UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN JAY LOONEY, OF ST. PETERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN TREATING HEAVY PETROLEUM.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **139,009**, dated May 20, 1873; application filed November 2, 1872.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN J. LOONEY, of St. Petersburg, county of Clarion, State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in the Treatment of Oil; and to enable others skilled in the art to use my invention, I declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

My invention relates to the treatment of the heavy or crude petroleum previous to the process of distillation; and consists in adding to such heavy or crude oil a compound or mixture of benzine and sulphuric acid. This mixture is added to the heavy oil while in the tank, previous to distillation, in sufficient quantities to cause all the hard resinous substances, such as paraffine, &c., to become dissolved or thinned into an active fluid mass.

I have found that by treating the heavy crude petroleum in this manner previous to distillation it will yield, upon distillation, a considerably greater quantity of commercial fluid.

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

The treatment of crude or heavy petroleum, previous to distillation, with a compound or mixture of benzine and sulphuric acid, in the manner and for the purpose substantially as set forth.

JOHN JAY LOONEY.

Witnesses:
C. REICHART,
E. ALTMAN.