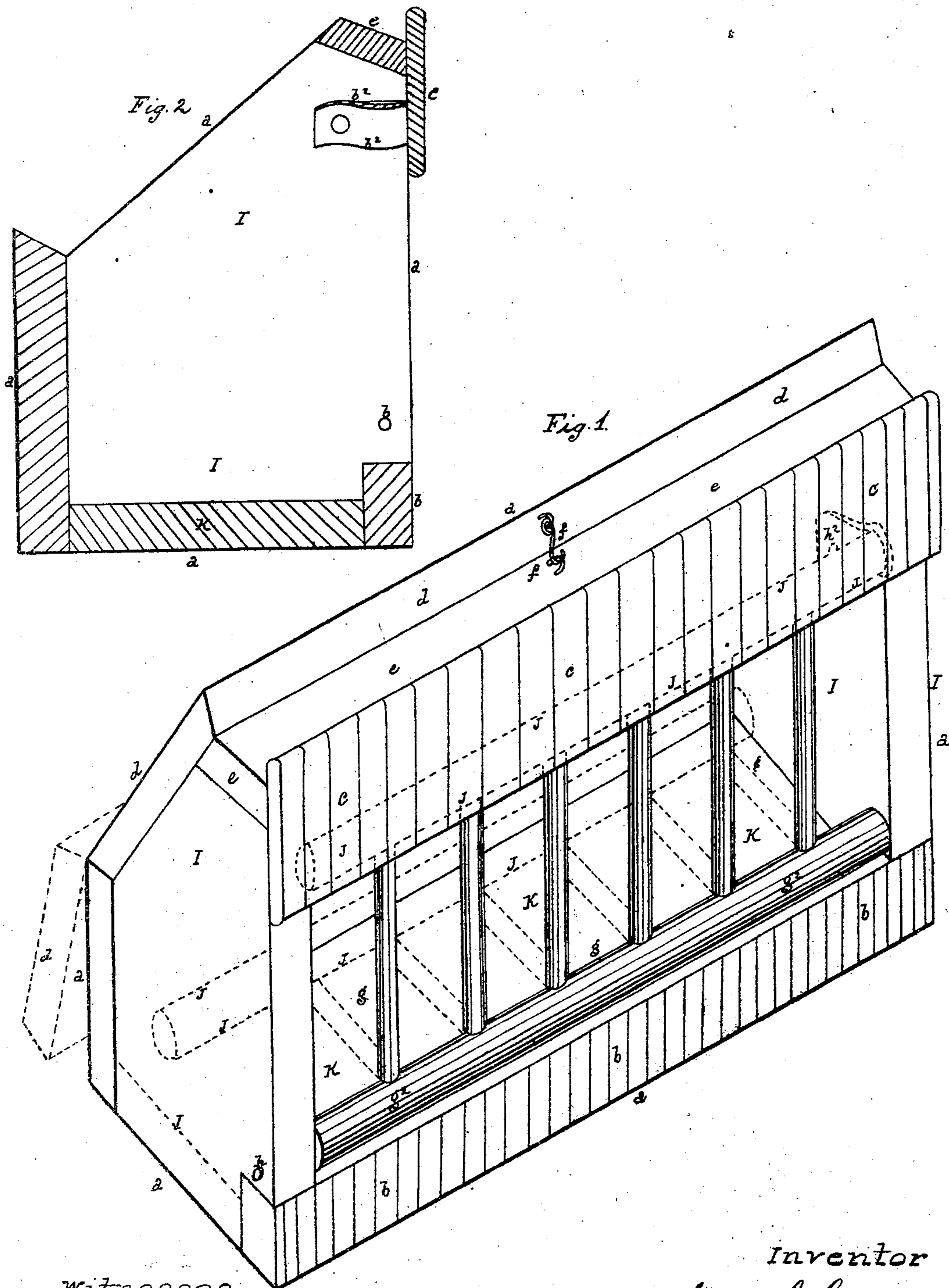


J. D. White.

Sheep-Rack.

N^o 73065

Patented Jan. 7, 1868.



witnesses
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JACOB D. WHITE, OF KILBOURNE, OHIO.

Letters Patent No. 73,065, dated January 7, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN SHEEP-RACKS.

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, JACOB D. WHITE, of Kilbourne, in the county of Delaware, and State of Ohio, have invented and made certain new and useful Improvements in Sheep-Racks; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 is a perspective representation of the rack, complete.

Figure 2 is an end view of the rack, showing the pieces of leather or spring-metal on the inside of the rack, to hold up the ladder.

The nature of my improvements consists in the peculiar arrangement of the ladders of racks for feeding sheep and other animals in such a manner as that the ladder is hinged or works on journal-ends, and is held in position by the pressure of the quantity of hay, straw, or grass that is supplied within the box or receptacle to which the rack is attached, the ladder also being so arranged in vertical position as to act or move by its own gravity, and rest on the supply of hay or grass, as it diminishes in feeding.

In order to enable others to be skilled in the construction, use, and advantages of my improvements, I proceed to explain the same.

