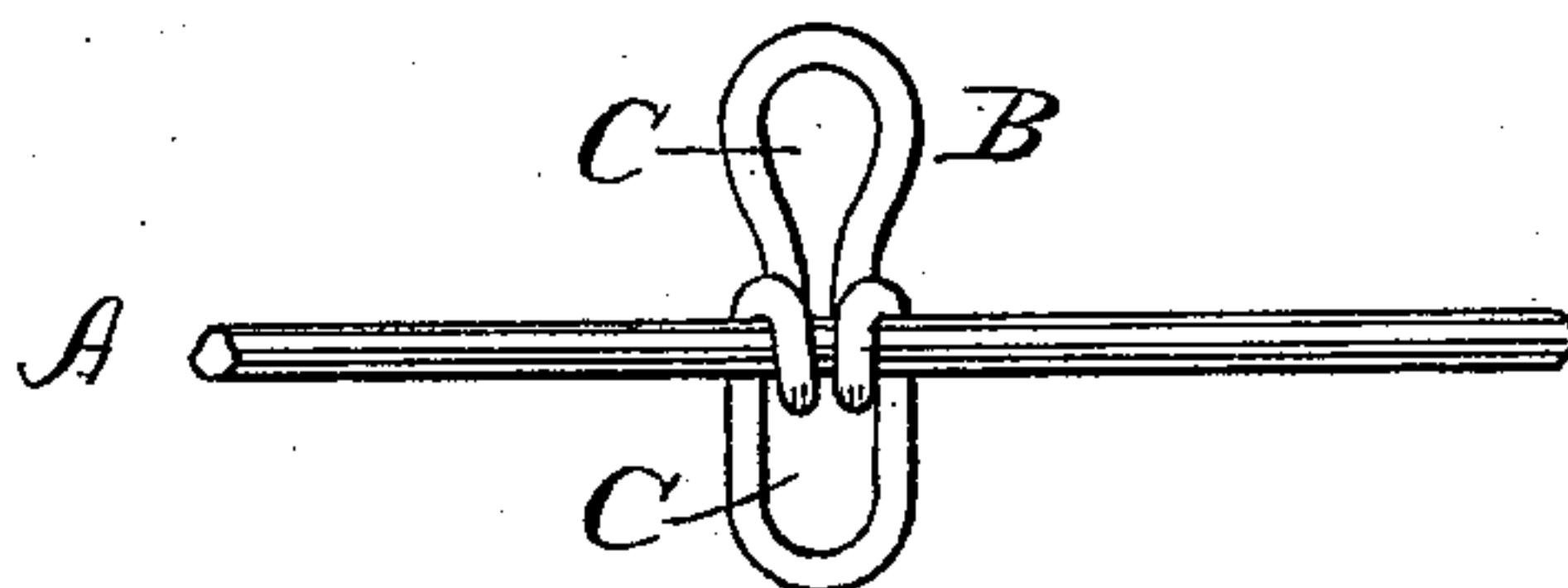
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



Witnesses  
Wm. F. Burdine  
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Inventor  
Mathias F. McNelly  
per John G. Manahan  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MATHIAS F. MCNELLY, OF STERLING, ILLINOIS.

## FENCE-WIRE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 539,390, dated May 14, 1895.

Application filed January 29, 1894. Serial No. 498,318. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MATHIAS F. MCNELLY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Sterling, in the county of Whiteside and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fence-Wire; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention has reference to improvements in fence wire, and consists essentially in providing the wire, in the course of its manufacture, with one or more closed eyelets, adapted, when the wire is in place, to receive cross ties of wire, or any other suitable material, to act as lateral stays of the main wires. It will be understood that, when the main wires aforesaid, provided at regular intervals with said eyelets, are in place on the fence the latter will consist of three or more of said wires, parallel with each other and in a horizontal position, and therefore the aforesaid provision of eyelets, rigidly seated on said respective fence wires, will afford means for mutually attaching and thereby bracing the several individual fence wires.

