No. 654,786. Patented July 31, 1900.

M. D. CUMMINGS.

METAL FENCE POST.

(Application filed Oct. 17, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

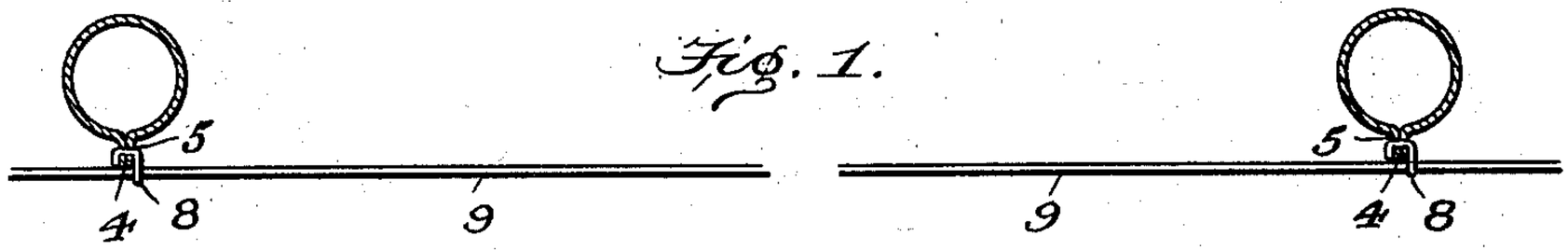


Fig. 2.

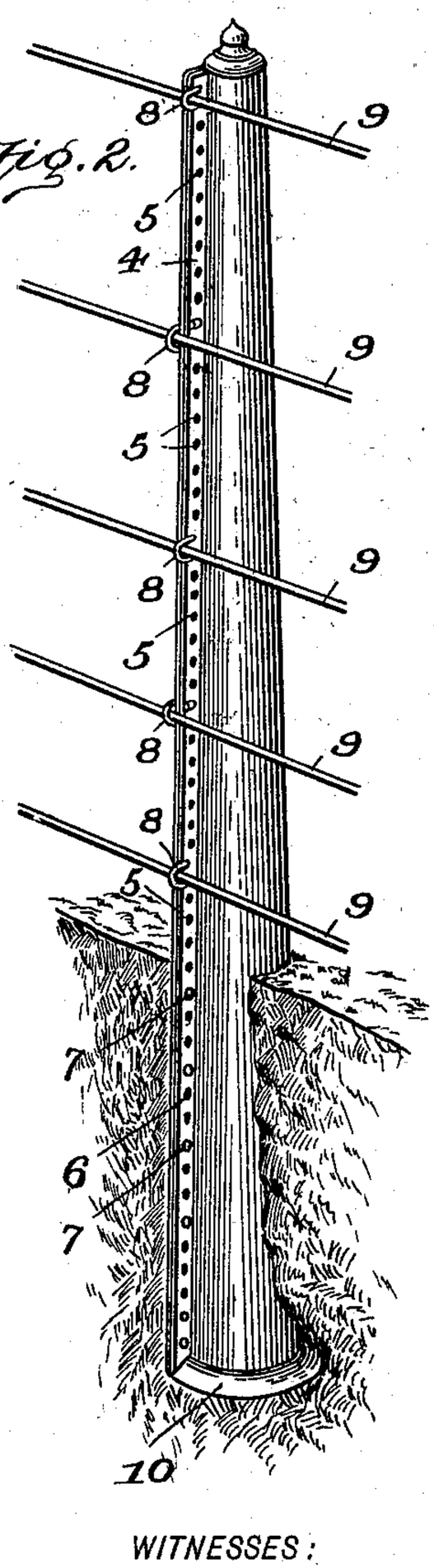


Fig. 3.

