(No Model.)

J. CREECH.

SLIDING BAR FOR FENCES.

No. 543,296. Patented July 23, 1895.

Fig. 3.

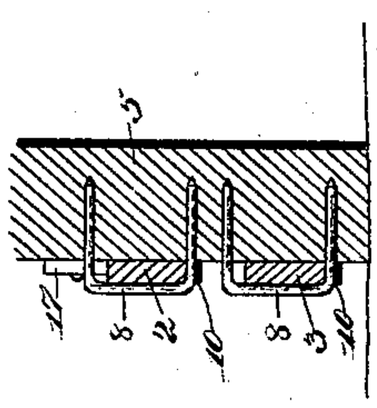


Fig. 4.

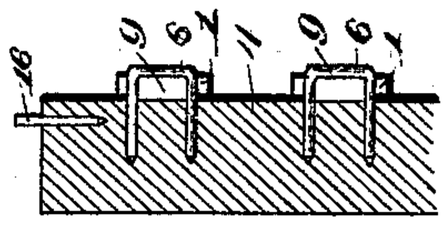
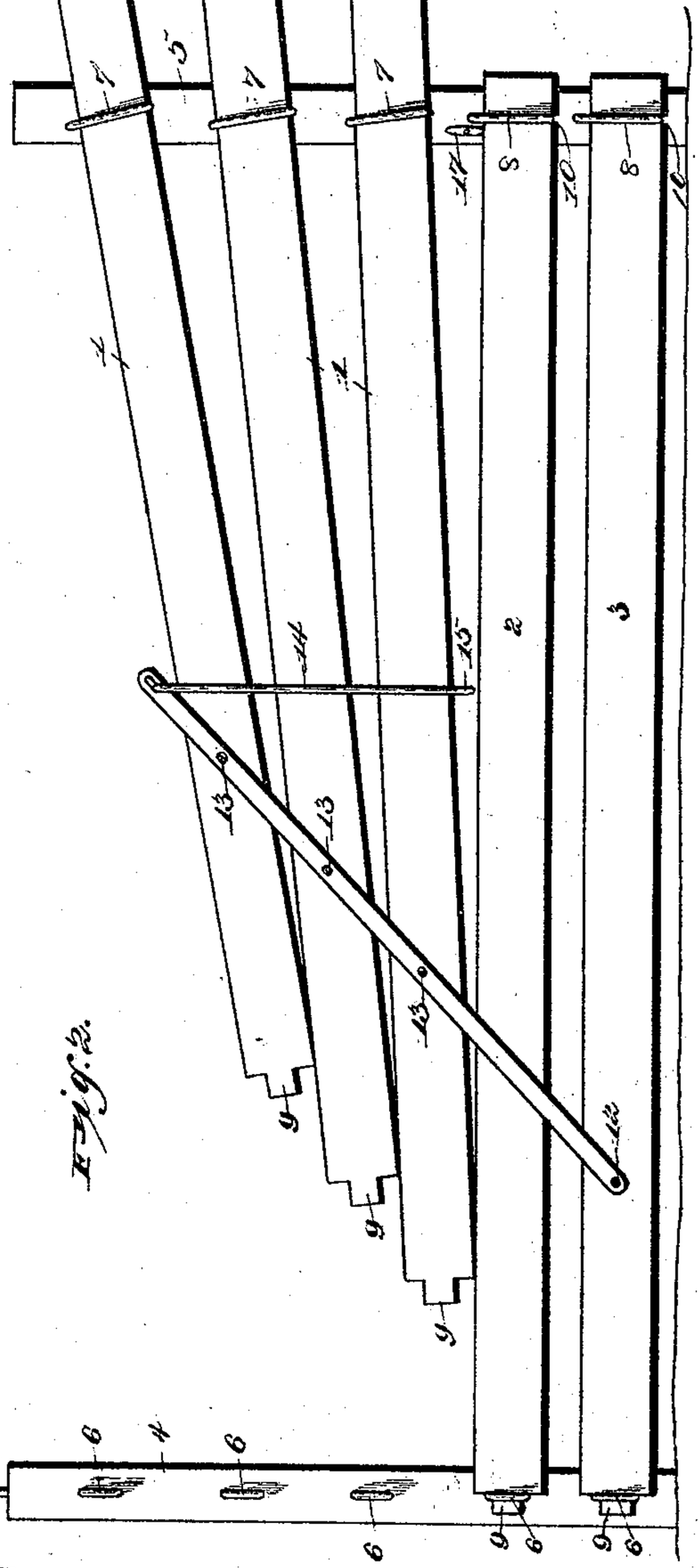


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



Witnesses

F. William Doyle.

J. F. J. Riley

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JONATHAN CREECH, OF PAINT LICK, KENTUCKY.

