# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT WIEHLE AND CHRISTIAN FEUCHTER, OF IRONTON, OHIO.

## IMPROVEMENT IN FIRE-KINDLERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **149,554**, dated April 7, 1874; application filed December 29, 1873.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, ROBERT WIEHLE and CHRISTIAN FEUCHTER, both of Ironton, Lawrence county, Ohio, have invented a certain Compound called Torch and Fire-Kindler, of which the following is a specification:

Our invention is an improvement on the well-known fire-kindlers formed of corn-cobs soaked in petroleum, or one of its distillates, and coated with rosin.

To produce our improved kindler and torch, corn-stalks are cut into suitable lengths or pieces, which are then immersed in petroleum till they have absorbed a considerable quantity of the liquid, or all they are capable of absorbing. They are next dipped in melted rosin to form a coat impervious to air, and preventing the escape of the oil either by evaporation or dripping. When the rosin has dried sufficiently the pieces are wrapped in paper of any kind flexible enough to answer the purpose. The object of this is to prevent the rosin causing the kindlers to adhere, when packed or piled one upon the other, as they would otherwise tend to do if exposed in a warm atmosphere; to enable the kindlers to be readily handled without sticking to the hands, fingers, or the mechanical implement used for the purpose; also to aid in igniting the rosin, and prevent dripping when burning.

To ignite the kindler it is only necessary to tear open the paper wrapper, when the edges thus formed readily communicate the flame to the body of the kindler.

The chief advantage of the use of corn-stalks to form the body of the kindlers is the fact that they can be readily split at the end to adapt them to more quickly ignite, and also produce a larger flame. The stalk has, likewise, a larger heart or pith than the cob, and will hence absorb a larger quantity of petroleum, while the outer portion, being of such a nature as to absorb very little, will correspondingly prevent evaporation of the oil during the drying stage previous to applying the rosin. Another advantage lies in this, that the stalks may be used of almost any desired length. This especially adapts them for use as torches.

We do not, of course, claim the application of rosin or petroleum to vegetable products for the purpose of increasing their combustibility, and thus producing a new fuel.

What we claim is—

As a new article of manufacture and sale, the fire-kindler and torch formed of corn-stalks, or sections thereof, soaked in petroleum, coated with rosin, and wrapped with paper, as described.

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Attest:
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