

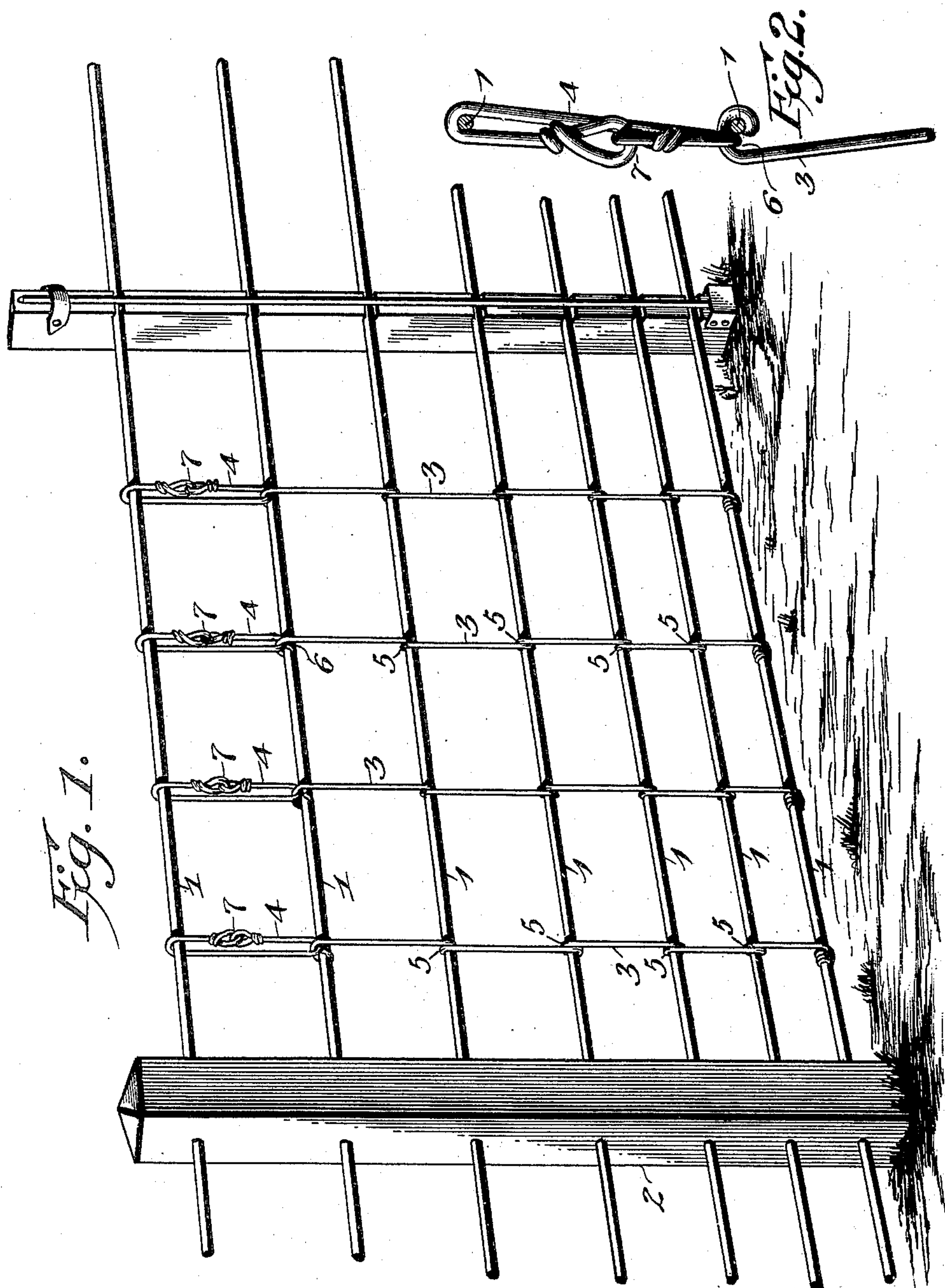
No. 640,907.

Patented Jan. 9, 1900.

J. E. HEAD.
WIRE FENCE.

(Application filed Apr. 4, 1899.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses

A. Roy Appleman Jr.
[Signature]

By *His* Attorneys,

J. E. Head, Inventor.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES EWART HEAD, OF PARIS, TENNESSEE.

WIRE FENCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 640,907, dated January 9, 1900.

