No. 616,544. Patented Dec. 27, 1898.

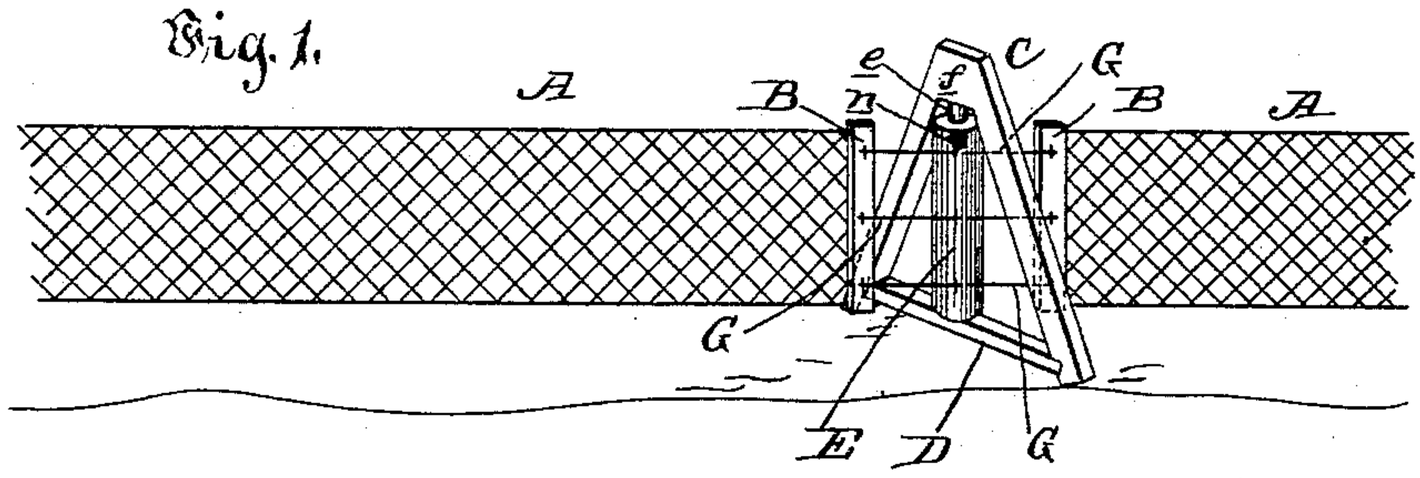
J. W. LE GORE.

PORTABLE WIRE FENCE.

(Application filed July 12, 1898.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.