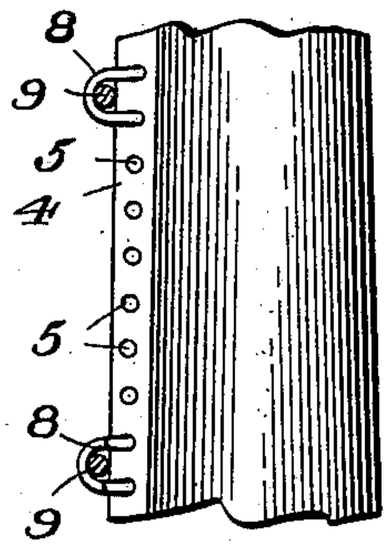


Fig. 4.

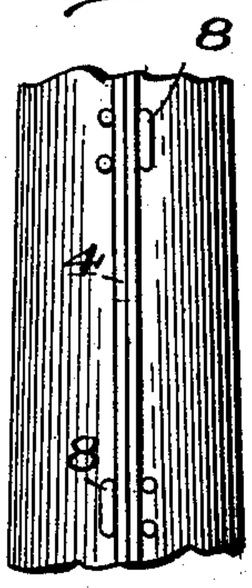


Fig. 5.

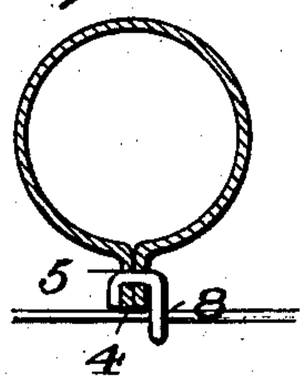


Fig. 6.

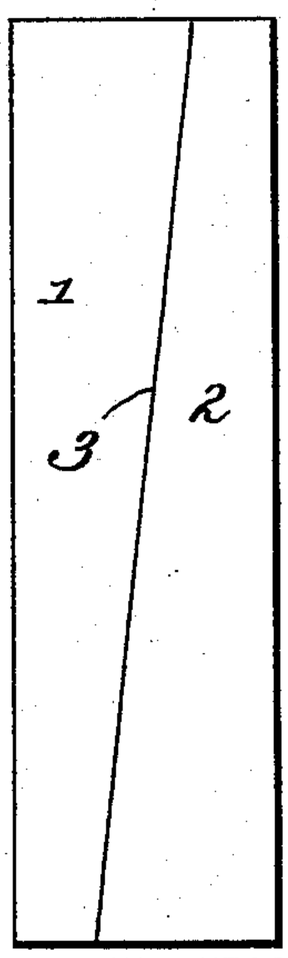
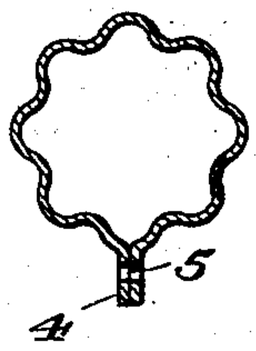


Fig. 7.

Fig. 8.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MONTRAVILL D. CUMMINGS, OF COLUMBUS, OHIO.

METAL FENCE-POST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 654,786, dated July 31, 1900.

Application filed October 17, 1899. Serial No. 733,911. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MONTRAVILL D. CUMMINGS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Columbus, in the county of Franklin and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Metal Fence-Posts, of which the following is a specification.

The production of a light, neat, and strong sheet-steel fence-post adapted for the attachment of line-wires or woven-wire fencing is the object of my improvement and the particular matters of which will be stated in the claims concluding this specification.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 shows in horizontal section two hollow metal flanged posts and a line-wire stapled to the flanges. Fig. 2 shows my improved metal flanged post in perspective with the line-wires stapled to the flanges. Fig. 3 shows, enlarged, a side view of the flanged post with the line-wire stapled to the flanges; and Fig. 4 is an edge view of the flanged side of the post, showing the alternate clenching of the staples in the flanges. Fig. 5 is a horizontal section of the same. Fig. 6 shows the blank from which two blanks for two posts are cut. Fig. 7 shows the loop-rivet staple, and Fig. 8 shows a corrugated post.

