M. S. Woodbury.

Sheep Rack.

No. 86,485. Patented Feb. 2, 1869.

Fig. 1.

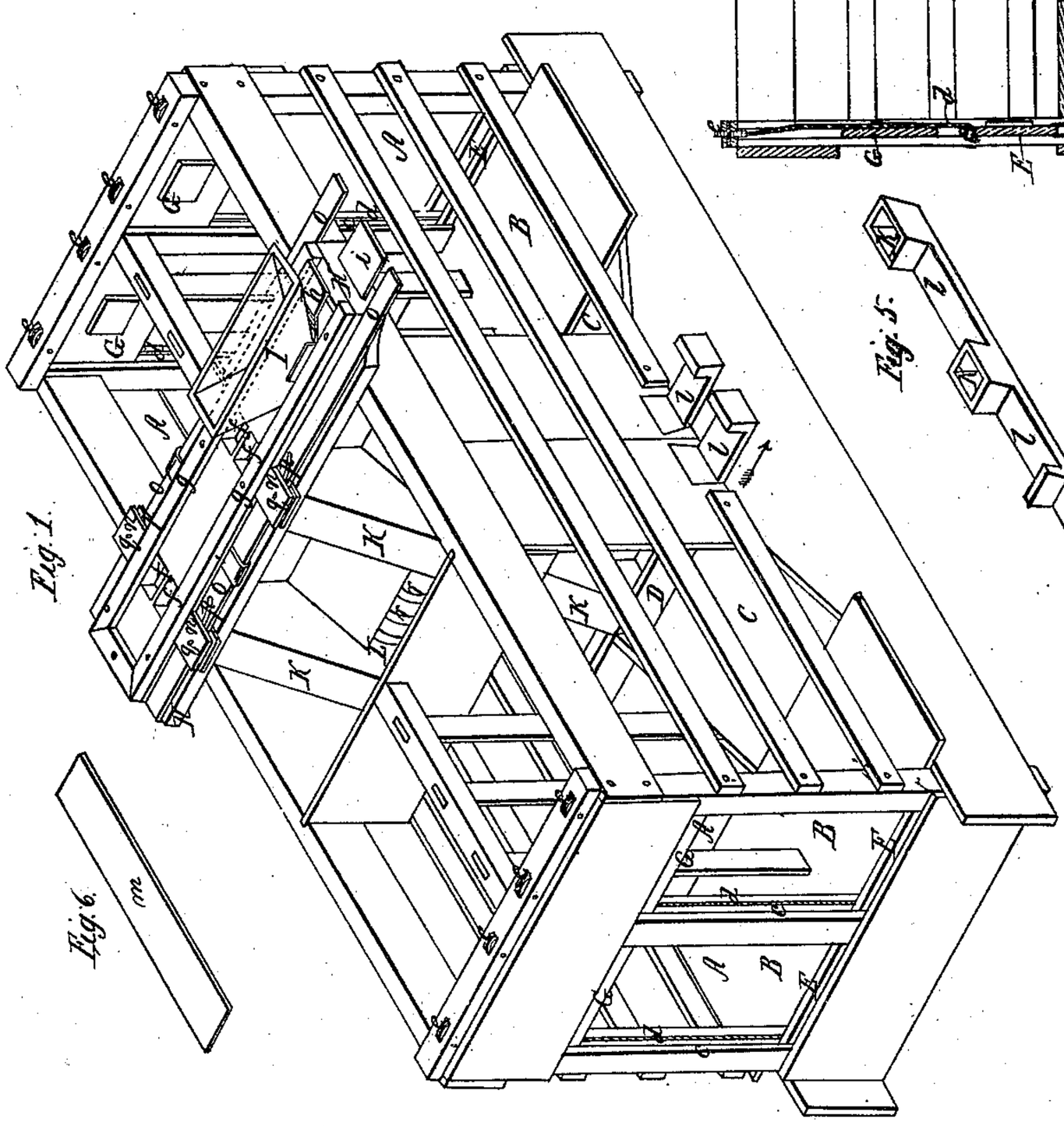

Fig. 2.

