(No Model.)

C. E. LITTLE.

WIRE FENCE STAY.

No. 541,487. Patented June 25, 1895.

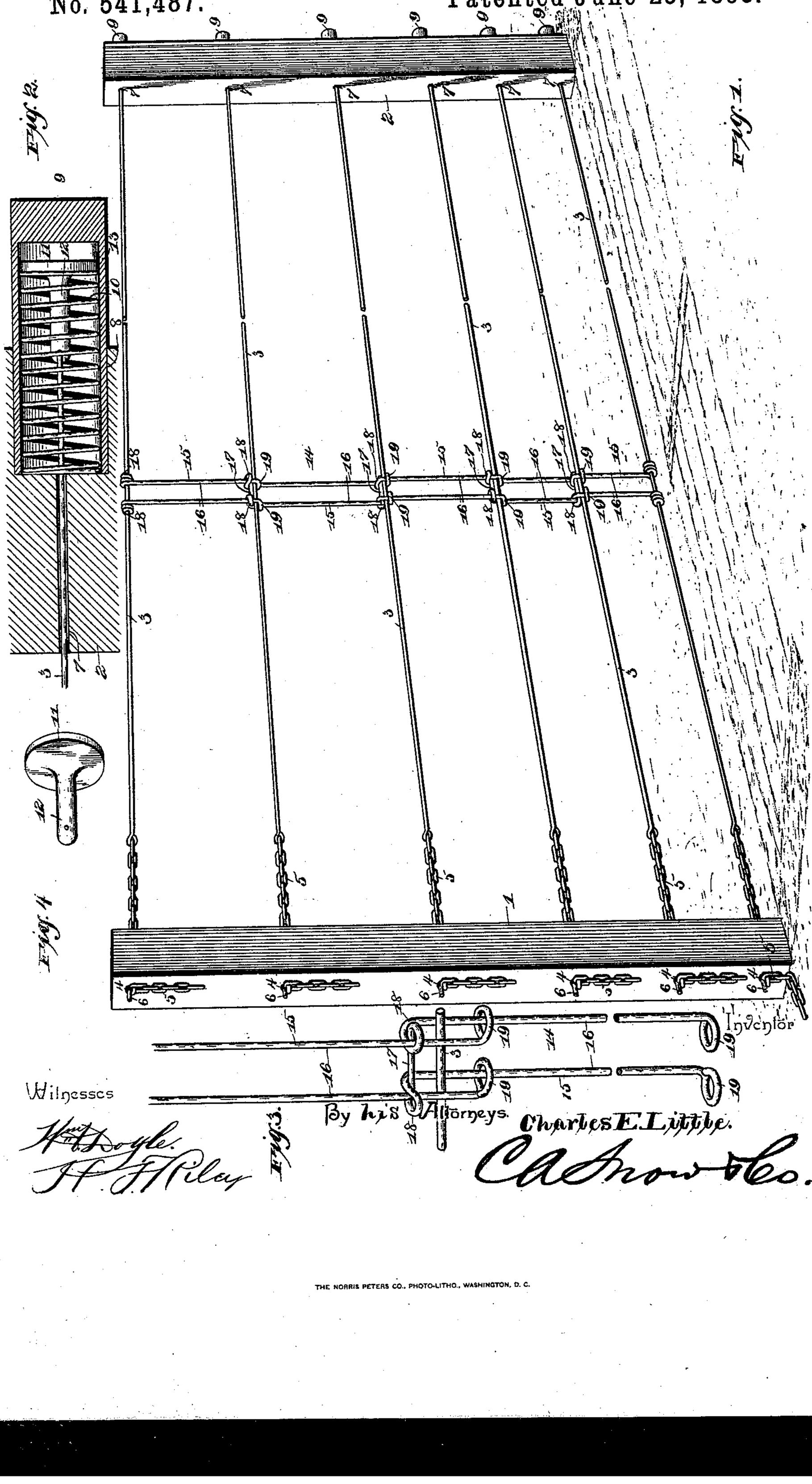

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 4

Fig. 3.