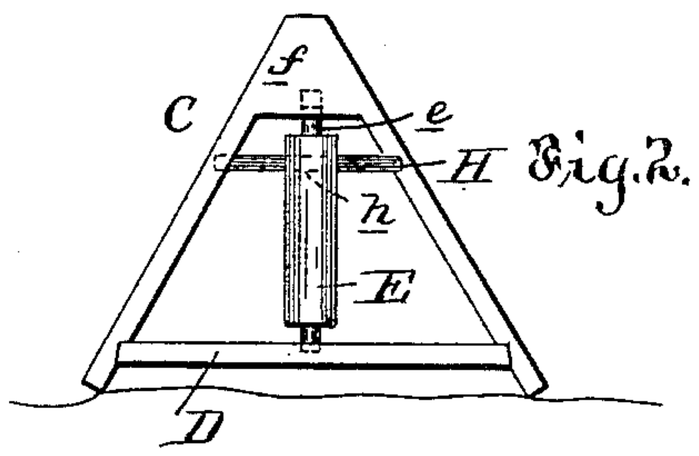


Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

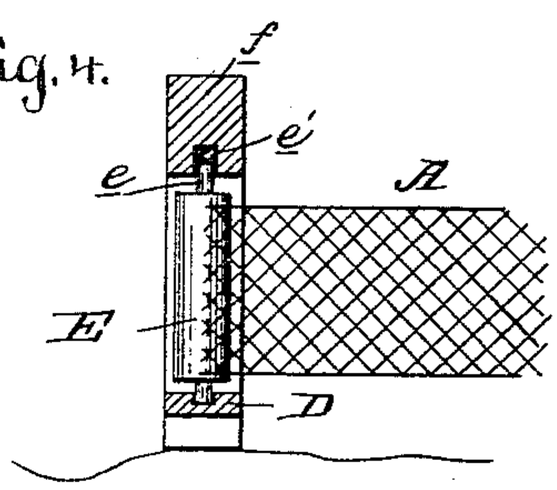
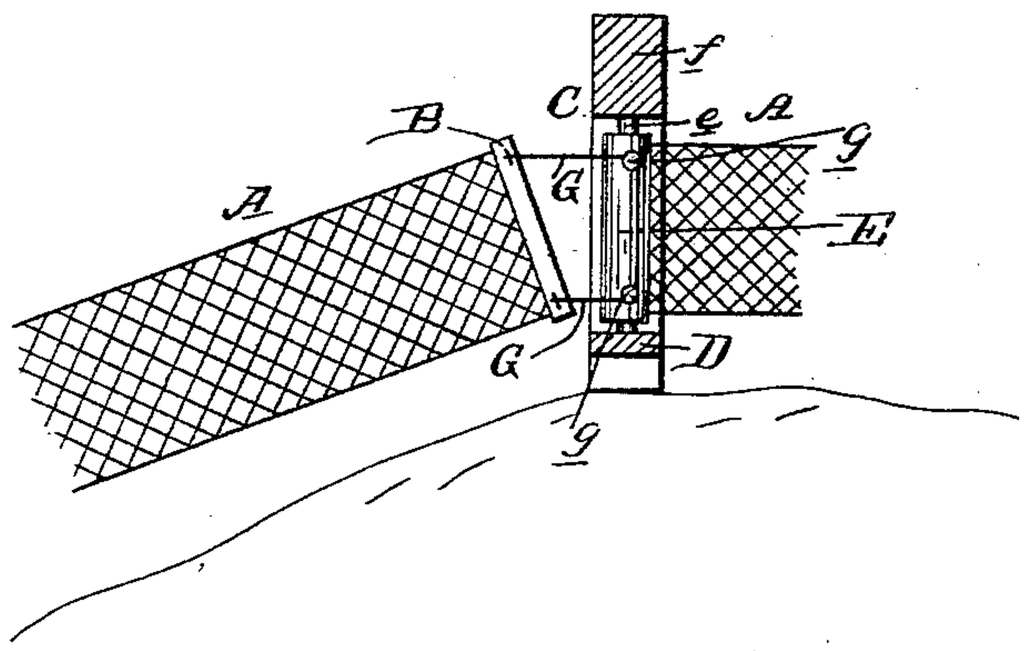


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PORTABLE WIRE FENCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 616,544, dated December 27, 1898.

Application filed July 12, 1898. Serial No. 685,784. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES W. LE GORE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Le Gore, in the county of Frederick and State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Portable Wire Fences; and I do hereby 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.

My invention relates to portable wire fences, and it is embodied in the construction and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

In the so-called "portable" fences an essential feature is that the same be formed in panels or sections. Heretofore the usual portable fences have been formed of wood, necessitating short panels. It has also been suggested to form the panels of wood and wire, in which case the same objection exists. The present invention is designed to adapt the meshed woven-wire or other type of woven flexible fence fabrics as distinguished from the straight longitudinal wire fence for use as a portable fence.

The advantages in the use of woven-wire fabrics for portable fences are obvious, one of which is that long panels can be formed and be easily erected, shifted, or taken down with but little trouble and expense.

My invention may therefore be stated to comprehend generally a woven-wire or flexible-fabric portable fence having provisions for proper stretching and erecting, and one which will be strong, durable, and inexpensive.

