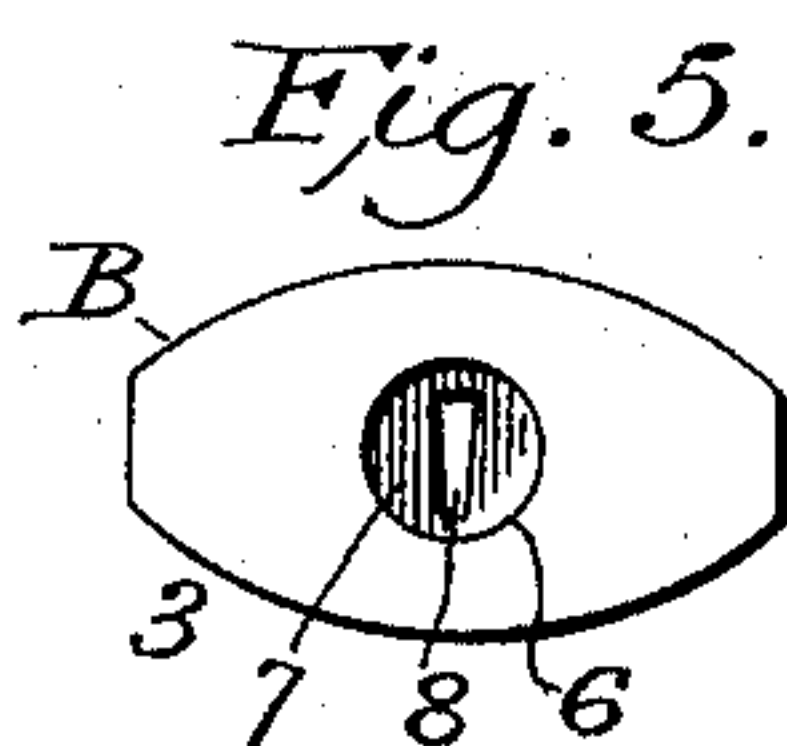
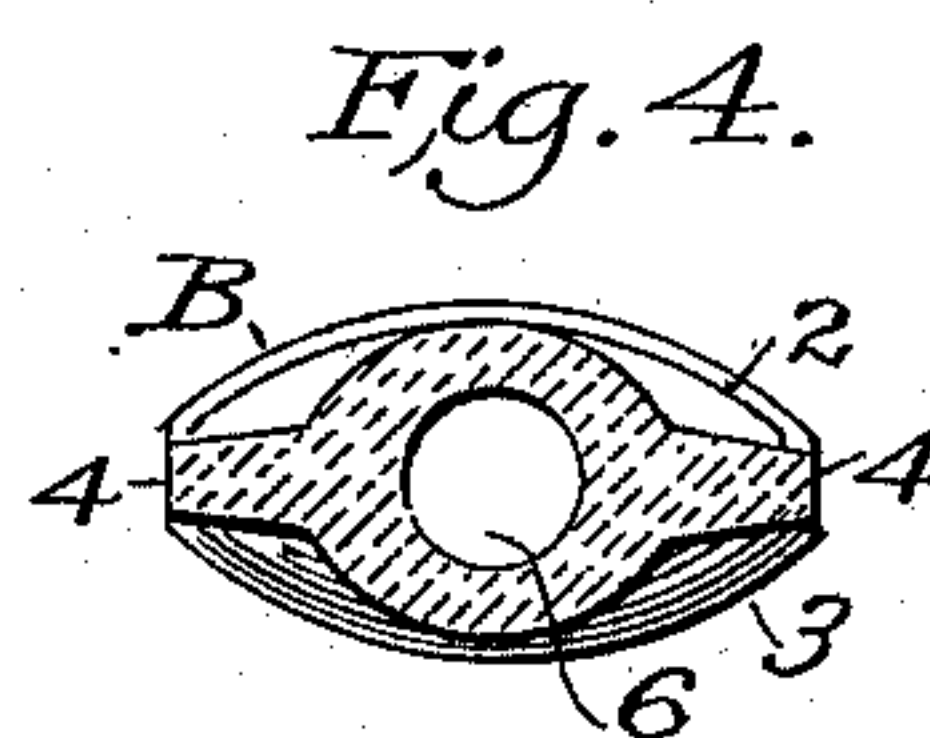
