UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN BURKE, OF MANILA, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, ASSIGNOR TO MANILA REFINING CO., OF MANILA, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

PARAFFIN CANDLE.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWIN BURKE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Manila, Philippine Islands, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Paraffin Candles, of which the following is a specification.

Candles made from pure paraffin are comparatively translucent and as this appearance is objectionable from a commercial standpoint it is customary to employ in connection with the paraffin a substantial amount of stearin or other fatty acids fats or waxes which when mixed with the paraffin have the property of rendering the candles opaque. Stearic acid and stearin however are comparatively expensive and their addition to the material of which the candles are made very materially increases the cost thereof.

It is the purpose of my present invention to improve the appearance of paraffin candles by rendering them opaque at much less expense than is required to produce the same result with stearic acid and without diminishing the luminosity thereof. For this purpose I add to the paraffin, preferably in molten condition, a metallic salt of an organic acid, the metal which is preferably employed being lead and the acid, oleic, stearic, or palmitic or mixtures of the same, the salts of such acids being commonly known as soaps. Other metals, however may be substituted for lead, and likewise other acids than oleic, stearic and palmitic acids may be employed though it is of importance that the acids used form with the metal, salts soluble in molten paraffin and which therefore give a uniform degree of opacity to the compound. It is also desirable that the salts employed possess fuel value in order that the luminosity of the candles be not diminished by the presence of an inert body. Preferably however, the material used in this composition by me is lead soap soluble in molten paraffin.

Methods of preparing the soap are well known and an example of such a process consists in heating a concentrated solution of lead acetate with a suitable amount of stearic acid, the insoluble soap formed sinking to the bottom. The amount of lead soap or other similar material added to the material from which the candles are to be formed, varies according to the degree of opacity desired but I have found that one to four per-cent. of lead soap gives a very desirable effect.

The paraffin and salt may be mixed in any desired manner but it is found sufficient to melt the paraffin and add the salt thereto stirring the mixture until the two are homogeneously intermingled.

The candles are made from the composition in the ordinary manner which need not be here described. They are found to be of a hardness superior to that of candles formed of paraffin and stearin even when much larger amounts of the latter are employed and to be quite opaque and white.

I claim:

1. A composition of matter for the purpose described consisting of paraffin containing a lead salt of a fatty acid.

2. A composition of matter for the purpose described consisting of paraffin containing a lead stearate.

3. A composition of matter for the purpose described, consisting of paraffin containing a small percentage of a salt of a heavy metal and a fatty acid.

EDWIN BURKE.

Witnesses:
A. J. CULLANTES,
PEDRO N. PALANIO.