(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

E. A. SIEKER & A. H. SCHMIDT.

SHEEP DIPPER.

No. 494,265. Patented Mar. 28, 1893.

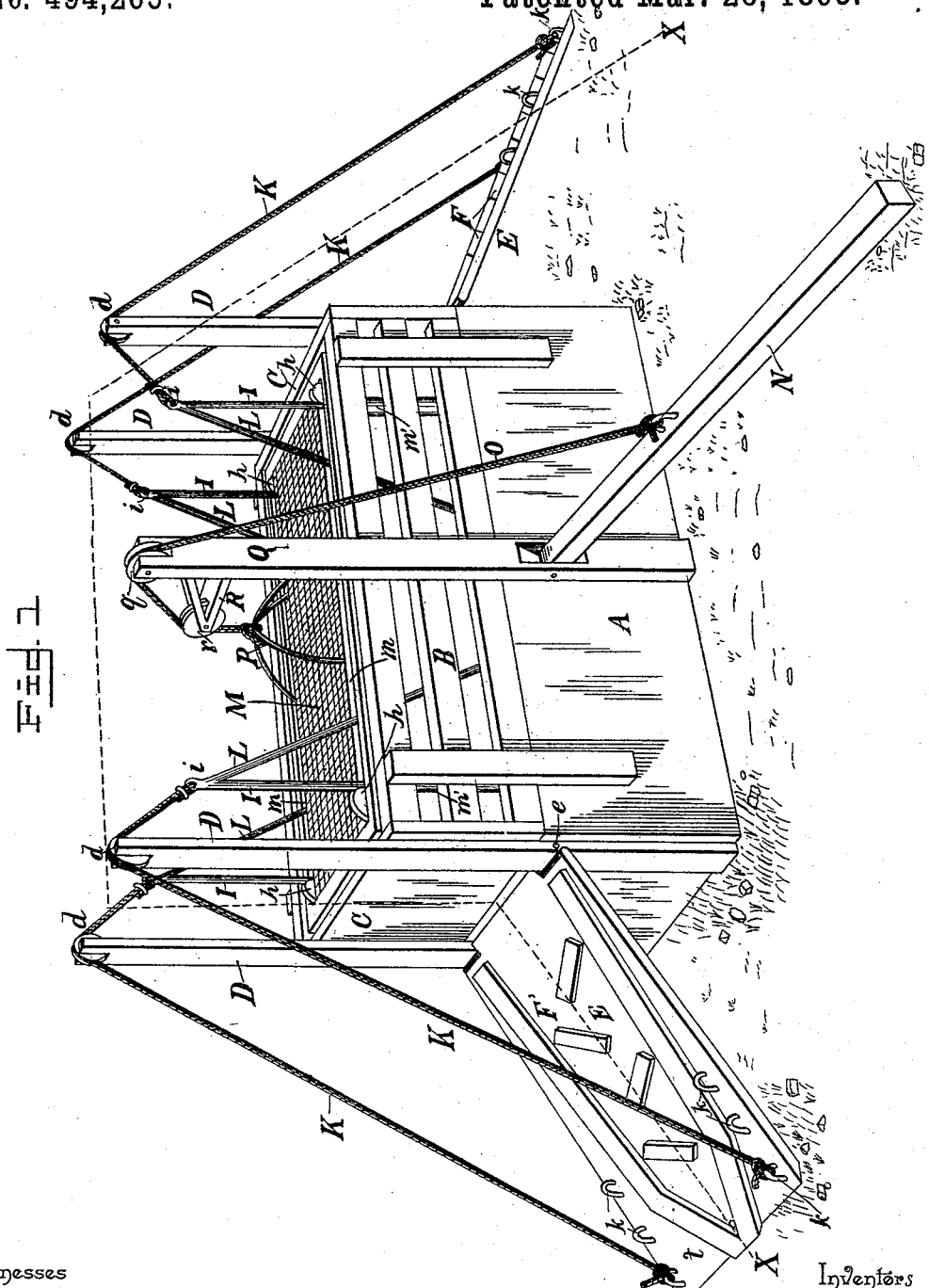

FIG. 1.

Witnesses
A. B. Mattingly
C. E. Doyle

Inventors
Edward A. Sieker and
Adolph H. Schmidt
By their Attorneys,
A. Snow & Co.