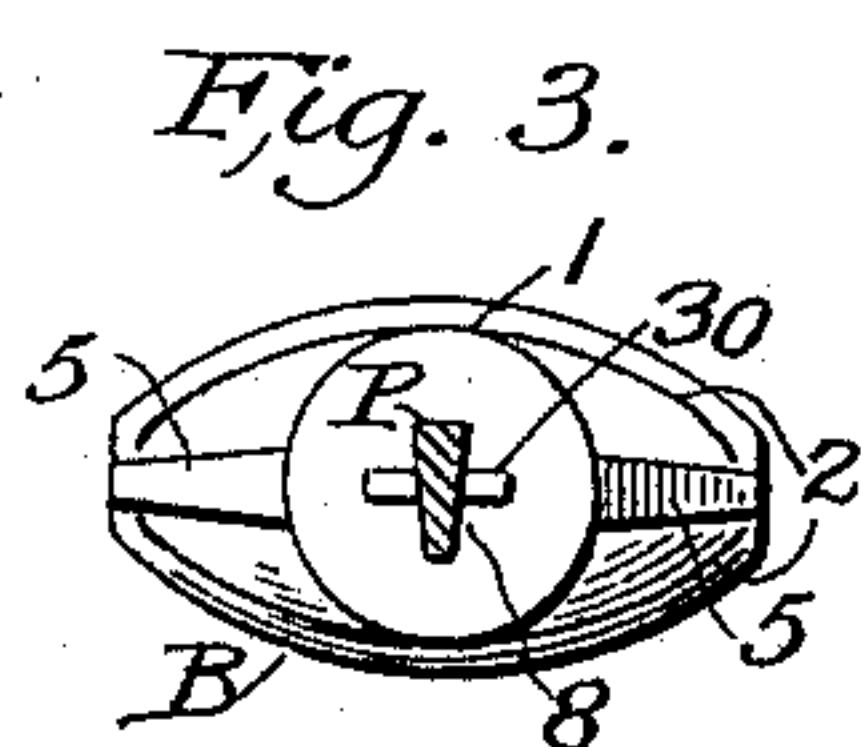
