No. 644,186. Patented Feb. 27, 1900.

E. ROBERTS.

TENSION DEVICE.

(Application filed Aug. 16, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

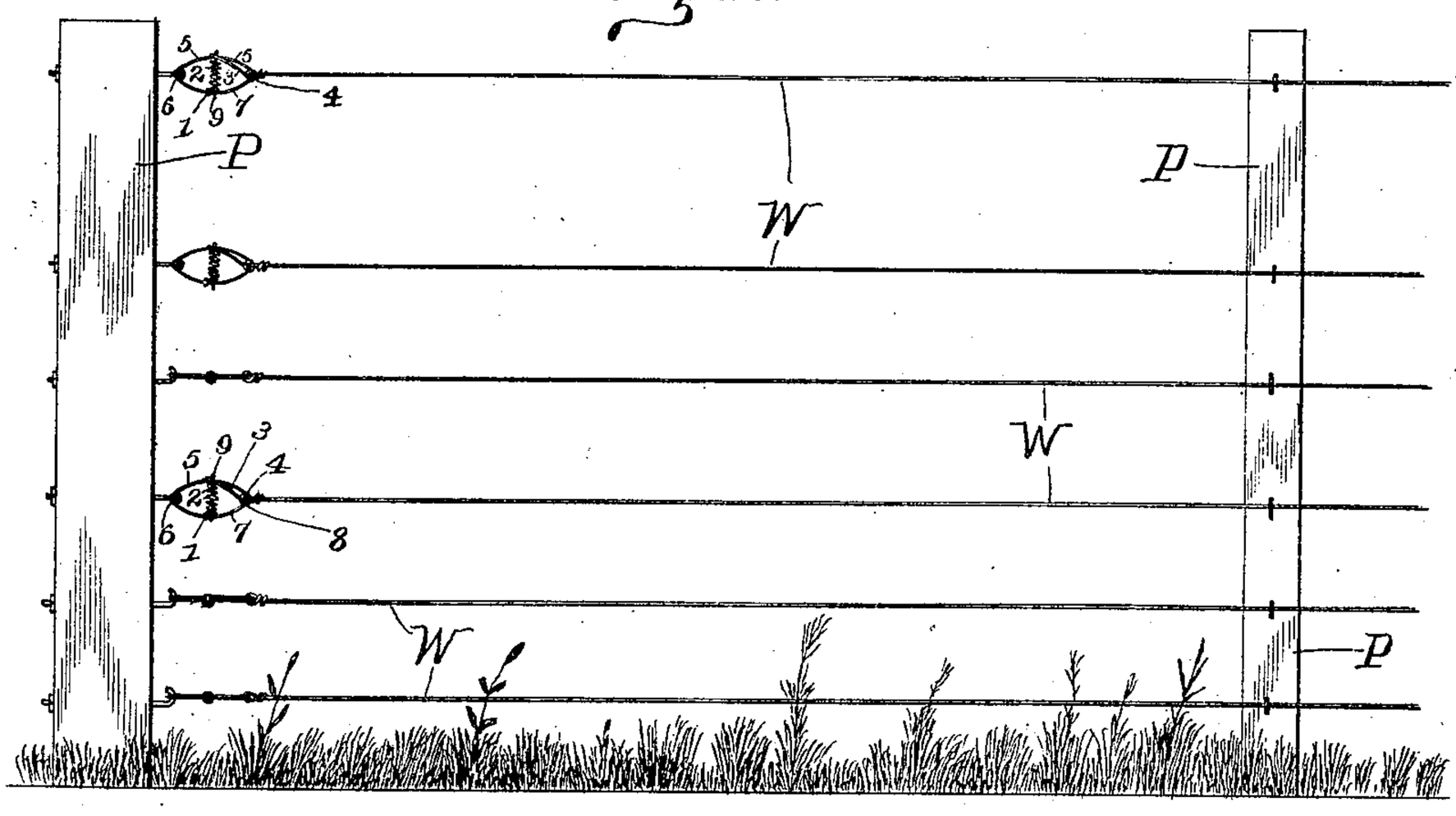


Fig. 2.

