

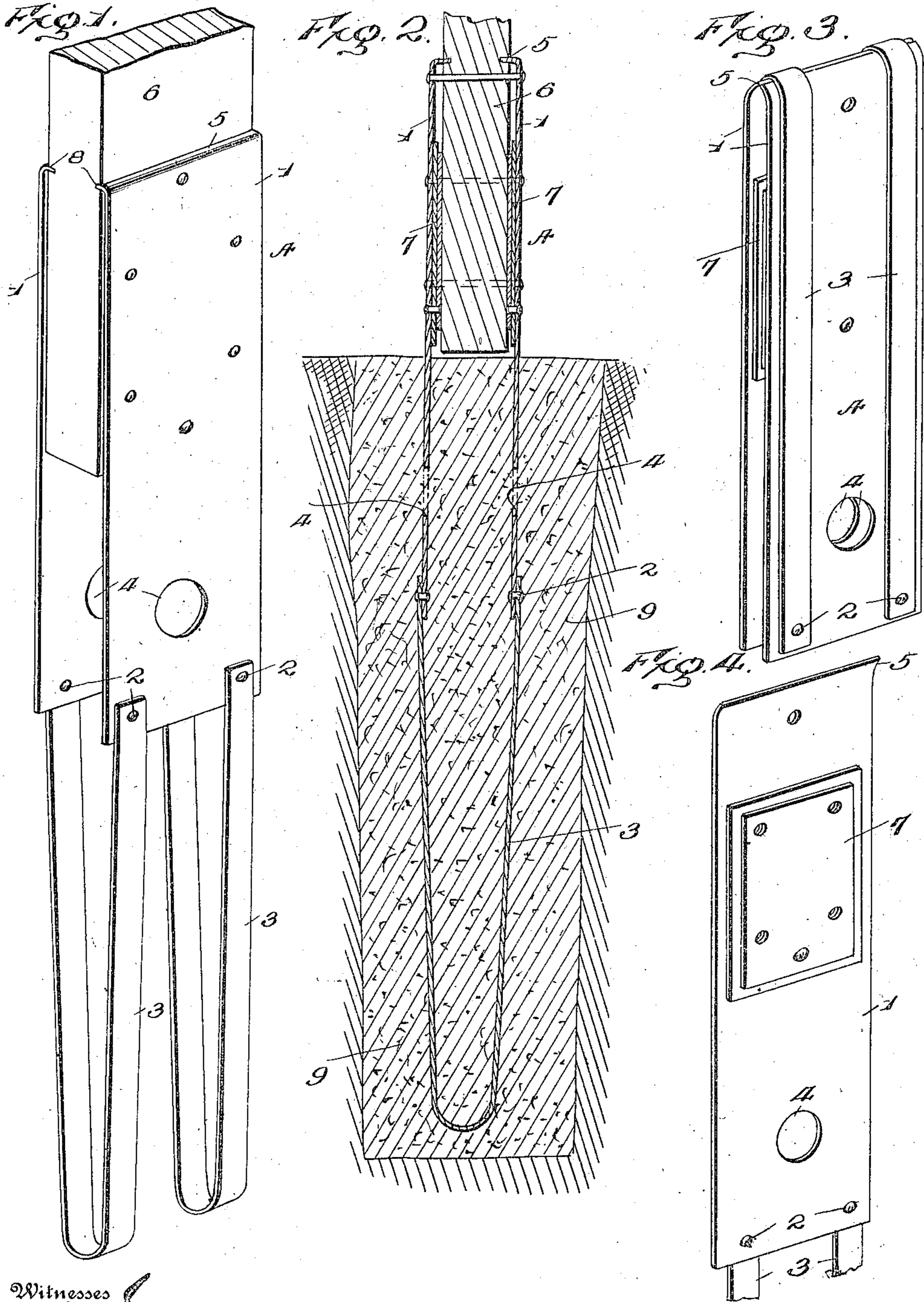
No. 887,217.

W. A. OLIPHANT.
POST.

PATENTED MAY 12, 1908.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 3, 1908.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses

