

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN NEWTON COLBY, OF MYSTIC BRIDGE, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN ROOFING MATERIALS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **147,610**, dated February 17, 1874; application filed July 22, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN NEWTON COLBY, of Mystic Bridge, county of New London, State of Connecticut, have invented an Improved Roofing, of which the following is a specification:

My improved roofing slab or tile consists of asbestos, made into sheets or plates of the proper dimensions, and saturated or impregnated with such materials in solution as will impart to the plates stiffness and rigidity, and render them water-proof.

The sheet or plate of asbestos is made either by consolidating a mass of asbestos under pressure, and imparting adhesion to the fibers by any suitable cement, or else by making thin sheets of asbestos paper in the same manner as ordinary paper, and then pressing or cementing layers of these together to make a thicker sheet.

Although various substances and compositions may be used for impregnating the asbestos sheets, I prefer to use a paint made as follows: One quart of rock-salt dissolved in one gallon of water is mixed with six quarts of slaked lime, and five quarts of the mixture

added to a composition consisting of one pound of pulverized alum or borax, one-half a pound of copperas, three pounds of potash, and four pounds of sifted ashes.

This paint or mixture may be combined with the disintegrated asbestos before it is made into sheets or plates, or it may be applied to the sheet, a preliminary varnish of shellac being, in some instances, applied to the slab.

After the coating is dry the slab is ready for application to a roof or other place, in the same manner as ordinary tiles of slate or shingles.

I claim—

As a new article of manufacture, a tile composed of asbestos, made into a sheet or plate, and impregnated or coated with a water-proof composition, as specified.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN NEWTON COLBY.

Witnesses:

CHARLES E. FOSTER,
EDM. F. BROWN.