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METHOD OF PREPARING ASPHALT SLABS AND SHEETS.

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Asphalt slabs are ordinarily produced by pouring the material over a firm flat surface and passing over the same a heated roller. They are also produced by shaping them in brick and like presses. Neither of these methods is suitable for the production of very thin sheets.

The present invention relates to a method whereby very thin slabs or sheets of asphalt may be produced, and consists in passing a molten and partly cooled plastic asphalt sheet between pairs of revolving rollers set successively more and more close together and dividing the sheet thus produced into the desired sizes.

For this purpose a preferably pure mass of asphalt is molten and poured out so as to form a layer of about 30 millimeters thickness which layer is allowed partly to cool. Then, while in a plastic state, the layer is passed between pairs of press rollers so as to form a sheet which will be perfectly homogenous, uniform in thickness and smooth on both sides. The number of rollers employed depends on the desired thickness of the slabs, the rollers being set successively more and more close together. Thus, if three pairs of rollers be employed, the first pair may have a spacing of 20, the second 15, and the third 10 millimeters. By this gradual thinning of the asphalt it can be reduced to a thickness of about 3 millimeters, which is not possible by any of the older methods. The rolled slabs or sheets are subsequently cut up into the desired sizes and left to cool whereupon they will retain their shape and be ready for despatch and for application.

The asphalt can be used in its pure state without the admixture of sand so that very strong and tough asphalt coverings can be obtained by the process. After the slabs or sheets have been placed in situ they can easily be fused together into one continuous surface by means of a blow-lamp or the like. Thus large floors can be laid very quickly and cheaply, the thinness of the covering producing a considerable saving in materials. Very thin and cheap floor coverings can be prepared by the improved method and despatched anywhere to be easily laid in situ. The covering need not be fixed to the floor and will therefore be independent of the latter and prevent it from cracking and tearing by the expansion and contraction of the same. After a considerable period of use, the covering can be removed from one floor and transferred to another. All kinds of corners and curves and vertical walls may be covered with asphalt and made waterproof in this manner. The floor covering can be supplied ready for application and can easily be laid by anyone without the creation of dust and evil-smelling fumes. Only half the usual time is required for laying the floor prepared in this manner. Various articles, such as vessels and the like, can be made out of the rolled asphalt plates.

I am well aware that the forming of plastic masses including tar and asphalt into sheets by means of revolving rollers is not new per se, but the process has not so far been carried out in the manner hereinbefore described, a manner by which alone pure asphalt can be formed into very thin sheets.

I claim:—

1. The method of forming asphalt slabs and plates consisting in heating and pouring a substantially pure mass of asphalt to form a sheet thereof, then allowing the sheet to partially cool to a plastic state, and then gradually and in successive steps reducing the thickness of the sheet and smoothing the same on both sides thereof until the desired thickness of the same is obtained, whereupon the sheet is cut up into the desired sized slabs or plates.

2. The method of forming asphalt plates and slabs consisting in heating and pouring a substantially pure mass of asphalt to form a sheet of about 33 mm.'s thickness, then allowing the sheet to partially cool to a plastic state, and then gradually and in successive steps reducing the thickness of the sheet by pressing the same until a thickness of about 3 mm.'s is obtained, whereupon the sheet is cut into the desired sized slabs and plates.

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