A. D. ATWOOD.

Sheep Stock.

No. 68,591. Patented Sept. 10, 1867.

Fig. 1.

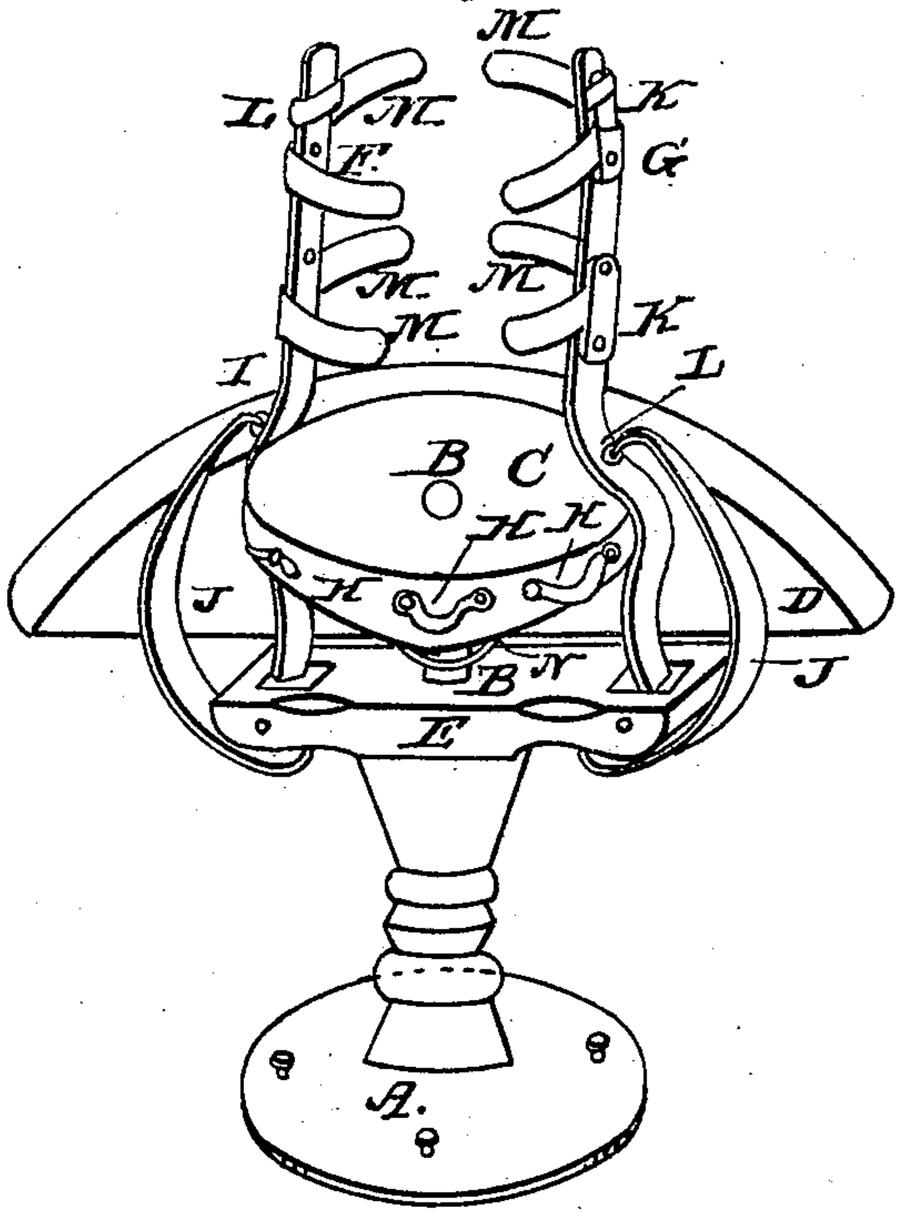
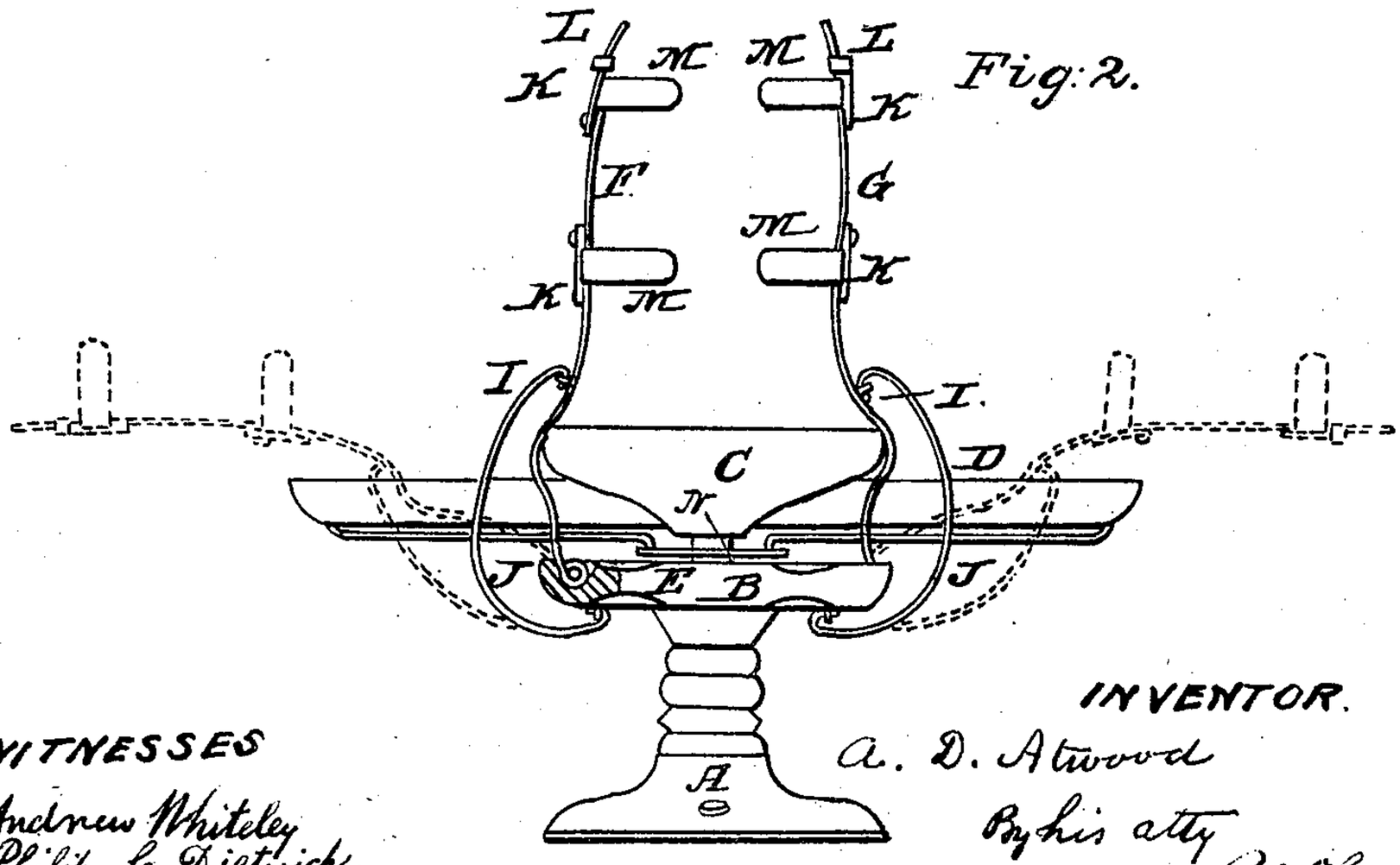


