

No. 824,429.

PATENTED JUNE 26, 1906.

J. LUDWICK.

FENCE POST.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 23, 1905.

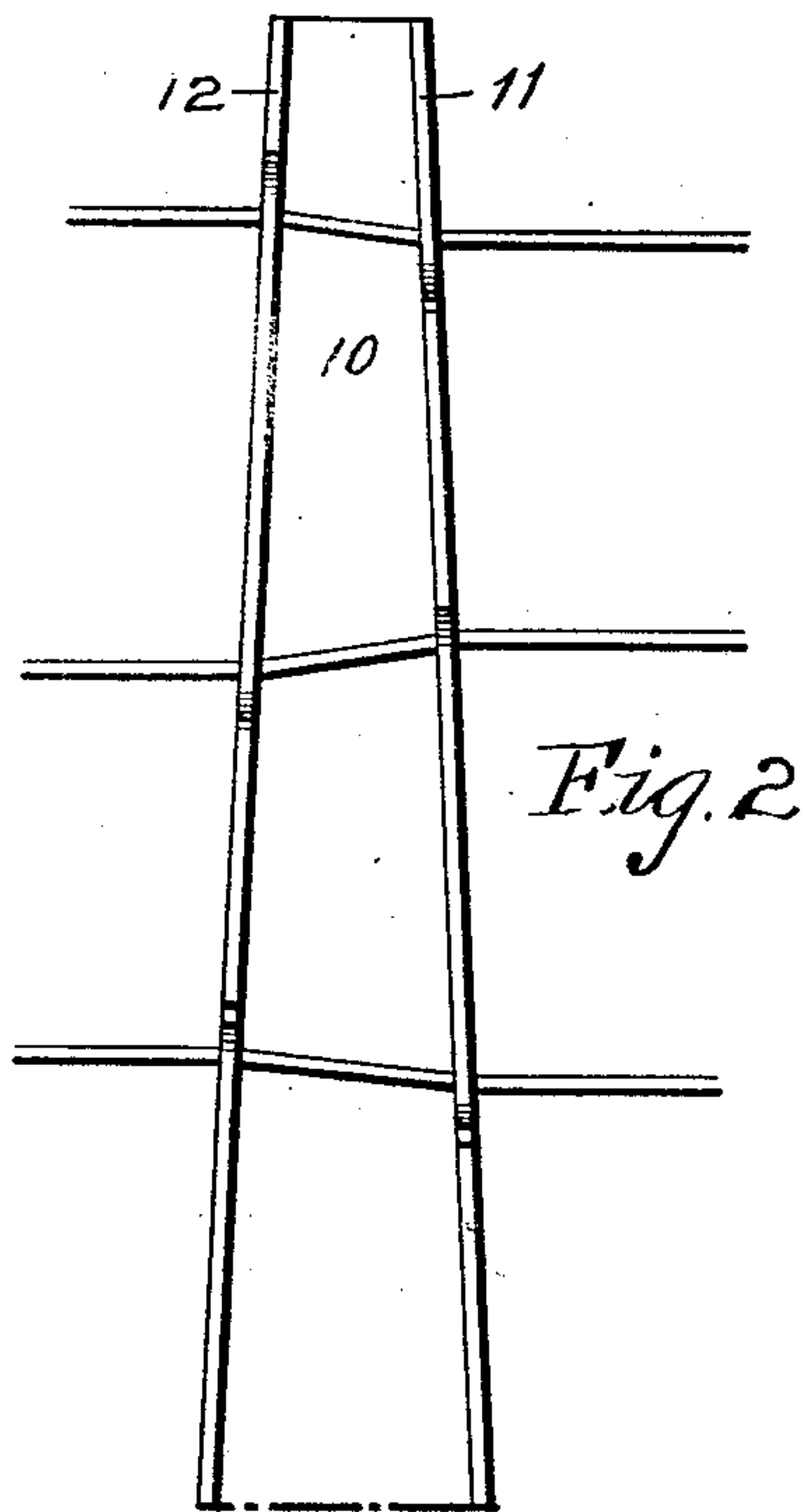


Fig. 2

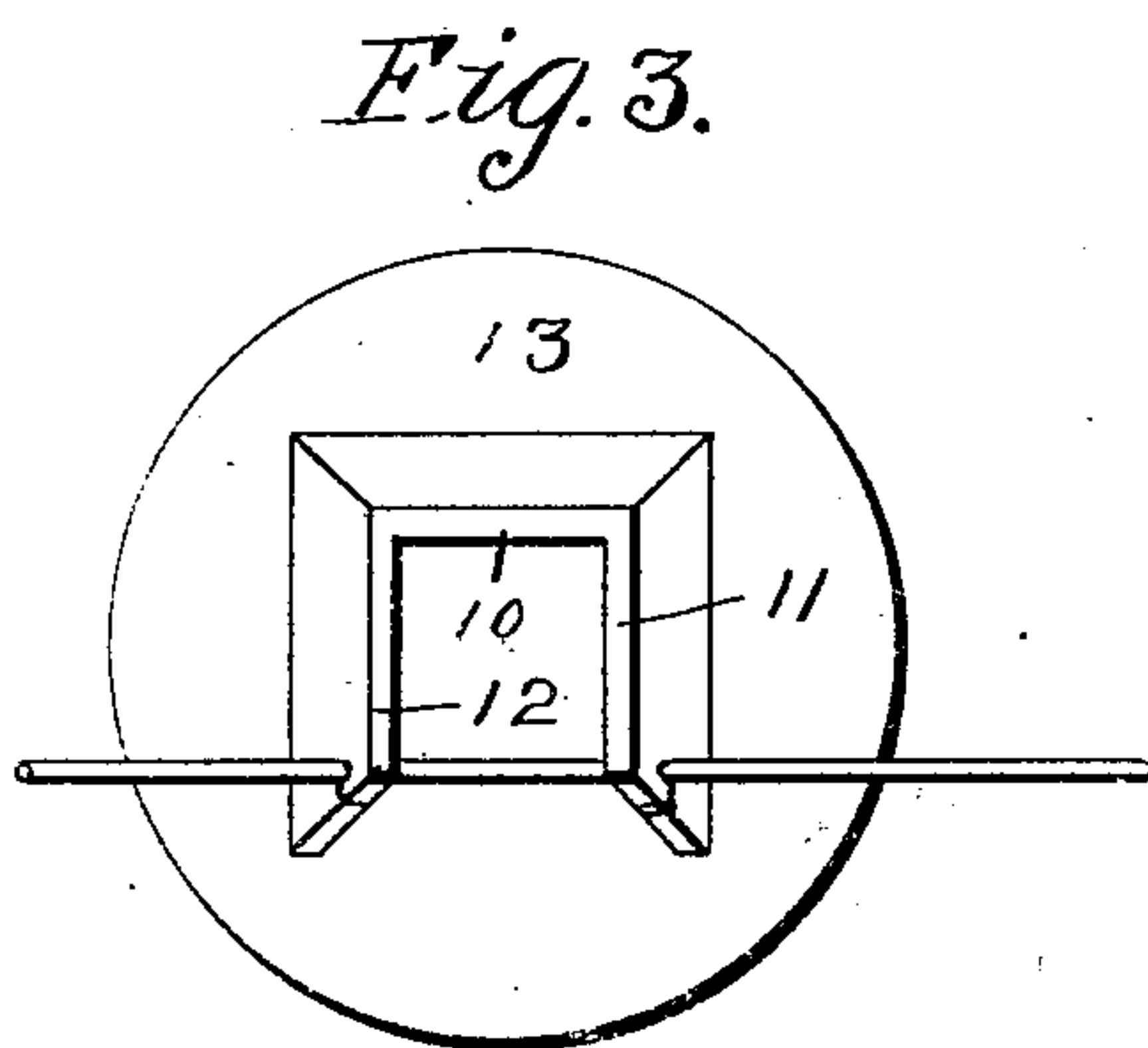


Fig. 3.