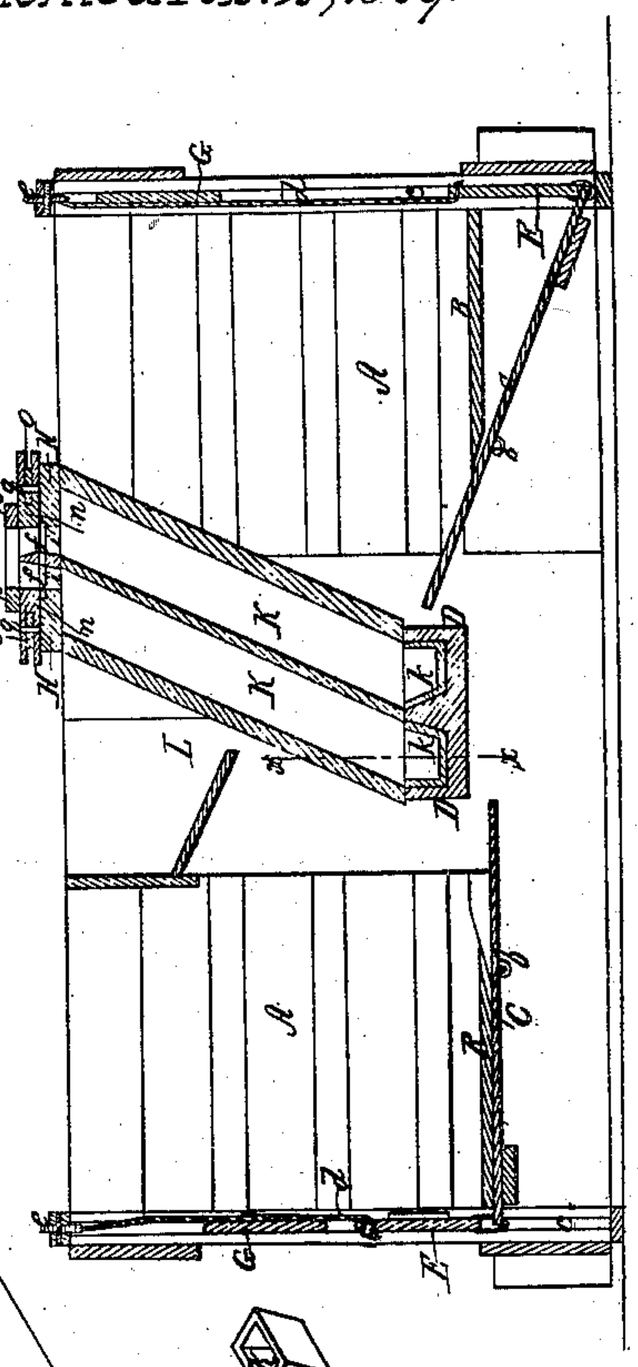

Fig. 3.

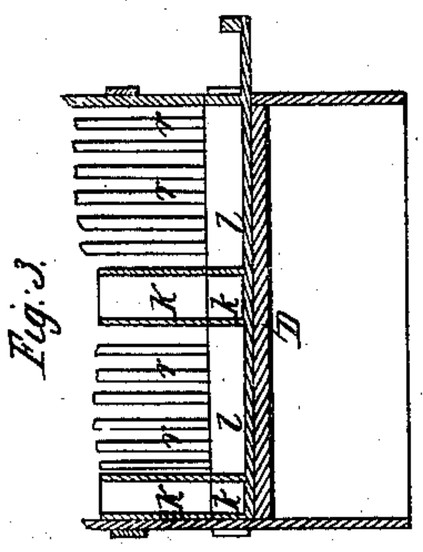

Fig. 4.

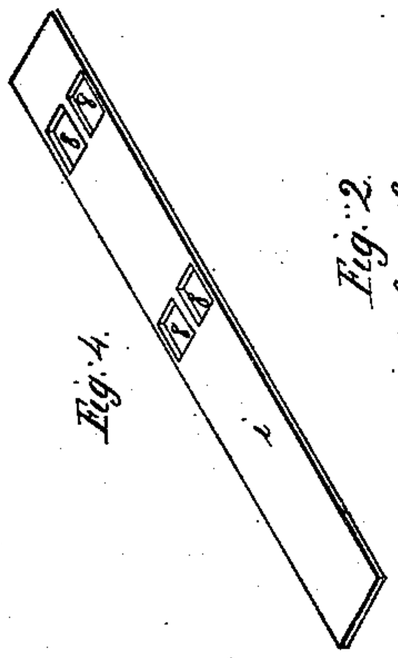

Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

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MARK S. WOODBURY, OF BETHEL, VERMONT.

Letters Patent No. 86,485, *dated February* 2, 1869.

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, MARK S. WOODBURY, of Bethel, in the county of Windsor, and State of Vermont, have invented certain Improvements in Sheep-Racks, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved sheep-rack.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal vertical section through the same.

Figure 3 is a transverse vertical section on the line *x x* of fig. 2.

Figures 4, 5, and 6, details.

The ordinary racks for feeding sheep are objectionable, for the reason that they admit of the sheep crowding each other away from the trough or receptacle containing the hay or grain, and when separate stalls are provided, the sheep which is at the rear frequently strikes the one in the stall with his fore feet, in order to dislodge him, and occupy his place, some of the sheep being thereby deprived of their just proportion of food.

To overcome this difficulty is the object of the first part of my invention, which consists in a pair of sliding doors applied to a stall, and operated by a tilting platform, so arranged that as the animal steps upon it, the doors will approach each other, and close or nearly close the rear end of the stall, thereby preventing the entrance of another sheep, the one already in the stall being thus left undisturbed while eating.

My invention also consists in a series of sliding feed-boxes, for receiving the grain, in combination with a series of conductors and measures, or receptacles, for holding the grain, which is liberated by means of a slide, and passes through the conductors to the feed-boxes, which are then drawn out simultaneously from beneath the conductors into a position accessible to the sheep, by which construction I am enabled to feed a definite quantity to each animal in an expeditious manner, and without waste.

