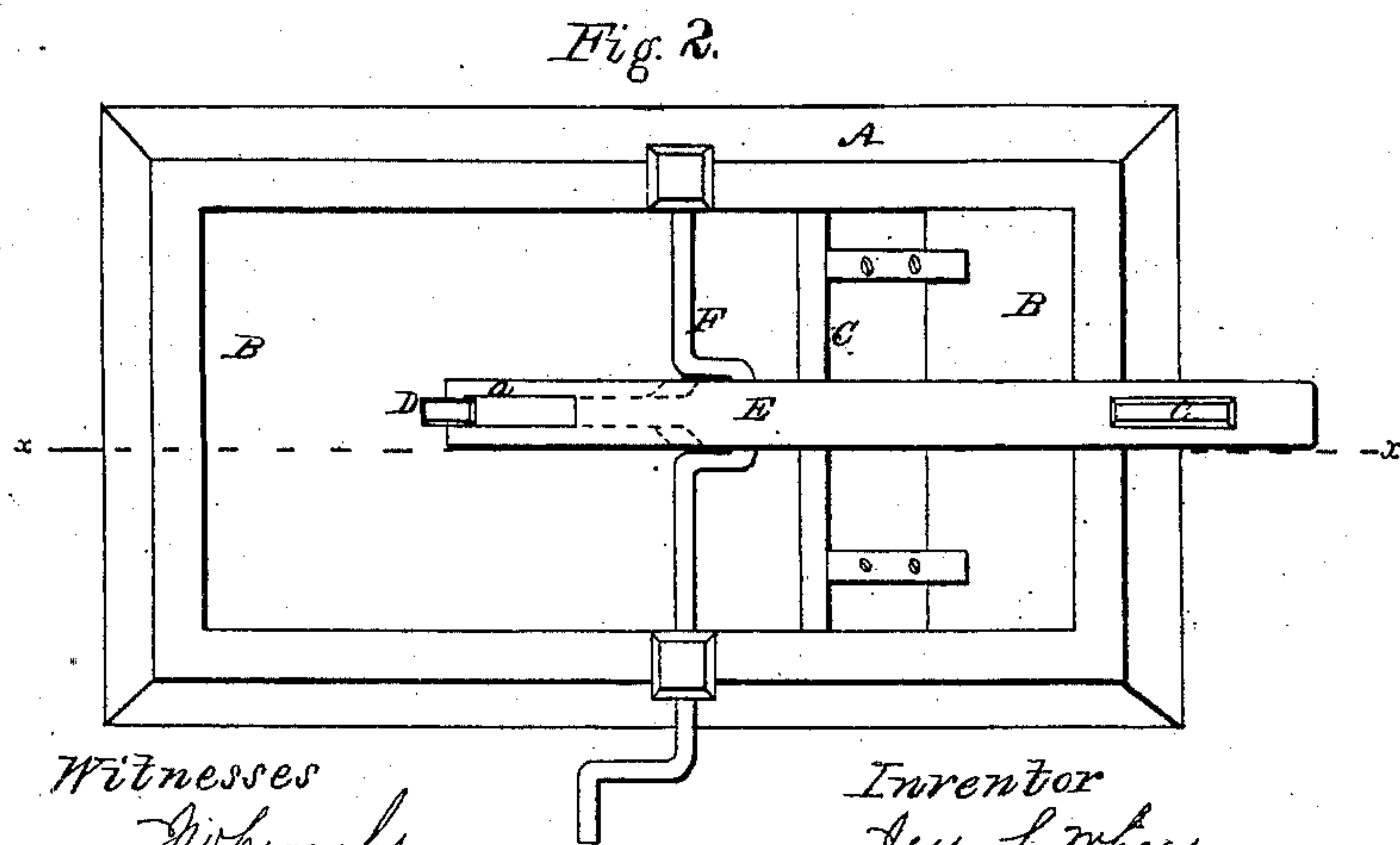