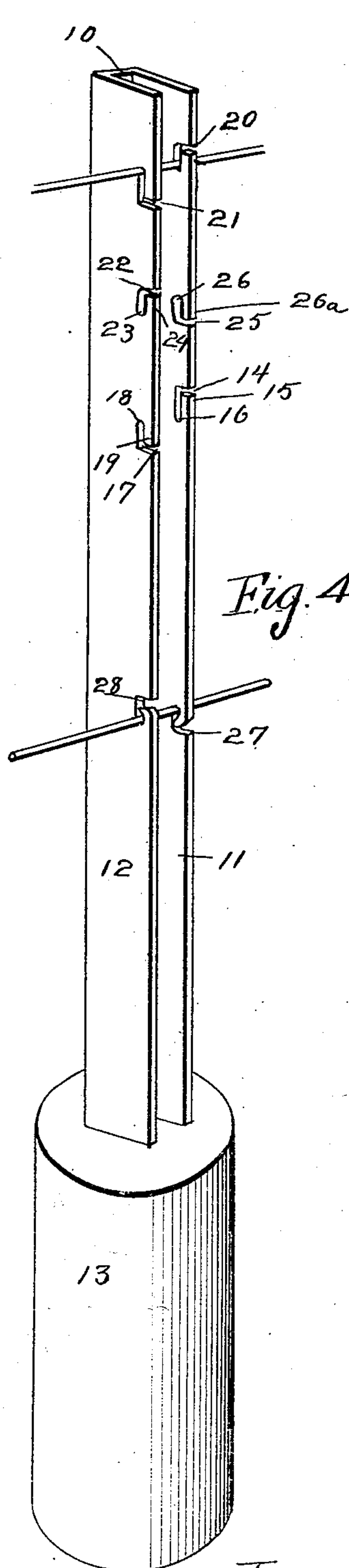


Fig. 4.

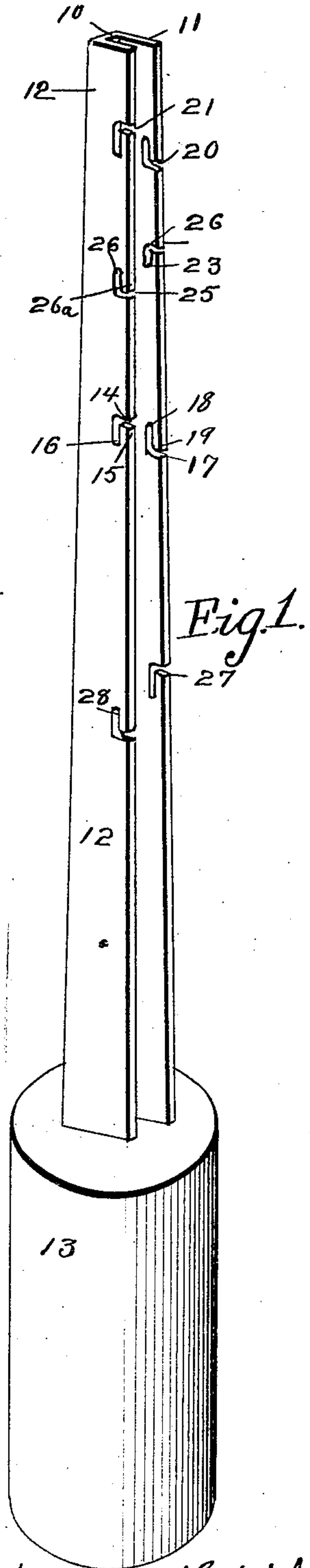


Fig. 1.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAY LUDWICK, OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-THIRD
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TO RAY A. LUDWICK, OF LESLIE, MICHIGAN.

FENCE-POST.

No. 824,429.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented June 26, 1906.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAY LUDWICK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Grand Rapids, in the county of Kent and State of Michigan, have invented a certain new and useful Fence-Post, of which the following is a specification.

The objects of my invention are to provide a fence-post of simple, durable, and inexpensive construction in which the fastening device is made a part of the post and is so arranged that the wires will be locked in the post and prevented from longitudinal movement when the wires are stretched taut between the posts.

A further object is to provide a fastening device which will positively lock the wires in position relative to the post without the use of any additional fastening mechanism which is apart from the post.

A further object is to provide a metallic body to the post so shaped as to be of great strength and durability and to provide a body in which the metal body portion is mounted that will prevent the metal from corroding or rusting when it is placed in the ground.

My invention consists in certain details in the construction, arrangement, and combination of the various parts of the device whereby the objects contemplated are attained, as hereinafter more fully set forth, pointed out in my claim, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the complete post. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the upper portion of the post. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the post, and Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a modified form of the post.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, it will be seen that the body portion of the post is composed of a single piece of sheet metal so bent as to be substantially U-shaped in cross-section, having the back portion 10 therein and the two side portions 11 and 12 at right angles to the back portion. These side portions are some distance apart, so that an opening is formed between them. The lower end of the body portion of the post is mounted in the base 13, which may be made of cement or other similar material. This base is designed to be inserted in the ground after the post-hole has been dug to