Witnesses

W. A. Doyle.

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By his Attorneys.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES E. LITTLE, OF MOUNT MORRIS, ASSIGNOR, BY DIRECT AND MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, OF TWO-THIRDS TO HENRY M. COFFMAN AND JACOB H. LONG, OF MARYLAND, ILLINOIS.

WIRE-FENCE STAY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 541,487, dated June 25, 1895.

Application filed January 8, 1895. Serial No. 534,254. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES E. LITTLE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Mount Morris, in the county of Ogle and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Wire 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, and to provide one of great strength and durability, which will be firmly supported, and in which the wires will be permitted to expand and contract under varying temperature.

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 a fence constructed in accordance with this invention. Fig. 2 is a detail sectional view of one end of the same. Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail perspective view of a portion of the stay, illustrating the construction of the joint between the links or sections thereof. Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view of the disk for engaging the outer end of the spiral spring of the compensating device.

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

1 and 2 designate fence posts to which are connected a series of horizontal fence wires 3. The post 1 is provided with a series of perforations 4, through which pass chains 5; and the latter have their inner ends connected to the adjacent terminals of the fence wires, and the chains are adjustably connected with the post 1 near their outer ends by pins or fastening devices 6, passing through links of the chains and engaging the post 1. The other post 2 is provided with perforations 7, through which pass the adjacent ends of the fence wires, and the outer portions of the perforations are enlarged to form cylindrical sockets 8 for the reception of tension devices 9. Each tension device comprises a spiral spring 10 having its inner portion arranged in the socket, a disk or head 11 engaging the outer end of the spring and provided with a stem or shank 12, which is perforated, and which has the wire secured to it, and a tubular casing 13, having an open inner end and a closed outer end, and covering the spring, and protecting the same from the weather. The tubular casing may be constructed of any suitable metal, or other material, and its inner portion fits in the socket around the spiral spring.

The chains may be drawn through the perforations of the post 1 to tighten the fence wires to the desired tension, and the spiral springs will permit the fence wires to expand and contract under varying temperatures, without liability of breaking.

The wires of the fence are designed to be supported at intervals by stays 14, each consisting of a vertical series of links or sections 15, each constructed of a single piece of stout wire, or similar material, doubled to form similar parallel sides 16, and a transverse upper end piece 17, connecting the upper terminals of the sides. The link or section is provided at the upper terminals of its sides at the angles formed by them and the cross-piece 17, with eyes 18, which receive the sides of the adjacent link or section; and the lower terminals of the sides are provided with eyes 19, receiving the sides of the adjacent section. By this arrangement the sections, as clearly illustrated in Fig. 3 of the accompanying drawings, are slidingly connected, and the fence wires are received between the adjacent terminals of the sides of the sections or links, and are confined between the eyes of the lower terminals of one section or link and the upper eyes of the adjacent section or link. This firmly connects the fence wires and braces them, and at the same time permits the fence wires to play back and forth incident to contracting or expanding, and to permit the wires to be tightened to the desired tension.

It will be seen that the fence is exceedingly simple and comparatively inexpensive in construction, that it possesses great strength and durability, and that the fence wires may expand and contract without liability of breakage.

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 fence posts, horizontal fence wires, and a stay comprising a vertical series of links, each constructed of a single piece of metal bent to form similar parallel sides, and a connecting cross-piece at one end of the link, the sides being provided at their terminals with upper and lower eyes, said eyes receiving the sides of the adjacent link, and the fence wires being confined between the sides of the adjacent links in the spaces between the upper eyes of one link and the lower eyes of the adjacent one, substantially as described.

2. A stay for wire fences, comprising a vertical series of links, each constructed of a single piece of wire bent to form parallel sides, and a cross-piece connecting the sides at one end of the link, the sides of the link being provided at their ends with eyes 18 and 19, receiving the sides of the adjacent links, the eyes 18 of one link being contiguous to the eyes 19 of the adjacent link and forming a space between them for a fence wire and adapted to clamp the same, substantially as and for the purpose described.

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

CHARLES E. LITTLE.

Witnesses:
JOHN SPRECHER,
S. C. KINSEY.