SLIDING BAR FOR FENCES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 543,296, dated July 23, 1895.

Application filed November 30, 1894. Serial No. 530,405. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JONATHAN CREECH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Paint Lick, in the county of Garrard and State of Kentucky, have invented a new and useful Sliding Bar for Fences, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to improvements in sliding bars for fences.

The object of the present invention is to provide for fences a series of sliding bars which may be readily operated to provide an opening in the fence to afford a passage-way.

A further object of the invention is to provide a series of such bars which may be readily applied to any ordinary fence without mortising the fence-posts thereof.

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 an elevation of a portion of a fence provided with my improvements. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the upper bars lowered to afford a passage-way. Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view on line *x x* of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a similar view on line *y y* of Fig. 1.

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

1, 2, and 3 designate a series of horizontal rails or bars supported by posts 4 and 5, which are provided with staples 6, 7, and 8, arranged in a vertical series on the front faces of the post and forming keepers for the ends of the horizontal bars or rails. The staples or keepers 6 are arranged on the fence-post 4 and are of less vertical length than the width of the horizontal bars or rails, and the latter have their adjacent ends reduced to form rectangular tongues or tenons 9 fitting in the staples 6. The tenons or tongues fit in the staples and the shoulders above and below them form stops and engage the staples to lock the rails against forward movement.

The staples or keepers 7 and 8 are arranged on the fence-posts 5. The upper ones 7 are disposed at an inclination, as shown, to permit the upper series of rails or bars 1 to be swung downward, as illustrated in Fig. 2 of the accompanying drawings, without binding against and twisting them. The lower series of stays 8 are disposed vertically, and the lower rails or bars 2 and 3 are provided at their lower edges with notches 10, which engage the bottom portions of the staples or keepers, whereby those bars or rails are locked against longitudinal movement.

The upper series of horizontal bars or rails 1 are operated by a lever 11, which is fulcrumed at its lower end at 12, and which is pivoted at 13 to the upper series of bars or rails 1, whereby when the operating-lever is swung in the direction of the arrow the upper series of rails 1 will be moved longitudinally in the same direction and will be disengaged from the staples or keepers 6 to provide an opening or passage-way. When the rails 1 are opened, as illustrated in Fig. 2 of the accompanying drawings, they are supported by the rail 2, the latter and the lowermost rail 3 remaining in position. This provides an opening which will enable a person to readily pass through, and the rails 2 and 3 remaining intact are sufficiently low to permit a horse or other animal to step over them readily and to pass through the open space in the fence.

The lever 11 is locked against accidental outward movement by a wire 14 or similar connection, which forms a link and which has one end attached to the lever and which is provided at its other end with a loop 15 for engaging a spike or other projection extending upward from the top of the post 4. When the lever is locked it prevents any upward movement of the bottom rail 3 by stock and the second rail 2 from the bottom is locked against upward movement in its keeper 8 by a pivoted button 17 mounted on the post 5 and arranged to engage the upper edge of the rail 2.

It will be seen that the rails may be conveniently applied to a fence of the ordinary construction without mortising the fence-post and that they are readily operated to afford an opening or passage-way in the fence.

When it is desired to permit the passage of small animals the rail 2, which is not pivotally connected with the lever 11, may be removed by disengaging the button or may be raised or lowered to provide an opening or passage-way at the bottom of the fence. This

may be accomplished without disturbing the other rails or bars of the fence.

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. The combination of fence posts 4 and 5, a vertical series of keepers arranged on the post 4, a series of keepers mounted on the post 5, the upper ones being arranged at an inclination, the upper series of rails mounted in keepers of the post 4 and arranged in the inclined keepers of the post 5 and adapted to be lowered without twisting the latter and being held rigid by the same when in a horizontal position, the bottom rail, the operating lever fulcrumed on the bottom rail and pivotally connected to the upper rails, and the removable rail located between the bottom rail and the series of upper rails, and mounted independently of the lever and being entirely free of the same, whereby it may be removed to afford a passageway at the bottom of the fence without disturbing the other rails, substantially as described.

2. The combination of fence posts, a series of keepers 6 arranged on one of the fence posts, the keepers 7 and 8 arranged on the other post, the keepers 7 being disposed at an inclination, the rails 1, 2 and 3 arranged in the keepers 7 and 8 and provided with tongues or tenons for engaging the keepers 6, the rails 2 and 3 being provided at their lower edges with notches engaging the keepers 8, a pivoted button located above the rail 2 for securing the latter against upward movement to hold the notch thereof in engagement with the keeper, an operating lever fulcrumed on the rail 3 and pivotally connected to the rails 1, and means for locking the lever against accidental movement, 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.

JONATHAN CREECH.

Witnesses:

A. L. HURST,

HENRY MOORE.