From a sheet of steel or other suitable sheet metal seven feet long by twenty-four inches wide I produce two blanks 1 2 by a diagonal cut 3, so that each sheet when rolled into tubular form will make a fence post with a taper from the bottom to the top. When rolled into a tube, the longitudinal edges are bent so as to form flanges 4 of radial projection, meeting and bound together to form a stiffening and bracing rib to the tube. These flanges are provided with small holes 5, extending from the top to the bottom thereof. I prefer to make these holes quite close together the whole length of the post, so that the flanges may be riveted to give greater firmness to the post below the ground, and particularly at the base-flange, the rivets being close together, as at 6 and 7, while above the ground the flanges are clenched together by staples 8, through which the line-wires 9 are run and spaced any distance in the height of the post, or within which staples woven-wire fabric may be fastened or hooked. This provision for stapling different kinds of wire fencing to metallic posts is a very desirable advantage, is convenient, and gives a true and properly-spreading support to sheet-fencing and requires only the clenching-staples to be inserted into the holes at any point which may be desired. It also gives the advantage of forming the fence with line-wires and with wire fabric in any proportion of both and of using the staples close together to give a smooth stretched surface to the woven wire.

At its base the post is formed with an annular flaring flange 10, which with the radial flanges gives it plenty of resistance in the ground. This base flaring flange is preferably produced after the post is made complete with taper side flanges and holes by a plunger forcing the metal up into a die into which the end of the post is set and which gives an annular flange projection of about one and a half inches, which greatly adds to the stiffness and solid seating of the post. This way of forming the base-flange 10 is preferred because it takes upon the side flanges, so that the joining of the vertical flanges and the flaring base flange gives a bracing stiffness to the flaring flange and completes the circle. Looking at Fig. 1, the longitudinal and transverse flanges will be seen to be continuous, the base and the meeting flanges forming a right angle at their junction, giving a very desirable and true seating for the post, adding strength to it, and thereby allowing the use of comparatively-thin metal.

When the staples are inserted in the flange-holes, their ends and eye-forming parts are bent to clasp and clench the flanges, so that the staples project beyond and in line with the flanges and may be all on one side or on alternate sides of the flanges and may be set and clenched before or after the post is set. The staples are of wire, and the holes are three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter and one-half inch apart in the wire-attaching flange part, thus admitting of attaching any kind of wire fence and of spacing the wires without any special punching of holes. The staple as a fastening while having the usual U shape has also the shape of a right angle, as seen in Figs. 5 and 7, so that while the ends have a riveting function the loop-forming end has

the function of a head to the rivet and the stringing-eye for the line-wire, the loop end for this purpose projecting beyond the flange.

The post is produced without the least waste of metal and a complete article of the greatest strength possible out of very light material, weighing about ten pounds, and is amply strong for any fencing.

In the preferred way of producing the post the holes are punched through the meeting flanges at one stroke and its end seated in a conical die, and projecting below it about two inches is upset by a conical plunger, so as to form a base-flange of about nine inches in diameter.

If desired, the post may be corrugated lengthwise to increase its rigidity, the corrugations tapering to correspond with the taper of the post.

The post may have an ornamental cap seated in its open end.

The preferred way of erecting the fence is to stretch the line-wires against the flange and then pass the staples over the wires into the flange-holes, bringing the loop end of the staple against the flange and clenching the ends. This locks the flanges tightly together and stiffens the post, while leaving the wires loosely strung in the staples and thereby avoiding any tendency to twist the post.

The complete post is galvanized with zinc and can be furnished the trade stapled ready to receive the wires.

The object of making the holes close together the entire length of the flanges is that rivets may be put through as many holes and at such places as desired, so that the post may be set a greater or less depth in the ground and still have the holes ready to receive the wire staples near the ground.

I claim—

1. As an improved article of manufacture the post herein described formed of a single sheet of metal rolled with edge flanges provided with holes and terminating in a circular base-flange projected alike from the ends of the longitudinal edge flanges and made continuous around the body of the post.

2. A sheet-metal post rolled with edge flanges provided with holes each flange terminating in a single circular base-flange projected from the body of the rolled sheet as a continuation of the edge flanges, in combination with staples clenching the edge flanges together and forming loops for the line-wires.

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

MONTRAVILL D. CUMMINGS.

Witnesses:
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CHAS. G. HENDERSON.