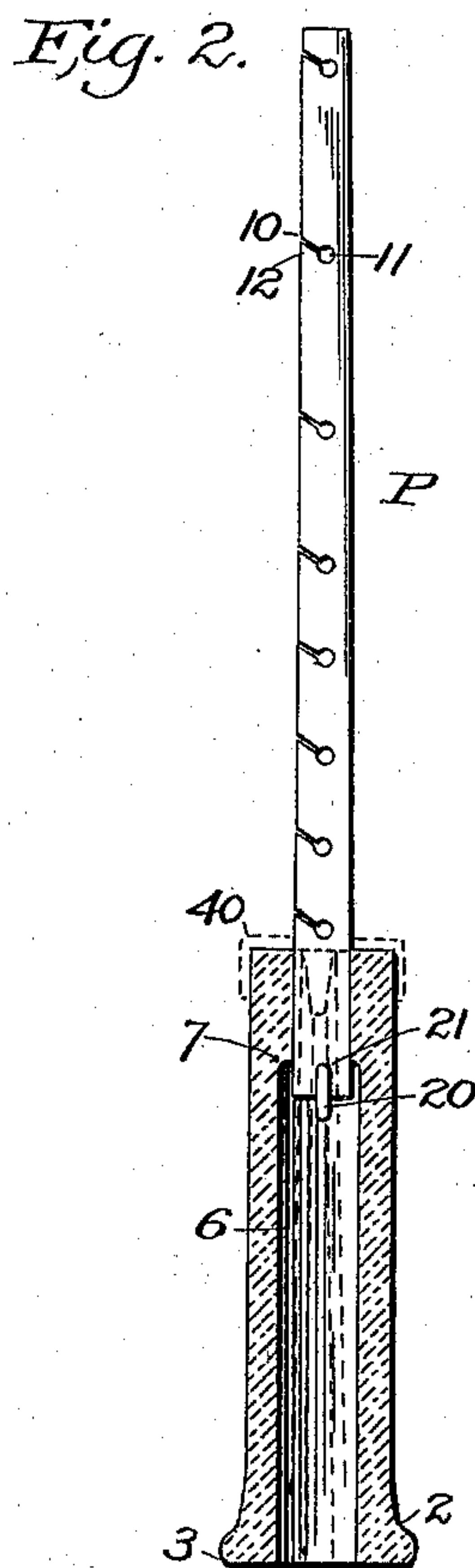
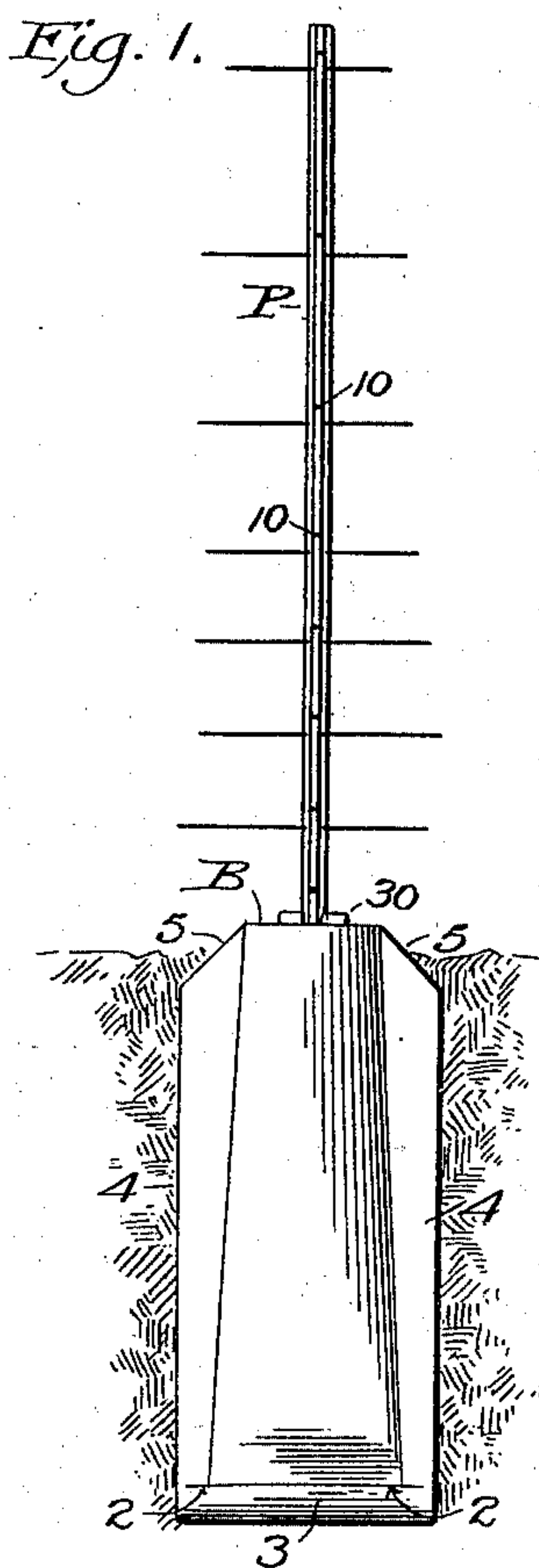


