

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THEODOR OELENHEINZ, OF KARLSRUHE, GERMANY.

PROCESS OF BLEACHING TOBACCO-LEAVES.

1,086,306.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 3, 1914.

No Drawing.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THEODOR OELENHEINZ, lawyer, a subject of the German Emperor, and residing at Amalienstrasse 24, Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany, have invented a certain new and useful Process of Bleaching Tobacco-Leaves, of which the following is a specification.

The object of the present invention is a process of bleaching tobacco leaves.

It is a matter of fact that the color of the tobacco leaves is able to resist the action of any usual bleaching means. All tests have resulted that the fatty, resin-like and waxy substances and especially the pectin substances will cause such resistance. By wholly or partly eliminating said substances the pores of the leaves are opened so that the latter can now be bleached or decolorized in any desired degree.

According to the present invention the bleaching of the tobacco leaves is obtained by treating them with hot water for opening their pores and applying a suitable bleaching means thereafter.

The following has proved to be a particularly suitable manner of carrying out the process:—Tobacco leaves of any quality are treated with hot water having preferably a temperature of about 75° to 100° C. exceeding the temperature of fermentation so that all the bacteria are destroyed, and so preventing any additional injurious fermentation at a later stage of the process. This treatment may be suspended once or repeated. Hereafter bleaching means is added to the tobacco leaves stored in a suitable receptacle for which means I prefer peroxid

of hydrogen and ammonia mixed with water. The treatment with said liquid or means may also be carried out simultaneously with that of hot water in which case the means is directly added to the hot water and the tobacco leaves are put into said mixture. But the latter treatment may also follow a preceding treatment of the tobacco leaves with pure hot water, whereafter the tobacco leaves are suitably cooled. In this case all fatty and resin-like substances are removed in advance from the surface of the leaves so that the pores thereof will suitably be opened for facilitating the following action of the bleaching liquid. Besides the nature and quality of the tobacco leaves are determining for the intensiveness of the treatment depending upon the duration of the process and the height of the applied temperatures.

I claim:—

A process of bleaching tobacco leaves, consisting in treating the tobacco leaves with hot water of about 75° to 100° C. for eliminating all fatty, resin-like and waxy substances closing the pores of the leaves, in separating the leaves from the water, and in subjecting said cleaned leaves to the action of peroxid of hydrogen and ammonia mixed with water, substantially as herein described.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

THEODOR OELENHEINZ.

Witnesses:

JOSEPH HEIFFER,
LUISE SCHELLER.