In this application my invention is shown as applied to a single fence wire or runner, but it is equally applicable to a fence cable composed of two or more wire strands. The eyelets aforesaid are formed by expanding one or more turns of the coils, which are seated on the wire by machinery, in a manner similar to the present process of seating barbs, and are thus seated so rigidly as to remain in the position in which they are placed, both while being transported and while in subsequent use. As various obvious modes of interlocking said main wires through the medium of said eyelets can be adopted, I do not deem it necessary to show or describe any of said methods of interlocking, as my invention consists in merely furnishing the main fence wire, or cable, with these attached eyelets.

The eyelets aforesaid may be seated in various modes, and may consist of a distinct loop C on each side of the wire, or one of such loops of sufficient size to permit of the inser-

tion of the cross ties from both above and below the wire A.

In Figure 1 of the drawings is shown a short wire, having its central portion formed into two loops C, extending, respectively, above and below the wire at right angles thereto and with its free ends D respectively coiled tightly around the wire A on each side of said central loop C. Fig. 2 represents a wire provided with loops of substantially the form of that shown in Fig. 1, except that there is but one loop C extending from one side of the wire A. Fig. 3 shows a loop centrally coiled at each side around the main wire, with its looped ends extending oppositely from the latter, one of said looped ends being passed through the other in the process of coiling.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

A is the main fence wire, which, as before stated, may consist of a single wire, or a wire cable comprised of two or more wire strands.

B is an eyelet seated on the wire A, and extending respectively above and below the latter and at right angles thereto, so as to form the loops C C. The eyelet B is formed of a straight piece of wire bent into an elliptic form at its central portion, with its free ends D projecting past each other on opposite sides of said central portion, and coiled, respectively, tightly around the wire A, with one or more complete coils, each of the wires A constituting the fence being provided with the eyelets B at short intervals. Each eyelet of one wire may be connected with the corresponding eyelet of the adjacent wire above or below, by an intervening piece of flexible wire, or by a wooden strip, provided with staples adapted to engage loops C, or said connection may be made with any other suitable material. The eyelet B is seated by machinery, being fed to the wire A as the latter is progressed, in a manner similar to the present system of seating wire barbs, and when the eyelet is thus seated the finished product can be coiled, and transported in the same mode as that adopted for transportation of barbed wire.

In Fig. 2 is shown an eyelet B, having a single loop C, seated in the same mode as that hereinbefore described in reference to the eyelet shown in Fig. 1.

The advantage of the construction shown



in Fig. 2 is in an economy of material, and in requiring less machinery to seat it; but as one of the stays would be required to pass the wire A to engage the eyelet B, there would be less flexibility in the complete fence than in the construction shown in Fig. 1.

The eyelet shown in Fig. 3 is formed with two loops C, C, which project in opposite directions from the wire the same as shown in Fig. 1. The eyelet is placed at its center against the wire A, and coiled centrally at each side around said wire by one of its loops being passed through the other, and its respective loops then projected in opposite directions. This is a very simple form, and, when in place on the wire A, serves all of the functions of the form shown in Fig. 1.

The advantages of my invention are that, instead of the ordinary barbed wire of commerce, to which some objection is made from the fact of its liability to injure stock, the wire A of my invention can be cheaply furnished with the eyelets B rigidly seated thereon, and after the wires A thus provided with eyelets are in place on the fence, the interconnection of the same, as aforesaid, may

be readily accomplished, and the completed structure will be of a flexible character which will yield to undue strain without breakage, and return to its normal position when the strain is removed. Also the interconnection aforesaid has the advantage of unifying all of the several wires into substantially one structure.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

The combination with a fence wire, of an eyelet rigidly secured thereto, said eyelet being formed with two loops which project in opposite directions from the wire, the central portion of the eyelet being coiled tightly around the wire and one of the loops passed through the other loop, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

MATHIAS F. MCNELLY.

Witnesses:

WASHINGTON M. DILLON,  
JOHN G. MANAHAN.