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ADJUSTABLE SLAUGHTERING CRADLE

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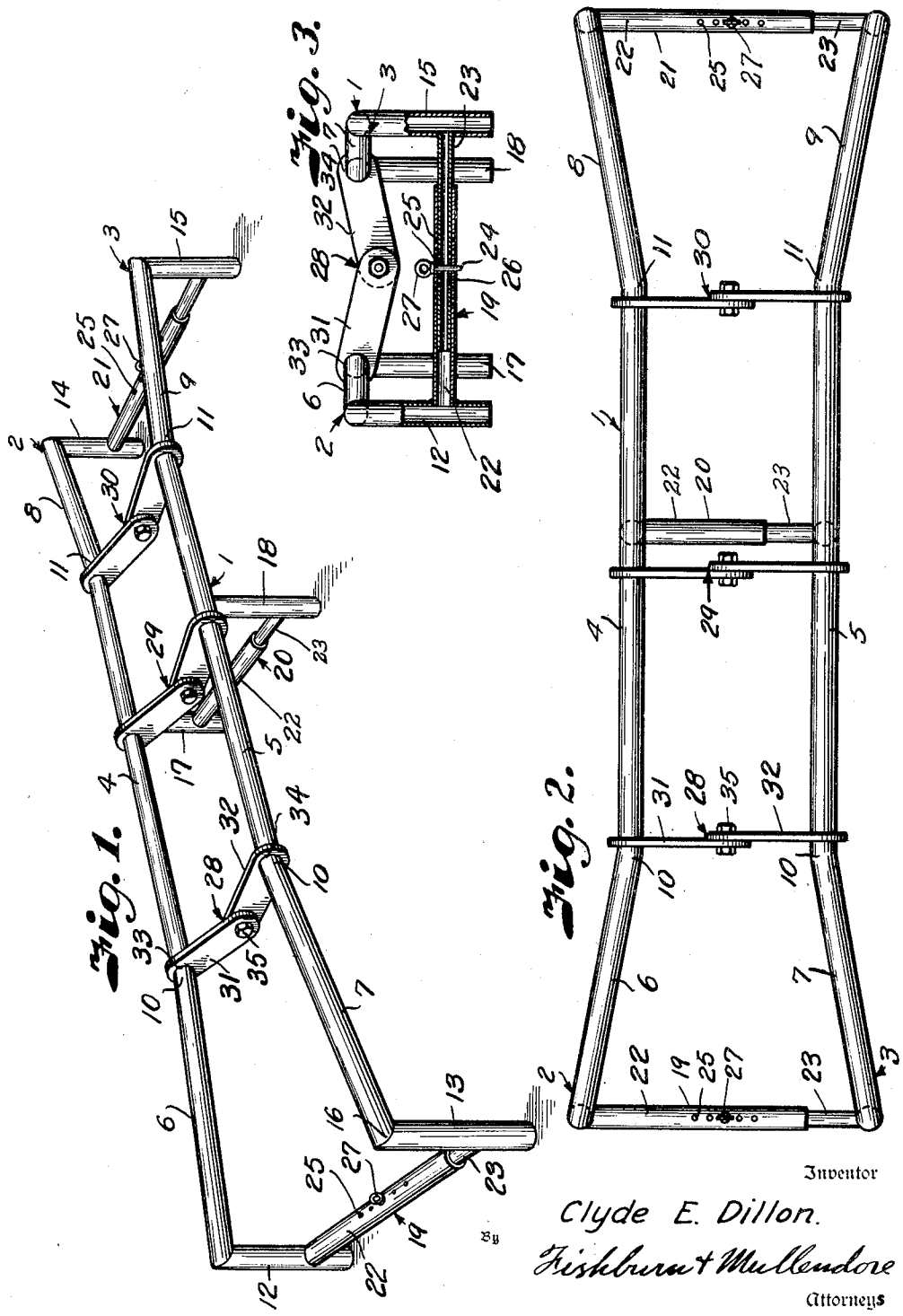


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

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ADJUSTABLE SLAUGHTERING CRADLE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 17—44)

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This invention relates to a cradle for use in slaughtering plants to facilitate legging and siding of beef and skinning of hogs.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a cradle that is adapted to conform with the width and shape of an animal's back so as to support stably the carcass at a convenient height.

Other objects of the invention are to provide a cradle of this character that is of simple and inexpensive construction and which promotes cleaner and better working conditions and results in cleaner hides.

In accomplishing these and other objects of the invention hereinafter pointed out, I have provided improved structure, the preferred form of which is illustrated in the accompanying drawing wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a cradle constructed in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the cradle.

Fig. 3 is an end view partly in section to better illustrate adjustability of the cross members.

Referring more in detail to the drawings:

1 designates a cradle constructed in accordance with the present invention and which includes spaced rail members 2 and 3 having substantially parallel median portions 4 and 5 and outwardly diverging end portions 6—7 and 8—9. Each rail is preferably formed of a section of pipe or the equivalent and has bends 10 and 11 spaced inwardly from the ends to provide the diverging portion 6—7 and 8—9. The ends of the rails are supported by legs 12—13 and 14—15 which are preferably formed of the same material as the rails and which are welded thereto at substantially right angles thereto as indicated at 16.