Application filed April 4, 1899. Serial No. 711,705. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES EWART HEAD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Paris, in the county of Henry and State of Tennessee, have invented a new and useful Wire Fence, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to wire fences, and particularly to a wire-fence stay; and the object in view is to provide a simple, compact, and efficient construction and arrangement of parts whereby the uppermost runner is capable of downward deflection when subjected to a strain, such as that due to the application of weight, without affecting the subjacent runners or the portion of the stay connecting the same.

Further objects and advantages of this invention will appear in the following description, and the novel features thereof will be particularly pointed out in the appended claim.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portion of a fence constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a detail view in perspective of the upper portion of the stay, including the movable member and the adjacent extremity of the fixed member to show the relation between the interlocked portions thereof.

Similar reference characters indicate corresponding parts in both figures of the drawings.

In the improved fence, 1 represents the runners, which may be supported by suitable uprights 2, and at intervals said runners are connected by transverse members or stays, each of which consists of a fixed member 3 and a movable member or link 4. The fixed member 3 of the stay intersects the lowermost runner and all of the intermediate runners and is provided in the plane of each runner with an integral coiled eye 5, the uppermost eye being offset laterally from the plane of the runners to form a hooked link-seat 6, embracing the runner-wire next below the uppermost wire and also receiving the lower end of the loop 4, as will be hereinafter described. The link 4 is of looped construction and is formed from a single blank of wire doubled upon itself at spaced intermediate points and provided with interlocked terminal eyes 7, thus locating the interlocked extremities of the link at or near the center

of one side of the loop formed by the link. The upper end of the loop is engaged loosely with the uppermost runner of the fence and the lower end of the loop thereof with the seat 6 at the upper end of the fixed stay member 3 at one side of the plane of the runners, whereby the uppermost runner is capable of downward movement or deflection independently of the link 4, and the link is capable of downward movement independently of the fixed stay member 3 to allow depression of the uppermost runner without affecting the intermediate and lower runners and also without affecting the main stay member 3, whereby said lower and intermediate runners are connected.

By reference particularly to Fig. 2 of the accompanying drawings it will be noted that the upper portion of the loop 4 is disposed in a plane at substantially right angles to the fence, so as to embrace the uppermost runner-wire, and the lower portion of the loop is twisted or deflected in a plane at substantially right angles to the upper portion of the loop and parallel with the fence, so that this lower portion may engage the offset hooked portion 6 at the upper end of the fixed stay member. Furthermore, the lower portion of the loop 4 is located between the contiguous sides of the fixed stay member and the runner-wire, whereby the loop is prevented from being displaced laterally from the fixed stay member, and as the loop engages the inner side of the runner-wire, as plainly indicated in Fig. 2, said runner-wire cannot be displaced from the hooked seat 6.

The advantage of this construction resides in the fact that the weight of a person or an animal leaning upon the uppermost runner will not tend to distort the body portion of the stay, and thus permanently varying the intervals between the runners. Upon the removal of the strain the uppermost runner will return by its resilience to its normal position, having the weight only of the links 4 to elevate, and hence the fence will return to its normal condition. It will be seen, furthermore, that the eyes 5, by which the main or fixed stay member is attached to the intermediate and lower runners, snugly fit said runners, and thus maintain said main stay member in a fixed position with relation to

the runners and prevent displacement of the member 3 in a direction parallel with the runners, while the link 4, which is engaged with the offset seat portion 6 at the upper end of the stay member 3, is held by the latter from displacement parallel with the runners and at the same time allows that free movement of the uppermost runner both vertically and laterally, which is desirable in structures of this class.

Having described my invention, what I claim is—

In a wire fence, the combination with upper, lower, and intermediate runner-wires, of a stay, comprising a main fixed stay member connecting the lower and intermediate runner-wires in fixed relation, and having its upper end provided with a lateral offset hooked portion embracing the intermediate runner-wire next below the uppermost runner-wire,

and a movable stay member comprising a loop having its upper portion arranged in a plane substantially at right angles to the fence and loosely embracing the uppermost runner-wire, and the lower portion of the loop being twisted or deflected into a plane substantially at right angles to that of the upper portion and loosely embracing the upper hooked portion of the fixed stay member, located between the latter and the adjacent runner-wire, and slidable downwardly upon the fixed stay member, substantially as shown and described.

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

JAMES EWART HEAD.

Witnesses:

G. I. FRYER,

FELIX F. PORTER, Jr.