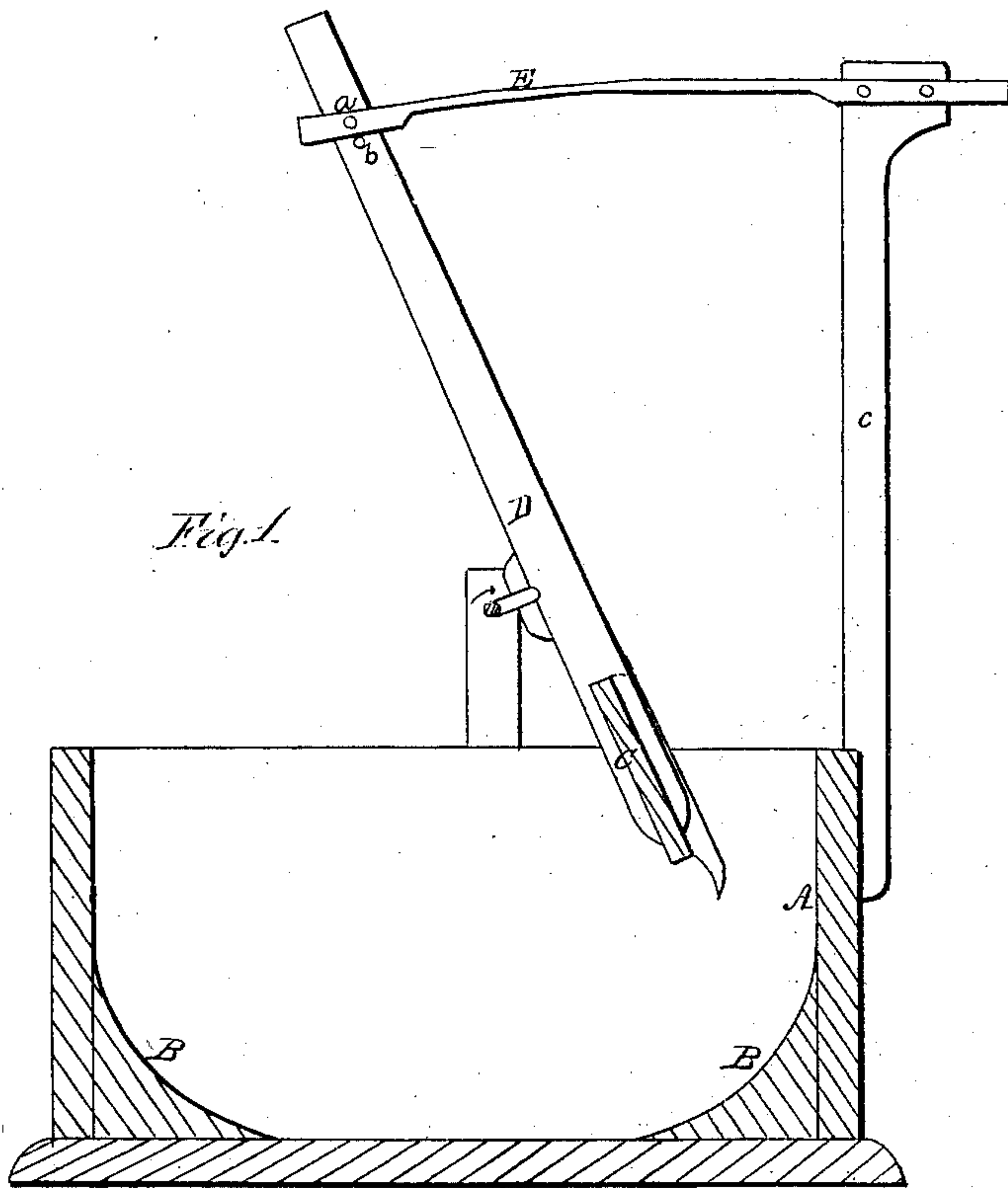


