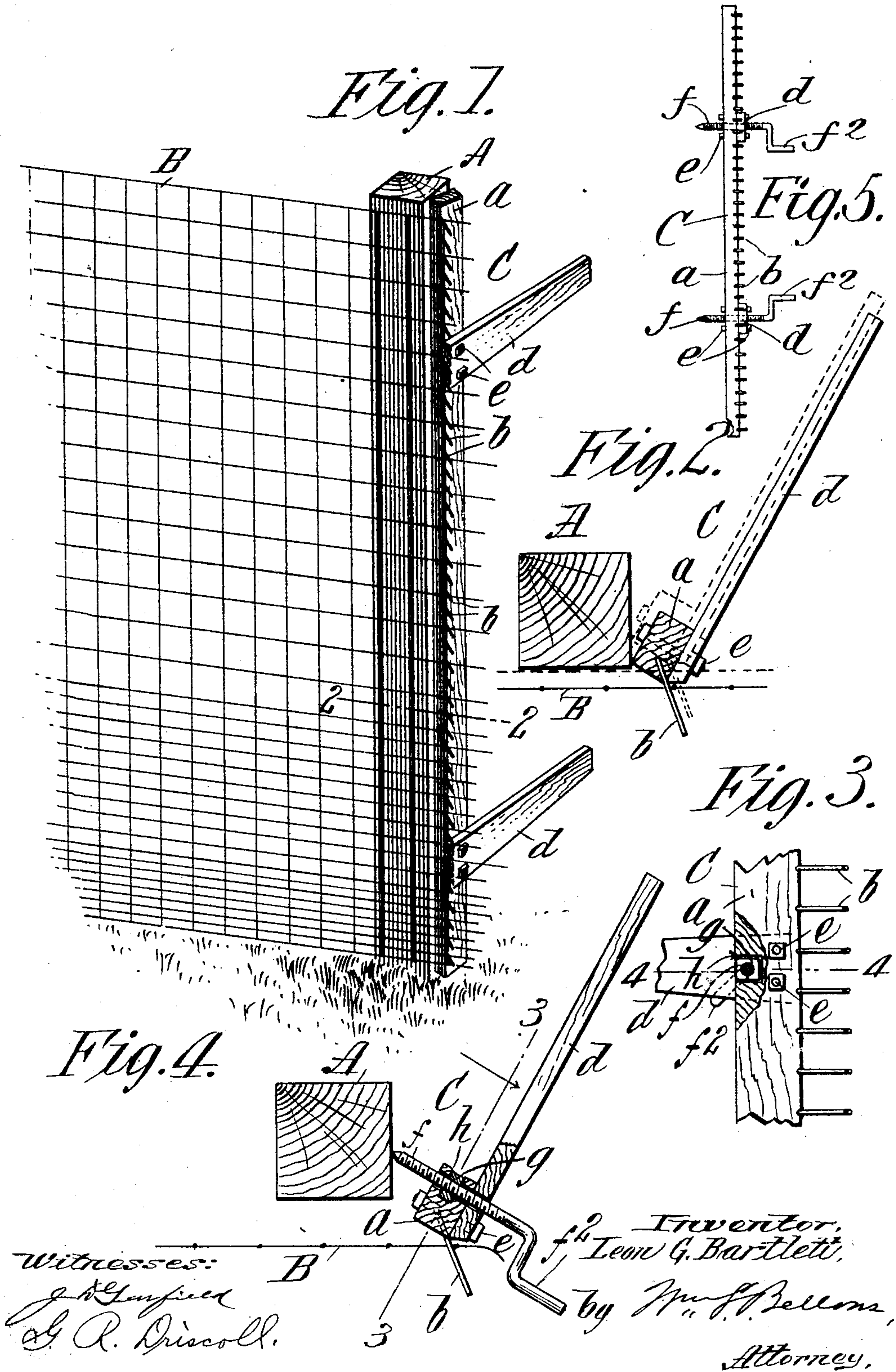


L. G. BARTLETT.
 DEVICE FOR STRETCHING WIRE FENCING.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEON G. BARTLETT, OF WILBRAHAM, MASSACHUSETTS.

DEVICE FOR STRETCHING WIRE FENCING.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEON G. BARTLETT, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Wilbraham, in the county of Hampden and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Devices for Stretching Wire Fencing, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

10 This invention relates to improvements in devices or implements for the especial employment of bringing open-work wire-fencing fabric in a taut or stretched condition to the fence-posts or other structure to which the
15 fencing is to be secured by proper fastenings, and has for its object the production of a stretching device for the fencing which is of such construction and includes such components as renders it structurally of the simplest
20 possible character and susceptible of utilization with the utmost convenience.

The invention consists, in a device for the purpose specified, of a bar or comparatively long head member adapted to engage vertically alongside a fence-post or other structure
25 to constitute a support for fencing and to which the fencing is to be fastened, having wire-fence-engaging means and having means for imparting a fence-stretching movement to said bar relatively to the post.

The invention furthermore consists in certain subordinate features of construction and arrangement of parts, all substantially as hereinafter described.

