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PROCESS FOR REMOVING NICOTINE FROM TOBACCO

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5 Claims. (Cl. 131—143)

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The present invention relates to a process for removing nicotine from tobacco.

Prior art methods for removing nicotine from tobacco have generally used alkaline substances which tend to adversely affect the tobacco or produce a partial deterioration thereof.

The object of the present invention is to obtain a tobacco practically exempt from nicotine, which at the same time shall preserve its original appearance, and lose merely those aromatic principles which gave it its characteristic odor.

Said object is achieved by a process which consists in first treating the tobacco with boiled water, which is periodically renewed until the tobacco is suitably softened and brought into a condition in which it will readily release the nicotine; thereupon the tobacco is subjected to the action of an infusion of tea in boiled water and the thus treated tobacco is washed and immediately immersed in boiled water which is renewed periodically. The tobacco is then again treated with an infusion of tea in boiled water and washed with boiled water; it is then treated with boiled water which is periodically renewed, and finally removed from the water and dried.

In a practical application, leaf or cut tobacco was placed in a tile-lined sink or trough and was completely covered with water which had previously been boiled, the water at the time of use being at room temperature. The tobacco is thus steeped for 5 to 10 days, the water being renewed every 24 hours.

Thereupon, the tobacco was treated with an infusion of 300 grams of Ceylon tea in 100 litres of water, in which the tobacco was left submerged for about 12 hours. At the end of that period, the tobacco was washed with boiled water, and again steeped in boiled water for 5 to 10 days, the water being renewed every 24 hours.

The tobacco was next submitted to a further treatment with tea infusion, as hereinabove described, for about 12 hours, whereupon the tobacco was washed with boiled water and again immersed in boiled water for 5 to 10 days, the water being changed every 24 hours.

Alternatively, after the last washing, the tobacco may be placed in wooden barrels and covered with boiled water, and the barrels exposed to sunlight for 5 to 10 days, the water being changed every 24 hours to prevent fermentation.

Finally, the tobacco is removed from the water, and dried in a register stove at a temperature of from 30 to 50° C. approximately.

Although the present invention has been described with particular reference to a specific

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example, the invention is not limited thereto and such changes may be made as are within the scope of the claims.

I claim:

1. A process for removing nicotine from tobacco comprising the steps of treating the tobacco with boiled water while periodically renewing such water until the tobacco has been sufficiently softened and disposed for ready release of nicotine, thereupon subjecting the tobacco to the action of an infusion of tea in boiled water, washing the thus treated tobacco with boiled water by immediately immersing the thus treated tobacco in boiled water and repeatedly renewing the water, thereupon treating the tobacco with a fresh infusion of tea in boiled water, immediately immersing the tobacco in boiled water, periodically renewing the boiled water, removing the tobacco from the water and drying the tobacco.

2. A process for removing nicotine from tobacco comprising the steps of treating the tobacco with boiled water while periodically renewing such water, until the tobacco has been sufficiently softened and disposed for ready release of nicotine, thereupon subjecting the tobacco to the action of an infusion of tea in boiled water, washing the thus treated tobacco with boiled water by immediately immersing the thus treated tobacco in boiling water and repeatedly renewing the water, thereupon treating the tobacco with a fresh infusion of tea in boiled water, immediately immersing the tobacco in boiled water contained in barrels, exposing the the barrels to the action of sunlight, periodically renewing the water, removing the tobacco from the water, and drying the tobacco.

3. A process for removing nicotine from tobacco comprising treating the tobacco with boiled water for a period between about 5 and about 10 days to soften the tobacco for the ready release of nicotine therefrom, thereafter treating the tobacco with an infusion of tea and boiled water for about 12 hours, washing the so-treated tobacco with boiled water, steeping the washed tobacco in boiled water for a period between about 5 and 10 days, subjecting the so-treated tobacco to the action of a fresh infusion of tea for about 12 hours, washing the tobacco with boiled water, steeping the washed tobacco in boiled water for a period of about 5 to 10 days, removing the tobacco from the water, and drying the tobacco.

4. A process for removing nicotine from tobacco comprising treating the tobacco with boiled water for a period between about 5 and

about 10 days to soften the tobacco for the ready release of nicotine therefrom, thereafter treating the tobacco with an infusion of tea and boiled water for about 12 hours, washing the so-treated tobacco with boiled water, steeping the washed tobacco in boiled water for a period between about 5 and 10 days, subjecting the so-treated tobacco to the action of a fresh infusion of tea for about 12 hours, washing the tobacco with boiled water, steeping the washed tobacco in boiled water for a period of about 5 to 10 days, exposing the tobacco while covered with boiled water to the action of sunlight, while periodically renewing the boiled water to prevent fermentation, removing the tobacco from the water, and then drying the tobacco.

5. The method defined in claim 4 in which the tobacco covered with boiled water is exposed to sunlight for a period of about 5 to 10 days.

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