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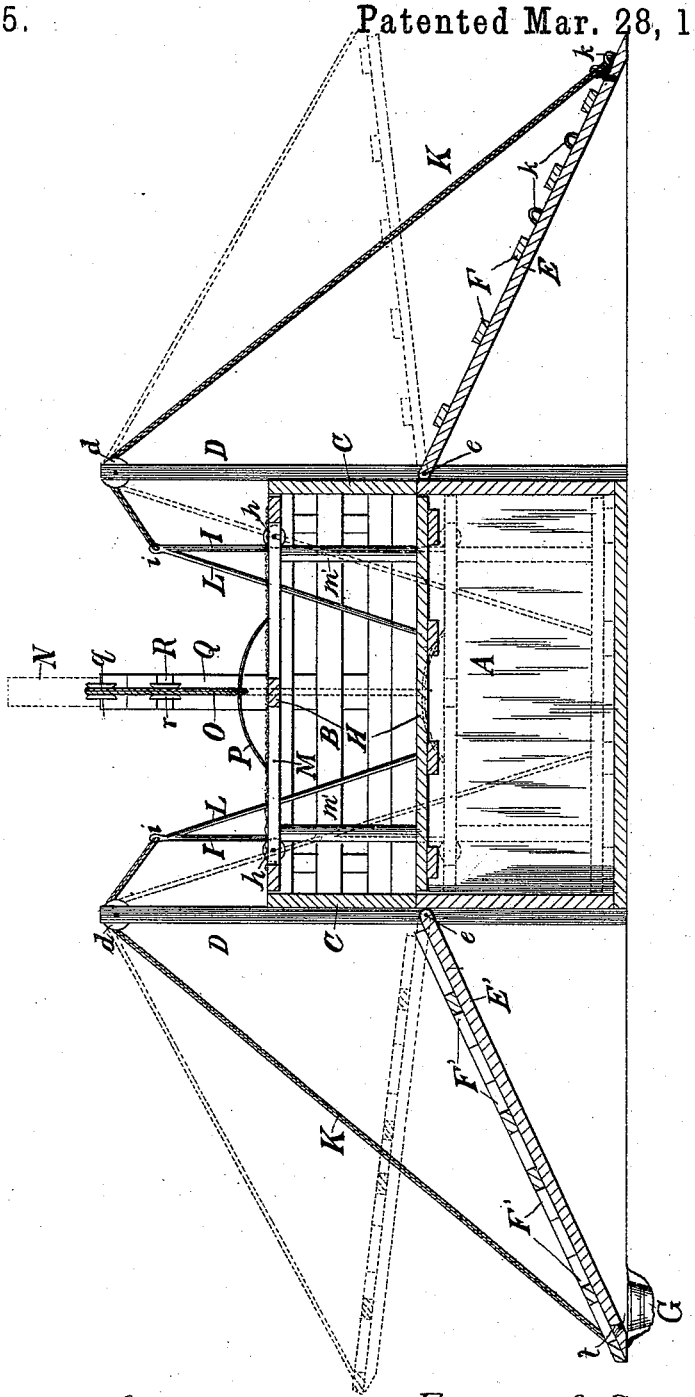

Fig. 1.

Witnesses
A. B. Mattingly
[illegible]

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Edward A. Sieker and
Adolph H. Schmidt
By their Attorneys,
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD ARMIN SIEKER AND ADOLPH H. SCHMIDT, OF BROWNWOOD, TEXAS.

SHEEP-DIPPER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 494,265, dated March 28, 1893.

Application filed October 10, 1892. Serial No. 448,405. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, EDWARD ARMIN SIEKER and ADOLPH H. SCHMIDT, citizens of the United States, residing at Brownwood, in the county of Brown and State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Sheep-Dipper, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to devices for dipping sheep, the objects in view being to provide means whereby the drowning of sheep may be avoided; furthermore to provide a device which may be readily operated without requiring that the entire weight of the sheep under treatment be lifted by the operator; and furthermore to provide a device which may be supported upon wheels and made portable, and which is provided with simple and efficient means for conveying the sheep into and from the vat containing the dip.

Further objects and advantages of our invention will appear in the following description and the novel features thereof will be particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a perspective view of a sheep-dipping machine embodying our invention. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal central section of the same, on line *x*—*x* of Fig. 1 showing the cage elevated in full lines and depressed in dotted lines.

A represents the vat, which is adapted to contain the dip, the upper edges of the vat being provided with vertical side-guards, B B, which are permanently secured thereto, and removable end guards or gates, C C.