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES

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A. D. ATWOOD, OF SAYBROOK, ILLINOIS.

Letters Patent No. 68,591, *dated September* 10, 1867.

SHEEP-CHAIRS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, A. D. ATWOOD, of Saybrook, in the county of McLean, and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Sheep-Chairs; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my sheep-chair.

Figure 2 is a front elevation of the same.

That others may understand the construction and mode of using my invention, I will particularly describe it.

A is the pedestal or stand upon which the seat and appurtenances are mounted; it may be secured to the barn floor by screws or any other means, and may be fastened to the ground by stakes, &c. From this pedestal rises the stud or shaft B, which is cylindrical in form, and forms the pivot upon which are mounted the revolving seat C, table D, and cross-head E which supports the spring-backs F G, against one of which the sheep is to recline while being sheared. The seat C is a concave circular block, turned of proper size and concavity to make a convenient seat. It is mounted upon the upper end of the shaft B, and may be turned about thereon as upon a pivot. On its outer side or edge is a number of straps and fastenings, H H, which may be used, if necessary, to secure the hind legs of the sheep when refractory. It will not often be found necessary, however, to resort to their use, as the position of the sheep in this chair is not uncomfortable, and they are seldom disposed to struggle unless placed in a painful position. At each end of the cross-head E is pivoted one of the backs F G. A description of the construction of one will apply to both said backs. The back F is a metallic bar, which for convenience is curved, substantially as shown. The lower end is bent in the form of a hook, and the same is passed under a pin which is passed through the cross-head and through a recess in the top of the same, as shown. The back F must be thus attached when the cross-head is detached, as it can only be thrown forward far enough for that purpose when the seat C is removed. At the back of the bar F is the loop I, into which one end of the spring J is hooked, while the other end of the same spring is hooked in a corresponding loop beneath the cross-head. The spring J is extended when it is being hooked into its loops, and as it moves upon the loop under the cross-head as a centre of motion, when the back F is pushed forward or backward; and as the said back moves upon a centre which is somewhat higher up and nearer the end of the cross-head, it follows that their movements do not coincide, and as the back F is pushed backward the spring J is more and more extended until a line is passed which passes through the two ends of the spring and the pivot at the bottom of the back, when the further motion of the back permits the ends of the spring J to approach each other again. The effect of this arrangement is to secure a double operation of the spring; it presses the back upward when it is raised beyond a certain point, and it pulls the same downward when it is depressed below the same point. At the upper end of the back are secured by pivots at one end of each the straps K K, their free ends being confined by the sliding-loops L. These straps confine the curved ribs M M which support the sides of the sheep while being sheared. The construction of the straps K permits the ribs M to be slipped endways or slightly inclined, as desired. The table D serves to catch the fleece as it is severed from the sheep. It is constructed with several rods attached to a central plate, N, and distended by a rim-wire which extends around about the space of one-half a circle. These rods and the rim-wire are covered by a cloth or other suitable fabric, and the whole may be folded like a fan by withdrawing the rim-wire. The plate N is provided with an orifice through which the pivot B is to be passed when the table is in place.

The method of using my sheep-chair will suggest itself to all. The sheep is lifted and placed within the concavity of the bowl or seat C, sitting upon his rump, and with his back resting against one of the supports F G. The attendant's left hand should be placed against the sheep's breast, when he may be held firmly. If the support F is used in the first instance the opposite support G is to be turned down, as shown in red lines in fig. 2. As the operation of shearing progresses, the sheep and his seat C may be revolved, as required, without revolving the supports, and when the fleece is about half removed the sheep is readily transferred from F to G, by bringing the latter upright and pressing the sheep over against it. The first support may then be turned down and out of the way. The shearer can make the sheep recline more or less, as he desires, by depressing the back against which he is leaning. It will be perceived that this chair may be taken entirely apart without the removal of a single pin or screw; the seat C, plate N, and cross-head E, being simply placed upon the stud

B without fastening. This is a great convenience, and renders the apparatus much cheaper than would otherwise be the case.

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

1. The revolving seat C, in combination with the flexible back F or G, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The fleece-table D, in combination with the seat C, and backs F G, substantially as described.

3. The movable ribs M M, in combination with the back-bar F or G, substantially as set forth and described.

4. The spring J and back F, in combination with the seat of a sheep-chair.

5. A sheep-chair constructed with the pedestal A, cross-head B, seat C, and table-plate N, fitted to each other substantially in the manner shown, so that the whole may be taken apart without the removal of any fastening.

6. The fleece-table D, constructed as described, so that by the removal of the rim-wire said table may be folded like a fan.

A. D. ATWOOD.

Witnesses:

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R. E. BECKWITH.