Patented Mar. 11, 1930 1,750,499

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

CHARLES C. TRUAX, OF TOLEDO, OHIO

METHOD OF TREATING ARTICLES IN TUMBLING BARRELS

No Drawing. Application filed October 9, 1926. Serial No. 140,679.

This invention relates to a method of cleaning, polishing and buffing articles by agitating the same in what is commonly known as a tumbling barrel. The usual procedure is to place the articles in the barrel either alone or with attrition objects such as balls and as the barrel is rotated the rubbing together or mutual attrition of the articles themselves or their contact with the balls or other objects serves to clean and polish the articles. Also the use of other materials in the barrel has been suggested, such for example as scrap, leather, powdered rags, whiting, etc., in order to produce a polished surface on the articles. But the use of such materials as those last mentioned is more or less unsatisfactory.

I have discovered that finely divided or comminuted material, meal or flour made from corn cobs constitutes an excellent material to be used in tumbling barrels. This material may be made by crushing and grinding the cobs according to the disclosure of my prior Patent No. 1,598,328, August 31, 1926. The comminuted corn cob material, meal or flour which includes all parts of the cob, possesses in itself all the various properties that are desirable in a tumbling barrel material. The corn cob contains hard flinty portions which when pulverized or ground fine make in effect an abradant which gives excellent results in the tumbling barrel and contribute toward cleaning and burnishing and polishing of the articles being treated. In addition the cob material, meal or flour contains soft smooth constituents which serve to polish and buff and brighten the articles as they are rubbed together or against the balls or other objects. Furthermore, the corn cob material, meal or flour is very absorbent so that it serves effectively to take up any moisture, grease or solution that may be found on the articles being treated.

In carrying out my method I place the articles to be treated loosely in a tumbling barrel of any desired type such for example as that shown in the patent to Hart No. 1,352,598, September 14, 1920. A quantity of the comminuted corn cob material, meal or flour is also placed in the barrel, the amount used being such that it will be well mixed or distributed through the articles being treated. As stated before, balls or other attrition objects may if desired be placed in the barrel, although in many cases this will be found unnecessary. As the barrel is rotated or agitated the corn cob material, meal or flour will be brushed or rubbed over the surfaces of the articles as they rub against each other or against the balls with the result that the articles will be very effectively dried, cleaned and polished or burnished. And after the operation the cob material may easily be dusted off or separated from the treated articles. My method has been found to be of much practical commercial utility and to possess numerous advantages over any heretofore employed, so far as I am aware. The corn cob material is clean and easy to handle and easy to obtain. It contains all the necessary constituents for cleaning, polishing and burnishing the articles as well as the capacity to take up any grease or oil or other liquid that may be found on the treated articles.

Having thus described the invention what I claim is:

A method of cleaning, polishing and burnishing articles which comprises placing the same loosely in a movable container, along with attrition objects such as balls, and with a quantity of finely divided material, meal or flour made from corn cobs by crushing and grinding the same and then agitating the container.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

CHARLES C. TRUAX.