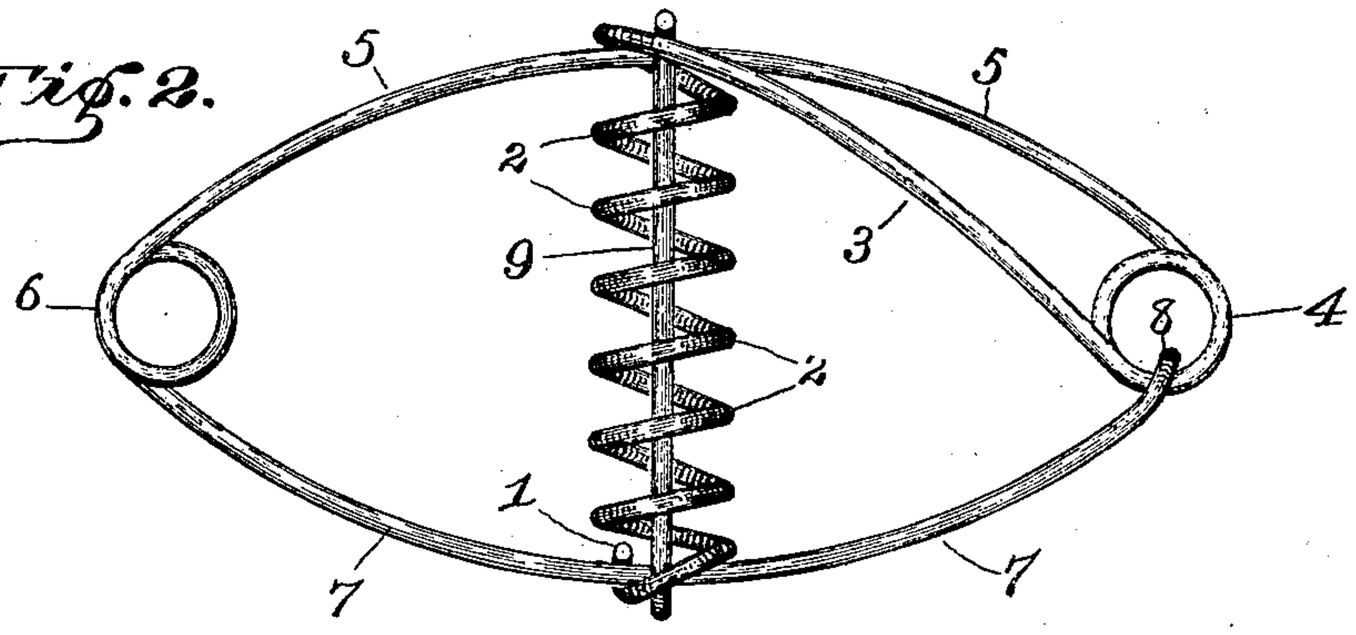
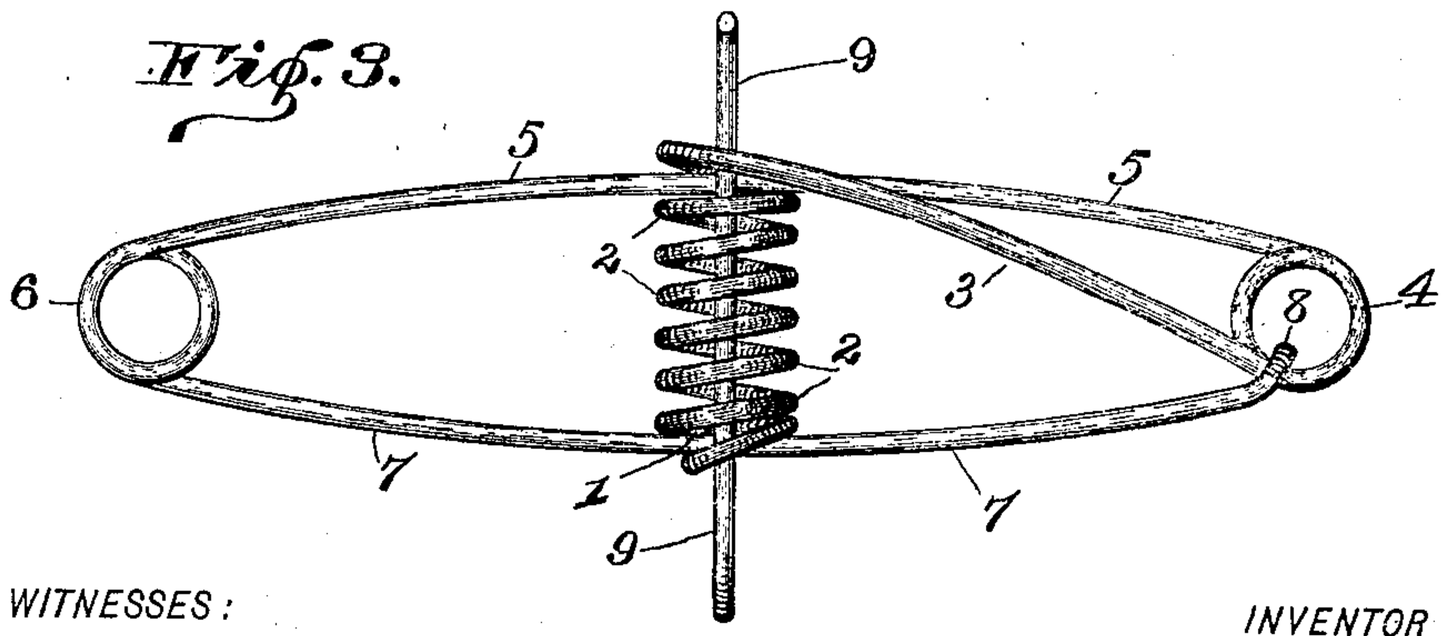