(No Model.)

J. H. SPARKS.  
FENCE POST.

No. 605,355.

Patented June 7, 1898.



Witnesses:

James F. Duhamel  
J. W. Jochem Jr.

Inventor:

JAMES H. SPARKS,

by

Collamer & Co.,

his attorneys.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES H. SPARKS, OF HOBBIENVILLE, INDIANA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO  
ASBURY F. MOOD, OF BUENA VISTA, INDIANA.

## FENCE-POST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 605,355, dated June 7, 1898.

Application filed March 10, 1898. Serial No. 673,389. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES H. SPARKS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Hobbieville, Greene county, State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fence-Posts; and my preferred manner of carrying out the invention is set forth in the following full, clear, and exact description, terminating with claims particularly specifying the novelty.

This invention relates to fences, and more especially to the posts thereof; and the object of the same is to produce an improved post and base therefor.

To this end the invention consists in the metallic post and the clay base, each constructed as hereinafter more fully set forth and as illustrated in the drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of this post and base, with the latter buried in the ground, which is indicated in section. Fig. 2 is an elevation of the post and a vertical section of the base, viewed at right angles to the line of Fig. 1 and all wires being omitted. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the base and a section of the post. Fig. 4 is a section across the center of the base. Fig. 5 is a bottom plan view of the base.

*The base.*—The post P, described below, is intended for use in connection with a base B of peculiar construction, and which base is preferably formed of clay or the like suitably pressed and burned into the desired shape. The body portion of this base is approximately round at its upper end, as seen in Fig. 3 at 1, from which it grows gradually wider toward its lower end longitudinal of the fence to the point 2, as seen in Fig. 1, though its thickness, as seen in Fig. 2, preferably does not increase. Below the line 2 is formed a decided flange 3 at the extreme lower end of the body. Exteriorly of and integral with this body and at the sides thereof which stand parallel with the fence are two flanges 4. Each flange is preferably beveled off, as at 5, at its upper end and is rather narrow at this point, as seen in Fig. 3, from which it grows thicker toward the lower end of the base, as seen in Figs. 4 and 5, and finally merges into the bottom flange 3, as will be clear. The

width of these flanges at right angles to their thickness preferably grows less from their upper to their lower ends, as seen in Fig. 1, so that the distance between their outer edges at the top of the post is about the same as between their outer edges at the bottom of the post, as seen in Fig. 1. The interior of the body is provided with a circular cavity 6, extending from its lower end upward to a point 7, constituting a shoulder, and above the latter a narrow slot 8 extends to and through the upper end of the body. This slot is slightly tapered from one end to the other, as seen in Fig. 3.

*The post.*—The post proper is preferably of galvanized iron and of any desired length above the base. In cross-section it is shaped to conform with the slot 8 in the base, being thicker at one edge and thinner at the other, and from the thinner edge fine slots 10 are cut obliquely inward and downward to holes 11. Through the latter are intended to be passed the fence-wires in the act of building the fence, after which a slight tap with a hammer or suitable tool on the tongue 12 at the lowerside of each slot will close this tongue tightly against the wire and hold it in the hole through the post. To remove it therefrom, a fine chisel is inserted and driven into the slot to open it again, after which the wire may be drawn out. It will be clear that the wires can be plain or barbed or that a picket fence can be supported by these posts if the pickets are sustained by horizontal wires. Obviously the endmost or corner posts should have fence-wire tighteners of some character, or if the stretch of straight fence is very long these tighteners will be inserted at suitable points. In building this fence a suitable ring 20 (it could be a split pin or other device) is inserted in an eye 21 at the extreme lower end of the post P, and the latter is passed into the aperture 6 and up through the slot 8 in the base until the ring (or whatever kind of stop is used) strikes against the shoulder 7. It will be clear that the post cannot thereafter be drawn upward out of the base. The latter is then seated in a suitable hole in the ground and the earth tamped or packed tightly around its body and flanges.



The wires are then strung in the usual manner, the lowermost one occupying a hole just above the upper end of the base, or, if preferred, a spike, pin, or other form of key 30 could occupy this hole to prevent the post from pushing downward into the base. The two parts of the fence-post are thus locked together firmly and strongly though removably, and the fence-wires are held in the post proper, as above described.