prevent the metallic body portion from being rusted or corroded. In the front edge of the side 11 of the post is a slot 14, which leads from the extreme front edge rearwardly at right angles to the front edge and then downwardly parallel with the front edge, so that a wire-retaining member 15 is formed by said slot. For the sake of convenience I have numbered the lower extremity of the slot 14 by the numeral 16. Leading from the extreme forward edge of the side 12 and near the top portion thereof is the slot 17, which leads inwardly from the forward edge of the side 12, at right angles to said side, and then upwardly a slight distance in a line parallel to the front edge of the side 12 to the point 18 to form a wire-retaining member 19. The two slots 14 and 17 are so cut in the sides 11 and 12 that the point 18 of the slot 17 will be slightly lower than the point 16 of the slot 14. The reason for this is obvious, for the wire is first inserted in the slot 14 and is moved to the lower extremity of said slot and is then inserted in the slot 17 and is drawn against the upper extremity of the slot 17. When the wire is drawn taut, there will be a slight bend in the wire between the points 16 and 18, so that the wire will be maintained securely to the post and against longitudinal or vertical movement. This is clearly illustrated in Fig. 2 of the drawings, where the bend in the wire is shown clearly. If it is found necessary to more securely hold the wire in position relative to the post, the wire-retaining members 15 and 19 are struck with the hammer and are driven inwardly against the wire, as is shown in Fig. 4, where the lower wire is thus maintained in position.

Above the slot 14 is a slot 20 similar to the slot 14 in the side 11. Above the slot 17 in the side 12 is a slot 21 similar to the slot 17. The slots 20 and 21 are arranged in the same relative positions to each other as are the slots 14 and 17 in the side 12, and below the slot 21 is a slot 22, which extends first inwardly at right angles to the front edge of the side 12 and then downwardly parallel with said front edge to the point 23 to form the wire-retaining member 24. In the front edge of the side 11 and some distance below the slot 20 is a slot 25, which extends first inwardly at right angles to the front edge and then upwardly parallel with the front edge to

a point 26 to form a wire-retaining member 26^a. These slots are so arranged that the point 26 in the side 11 is slightly lower than the point 23 in the side 12. Thus it will be seen that the slots 22 and 25 are exactly reversed from the slots 20 and 21, respectively. The arrangement of these slots 22 and 25 provide for the binding of the wire in the same way as the slots 14 and 17, and on account of their arrangement in the sides 11 and 12 the draft on the post will be in the opposite direction from the draft on the post when the wires run through the slots above the slots 22 and 25. There are two slots 27 and 28 similar to the slots 25 and 22, respectively, and immediately beneath the slots 25 and 22. On account of the arrangement of the two lower sets of slots in the lower portion of the post, and assuming that the wire is drawn taut, the position will have substantially an even pull on it, so that there will be no tendency toward causing the post to be moved by the drawing of the wires to a position out of the vertical.

In practical use the part 13 is set in the ground. The top wire is then inserted in the slot 20 and then in the slot 21 and drawn taut, and, if desired, the wire is securely held by striking the wire-retaining members 15 and 19. A similar operation is repeated until each of the wires to be used is passed through the post. With the slot thus arranged when the wire is placed in position in both slots animals cannot raise it out of place or out of slot, owing to the slots being reversed, nor can the animals press the wire downward and throw it out of the slots. In tightening the wire by compressing the protruding edge in front of the slots on both edges of the post wearing off of the wire by the action of the wind is prevented. As will be readily noticed by reference to Fig. 2, the point of a slot in one side of the post-body is lower than the point of the cooperating slot in the other side of the body, while the point of the next upper

slot in the first-mentioned side of the body is higher than the point of the cooperating slot in the said other side of the body. From this it follows that the portion of a fence-runner intermediate the slots of the first-mentioned pair declines in one direction, while the portion of the alternate fence-runner intermediate the slots of the second-mentioned pair declines in the opposite direction. This is materially advantageous, since one runner tends to cant the post in one direction and the alternate runner tends to equally cant the post in the opposite direction, with the result that the post is strongly maintained in an upright position, as is always desirable.

I do not restrict myself to the particular arrangement of the tapered sides of the post, as it may be made tapered both on side and back—that is, the material may be wider at the bottom than at the top on three sides, or only on two sides, or the sides may be parallel.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, therefore, is—

In a fence, runners, in combination with a post comprising a metal body portion, of U shape in horizontal section, having pairs of oppositely-disposed L-shaped slots in the edges of its sides receiving the runners; the point of one slot in one side being lower than the point of the cooperating slot in the other side, and the point of the next upper slot in the first-mentioned side being higher than the point of the cooperating slot in the said other side, whereby that portion of one runner which is intermediate the sides of the post is caused to decline in one direction and the corresponding portion of the other runner is caused to decline in the opposite direction

Des Moines, Iowa, August 3, 1904.

JAY LUDWICK.

Witnesses:

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