

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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METHOD OF TREATING CORK ARTICLES.

946,216.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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No Drawing.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE H. GILLETTE, of New York city, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Method of Treating Cork Articles, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to the use of blocks, sheets or boards composed of granulated or pulverized cork held by a suitable binder.

The binder employed is one which will possess the desired property of preserving the cork in proper condition. Binders of this character usually contain oil or some other substance which possesses a disagreeable odor or taste or both. Such material is objectionable for many purposes, such for example, as bottle cap linings; owing to its taste and odor.

My invention is designed to overcome the difficulty of this objectionable taste and odor, and to produce a material made from granulated or pulverized cork which will be substantially free from such taste or odor.

In carrying out my invention in its preferred form, I preferably take a sheet, board or block of the cork composition and coat it with a waterproof varnish or similar coating. This waterproof varnish preferably contains a considerable percentage of a drier, although this is not essential. I then bake or heat the coated article at a temperature preferably between 250° F. and 500° F. This baking is preferably continued for several hours, until the objectionable odor of the article is entirely eliminated. If linseed oil is present in the cork composition, I find that this baking not only eliminates the objectionable odor of the varnish but also removes the linseed oil odor. This treatment not only renders the article waterproof and substantially odorless and tasteless, but also stiffens it without materially affecting its elasticity. Sheets of cork composition thus treated are especially adapted for use with bottle caps; since no objectionable taste or odor is imparted to the bottle contents.

If desired, after the baking treatment above described, the sheet may subsequently be coated with a non-adhesive material such as paraffin, in order to prevent or reduce its tendency to stick or adhere to parts with which it contacts. The material treated as above described is of special advantage where

the fluid is steamed in the bottle after the closure is applied; since the waterproof varnish is not attacked or softened by the steaming operation.

In a modification of my process I may bake or heat the cork composition before any coating is applied, this treatment rendering the cork composition substantially odorless and tasteless. I may then coat the sheet or article with a non-adhesive material such as paraffin, to prevent its sticking to the parts with which it contacts, such as the mouth of the bottle. The paraffin will also act to make the sheet waterproof. This material may be used for bottle caps in cases where there is no steaming of the bottle contents.

In another modification of my process I bake the cork composition, then apply the waterproof varnish and then bake the article again. In this case I may or may not apply a non-adhesive material such as paraffin or other non-conducting coating over the waterproof varnish.

The advantages of my invention will be obvious to those skilled in the art. The objectionable taste and odor of cork compositions made from granulated or pulverized cork is removed. Moreover, if there is any odor or taste to the natural cork itself, my treatment will prevent its affecting the bottle contents.

The treatment may be applied to sheets, boards or blocks of natural cork bark, and the method may be varied in other ways without departing from my invention.

I claim:—

1. The method of treating an article composed of cork particles and an artificial binder, which consists in heating the article to a temperature which will substantially eliminate the objectionable odor and taste due to the binder, substantially as described.

2. The herein described method of treating an article composed of cork particles and an artificial binder, having desirable qualities but having inherent therein an objectionable odor and taste, which consists in heating the article to a temperature which will substantially eliminate the objectionable odor and taste of the binder, substantially as described.

3. The herein described method of treating an article composed of cork particles and an artificial binder containing oil, which consists in heating the article to a tempera-

ture which will substantially eliminate the objectionable odor and taste of the binder, substantially as described.

4. The herein described method of treating cork containing an artificial binder having an objectionable odor and taste, which consists in baking it at a temperature sufficiently high and for a period sufficiently long to substantially eliminate the taste and odor, substantially as described.

5. The herein described method of treating cork articles which contain an artificial binder having an objectionable odor and taste, which consists in giving the article a waterproof coating and then baking it to remove substantially all of the taste and odor of the binder, substantially as described.

6. The herein described method of treating cork articles containing an artificial binder having an objectionable odor and taste, which consists in baking the article, giving it a waterproof coating, and then rebaking, the baking operations being conducted at a temperature which will remove the objectionable taste and odor of the binder, substantially as described.

7. The herein described method of treating cork articles which contain an artificial binder having an objectionable odor and taste, which consists in giving the article a waterproof coating, then heating it to eliminate the objectionable taste and odor of the binder, and then coating it with a non-adhesive material, substantially as described.

8. The method of treating cork articles containing particles of cork and an artificial binder having an objectionable taste and odor, which consists in baking the articles at a temperature in excess of 250° F., and continuing the baking for several hours to substantially eliminate such objectionable taste and odor, substantially as described.

9. The method of manufacturing tasteless and odorless cork articles, which consists in forming a sheet, board or block composed of cork and an artificial binder having desirable qualities and also having inherent therewith an objectionable taste and odor, and then heating the article to substantially eliminate such taste and odor, substantially as described.

10. The method of manufacturing tasteless and odorless cork articles, which consists in forming a sheet, board or block composed of particles of cork and an artificial binder having the desired preservative and adhesive qualities but possessing inherent therewith an objectionable taste and odor, then coating with a waterproof material and then heating to substantially eliminate the objectionable taste and odor of the binder, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand.

GEORGE H. GILLETTE.

Witnesses:

C. P. BYRNES,
H. M. CORWIN.