Vertical standards, D D, are arranged, respectively, at the several corners of the vat, the same being provided at their upper ends with grooved rolls, *d d*.

Hinged to the ends of the vat, by means of transverse removable hinge-rods, *e e*, are the counterbalancing gang-ways or platforms, E and E′, the former being provided with transverse strips, F, to adapt the same for use as an entrance gangway for the sheep, and the latter being provided with outwardly-convergent, concentrating ribs, F′, which lead to a drip-hole, *f*, at the outer end of the platform. This latter platform is designed to provide the means whereby the sheep reach the ground after leaving the vat, and the concentrating ribs upon the platform serve to prevent the dip which drips from the sheep from being wasted. It flows to the drip-hole and escapes into a suitable receptacle, G, placed there for that purpose.

The cage, H, fits snugly in the vat and is provided with anti-friction rollers, *h*, *h*, to bear against the sides thereof to render its movements easy, and upright rods, I I, arranged at the several corners of the cage, are provided at their upper ends with eyes, *i i*, to which are attached the ends of the running cables, K, which are attached at their outer ends to staples, *k k* upon the upper sides of the gangways or platforms, a series of said staples being provided to enable the leverage of the platforms to be adjusted at will.

The uprights upon the cage, or elevator, are held in position by inclined braces, L L.

M is a movable, balancing lid, arranged to cover the cage or elevator and provided with slots, *m m* to receive the uprights and anti-friction rollers to travel upon the same. Stops, *m′ m′* are arranged upon the uprights, at a suitable height from the floor of the cage or elevator, to hold the lid.

An operating lever, N, is fulcrumed to the side of the vat, at a suitable distance from its bottom, and is connected by means of a cord or cable, O, to a spider, P, arranged upon the lid, said cord or cable traveling over a guide roll *q*, arranged at the upper end of the standard, Q, and a similar roller, *r*, at the inner extremity of the arm, R.

The sheep pass up the entrance platform or gangway, E, to the floor of the cage or elevator, and after a sufficient number have assembled at this point the gate is closed, and the free end of the operating lever is elevated thereby allowing the weight of the balancing lid to bear upon the cage or platform, thereby depressing the latter into the vat. When the free end of the lever is depressed and the lid raised from the cage or elevator, the latter rises, being depressed by the counterbalancing weight of the gangways or platforms. The cables are connected to the gangways or platforms at such points that when the cage or elevator is loaded with sheep the former will counterbalance and elevate the latter, when, it will be understood that the elevation or depression of the cage will depend upon the lid. Namely, when the lid rests upon the cage the latter will be depressed, and when

the lid is elevated from the cage the latter will rise. This enables the machine to be operated without any considerable exertion by means of the operating lever.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. In a sheep dipping machine, the combination with a vat of a vertically movable cage or elevator, hinged counterbalancing gangways or platforms connected to the cage or elevator and means for elevating the latter, substantially as specified.

2. In a sheep dipping machine, the combination of a cage or elevator, the counterbalancing gangways or platforms connected to the cage or elevator and arranged to slightly over balance the same, and a movable lid fitting over the cage or elevator and adapted, when added to the weight of the latter to over balance the gangways or platforms, substantially as specified.

3. In a sheep dipping machine, the combination of a cage or elevator, provided with uprights, a lid mounted to slide upon said uprights to cover the cage or elevator, the gangways or platforms connected by cables to the uprights upon the cage or elevator, and the operating lever connected to the lid, substantially as specified.

4. In a sheep dipping machine, the combination with the vat, of a cage or elevator adapted to move vertically therein, means to operate the same, and hinged gangways or platforms connected at their free ends, by cables, to the cage or elevator, one of said gangways being provided with transverse strips to form means to enable the sheep to ascend, and the other being provided with convergent, concentrating ribs, leading to an escape-hole, substantially as specified.

5. In a sheep dipping machine, the combination with the vat provided with side guards and vertical standards, of a cage or elevator provided with uprights, a lid mounted to slide upon said uprights, end-gates to close the ends of the vat between the side-guards, the hinged gangways or platforms, the connecting cables attached to the uprights upon the cage and connected to staples upon the gangways, and the operating lever connected to the lid, substantially as specified.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as our own we have hereto affixed our signatures in the presence of two witnesses.

EDWARD ARMIN SIEKER.
ADOLPH H. SCHMIDT.

Witnesses:
C. L. McCARTNEY,
C. H. JENKINS.