In fig. 1, letters *a a a* mark a box-like receptacle, of convenient portable size, the front side having a base-board, *b b b*, from twelve to fourteen inches wide, and the whole length of the box, securely attached, permanently, if desired, or hinged in any suitable manner. Letters *c c c* mark a top rail or board, attached in a similar manner, if desired, said board being designed as a guard and a rest-board, used to keep the animal feeding from getting its body within the box. Letters *d d d* mark an inclined or sloping lid, which is hinged by its under side edge to the back board of the box *a a a*. This hinged lid falls over towards the front of the box, and rests against a strip or rail, *e e e*, attached to the top of the box, said lid being provided with a suitable hook or fastening, *f f*. Letters *g g g* mark a suitable ladder or grating, the lower longitudinal rail or strip *g² g²* having its ends formed with suitable journals, which work in sockets or boxes *h h*, formed in the end-boards *i i i i*; said sockets or boxes being situated so as to bring the lower rail or strip *g² g²* slightly above and parallel with the top of the base-board *b b b*. The upper rail or strip *J J J*, indicated by the dotted lines, is long enough to fit in slightly loose between the end-boards of the box-receptacle; but in order to keep the ladder or grating *g g g² g²* in a vertical position, when required, small pieces of leather, *h² h²*, or spring-metal, are attached to the inside surfaces of the end-boards *i i i i*, fig. 2, which pieces of leather interposed between the ends of the upper rail *J J*, when in vertical position, prevent the ladder *g g* from falling down flat on to the bottom or floor *k k k*, except when slightly pressed against by the animal feeding at the rack; the whole arrangement, when complete, as shown in fig. 1, forming a feeding-rack or portable manger, with a sloping and weather-tight cover.

In the use of my improvements, all that is necessary is to open or turn down the lid or cover *d d d*, when the material of food is supplied within the receptacle, in required quantity. When hay or other similar material is fed, it presses up against the ladder or rack *g g g² g²*, and as the animal feeding through the bars or rounds of the grating reduces the supply, its nose or head pressing against the bars or rounds causes the ladder or rack to give and turn down inwardly towards and against the diminishing supply, and resting thereon until all the feeding-material is consumed. Owing to the limited space or opening between the base-board *b b b* and the top guard-board *c' c' c'*, the animal is prevented from entering within the box and from treading the food under feet. The arrangement of the base-board *b b b*, the top rail *c' c' c'*, and the ladder or rack *g g g² g²* is such as to prevent entirely the seed and dirt from the hay or straw falling on to the animal feeding. Especially is this important in the feeding of sheep, for thereby their wool is kept clean and free of seed and dirt, and affording great comfort to the animal in feeding, as it cannot throw its head upward, to pull down the hay or straw, thereby preventing injury also to the animal's eyes, all of which are greatly desired in the feeding of sheep and other animals yielding fleeces.

In cases where the seed from grass or timothy hay, or heads of clover, fall on to the bottom or floor of the rack or manger, the animal feeding can consume the same freely and conveniently, by licking up between the bars or grating of the ladder; and in the feeding of oats or grain, there cannot be any waste by the trampling

under feet of the food, the base-board *b b* being too high to allow the animal to get its fore feet within the receptacle. Thus economy, cleanliness, and convenience are produced, and comfort to the animal afforded, with the least labor and expense.

The many advantages of my improvements are apparent, and the simplicity of construction and cheapness are additional recommendations in the feeding of sheep. The rack or manger being portable, can be arranged on wheels and moved from place to place in fields or farm-yards, and can be set up alongside of any barn or shed, and an opening made to communicate from within, where the animals may be housed in wet and cold seasons, and fed from the rack situated on the outside.

I am aware that there are several feeding-racks in use, in connection with which movable or hinged ladders are combined, with other necessary devices, for adjusting the ladder; but I am not aware that there has ever been employed a simple ladder, so arranged that it remains in a vertical position by the mere pressure of the material used for feeding, and the pieces of leather, *h² h²*, or spring-metal, figs. 1 and 2, employed to retain the ladder in position while the feed-receptacle or manger is being supplied through the opening on top.

In the sheep-rack patented by William Heaton, September 29, 1863, a hinged fork or rake-like device is employed, but in order that it perform the desired office, an auxiliary bar, connected by joints, is found requisite, the weight of which causes the hinged fork to fall backward as the supply of feeding-material diminishes.

In the patents of William and H. Sias, of July 19, 1864, and the patent of Rodman Lovell, of May 15, 1866, hinged ladders are employed; but they only fall back partially, and do not all the time press or rest on the material supplied for feeding, whilst the ladder or grating used in my rack moves and presses down on the feed-supply, by its own inherent weight and gravity mainly, after being pushed from its vertical position by the animal feeding. Hence my improvements require no auxiliary devices to move the ladder or grating. Moreover, neither of the devices referred to above is susceptible, as it exists, of being applied to my feeding-rack; any alteration found requisite to make one take the place of the other, changing the original nature and mechanical character entirely, and destroying the identity of each. Therefore, neither of the feeding-devices above referred to can be the equivalents of my-improvement. Nor do they possess the compactness and simplicity pertaining to the improvements claimed by me as new.

Having described the nature, construction, use, and advantages of my said improvements, what I claim as new, and desire to have secured by Letters Patent of the United States, is as follows, viz:

I claim a feeding-rack or manger, *a a a, b b, c c, I I*, provided with an inclined hinged lid or cover, *d d*, and a self-adjusting feed-rack, *g g g², J J*, which is held in a vertical position by the pieces of leather *h² h²* affixed to each end of the rack; and so arranged as to press backwardly on the feeding-material by its own gravity, without any auxiliary appliances, constructed and arranged substantially as herein shown and described, for the purpose set forth.

JACOB D. WHITE.

Witnesses:

S. W. WHITE,
ELIJAH ABBOTT.