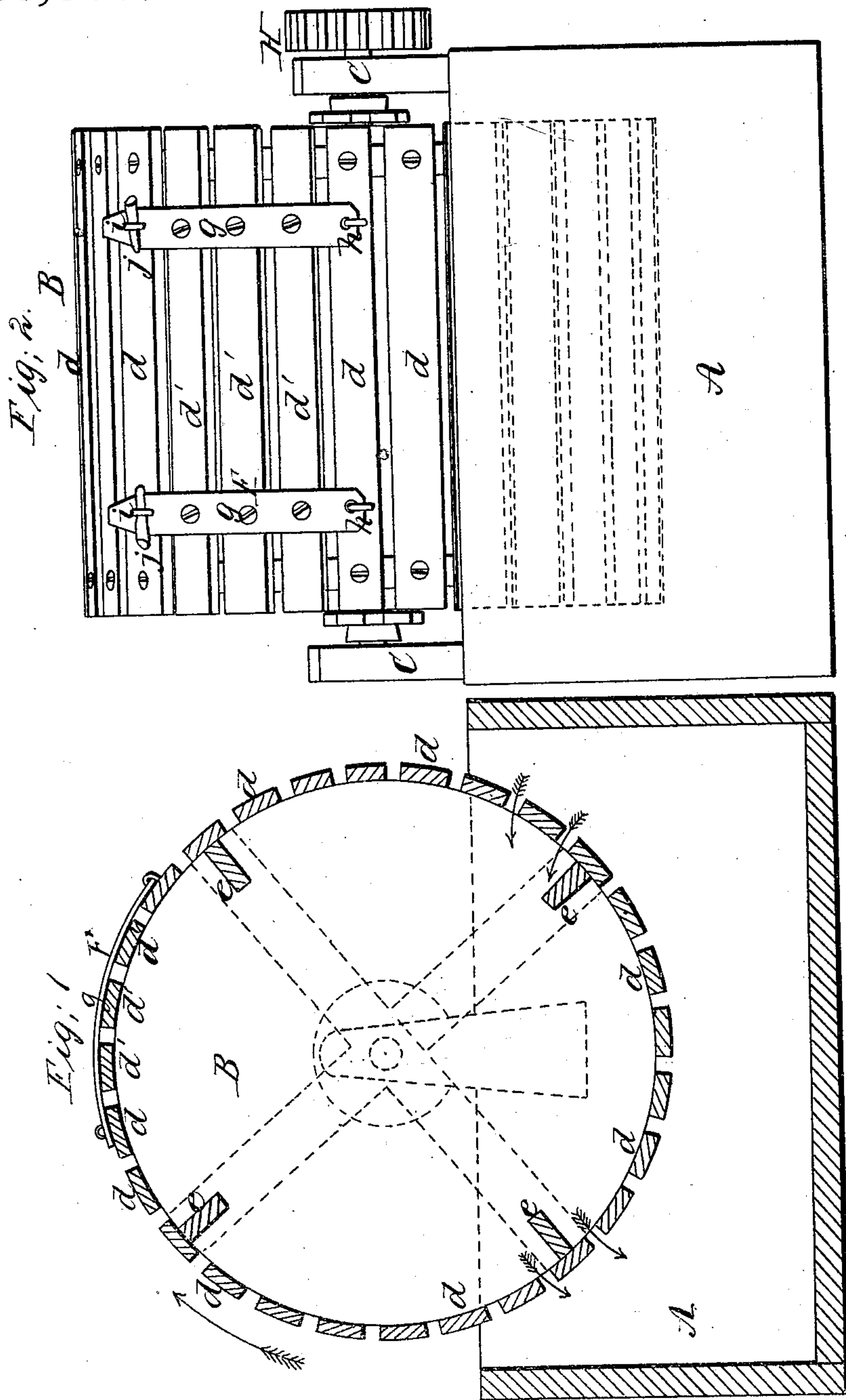


H. N. Meeker

Washing Hides.

No. 89,590.

Patented May 4, 1869



Witnesses,
J. L. Drake
Geo. W. Miatt.

Inventor,
Henry N. Meeker
by *J. Fraser & Co.*
attys.

United States Patent Office.

HENRY N. MEEKER, OF SMITH'S MILLS, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 89,590, dated May 4, 1869.

IMPROVEMENT IN MACHINES FOR WASHING HIDES AND LEATHER

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, HENRY N. MEEKER, of Smith's Mills, in the county of Chautauqua, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Machines for Washing Hides and Leather; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical section of my improved machine.

Figure 2, an end elevation.

Like letters of reference designate corresponding parts in both figures.

In the process of tanning, or the manufacture of leather, the skins and hides are required to be thoroughly washed after they are taken out of the tan-liquor, in order to remove the tan and other adherent matter, and in some of the various processes, this operation is several times repeated.

Heretofore this has been accomplished by subjecting each hide to a scrubbing, by means of a broom, a laborious and tedious operation.

The object of my improvement is the construction of a machine by which this process can be greatly expedited, and a corresponding saving in time and labor effected.

The invention consists of inwardly-projecting ribs, arranged radially within a slatted cylinder upon a horizontal axis, in which the hides are subjected to rubbing and rinsing by the rotation of the cylinder partially submerged in a vat of water.

In the drawings—

A represents the vat in which the cylinder B is arranged, and supported by its journals resting in suitable bearings in the standards C C, or equivalent.

This cylinder is constructed of longitudinal slats, or strips *d d*, secured to the peripheries of the heads, leaving a space between each two for the passage of the water.

To the inner surface of the cylinder is fastened a number of ribs *e e*, which are made to project inwardly, as shown in fig. 1.

These ribs are essential in order to produce the necessary agitation of the hides, which is most effectually accomplished by the partially rotating and "tumbling" motion they impart to them.

Without their use, the slippery nature of the hides combined with their gravity, would cause them to re-

main comparatively at rest in the bottom of the cylinder.

F is a door, through which the hides are introduced into the cylinder.

It is represented as constructed of three slats *d d d*, fastened to two straps of iron *g g*, one end of which is pivoted, or hinged to the cylinder at *h*, and the other provided with a slot, forming a hasp, which engages with a staple, *i*, and is fastened by a key, *j*, as clearly shown.

H is a pinion at the end of one of the journals, by which motion may be imparted to the cylinder.

It may, however, be rotated by any suitable power, and any other suitable arrangement of mechanism.

The vat A being filled with water, or other liquid, the hides are placed in the cylinder, which may be made of a size capable of containing a greater or less number, as required, and the latter set in motion, when a few minutes suffice to thoroughly wash the hides, which are then readily removed, and a fresh lot introduced.

By the use of my improved machine, any given number of hides may be properly washed in a much less period of time, and with but little labor compared with the ordinary fatiguing process by hand.

It may be noticed that the open slatted cylinder and enclosing vat insure a free ingress and egress of the water, which brings it in intimate contact with all portions of the hides, and the radial ribs *e* having a tendency to raise, or lift the water above its level in the vat, and therefore produce the effect of pouring, and give greater agitation.

The advantage of such an arrangement over a closed cylinder filled with water, and having no enclosing vat, is apparent.

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

The rotating slatted cylinder B, when provided with inwardly-projecting ribs, or shelves *e e*, for lifting portions of the water from the tub, or vat A, constructed, arranged, and operating substantially in the manner and for the purpose set forth.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

HENRY N. MEEKER.

Witnesses:

J. R. DRAKE,
JAY HYATT.