The especial advantages of this construction of base are many. The upwardly-tapering form of its body and the presence of the lower flange 3 prevent the pulling of the base upward out of the ground. The lateral flatness or oval configuration of the body, together with the presence of the side flanges or wings 4, prevents the post from tipping over sidewise, as when the fence is forcibly pushed laterally, and especially is this true because the wings 4 are wider at their upper ends, while the longitudinal strain on the fence-wires (never so great as lateral strains that are liable to occur) is resisted by the size of the body of the base, its deep seating in the ground, and its bottom flange 3, which, in fact, thoroughly resists any undesirable movement of the base. The aperture 6 may be filled with cement, if desired; but at any rate the action of the elements will have no effect on either the galvanized post or the clay base, and the expansion and contraction of parts under varying degrees of temperature will also have no injurious results. The beveled upper corners 5 of the wings prevent them from being chipped off by accidental blows from stones or the hoofs of stock. The tapered shape of the slot 8 prevents the reinsertion of a post with its wire-openings at the wrong side. The removability of the ring or stop 20 allows even the withdrawal of a post upward from the base when for any reason it cannot be pushed downward therethrough, and the advantages of the openings for the fence-wire will be clear.

Considerable change in the specific details of construction may be made without departing from the principle of my invention. I have shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2 how a plate 40 should be passed over the upper end of the base and carried down on and clamped to opposite sides thereof. This plate would serve in the nature of a washer between the metal key 30 and the upper end of the clay base and might often prevent chipping of the latter by the former.

What is claimed as new is—

1. In a fence-post, the combination with a base; of a post supported thereby and flat and tapering in cross-section, holes through the post, oblique slots cut from the thinner edge of the post into the holes, and fence-wires removably passing through the latter, substantially as described.

2. In a fence-post, the combination with a base having an aperture in its lower end leading upward to a shoulder and a slot in its up-

per end leading downward through the shoulder; of a post proper of a shape to fit said slot and having an eye at its lower extremity, a removable stop in said eye and of a size to pass into the aperture and strike the shoulder, and a fence supported by the post, as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a fence-post, the combination with a base having an aperture in its lower end leading upward to a shoulder and a slot in its upper end leading downward through the shoulder, said slot tapering in width from one edge to the other; of a post proper of a shape to fit said slot and having an eye at its lower extremity, a removable stop in said eye and of a size to pass into the aperture and strike the shoulder, holes through the post where it projects above the base, fence-wires supported in said holes, and a key removably inserted in the lowermost hole at a point just above the upper end of the base, as and for the purpose set forth.

4. The herein-described fence-post base of clay or the like, the same consisting of a body substantially round in cross-section at its upper end and oval in cross-section near its lower end, a bottom horizontal flange on said body, and upright side wings thereon, substantially as described.

5. The herein-described fence-post base of clay or the like, the same consisting of a body substantially round in cross-section, and upright wings on diametrically opposite sides of said body, said wings being beveled off at their upper ends and thinner at that point and growing thicker to their lower ends, substantially as described.

6. The herein-described fence-post base of clay or the like, the same consisting of a body substantially round in cross-section at its upper end and oval in cross-section near its lower end, and upright wings on diametrically opposite sides of said body and corresponding with the longest diameter at its lower end, the outer edges of said wings standing on substantially parallel lines, substantially as described.

7. The herein-described fence-post base of clay or the like, the same consisting of a body substantially round in cross-section at its upper end and oval in cross-section near its lower end, and upright wings on diametrically opposite sides of said body and corresponding with the longest diameter at its lower end, the outer edges of said wings standing on substantially parallel lines and their bodies being thinner at their upper ends and thicker at their lower ends, substantially as described.

8. The herein-described fence-post base, the same comprising an upright body substantially round at its upper end and oval near its lower end, a horizontal bottom flange at its lower end, and upright side wings corresponding with the longest diameter of the body and extending from its upper end where



the wings are thinner down to and merging  
into the flange at its lower end where the  
wings are thicker, the outer edges of said  
wings standing in parallel lines and the whole  
5 being of clay or the like, substantially as de-  
scribed.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto sub-

scribed my signature on this the 7th day of  
March, A. D. 1898.

JAMES H. SPARKS.

Witnesses:

JAMES COX,  
JAMES BYERS.