J. S. Wheat,
Tanning Hides,
No 41,336, *Patented Jan. 19, 1864.*



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JESSE S. WHEAT, OF SOUTH WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA.

IMPROVED MACHINE FOR HANDLING HIDES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 41,336, dated January 19, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JESSE S. WHEAT, of South Wheeling, in the county of Ohio and State of West Virginia, have invented a new and Improved Apparatus for Handling Hides and Skins; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal vertical section of my invention, taken in the plane indicated by the line *x x*, Fig. 2. Fig. 2 is a plan or top view of the same.

Similar letters of reference in both views indicate corresponding parts.

This invention consists in the employment or use for the purpose of handling hides and skins of one or more paddles suspended by an adjustable arm from a spring-bar over a vat containing hides or skins and tanning or bait liquor or lime-bath, and connected to a crank-shaft in such a manner that by the combined action of the spring-bar and crank-shaft a reciprocating rotary motion is imparted to the paddle, and thereby the liquor and hides or skins in the vat are caused to revolve over and over, and the hides or skins are thus handled with the least possible labor and exertion. For the purpose of handling an extraordinary heavy pack of hides the paddle is armed with two or more hooks, which act on the hides and cause them to revolve by direct application of power.

To enable those skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe it.

A represents a tanning-vat constructed of wood or any other suitable material, and provided with a false rounded bottom, B. C is a paddle, which is rigidly attached to the lower end of an arm, D, which is hinged by a pivot, *a*, to the slotted end of a spring-bar, E. The arm D may be made of wood or any other suitable material, and, instead of attaching one paddle directly to the lower end of said arm, two or more paddles might be secured to it by a suitable link or cross bar. The upper end of the arm D is provided with a series of holes, *b*, so that by changing the position of the pivot *a* and crank F the handle or paddles

can be set higher or lower, as may be desired; or by using a link having a slit in each end and attaching the crank to the center of said link, two rows of vats with a paddle in each may be operated from the same crank-shaft.

The spring-bar E may be attached to an upright, *c*, rising from the end of the vat or to the ceiling; or it may be secured in any other desirable manner at the proper height above the vat, and it may either be made of wood, metal, or of both combined, as may be desirable. The loose end of said spring-bar extends over the center of the vat, and by the action of this bar the weight of the arm and paddle is balanced. In case there is not room to work the spring the end of the bar attached to the ceiling may be hinged; or the slot in the bar may have rollers placed in it and the arm work up and down through the slot. The arm D is connected at a point between the paddle and pivot *a* to a crank-shaft, F, which has its bearings in two uprights rising from the side edges of the vat or in hangers extending down from the ceiling in such a position that said shaft extends in a direction at right angles, or nearly so, to the spring-bar E. If desired, this shaft may be made to extend across two or more vats placed side by side, and different cranks set in different directions may be used to work one or more paddles in each vat. A rotary motion is imparted to the crank-shaft F by hand or other competent power in the direction of the arrow marked near it in Fig. 1, and by this motion the paddle is carried back above the surface of the liquor, then down into the liquor and forward, then out of the liquor and back, continually carrying the liquor forward at the top of the vat and causing it to assume a turning motion toward the bottom of the vat, while the current created back of the paddle imparts an upward motion to the liquor or skins at the bottom of the vat.

By these means the liquor and the hides or skins are caused to revolve with ease and comparatively little exertion.

In cases where extraordinary packs of hides are to be handled, hooks *d* are secured to the paddle, and by the action of these hooks the operation of turning and handling the hides is considerably facilitated.

This apparatus might also be applied as a propelling power for boats.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The employment or use, for the purpose of handling hides or skins, of one or more paddles, C, secured to an arm, D, which is suspended from a spring-bar, E, or its equivalent, and derives its motion from a crank-

shaft, F, or its equivalent, substantially in the manner herein shown and described.

2. The application of the hooks *d* to the paddles or paddle C, as and for the purposes set forth.

JESSE S. WHEAT.

Witnesses:

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