My invention also consists in a sliding hopper, which is moved on suitable ways over the several measures, for the purpose of filling them expeditiously, and without waste of grain; and

My invention furthermore consists in a device for varying the capacity of the measures, when it is desired to change the quantity of grain to be fed to each animal.

To enable others skilled in the art to understand and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the manner in which I have carried it out.

In the said drawings—

A A represent a series of stalls, which are separated from each other by means of slatted partitions, and are arranged, side by side, in double rows within a suitable shed or building.

Beneath the floor B of each stall is hung, at *b*, a tilting platform, C, the front end of which inclines upward, and projects beyond the floor B, to a point near the trough D.

To the rear end of the platform C (which is weighted, as seen in fig. 2,) is hinged, or otherwise secured, a door, E, which slides in suitable grooves or ways, *c*, at the rear end of the stall, and has secured to it cords, *d*, which pass up over pulleys *e*, and are attached to another door, G, which also slides in the grooves *c*, and by means of these connections, when the front end of the platform C is depressed by the fore feet of the sheep, as he stands in the stall, the doors E G will approach each other, so as to close the entrance to the stall, and prevent its occupant from being crowded out, or otherwise disturbed, while feeding. As soon, however, as the animal steps backward, and removes his feet from the platform C, its rear end will drop, carrying with it the door E, the descent of which serves to raise the door G, when the animal is at liberty to leave the stall.

I will now describe the manner in which a predetermined quantity of grain is fed to each animal.

H is a transverse piece extending over the stalls, and having formed in it cavities or measures, *f*, arranged in pairs, (one for each stall,) and of such dimensions as to contain the quantity of grain required for each animal.

These measures are filled by means of a removable hopper or box, I, which slides on the transverse piece H, being guided by the strips *g* on each side.

The bottom of the hopper I is closed by a slide, *h*, so that it may be removed and filled with grain, and afterward replaced, when the slide *h* is withdrawn and the hopper pushed by hand over the several measures *f*, which are thus filled in an expeditious manner, and without any waste.

i, fig. 4, is a long slide, which extends under the several measures *f*, and forms the bottoms thereof, this slide being provided with openings, 8, corresponding to the size of the measures *f*, so that when it is moved into a position to bring the openings 8 directly beneath them, (which is regulated by a stop,) their contents will pass down into conductors K, which serve to carry the grain to a series of feed-boxes *k*, figs. 2, 3, and 5, all of which are simultaneously filled, by the movement of the slide *i*, in an expeditious manner, and without any waste of grain.

The feed-boxes *k* of each row of stalls are attached to a long slide, *l*, which fits into the trough D, and forms the bottom thereof, and thus, by moving this slide *l* in the direction of the arrow, fig. 1, the boxes *k* of one row of stalls may be simultaneously drawn out from beneath the lower ends of the conductors K, into positions accessible to the sheep within the stalls, and each animal is thus provided with an equal quantity of grain, as required.

After the sheep have been fed, the slides *l* are pushed back so as to bring the boxes *k* beneath the conductors K, and the measures *f* are then covered over by

one or more slides, *m*, fig. 6, which fit between the guides *g*, and effectually prevent any dirt or dust from passing down the conductors into the feed-boxes, which are thus kept clean, and much time, which would otherwise be occupied in clearing them out, is thereby economized.

I will now describe the manner in which the capacity of the measures *f* is varied, and, consequently, the quantity of grain fed to each animal.

Each of the measures is provided with a short slide, *n*, forming one side thereof, and these slides are bifurcated at their outer ends for the reception of long transverse slides, *o*, (one for each row of stalls,) inclined slots, *p*, being formed in these slides *o*, opposite to the slides *n*, for the reception of pins, *q*, which pass through the slides *o*, and thus, as the slides *o* are moved, the short slides *n* are advanced or withdrawn, and the size of the measures is thus varied, as required.

Between the rows of stalls A A, is a space, L, for the reception of hay, which is drawn out between the bars *r*, in the ordinary manner, by the sheep in the stalls, the hay-seed, which it is desirable not to waste, falling into the trough D, from which it is eaten by the sheep.

By the employment of a sheep-rack, provided with a series of measures, slides, and feed-boxes, all arranged so that a definite quantity of grain can be simultaneously placed before each animal along the entire row of stalls, a vast amount of time and labor is saved, while the waste of grain which has heretofore occurred in feeding large flocks of sheep, is entirely avoided, each animal receiving his proper proportion of food, which he is allowed to consume, without being crowded or otherwise disturbed.

Claims.

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

The doors E G, applied to a stall, A, in combination with the tilting platform C, by which they are operated, substantially as and for the purpose described.

Also, a series of sliding feed-boxes, *k*, in combination with the conductors K, measures *f*, and slide *i*, operating substantially as described, for the purpose set forth.

Also, the sliding hopper I, in combination with the measures or cavities *f*, operating substantially as described.

Also, the slides *n*, in combination with the slide *o*, by which they are operated, for the purpose of regulating the size of the measures *f*, as set forth.

MARK S. WOODBURY.

Witnesses:

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