

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN SCOTT, OF DOVER, COUNTY OF KENT, ENGLAND.

PROCESS OF DRY-CLEANING TEXTILE FABRICS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 375,652, dated December 27, 1887.

Application filed February 21, 1887. Serial No. 228,610. (No specimens.) Patented in England May 23, 1885, No. 3,170; in France May 29, 1885, No. 169,258; in Belgium May 30, 1885, No. 69,064, and in Canada August 25, 1886, No. 24,810.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN SCOTT, a citizen of England, residing at Dover, in the county of Kent and Kingdom of Great Britain, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in the Method of Dry-Cleaning Textile Fabrics, (for which I have received Letters Patent in England, No. 3,170, dated May 23, 1885;) and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

The feature of novelty in this invention consists in submitting the articles to be cleaned to an equal and gentle friction, which is produced by the action of sawdust in combination with benzoline, naphtha, or some spirit possessing equivalent cleansing properties, contained in a closed receptacle or box in which the goods are placed and turned by a rotary motion imparted to the axis of the box or other receptacle by any convenient means.

The object of such improvement is to reduce the expense in cleaning hitherto incurred in the dry process by a saving of twenty-five to seventy-five per cent. of spirit employed, with the advantage of preservation of the colors of heavy goods, which up to the present time could only (owing to the great expense) be cleaned by the ordinary method, with the risk of injury to the colors. The new process is simple, easy of application, and efficacious in its results.

This process is as follows: The goods to be cleaned are first subjected to careful inspection to ascertain if they bear grease or dirt stains. These are removed by brushing with naphtha, benzoline, or other cleaning spirit, after which they are damped all over with the same spirit and placed in a receptacle or box of convenient form and dimensions, which is closed and air-tight, and in which sawdust is introduced in quantity sufficient to cover the articles under treatment. This box or receptacle is then made to rotate on its axis by any convenient means.

The amount of sawdust employed would naturally vary in accordance with the quantity of material to be operated upon, but in all cases it must be sufficient to cover the goods.

The quantity of spirit retained in the arti-

cles, in conjunction with the gentle frictional action of the sawdust on the material occasioned by the revolution of the box, suffices to effect the purposes required; but in some instances it may be advisable to mix a small quantity of the spirit with the sawdust.

The duration of the cleaning process in the box would depend on the condition of the articles at the time of operating; but, as a rule, from one to three hours may be stated, taking into consideration the nature of the material. When this operation is completed, the articles are withdrawn, and the sawdust is then removed from them either by shaking, beating, or placing them in a revolving cage.

I am well aware that stale bread and silver sand dampened with camphor have been employed for cleaning purposes, and that dry sawdust and bran, used alone or with polishing material, have been used with a rumble, box, or shaking-machine for polishing metal articles. I therefore make no claim to a rumble, box, or shaking-machine, such being in use in many trades; nor do I claim the use of dry sawdust or bran or bread and silver sand dampened with camphor for cleaning purposes; but what I consider as new is cleaning textile fabrics with sawdust impregnated with naphtha or benzoline. The sawdust, being wet with the cleaning spirit and also gritty, acts on the surface of the material as a wet brush, cleaning heavy goods in a manner that neither dry sawdust nor bran nor bread and silversand dampened with camphor could possibly effect in such a satisfactory manner.

I claim—

The method of cleaning textile fabrics by first removing dirt or grease stains from them by brushing them with naphtha or benzoline, after which dampening all over with the same cleaning spirit, and in then rotating the fabrics in a revolving receptacle with a quantity of sawdust impregnated with naphtha or benzoline, for the purpose herein explained.

JOHN SCOTT.

Witnesses:

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