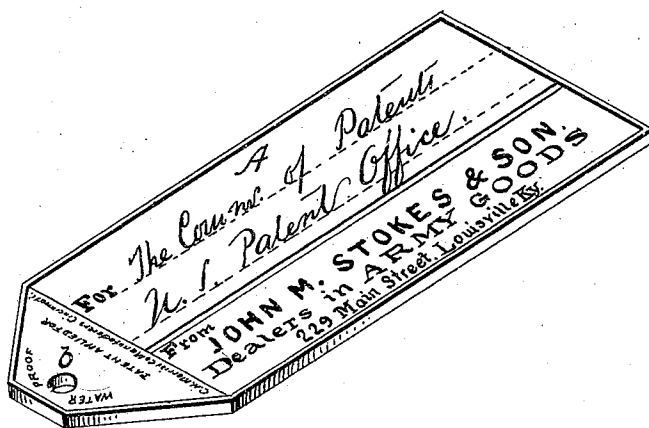


C. N. MORRIS.
COMMERCIAL LABEL.

No. 38,692.

Patented May 26, 1863.



Witnesses:

Gustavus Dietrich
Edwin P. [unclear]

Inventor

Charles N. Morris

by

Mason, Kewick & Linnecoe
Attys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES N. MORRIS, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

COMMERCIAL LABEL.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 38,692, dated May 26, 1863; antedated February 9, 1863.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES N. MORRIS, of the city of Cincinnati, in the county of Hamilton and State of Ohio, have invented a new and improved article of manufacture entitled a "Commercial Shipping-Tag" or "Direction-Label;" and I do hereby declare the following to be a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The nature of my invention consists in the preparation of wood in such manner that it may be impressed with metal type and printers' ink, or be written upon in the ordinary way with pen and ink, and yet in either case prevent the ink from spreading or blurring in the act of printing or writing, as well as prevent the same from becoming blurred or spread by subsequent dampness or use, the wood when prepared being utilized to form commercial shipping tags or direction-labels, as will be hereinafter described. For this purpose I prepare small billets A—soft wood preferred—of the size represented in the drawing—say, five inches in length by an inch and a half in width and one-eighth or a quarter of an inch in thickness, (more or less)—perforated at one end, as shown at *b*, for the purpose of attaching the same to an article of merchandise or other article to be transported. A number of billets having been cut out in the form shown are then subjected to the action of boiling-hot water a sufficient time to drive the sap from the wood, and thereafter dried. They are then "sized" with a solution of india-rubber, the sizing or coating being applied, by preference, in a heated state upon their entire surface in order to cause the rubber to thoroughly penetrate the pores of the wood, the sizing for this purpose being made quite thin. After drying, the billets are then subjected to a coating of paris white or white lead, softened with benzole, the properties of which are such as to cause its penetration into the wood and the effectual filling of any of the pores of the wood which may not have been

filled with the previous coating of the rubber, and also giving to the exterior of the billets a smooth, even surface for the reception of the ink used for the direction upon the labels. Commercial labels thus prepared may with equal facility be impressed with printers' ink by the use of the common metal type or be written upon with the ordinary pen and ink, and still be free from any liability of the ink to blur or spread upon the surface of the label. Aside from this, the wood is thus rendered water-proof, so that any subsequent exposure to dampness will not have the effect to open the pores of the wood, absorb moisture, and thus cause a defacement of the label.

Labels for commercial use, especially when made of paper or linen cloth, if kept dry, are liable to crimp and curl up under the action of the sun's rays or heat, and, on becoming wet, are rendered useless by the permanent defacement of the label from such cause. In my case no such objections exist, the labels always retaining their original plane surface, and effectually resisting the deteriorating effects incident to atmospheric exposure of the paper or linen label.

In place of the coating of rubber, as above described, a coating of glue and water, quite thin, may be used to good advantage, applied, by preference, in a heated state.

My commercial labels thus prepared are far cheaper than any other label for like purpose possessing the same advantages with which I am acquainted.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

A commercial-tag or direction-label, prepared in the manner and for the purpose substantially as set forth.

Witness my hand and seal in the matter of my application for a patent for improved commercial-label this 18th day of July, A. D. 1862.

CHAS. N. MORRIS. [L. S.]

Witnesses.

GUSTAVUS DIETERICH,
EDWIN S. JACOB.