

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY HERMAN STRATER, OF DENVER, COLORADO, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO RAMON SOLIS, OF SAME PLACE.

PROCESS OF RESWEATING AND PRESERVING CIGARS OR LEAF-TOBACCO.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 541,026, dated June 11, 1895.

Application filed March 26, 1895. Serial No. 543,261. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY HERMAN STRATER, of Denver, in the county of Arapahoe, State of Colorado, have invented an Improved Process for Resweating and Preserving Cigars or Leaf-Tobacco, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a process for resweating and preserving cigars and leaf tobacco.

The object of my invention is to improve the flavor of the cigar, and at the same time, so preserve said cigar as to retain this flavor for an indefinite time, under all conditions of temperature and atmosphere.

Another advantage of my invention is that it can be carried out after the cigars or leaf tobacco have been packed, labeled and stamped, ready for shipping.

With these objects in view, my invention consists essentially in simultaneously resweating the cigars or tobacco contained within a cedar box, and hermetically sealing said box by immersing the same in a heated solution, capable of impregnating the wood, and rendering the same impervious to air and moisture.

All leaf tobacco is subjected to a sweating process before being manufactured into cigars and before cigars are packed in their cedar boxes for shipment, and it is very desirable to retain the flavor imparted to the cigars under such treatment. It is also well known that cigars kept in stock lose their flavor, and become dry, thus rendering them less desirable than a freshly made cigar. For these reasons, it is not desired to keep a large quantity of cigars in stock, or ship them for any great distance, unless they are packed with unusual care, involving an additional expense upon the manufacturer.

Now, the object of my invention, as before stated, is to avoid these difficulties, and so pack the cigars and tobacco, that they can be kept indefinitely, without injury, and in so applying this preservative means, I also resweat them within their boxes, and thus give them an additional flavor, which is also retained.

Now, in carrying out my process, I take an ordinary box of cigars or leaf tobacco, which has been securely fastened, labeled and stamped, and completely immerse the same

in a hot bath of paraffine, silicate of soda or potash, Japan wax, beeswax, spermaceti, or stearine, said bath being maintained at a temperature of about 160° Fahrenheit. The closed box is allowed to remain in this bath a short time, then removed, and the process is completed. By immersing the cigar box in the heated solution, of the impregnating compound, the oils of the cedar wood are partially vaporized, driven inward, and permeate the tobacco, thus resweating said tobacco and improving its flavor. At the same time the solution is producing the resweating operation, the pores and interstices of the wood are being filled with this impregnating compound, which renders the wood impervious to air and moisture, and thus hermetically seals the box during the resweating operation, so that the aroma driven from the cedar can not escape, but instead will be taken up by the cigars, and inasmuch as the air contained within the box is somewhat moistened, the tendency of the tobacco to become dry will also be avoided.

It will, therefore, be seen that my process accomplishing two most desirable functions, is carried out by a single operation.

Attention may also be called to the fact that after a box is treated in accordance with my process, it is impossible to use the box again, and the revenue stamp can not possibly be removed without tearing.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The herein described process, for resweating and preserving cigars or leaf tobacco, which consists in confining said cigars or leaf tobacco within a cedar box or case, and then totally immersing said box in a bath of melted paraffine or similar substance, thus resweating the contents of the box to drive inward the oils of the wood and imparting an additional flavor to the contents of the box, and simultaneously sealing or coating said box to prevent the escape of the flavors so driven inward, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

HENRY HERMAN STRATER.

Witnesses:

JOHN H. REDDIN,
FRED. T. BAKER.