

United States Patent Office.

JOHN MELLING, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 66,512, dated July 9, 1867.

IMPROVED PROCESS FOR PREPARING WOOD FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF LABELS, TAGS, &c.

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, JOHN MELLING, of Rochester, in the county of Monroe, and State of New York, late of Bolton, Lancashire, England, have invented a new and useful Article or Substance to be used in the Manufacture of Government Stamps, Label-Tags, Business Cards, and various other articles in common use; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

The nature of this invention consists in providing a very cheap substitute for paper as used for Government stamps, labels, or directing-tags, and for numerous other purposes, the said substitute also possessing advantage of far greater durability, and when used for internal or other revenue stamps the impossibility of being transferred from one package, box, or paper to another after having been once applied or cancelled, without immediate or sure detection.

To enable others to make and use my invention, I will describe the process by which it is produced.

I take cedar or other suitable wood and cut into flakes or shavings of the desired thickness and size. I then boil in a solution of rye flour, glue, and alum in about the following proportions, viz, to two and a half pounds of rye flour use one gallon of water, one-fourth pound of white glue, and one-half ounce of alum. The strips or pieces of cedar or cedar are boiled in this about one-half hour, (more or less,) after which they are thoroughly dried, when they are ready for use and may be printed or written upon as readily as paper, paste-board, &c. It has been found that wood thus prepared is peculiarly and especially applicable for custom-house and other similar seals or locks, because, if cut where they cross a joint in the package the ends immediately shrink away from each other and cannot possibly be restored or rejoined; neither can they be removed without effecting their entire destruction, not even when applied with ordinary flour-paste or common mucilage, because the substance itself, when so treated, is rendered impervious to water or dampness, and therefore could not be soaked loose. The stamps may be applied with glue, paste, or any mucilaginous substance, after which I displace the air from between the stamp and the article as fully as may be by pressing a steel or other flexible hand-tool or plate over the stamp.

This substance or prepared wood may be used to great advantage for the sweat-leathers and linings of hats; for insoles and linings to boots and shoes, book-covers, borderings for papered walls, and for a great variety of other purposes. A very good substitute for morocco, both as regards appearance and quality, may be made of this substance, by coloring, "graining," &c. Clock-faces or dials may be made of it by cutting two circles and uniting them together with the grain of the woody fibre in each lamina crossing, or at right angles with those of the other, and otherwise treated as for other purposes. Instead of treating the cedar by boiling, as described, it might be desirable to coat it with the solution mentioned, which may be done by spreading it over the surface with a brush and then passing a sort of spring-pallet over the surface of the strips of cedar under pressure, or they may be passed between pressure-rollers to expel the air from under and glaze the material, after which it should be dried, as before shown.

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

1. The treatment of cedar or other suitable wood with the solution, substantially in the manner and for the purposes herein shown and described.
2. The proportions of the ingredients forming the solution for the treatment of the above-mentioned substance, substantially as set forth.

JOHN MELLING.

Witnesses:

WM. S. LOUGHBOROUGH.

A. H. BILLINGS.