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD ROBERTS, OF BROWNSBURG, INDIANA.

TENSION DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 644,186, dated February 27, 1900.

Application filed August 16, 1899. Serial No. 727,439. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD ROBERTS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Brownsburg, in the county of Hendricks and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tension Devices, of which the following is a specification.

As is well known, the varying conditions of the weather cause the wires composing the strands of wire fence to expand or contract more or less, and some of the wires are affected to a greater degree than others. Under such conditions the strain on the fence-posts is not an equal one, and this is more especially the case when the wires are in a contracted state, thus causing the posts to be pulled out of line and loosened.

The principal object of my said invention, therefore, is to provide a means for equalizing the strain to which such wires are subject, as will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, which are made a part hereof and on which similar reference characters indicate similar parts, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a section of fence of the character in question in which the various wires are provided with tension devices embodying my present invention; Fig. 2, a view, on a larger scale, of one side of the tension device separately as it appears when free or nearly free from strain; and Fig. 3, a similar view of the same when under strain, as when the wires attached thereto are in a state of contraction.

The posts P and wires W are or may be in themselves such posts and wires as are commonly used in wire fences and will not therefore be further described herein except incidentally in describing the invention.

The tension device is in the main preferably composed of a single wire. It begins at the point 1, thence continues in the form of a spiral spring 2, thence by a member 3 to one end 4 of the structure, where it bends around and preferably makes a single coil, thence by a side member 5 past the end of the spring 2 to the other end 6 of the tension device, where it is similarly bent as at the first end, and thence by a side member 7 back to said first end, into the loop of which the wire end engages and where it terminates, as at 8.

As a support for the coiled spring which exerts the tension force I provide a doubled wire 9, which passes over one of the side wires at its middle portion, the ends passing through the coiled spring alongside the other side wire, where said ends are preferably bent outwardly, thus preventing the escape of the staypiece 9.

Having thus fully described my said invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A tension device consisting of a wire structure the ends whereof are adapted to be attached to the article to be held under tension, elastic sides extending between said ends, and a spring between said elastic sides whereby they are held distended except when forcibly drawn toward each other by the tension of the parts attached thereto.

2. A tension device composed of a single wire one end of which is formed into a coiled spring, a portion which runs thence to the end of the device, thence returning to the other end of the device, thence back again to the first end of the device where it is secured, the coiled-spring portion being arranged between the two portions which run from end to end of the device, substantially as shown and described.

3. A tension device comprising a spring 2, suitable ends to which the device to be placed under tension is connected, side wires running between the ends and past the ends of the spring, and a staypiece looped over the side wires and passing through the spring whereby the latter is held in position, substantially as shown and described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 14th day of August, A. D. 1899.

EDWARD ROBERTS. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

JAMES A. WALSH,

C. S. FRYE.