35 In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view showing a stretcher for wire fencing in its simplest form of construction and indicating its manner of use. Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional and plan view as taken on
40 the line 2 2, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a partial inner side view, with a portion in section, of the device having additional elements hereinafter referred to. Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view as seen on and below the plane of line 4 4,
45 Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is an edge view of the entire device constructed with the additional parts individually represented in Figs. 3 and 4.

Similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all of the views.

50 In the drawings, A represents one of the posts for a line of wire fencing, B representing such fencing, and C represents the fence-stretching device. This device, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, comprises the head or bar *a*,
55 engaging means *b* for the wire fencing, and a pair of levers *d d*, which constitute means for

imparting the fence-stretching movement to the device C relatively to the post.

In practice the head-bar *a* is made of wood, having a length as wide or wider than the
60 width of the open-work fencing fabric B, and has a series of rigidly engaged or interlocked pins, to which the reference-letter *b* refers, projecting from one edge or corner of the head-bar, as shown, and more or less nearly
65 diagonal to the bar.

The levers *d d* are securely and rigidly fastened at one side of the head-bar by the bolt *e*, their locations or arrangements being toward the upper and lower ends of the head-
70 bar, and their extensions therefrom are horizontal and in parallelism.

In use the head-bar may by a corner or prominent portion thereof have a bearing against and alongside the post and by the
75 teeth an engagement through the mesh of the fencing, as represented in Figs. 1 and 2, and the thus-engaged parts may by a swinging of the levers (one of which may be by a hand-pressure and the other by the leg) draw for-
80 wardly and strain the wire to bring it in a taut condition to be fastened at the post by staples or otherwise. After the device has been swung to draw up the fencing more or
85 less on the fulcrum-line, as represented by the full lines in Fig. 2, the head-bar may be given a backward step or hitching movement for a new bearing to the rearward of that
90 first acquired and as represented in dotted lines in Fig. 2, these actions being incidental to and possible under the use of the device constituted as shown.

In some cases and for some uses the fence-stretching device is constructed with the inclusion of a pair of transversely-projecting
95 members *f f*, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, for constituting fulcrums offset from one side of the bar and for bearings against the post, these members more or less penetrating the post by their pointed ends. The screw mem-
100 bers *f* transversely penetrate the head-bar at locations relatively to each other, as represented in Fig. 5, and as a practical, simplified, and advantageous means for making the screw engagement between each threaded rod,
105 constituting an offset fulcrum member, as aforementioned, and the head-bar, the same consisting in anchoring or engaging a nut *g* in a niche or recess *h* therefor within the
110 thickness of the head-bar and having an intermediate portion of the threaded rod *f* screw-engaging through said fixed nut and

passing loosely through the perforation in the head-bar.

The screw members f have crank-shaped ends f^2 , by means of which they may be readily turned to distend or withdraw the fulcrum extremities of the members f relatively to the side of the head-bar.

As manifest, the screw-threaded members f may be separately turned to individually adjust the fulcrum, it being possible to have one extended considerably farther from the bar than the other, as occasion may require—as, for instance, when the posts are tapered or when the fulcrum-bearings afforded at different heights thereon are not in the same vertical line or when there may be more slack at the top course of the fencing than at the bottom, or vice versa.

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

1. A device of the character described, consisting of a head-bar having a length as great as the width of the wire-fencing fabric, adapted to engage vertically alongside a fence-post, and having wire-fence-engaging means, and provided with means for imparting a fence-stretching movement to said head-bar relatively to the post or other portion of the fence structure.

2. A device for stretching wire fencing, consisting of a head piece or bar adapted to range vertically alongside, and against, a post and to acquire a rocking movement relatively thereto, and provided with means for engaging the wire fencing, and having a pair of levers secured thereto and extended angularly therefrom for imparting the rocking movement of said bar.

3. A device of the character described, consisting of a head-bar adapted to engage vertically relatively to a fence-post, and provided

with a series of angularly-projecting fence-engaging teeth, and means for imparting a stretching movement to said head-bar in relation to a fence-post.

4. A stretcher for wire fencing consisting of a head or bar provided with fabric-engaging means, a transversely-projecting member constituting a fulcrum at one side of the bar, and one or more lever-arms for imparting an oscillating movement to the head-bar.

5. A stretcher for wire fencing consisting of a head or bar provided with a series of angularly-projecting fabric-engaging teeth, a transversely-projecting member constituting a fulcrum at one side of the bar, and one or more lever-arms for imparting an oscillating movement to the head-bar.

6. A stretcher for wire fencing consisting of a head or bar provided with fabric-engaging means, a transversely-projecting member constituting a fulcrum at one side of the bar, and which is adjustable for varying its extent of projection from the bar, and one or more lever-arms for imparting an oscillating movement to the head-bar.

7. A stretcher for wire-fencing fabric consisting of a vertical head-bar, provided with fabric-engaging means, with upper and lower transversely-projecting members for constituting double fulcrum for, and at one side of, the bar, and which are independently adjustable to vary their individual extent of projection sidewise beyond the bar, and upper and lower lever-arms connected to and extending angularly from the length of the head-bar.

Signed by me at Springfield, Massachusetts, in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

LEON G. BARTLETT.

Witnesses:

WM. S. BELLOWS,
G. R. DRISCOLL.