No. 753,892. PATENTED MAR. 8, 1904.

M. E. LERCH.

FENCE POST.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 8, 1903.

NO MODEL.

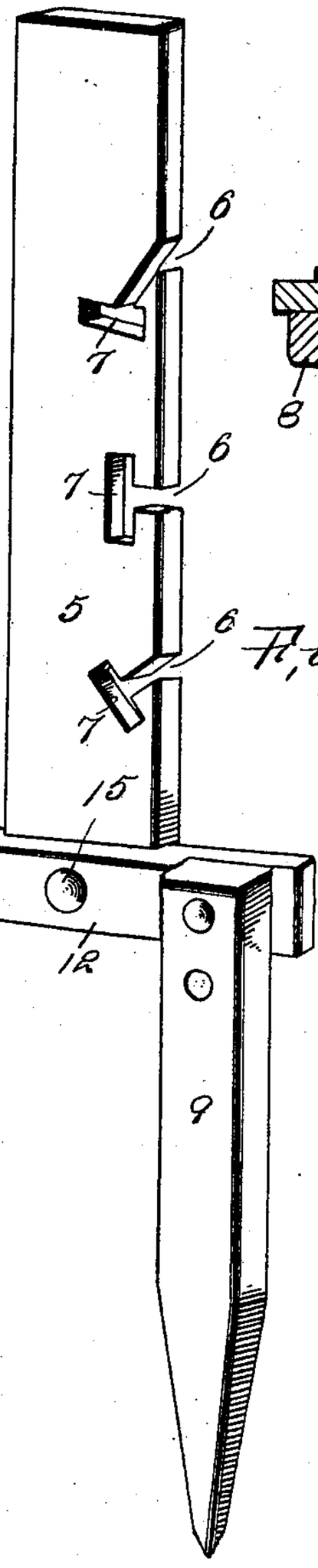

Fig. 1.

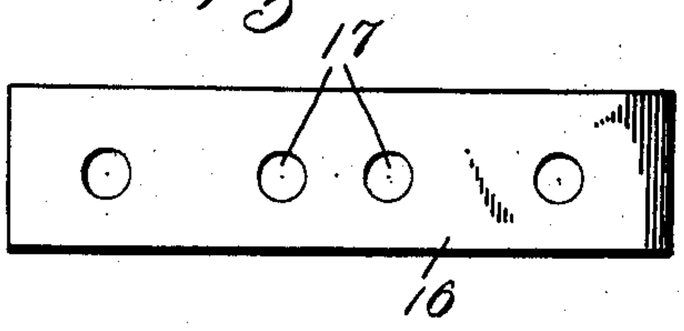

Fig. 3.

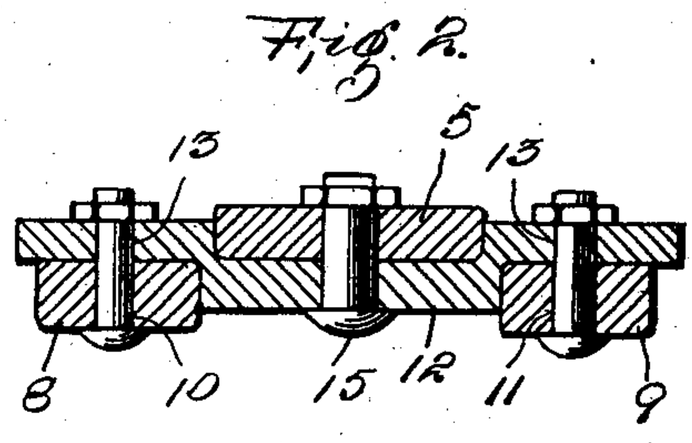

Fig. 2.

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No. 753,892. Patented March 8, 1904.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARSHALL E. LERCH, OF LAWSONHAM, PENNSYLVANIA.

FENCE-POST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 753,892, dated March 8, 1904.

Application filed May 8, 1903. Serial No. 156,267. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARSHALL E. LERCH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lawsonham, in the county of Clarion, State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fence-Posts; 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.