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By

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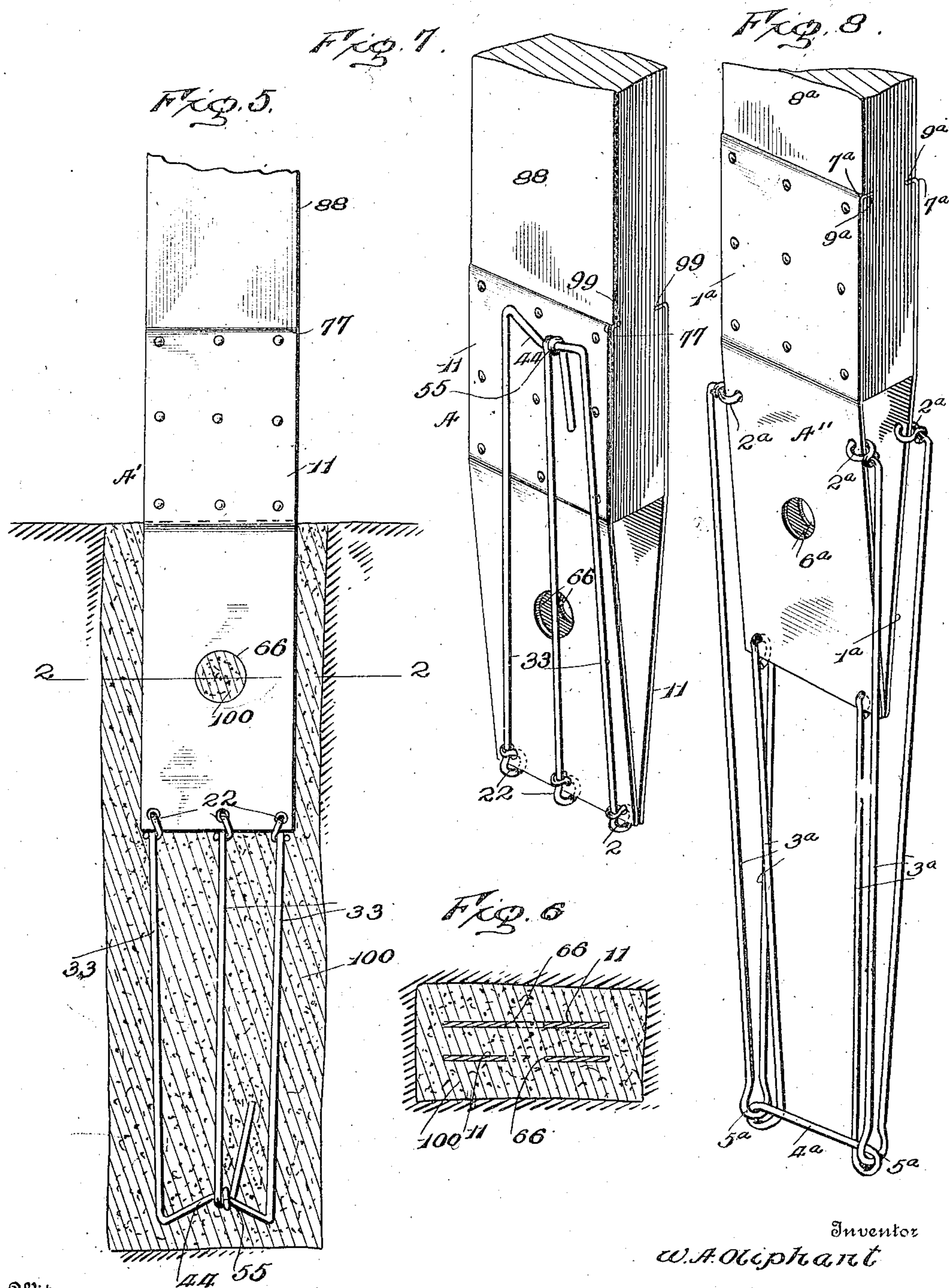
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Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. OLIPHANT, OF PETERSBURG, INDIANA.

POST.

No. 887,217.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 12, 1908.

Application filed January 3, 1908. Serial No. 409,185.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. OLIPHANT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Petersburg, in the county of Pike and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Posts, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has for its object an improved construction of fence post that will possess characteristics of simplicity of construction, and efficiency and durability, in that the post when set will resist to a maximum degree the ravages of time and the elements and will be otherwise strong in construction and rigid or stable in position when once set, and a further object of the invention is a post of this character embodying particularly an improved construction of post which may be folded, as will be hereinafter fully described, so as to occupy a small amount of space during shipment.

With these and other objects in view as will more fully appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists in certain constructions, arrangements and combinations of the parts that I shall hereinafter fully describe and then point out the novel features in the appended claims.

For a full understanding of the invention, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a fence post constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the post; Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the base of the post showing it in folded condition ready for shipment. Fig. 4 is a fragmentary perspective view of one of the plates; Fig. 5 is a side elevation of another embodiment of my improved fence post, the upper portion of the post proper being broken away and the foundation being shown in section; Fig. 6 is a horizontal sectional view on the line 6--6 of Fig. 5; Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a post showing its reinforcing members folded up against the plates of the post; and, Fig. 8 is a perspective view of a further embodiment of the invention.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

The base A of my improved fence post, in that embodiment of the invention illustrated

in Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 4 comprises two plates 1 which are preferably composed of sheet metal and which are provided at their lower edges with rivets 2 or studs that constitute the fastening means whereby to pivotally secure the ends of the reinforcing members 3 to the plates. In this form of the invention, the reinforcing members 3 comprise narrow strips of sheet metal bent into U-shape as shown with their ends pivotally connected to the lower ends of the plates 1, so that the two reinforcing members may be extended outwardly from the plates 1, as illustrated in Fig. 1, or swung around the side edges of the plates and over the opposite ends thereof whereby to securely hold the two plates together and the entire base in folded condition, as illustrated in Fig. 3. Hence, it will be seen that the device may be shipped in a substantially flat condition, ready to be extended and set up for use, the arrangement of the parts being such as to securely hold the two plates together when the reinforcing members are swung around over the upper edges of the plates and the entire base being thus rendered practically secure from injury in handling.

