Aug. 19, 1930. J. A. MILLICAN 1,773,494

MEANS FOR SETTING OUT LEATHER

Filed May 17, 1929

Fig. 1.

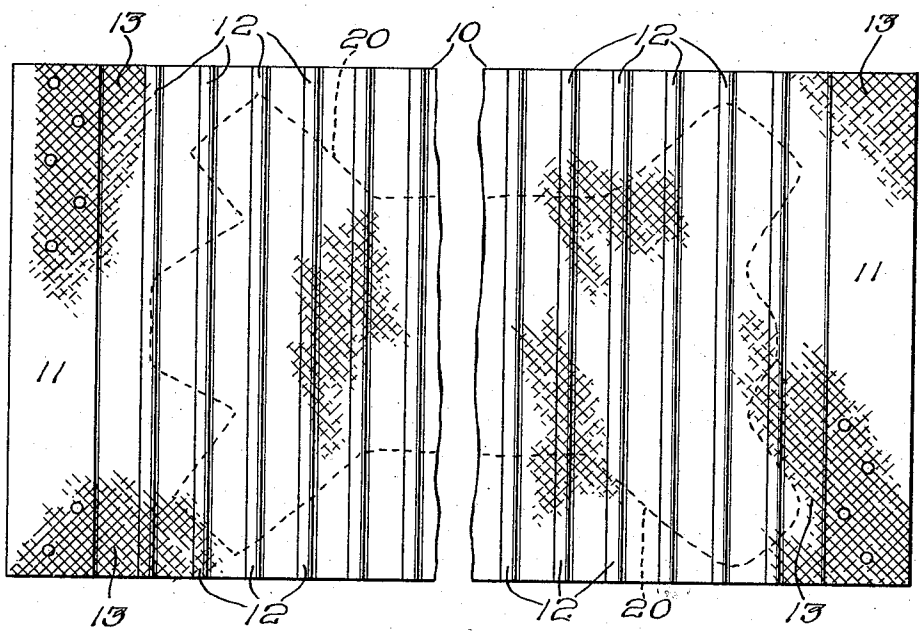
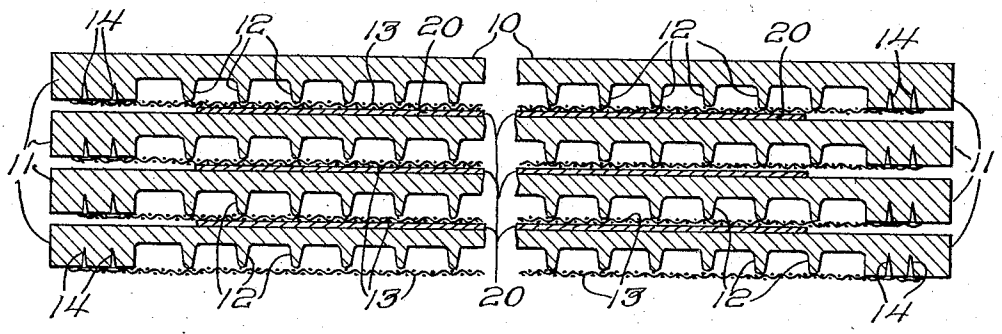


Fig. 2.



INVENTOR
James Andrew Millican
BY
Francis O. Sanderson
ATTORNEY

Patented Aug. 19, 1930 1,773,494

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

JAMES ANDREW MILLICAN, OF WINCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

MEANS FOR SETTING OUT LEATHER

Application filed May 17, 1929. Serial No. 363,831.

The present invention relates to setting out tanned hides or leather for drying and more especially to apparatus for conducting such step.

Among the objects of the present invention is to prevent or reduce shrinkage of the tanned hide during the drying.

Another object is means by which the drying hide may be held in extended condition during the drying operation and yet permit ready egress therefrom of the contained moisture.

Still other objects will readily occur to those skilled in the art upon reference to the following description and the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the underside of one of the setting out boards forming the subject matter of the present application.

Fig. 2 is a section through a stack of such boards as if longitudinally of Fig. 1.

In the drawings, the device for the present purpose is shown as comprising a board or plate which may be of any suitable material and which is indicated at 10. This plate will be provided at its ends with flanges or ribs 11 extending along two opposite sides of the plate and between these flanges or ribs 11 it will be provided with a plurality of other projections or ribs 12 spaced apart a short distance. On the same side as the ribs 12 there will be stretched tightly over said ribs and flanges one or more layers of fabric 13 of which that one next to the ribs 12 is preferably of rustproof metal so as not to be affected by the presence of moisture and thereby become loosened.

As the ribs 11 and 12 are substantially all of the same height the fabric 13 will be normally in contact with the tops of the ribs. The fabric is shown in the drawings as being secured to the ribs 11 as by means of suitable nails or screws 14. On the opposite side of the board or plate from the ribs 11 and 12 there will be a substantially smooth surface, provided on the plate itself or by means of a removable sheet of suitable material.

In using the device a tanned hide 20 in wet condition will be spread out on the smooth side of the board and pressed tightly and uniformly so that substantially all air will be excluded from beneath the hide.

It is proposed to prepare thus a number of the boards or plates each with its hide set out thereon and to stack them as indicated in Fig. 2 of the drawings, with the ribs of the boards extending in the same direction. It is of course, obvious that the topmost plate will have no hide upon it. The stack of plates with the hides thereon thus assembled will then be subjected to a current of air which will pass readily between the several plates in the recesses between the ribs 12 and because of the open mesh fabric 13 will contact with the wet leather or hide on the next plate and carry off the moisture therefrom.

Instead of stacking the plates one upon the other, they may be placed vertically in suitable supporting means and air passed up or down between them, or across, according to the direction of the ribs.

It is preferred that the ribs 12 be arranged fairly close together and that they contact with the fabric 13 when the plates are stacked as indicated in Fig. 2 so that there is a pressure exerted on the fabric and from the fabric upon the hide on the next plate so that the leather is maintained in close contact with its setting out plate throughout its surface during the drying period.

While the elements 12 have been indicated as ribs and shown as continuous it is of course obvious that they may be discontinuous or broken and while the fabric is stated as stretched over the ribs, it is evident that any sort of porous crown on the ribs will be the full equivalent of the fabric and such modifications are indeed in contemplation.

When such pressure is exerted and the leather thus maintained in close contact the drying will proceed with little or no shrinkage of area of the leather.

Now having described the invention and the preferred forms of embodiment thereof, it is to be understood that the said invention is to be limited, not to the specific details herein described and illustrated, but only by the scope of the claims which follow:—

I claim:—

1. A setting out board or plate for drying

wet leather comprising a plate having one side smooth to receive the wet leather and having on its opposite side a plurality of spaced projections with an open meshed fabric overlying and in contact with the tops of such projections.

2. A setting out board or plate for drying wet leather comprising a plate having one side smooth to receive the wet leather and having on its opposite side a plurality of spaced parallel ribs with an open meshed fabric overlying and in contact with the tops of such parallel ribs.

3. A setting out board or plate for drying wet leather comprising a plate having one side smooth to receive the wet leather and having on its opposite side a plurality of spaced projections with an open meshed fabric overlying and in contact with the tops of such projections, said plate having on the same side as said projections, and along two opposite sides thereof, flanges or ribs of substantially the height of the projections adjacent thereto.

4. A setting out board or plate for drying wet leather comprising a plate having one side smooth to receive the wet leather and having on its opposite side a plurality of spaced projections with an apertured fabric sheet overlying and in contact with the tops of such projections.

JAMES ANDREW MILLICAN.