This invention relates to fence-posts; and it has for its object to provide a metal fence-post which may be driven into the ground and which includes a main or upper body portion to which the fence-wires are attached and lower stakes which are driven into the ground and to which the body portion is removably connected.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be understood from the following description.

In the drawings forming a portion of this specification, and in which like numerals of reference indicate similar parts in the several views, Figure 1 is a perspective view showing one form of post embodying the present invention. Fig. 2 is a transverse section through the cross-beam which connects the upper or body portion of the post with the stake. Fig. 3 is an elevation showing a second form of cross-bar.

Referring now to the drawings, there is shown a post comprising a body portion 5, consisting of a plate of metal having slots leading inwardly from one edge thereof, each slot comprising a straight inwardly-directed stem portion 6 and a transverse head portion 7 at the inner end thereof which projects at opposite sides of the stem portion. The uppermost of these slots is shown with its stem slanted downwardly, while the head portion is horizontal or transverse to the post. The second slot has its stem portion extending transversely or at right angles to the post and its inner end portion extending vertically. The lowermost slot has its stem portion extending diagonally and downwardly, while its inner end or head portion is at right angles to the stem. It will be of course understood that any desired number of slots may be formed in the post and that they may be of any one of the specific shapes shown.

The body portion of the post has a base consisting of stakes 8 and 9, which are adapted to be driven into the ground and at the upper end of each of which stakes are formed transverse perforations 10 and 11, which are spaced vertically of the posts.

In connection with the stakes and the body portion of the post is employed a cross-bar 12, having perforations 13 at its ends which receive bolts that are engaged also through the perforations at the upper ends of the stakes, so that the cross-bar is held removably to the stakes. The object in forming a plurality of perforations in each stake is in order that the cross-bar may be secured thereto in a horizontal position even if the stakes are not driven into the ground to the same extent.

In the cross-bar shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings the central portion thereof is laterally offset and forms a seat in which the lower end of the body of the post is fitted, said body portion being held in the seat by means of a bolt 15 engaged through the body of the post and the offset portion of the cross-bar. The body is thus held to the base securely but removably by means of a single bolt.

In Fig. 3 of the drawings there is shown a cross-bar 16, which may be employed in connection with the stakes and body above described and which has two perforations 17 through its middle portion to receive bolts for holding the body thereto, it being understood that when this cross-bar is used the body of the post has two perforations to receive bolts.

In setting up the posts the stakes are first driven into the ground and the cross-bars are then bolted thereto, the bodies being then bolted to the cross-bars, it being understood, however, that the bodies may be bolted to the cross-bars before the latter are bolted to the stakes. After the post is set up the fence-wires are attached thereto by engaging them with the slots of the body of the post, the wires being held in the slots by means of

keys 18. Each key consists of a metal block, one side edge of which is at right angles to the ends thereof, as shown at 20, while the opposite side edge 21 is converged in the direction of the edge 20. On one face of the wedge is a longitudinal rib 22, the upper face of which is parallel with the edge 20 of the metal block, while the opposite face of the rib is beveled to the edge 21 of the block to form the slanting face 23, which gradually decreases in width from one end of the block to the other. After the wire is engaged in a slot to lie at one end of the head thereof the wedge or key is engaged in the head, with the rib thereof projecting into the stem of the slot, and as the key is forced inwardly the broader portion of the face 23 enters the stem of the slot with a wedging action to force the face at the opposite side of the rib against the corresponding wall of the stem of the slot. The result is that the key is wedged firmly into place without pressing against the wire and the latter is prevented from disengagement from the slot, while longitudinal movement thereof is permitted so that the wire may be tightened.

On practice other modifications may be made and any suitable materials and proportions may be used for the various parts without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is—

In a fence-post, the combination with a base comprising stakes having a cross-bar having reduced portions at its ends and resultant shoulders adjacent thereto, said cross-bar being secured to the stakes with the ends of the latter lying upon the reduced portions and against the shoulders, said cross-bar also having a socket between the reduced portions, of a body portion removably secured in the socket and adapted for attachment of wires thereto.

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

MARSHALL E. LERCH.

Witnesses:

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