The plates 1 are formed with bonding openings 4 and the upper edges of the plates are offset or bent inwardly as indicated at 5. The plates 1 embrace the lower end of the post proper 6, which may be either of wood or metal. If the former, the plates are secured to the board constituting the post proper by means of nails or screws as illustrated in the drawing, the plates being formed with openings to receive the fastening devices and being preferably provided with reinforcing plies 7 on their inner faces, said reinforcing plies being riveted or otherwise secured at one or more points to the plates 1 and being formed with openings through which the fastening devices extend. When the plates are secured to the post 6, the offset edges 5 of the plates fit in grooves 8 formed in the two offset faces of the post, thereby assisting in securing the parts together and forming a water shed for any water that may flow down the faces of the post.

In setting a post constructed in accordance with the principles of my invention, a hole is dug deep enough to receive the plates 1 and reinforcing members 3 in extended relation, the hole being of any desired or predetermined width. Concrete or any other similar substance is then poured into the hole to

form a foundation for the post, as indicated at 9. The said foundation substance extends through the openings 4 so as to form a bond and it incases the reinforcing member 3 whereby to secure a firm foundation. Preferably the foundation extends level with or slightly above the surface of the ground, but preferably terminates short of the post proper, or at least does not extend above such lower edge.

As the plates 1 are not connected together except by the reinforcing members, it is obvious that they may be fitted to the posts of different thicknesses according as taste or judgment may dictate, or the exigencies of the case require.

In that form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 5 and 7, the plates 11 are formed in their lower edges with apertures to receive the looped ends 22 of reinforcing members 33, such looped ends constituting the fastening means which pivotally connects the reinforcing members to the plates. In this embodiment the reinforcing members are of wire, as clearly indicated in the drawings, and they are three in number and converge slightly towards their lower or free ends. The two outermost reinforcing members are preferably formed of one piece of wire bent into substantially U-shape, as indicated, with a cross bar 44 around which the intermediate or reinforcing member is looped near its outer end, as indicated at 55.

The plates 11 are formed with bonding openings 66 and the outer edges of the plates are offset or bent inwardly as indicated at 77 to fit in grooves 99 in the offset faces of the post proper 88. In this form of the invention, 100 designates the concrete foundation, and A' designates the entire base.

In that form or embodiment of the invention illustrated in Fig. 8, the base A' comprises plates 1^a to which the looped ends 2^a of the reinforcing members and wires 3^a are connected. In that form of the invention, there are six reinforcing members or wires, all of which converge downwardly. Four of these reinforcing members are secured to the respective plates 1^a above the lower edges thereof and at the side edges thereof and are arranged in pairs, the members of each pair being looped around the cross bar 4^a of the other two members, as indicated at 5^a, these latter being constructed of one integral piece of wire secured at its ends to both plates 1^a at the lower edges of the same. In this arrangement also, the plates 1^a are formed with bonding openings 6^a and with offset edges 7^a fitting in grooves 9^a of the post proper 8^a. In this embodiment, as well as those above described, the post is held firmly in place by a foundation of concrete or similar material. In placing the posts, if boards be used for the post proper, it is preferred that the broad

sides of the post will face the line of fencing which may be constructed of wires or rails, or any other equivalent devices, (not shown) sufficient to turn stock, or for other similar purposes.

From the foregoing description in connection with the accompanying drawing, it will be seen that I have provided a very simple, durable and efficient construction of fence post which may be cheaply made and when set will be firm in place and capable of withstanding hard use. As the wooden portion of the post, if wood be used for the post proper, is held out of contact with the soil, it will not be subjected to decay as would otherwise be the case, and will therefore last a considerable time.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A fence post comprising a post proper, and a base to which the post is secured, the base comprising plates embracing the post and formed with inwardly turned upper extremities embedded in the post, and reinforcing members secured to and extending downwardly from said plates.

2. A post of the character described, comprising a post proper and a base therefor, the base comprising plates embracing and secured to the lower end of the post proper and extending below the same, and reinforcing members connected at one end to one plate and at another end to the other plate and arranged to extend downwardly below the plates.

3. A post of the character described, comprising a post proper and a base therefor, the base comprising plates embracing and secured to the post proper and extending below the same, and reinforcing members connected to both of said plates below the lower end of the post and adapted, in set up condition to extend downwardly below the lower edge of the plates and adapted to fold into engagement with the face thereof.

4. A fence post base, comprising plates designed to embrace the lower end of the fence post and extend below the same, and reinforcing members connected to both of said plates and adapted to fold around the side edges thereof.

5. A fence post base, comprising plates adapted to be secured to the fence post, and reinforcing members pivotally connected at their ends to both plates at one end of the same and adapted to be swung laterally over the opposite ends of the plates.

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

W. A. OLIPHANT.

Witnesses:

JOHN M. BURCH,
W. B. CARLISLE.