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SNOW SCREENS  
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Fig. 1.

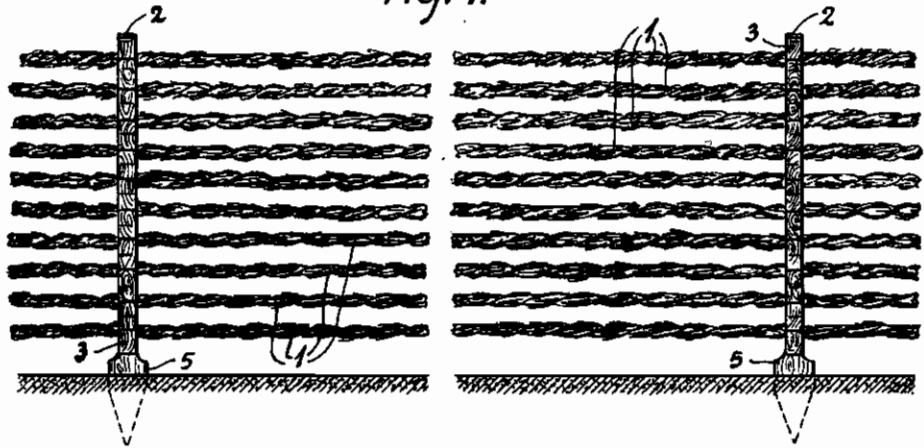


Fig. 2.

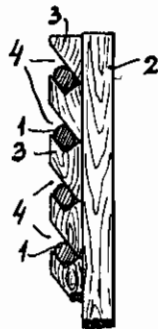


Fig. 3.



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# ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

## SNOW SCREENS

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The present invention relates to an improved snow screen for preventing the collecting of snow in drifts.

It is commonly known to erect snow screens for preventing the drifting up of snow on railway lines and on roads. Such screens usually comprise elements arranged with a suitable spacing through which the air current and a part of the drifting snow may pass, and which space serves to reduce the speed of the current of air to such a degree that the major portion of the drifting snow drops behind the screen.

Such screens are erected temporarily at wintertime along great distances, and the practical value of them is thus not only dependent on their ability to retain the drifting snow, but likewise on the costs incurred in their production, and the facility of their erection and subsequent removal, as well as their durability. Various forms of snow screens have been proposed, as for instance screens made of a number of wooden bars arranged mutually parallel in vertical, horizontal or oblique rows, or arranged crosswise to each other, and fixed in any suitable manner with a suitable spacing between the separate bars. These snow screens of known construction are comparatively expensive, and experience shows that they do not provide a screening effect such as is obtained by means of screens or hedges consisting of elements having a surface that offers greater air resistance than the comparatively smooth bars.

Screens made of plaited material such as rope or the like are likewise known, but they are more expensive in production than the above described screens of wooden bars, and they are very heavy to handle while erecting or removing the screens.

The object of the present invention is to provide means for producing a snow screen that is cheap in production, in transport, and in erection and removal. The snow screen according to the invention is mainly characterized by the combination of a number of bands having a brush-like surface, and a number of posts, on which the bands are attached in rows above each other and relatively spaced, and substantially parallel to the soil in which the posts are inserted in vertical position.

The bands employed in such snow screens are according to the invention made of straw or wood-flock or similar material. The material employed is twisted in known manner to form a rope-like element. Alternately the straw may be sewn or in any other suitable manner as-

sembled with a rope, which serves as the carrier of the band.

Bands of this kind are exceedingly easy to make, and they are very light, and accordingly are easy to apply to and remove from the posts, which are provided with carrier members for this purpose.

In order to increase the durability of the bands, when intended to be employed for instance for more than a single winter, the material employed may be impregnated in any suitable known manner.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a snow screen,

Fig. 2 a vertical section through the screen, shown in Fig. 1, and

Fig. 3 a modified construction of a straw band for a snow screen according to the invention.

Referring particularly to Figs. 1 and 2, the numeral 1 indicates a band member made of straw and attached to a number of posts 2 by means of carrier members. These members each comprise a block 3 affixed to the post and provided with an incision 4, into which the band 1 is inserted laterally while erecting the screen. The blocks 3 are arranged on each post in such a manner that the desired spacing between the bands after their insertion within the incisions may be obtained.

Preferably the lower end of each post is provided with a spade-like widening 5. When inserting this end of the post into the soil, the widened part lies in the longitudinal direction of the screen. In this manner it is possible to provide a comparatively great resistance against the upsetting of the screen, even if posts of a light construction are employed. Furthermore the driving of the posts into the soil is facilitated.

Instead of employing straw in the manufacture of the bands there may be used a material as wood-flock. As an alternative there may be used straw which by sewing or other means of attachment is fastened to a rope or line that serves as carrier member for the band. In Fig. 3 there is shown a portion of such a band, in which 6 indicates the carrier rope, to which there is affixed transversely disposed rows of short straw.

Through experiments it has been found that the rows of bands should cover about one half of the surface area of the screen, so that accordingly the space between the bands will substantially correspond to the cross section of a band, taken on a vertical plane. The brush-like bands suspended between each pair of posts have a

considerable checking effect on the current of air passing through the screen, and owing to the swinging of the bands brought about by the wind, there are caused whirls in the air to the effect that the drifting snow is thrown to the ground, where it remains. Furthermore the swinging of the bands has the effect that the snow cannot cling to the bands and thus alter

the brush-like character thereof to a smooth surface.

The costs of production of the bands will normally be so small that after removal they may be burned, and only the posts are stored until again to be used.

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