UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM R. FISHER, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-THIRD TO JOSEPH F. MORAN, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

PROCESS FOR FACING STEREOTYPE-METAL.

No. 925,321. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 15, 1909.

Application filed December 14, 1908. Serial No. 467,473.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM R. FISHER, citizen of the United States, residing in the city and county of San Francisco and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Processes for Facing Stereotype-Metal, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to the process for facing stereotype metal such as used for printing and other purposes, with a metal which will increase the life and wear of the plate, which invention will be more fully explained in the following specification.

The usual stereotype plates which are employed for printing and like purposes are very short lived, and soon become worn and crushed so that the matter represented upon the plate becomes blurred, and the plates must be renewed. For the purpose of producing more lasting plates, electro-types have been employed. These are formed by means of wax molds impressed by the type or matter to be printed, the molds being afterward coated with black lead and an electro deposition of the facing metal produced, after which it is filled up by melted metal to give a sufficient supporting surface. In my invention I apply a copper, or other hard enduring surface directly to the face of the stereotype metal, and by my process I am enabled to so unite the facing metal to the stereotype plate as to make it practically homogeneous, and prevent the facing metal from being peeled off, and the block rendered useless.

In carrying out my process, the stereo block is cast of type metal in the usual papier mâché, or equivalent mold. The block is then cleaned by the use of a solution of caustic potash, then thoroughly washed in clean water, after which it is placed in a bath of potassium cyanid, and scraped with pumice powder, and again well washed with clean water. The block is then placed in a weak solution of cyanid of platinum where it remains for a few minutes, and a thin coating of the metal will be deposited upon the face of the stereo block. The block is then ready for a facing, and is placed in a solution of copper or other material, which is subject to electro deposition, and is sufficiently hard for the desired purpose.

The usual method of electro deposition may be employed, the electrical current being a light one, and when a sufficient facing has been made, the plate is practically indestructible by use.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

The process of facing stereotype and like plates with a protecting metal, said process consisting in first washing the plate in caustic potash, then placing it in a bath of potassium cyanid, again washing the plate and placing it in a solution of platinum cyanid, and subsequently applying the facing metal by electro deposition.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM R. FISHER.

Witnesses:

GEO. H. STRONG,

CHARLES A. PENFIELD.