

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT BLAKE, OF PONTIAC, ILLINOIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE PROCESSES OF TANNING LEATHER.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **144,500**, dated November 11, 1873; application filed October 18, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT BLAKE, of Pontiac, in the county of Livingston and State of Illinois, have invented a Tanning Compound, of which the following is a specification:

This invention has relation to liquors for tanning skins in the manufacture of leather; and it consists in the combination of muriatic acid, saltpeter, and common salt in certain proportions with soft water and terra japonica, as I will now explain.

For the treatment of, say, four hundred pounds of raw hides, after they are limed, bated, and treated by the old process of bark-tanning, I employ the following ingredients: Soft water, one hundred gallons; muriatic acid, eight pounds; saltpeter, two pounds; common salt, ten pounds; terra japonica, fifty pounds.

Instead of the terra japonica, bark extract or ooze may be used.

This forms the tanning-liquor, and the times required for treating different grades and kinds of hides with it are as follows: For sheep and "deacon" skins, from two to four days; calf

and kip skins, from six to eight days; heavy kip and light sides, from eight to ten days; heavy sides and harness, from twelve to twenty-four days.

The hides should be properly handled each day, and when about half tanned they should be curried down to uniform thickness, and when they are fully tanned they should be scoured and stuffed in the usual way.

The muriatic acid, saltpeter, and common salt, combined in about the proportions described, form a non-corrosive agent and glutinizer, and in connection with the terra japonica, or its equivalent, make a tan-liquor of superior quality.

I claim as new—

The tanning-liquor composed of the ingredients and mixed together in about the proportions specified.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification before two subscribing witnesses.

ROBERT BLAKE.

Witnesses:

L. E. PAYSON,
E. M. RILEY.