In the drawings I have shown a form of the invention, but desire it understood that the structure therein shown can be variously altered and modified without departing from the nature and principle of the invention.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a section of fence embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a detail elevation of one of the supports and stretchers. Fig. 3 is an elevation of a section showing the fence-panel in an inclined position on uneven ground; and Fig. 4 is a detail section through the support, showing the tightener in elevation.

In the drawings, A designates a panel consisting conveniently of woven wire of any desired mesh. I have shown sections of two panels for convenience of illustration, it being understood that these panels can be of any desired number and each of any desired length, according to the purpose for which the fence is to be employed.

In Fig. 1 I have shown the ends of the fabric secured to rigid cross-bars B. This is desirable, but not essential.

Intermediate the ends of the panels A are the supports and stretching devices which are conveniently of the following construction:

A suitable transversely-disposed frame C, of substantially inverted-V-shape formation, having a supporting cross-bar D between the lower ends of the legs, is provided with a vertically-disposed winding-roll E of a length substantially the width of the fence-panel. This roll E has a journal on its lower end seated in a bearing in the cross-bar D, and a similar journal *e* is formed or secured on the upper end. This latter journal is of a length greater than that of the lower journal and is fitted in an elongated bearing *e'*, formed in a block or bearing *f*, secured in the upper end of the support some distance above the roll. This arrangement permits of a vertical movement of the roll, so that the lower journal can be lifted from its seat or bearing and the roll thereby removed.

To the roller E is secured the ends of the panels either directly, as shown in Fig. 4, or indirectly, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, by the wires G, connecting the bars B with the opposite sides of the roller. In Fig. 3 the connecting-wire is shown as being continuous and looped or passed over the lugs *g* on the roll. By this construction it will be seen that the connections can be made to suit varying conditions of surface, such as hills or depressions.

To turn the roller, I may employ any desirable means, and I have shown for convenience a lever H, which passes through an opening *h* in the upper end of the roller, its ends being drawn out to engage the frame and lock the roll in its position when necessary. I desire it understood, however, that other means for locking the roll can be employed—as, for instance, the well-known ratchet mechanism.

In laying the fence above described the

various panels are first stretched across the field or space, the extreme ends of the outer panels being preferably secured to a fixture or stayed support. The intermediate supports to which the panels are primarily secured are then righted, the rolls turned to straighten out the panels, and then locked against unwinding.

It will be noticed that the supports being wholly portable and not fixed can be readily moved toward or from the panels, so that where one panel stretches primarily tighter than the other in taking up the slack thereafter the support can be properly placed.

By the special formation of support the panels are supported against lateral movement in a manner well known, and a very simple, strong, and inexpensive fence is produced which can be quickly and easily put up or taken down.

When it is desired to roll both panels wholly on a roll for transportation, it being understood that the movement of the roll moves simultaneously on the opposite panels, it is only necessary to remove the roll from the support, as above indicated.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new, and desired to be secured by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a portable wire fence, the combination with flexible woven panels, of a movable support resting on the surface between the ends of the panels, and comprising a transverse frame, a vertical roller journaled in the support, connections between the adjacent ends of the panels and roller, and means for locking the roller against rotation, substantially as described.

2. In a portable wire fence, the combination with flexible woven panels, of a movable substantially V-shaped support resting on the surface between the ends of the panels, a removable vertical roller of a length substantially that of the width of the panels journaled in the support, and connections between the panels and opposite sides of the roll, substantially as described.

3. In a portable wire fence, the combination with independent woven-wire panels, of a transversely-arranged movable supporting-frame, supported on the surface between the ends of the panels, and a stretching-roll supported in the frame to which the adjacent ends of the woven panels are connected, substantially as described.

4. In a portable wire fence, the combination with flexible woven-wire panels, each having rigid cross-bars on their adjacent ends and continuous connecting-wires on the cross-bars, of a movable transverse supporting-frame resting on the surface between the panels, comprising inclined side bars and a vertically-disposed winding-roll mounted in the support and to which the continuous wires are connected, substantially as described.

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

JAMES W. LE GORE.

Witnesses:
L. S. BACON,
J. H. MILANS.