

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE,

JOHN H. McWHIRTER, OF GRAND VALLEY, OKLAHOMA.

TANNING COMPOUND.

1,047,968.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 24, 1912.

No Drawing.

Application filed February 21, 1912. Serial No. 679,209.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN H. McWHIRTER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Grand Valley, in the county of Texas and State of Oklahoma, have invented a new and useful Tanning Compound, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a new and useful compound for use in tanning, its object being to simplify and improve upon the compounds heretofore utilized and thereby to effect a saving both in time necessary to complete the tanning process and the cost of tanning.

With the foregoing and other objects in view the invention consists in certain novel details hereinafter more fully described and pointed out in the claims.

In carrying out the process two mixtures are utilized. The first of these is a lime water made by dissolving two gallons of lime in twenty gallons of water.

The second or tanning compound is as follows:—

Extract of alfalfa	30 gals.
Gum gambier	10 lbs.
Salt (NaCl)	2 lbs.

The extract of alfalfa is obtained by boiling 8 lbs. of alfalfa seed or 50 lbs. of alfalfa hay in 50 gallons of water until the liquid has been reduced to 30 gallons, which will be of the necessary strength. The gum gambier and salt are dissolved in the extract to complete the mixture.

In carrying out the process the hide, if hard, is softened in water and is afterward

submerged in the lime water until the hair can be easily removed. The hair is then taken off and the hide is washed in water until all the lime has been removed. The hide is then dipped in the tanning mixture until of a uniform color after which it is removed and oiled, on both sides, with neat's foot oil and worked until dry.

It has been found that by following the process herein described and using the ingredients set forth, from seventy-five to one hundred pounds of leather can be tanned in from three to twelve days at a cost of less than three cents per pound, the time necessary for completing the tanning operation being reduced by reason of the fact that the alfalfa opens the pores of the hide and thus permits the compound to saturate the hide more readily.

What is claimed is:—

1. A tanning compound including alfalfa extract.
2. A tanning compound including a mixture of extract of alfalfa and gum gambier.
3. A tanning compound including a mixture of extract of alfalfa, gum gambier and salt.
4. A tanning compound including alfalfa extract 30 gallons, gum gambier 10 pounds, and salt, 2 pounds.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN H. McWHIRTER.

Witnesses:

HUGH McCox,
E. L. ADKINS.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."