The intermediate portions of the rails are supported by similar legs 17 and 18 having upper ends fixed to the rails. The legs are of a length to support the rails at the desired height. Corresponding legs 12—13, 17—18 and 14—15 are interconnected by cross members 19, 20 and 21 respectively. Each cross member includes a tubular section or the equivalent 22 welded to the legs at one side at points spaced from the ends thereof and which extend at substantially right angles toward the opposite side to cooperate with a complementary section 23 that is slidable in the tubular section 22. The sections 22 and 23 of the endmost cross members are adapted to be fixed together by a pin 24 that is insertable through one of a series of openings 25 in the tubular section 22 and through one of a series of openings 26

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of the sections 23. The pins 24 are preferably provided with eye-shaped heads 27 to facilitate removal and placement thereof.

The rails are thus adapted to be adjusted laterally to and from each other to conform to the back width of the carcass to be supported thereon. In order to support the back of the carcass intermediate the rails, the rails are interconnected by cross supports 28, 29 and 30, each including a pair of complementary arms 31 and 32 having openings 33 and 34 for pivotally mounting the arms on the rails. The adjacent ends of the arms overlap and are pivotally connected together by fastening devices such as bolts 35.

The cross supports are spaced suitable distances apart along the length of the median portions of the rails so that they are in position to support adequately the back of an animal. The cross supports cooperate to form a substantially V-shaped trough in which the back of the animal is supported while the fore and hind quarters are carried by the diverging portions of the rails.

In using the device for supporting animals having substantially flat straight backs, the pins 24 are removed from the cross bars and the rails are moved apart so that the arms of the cross supports substantially approach a straight line position, after which the pins are reinserted in the proper apertures to maintain the adjustment. In case the device is used for supporting poor grade of animals or those having relatively thin narrow backs and flanks, the rails are readjusted and brought nearer together, in which position the arms of the cross members form a deeper trough-like support and more nearly conform to the back of the animal.

While the device is especially adapted for the legging and siding of beef, it is also suitable for supporting hogs when they are being skinned.

It is obvious that the cradle supports the animal in convenient height above the floor, promotes cleaner and better working conditions, and also results in cleaner hides because the animal is kept off of the blood that accumulates on the floor.

From the foregoing it is obvious that I have provided a cradle device that is of simple and inexpensive construction and which is well adapted for its intended purpose.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A cradle for use in slaughtering plants including side rails upon which the opposite sides of the back of an animal are adapted to rest, legs spaced along the length of the side rails and

having upper ends fixed directly to the rails for supporting the rails from a floor, adjustable cross members connecting the legs of one rail with opposite legs of the other rail below said rails to adjustably space the rails apart in accordance with the width of the animal's back, supporting members in spaced apart relation in the longitudinal direction of said rails to provide open spaces between said supporting members and each comprising complementary bars having ends pivotally connected with the rails, and pivot means connecting the complementary arm on one rail with the complementary arm on the other rail to provide substantially narrow substantially V-shaped supports for the back of the animal between said open spaces and adjustable in angularity with adjustment of the cross members.

2. A cradle for use in slaughtering plants including side rails upon which opposite sides of the back of an animal are adapted to rest and having their respective ends diverging outwardly from substantially parallel intermediate portions, legs having upper ends directly fixed to the diverging ends of the rails for supporting the rails from the floor, telescoping cross members connecting the legs of one rail with opposite legs of the other rail to adjustably space the rails apart in accordance with the width of the animal's back, transverse supporting bars spaced along parallel portions of the rails and forming relatively narrow transverse V-shaped supports for engaging spaced points along the back of the animal and providing open spaces therebetween, each of said transverse bars comprising complementary members having ends pivotally connected with the rails at points spaced along the rails, and pivot means connecting the complementary member on one rail with the complementary member on the other rail for adjustment in angularity with adjustment of the length of the members of the cross bars.

3. A cradle for use in slaughtering plants including side rails upon which opposite sides of the back of an animal are adapted to rest and having their respective ends diverging outwardly from substantially parallel intermediate portions, legs having upper ends directly fixed to the diverging ends of the rails for supporting the rails from the floor, similar legs having upper ends directly connected with the parallel portions of the rails, telescoping cross members connecting legs of one rail with opposite legs of the other rail to adjustably space the rails apart in accordance with the width of the animal's back, relatively narrow supporting members spaced along parallel portions of the rails and forming open spaces therebetween, each of sa d transverse members comprising complementary arms having ends pivotally connected with the rails at points spaced along the rails, and pivot means connecting the complementary arm on one rail with the complementary arm on the other rail to provide substantially V-shaped supports for the back of the animal between said spaces and adjustable in angularity with adjustment of the cross members.

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