C. F. RITCHEL.

COMPOUND AND ORNAMENTAL LUMBER.

No. 193,833. Patented Aug. 7, 1877.

Fig 1.

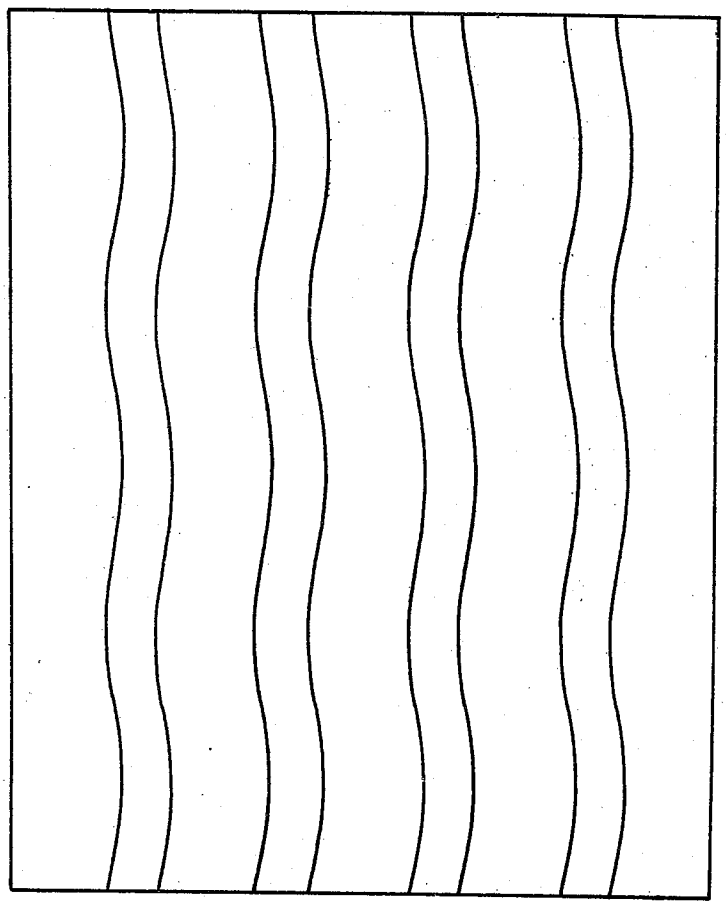

Fig 2.

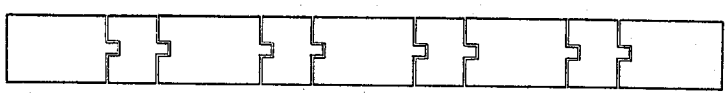

Fig 3.

WITNESSES

Geo A. Slingerland

R. H. Pooler.

INVENTOR

Charles F. Ritchel

by Slingerland & Hallock

atty.

N. PETERS, PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES F. RITCHEL, OF CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN COMPOUND AND ORNAMENTAL LUMBER.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **193,833**, dated August 7, 1877; application filed November 20, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES F. RITCHEL, of Corry, in the county of Erie and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Compound and Ornamental Lumber; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

My invention relates to the construction of ornamental lumber.

It consists in preparing lumber in such a manner that when put together it will produce an ormental effect.

The preparation of lumber so as to give this ornamental effect consists in so dressing the same that the joining edges shall be indented so as to give the effect of wavy or serpentine lines running across the surface of the material when in position upon the wall, floor, or other place.

Lumber thus dressed is intended more particularly for wainscoting, flooring, table-tops, &c.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, as follows:

Figure 1 is a strip of flooring or other material, prepared according to my plan, for producing an ornamental effect in flooring, wainscoting, table-tops, &c. Fig. 2 shows a section of flooring or wainscoting composed of my ornamental lumber. Fig. 3 is an end view of the same, showing the tongues and grooves.

It will be seen, by inspecting the drawings, that lumber of my construction for flooring, wainscoting, or compound table-tops, &c., does not differ from ordinarily-constructed lumber for such purposes, except that the joining edges are made indented or curved, in place of being straight.

The effect produced by this mode or form of constructing or preparing such material is to give the surface of the floor, or wainscoting, or table-top, or other article, a highly-ornamental appearance.

The form of the waves or curves can be varied almost indefinitely, thus giving a variety of patterns; and further variety can be effected by the variation in width of the stuff.

The indentures on the edges of the stuff do not usually exceed a quarter of an inch in depth, and thus very little material is wasted.

In flooring or wainscoting the stuff is tongued and grooved the same as ordinarily; and for furniture and other uses it may be put up with a glue-joint, as usual. In either case, and more especially, perhaps, when a glue-joint is used, the work is much stronger, as there is more attaching-surface in a given length of joint, and as the strain cannot come lengthwise of the whole joint, as it can when the joint is straight.

This feature is of great benefit in making thin compound work, as, for example, paneling, or light tables, such as folding sewing-tables, now so commonly in use, or chair-bottoms, or any article where strength, without excess of material, is desired.

I am aware that compound lumber has been made by gluing various layers of veneers together, which layers have been crimped, and which material, when thus compounded, has on its edge when planed off the effect of wavy lines; but this is not the same as my invention, nor could it be used as my invention is intended to be used.

I do not claim as my invention lumber made ornamental by being made up of layers of different-colored woods. My invention consists entirely in so dressing or shaping the joining edges of matched or tongued and grooved material—such, for example, as flooring-strips or wainscoting-strips—that when said strips are joined or matched together and in place there will be wavy or serpentine lines across the surface of the wall, floor, or article, as seen in Fig. 1; therefore

What I claim as my invention is—

1. Ornamental lumber for flooring, wainscoting, table-tops, or other articles composed of strips of like or different woods, whose joining edges are indented or wavy, substantially as described and shown, and for the purposes set forth.

2. Compound lumber composed of parallel strips of like or different woods, whose joining edges are indented or wavy, substantially as described and shown, thus giving the glue-joint greater attaching-surface and additional strength, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I, the said CHARLES F. RITCHEL, have hereunto set my hand.

CHARLES F. RITCHEL.

Witnesses:

JNO. R. HULLOCK,

J. J. LOOMIS.