

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN M. DILL, OF ARTESIA, TERRITORY OF NEW MEXICO.

TANNING COMPOUND.

973,518.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 11, 1910.

No Drawing

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN M. DILL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Artesia, in the county of Eddy and Territory of New Mexico, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tanning Compounds, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved compound for tanning hides and pelts and has for its object to provide a very simple and efficient compound of this character which will thoroughly permeate and tan the hide and give it a uniform color.

A further object resides in the provision of a tanning compound which consists of a number of tanning substances to which a coloring ingredient is added, said compound also having as one of its ingredients gasoline which serves to open the pores of the hide or pelt to permit the entrance of the tanning substances.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists in a tanning compound comprising the following ingredients mixed in substantially the proportions specified: 15 gallons of clear water, or enough to entirely cover any hide or pelt form the base of the compound. To the water 1 ounce of borax is added. The borax will thoroughly cleanse and soften the water and eliminate all foreign substances. The water is boiled for a period of about 20 minutes. Three ounces of garden sage are then added together with 1½ ounces of fluid extract of wild cherry bark and 8½ pounds of gum gambia or catechu. These three last named ingredients are all tan substances, the last being very strong. As is well known catechu is a powerful astringent and has great preservative powers. When boiled it is of a pale yellow or light brown color and will contain from 80 to 40% of tannic acid. To the above named ingredients 1 ounce of turmeric or curcuma is added to color and glaze the hide. Curcuma is an extract obtained from a plant which grows in the East Indies and is of a rich yellow color when boiled. Of course it will be understood that when differently colored leathers are desired, other coloring ingredients may be used. I have demonstrated by experiment that by the addition of turmeric or curcuma a tanning compound is secured whereby the best grade of leathers and furs may be properly tanned without danger to the hide or pelt.

Curcuma as well as the other ingredients contains a certain percentage of tannic acid so that all of the ingredients above mentioned act in harmony and each serves to modify the action of the other. The curcuma is also the principal coloring agent and imparts to the hide a bright soft yellow color when the ingredients are properly mixed and boiled, as hereinafter set forth. About 4 ounces of gasoline should now be mixed with the foregoing ingredients and the whole boiled for a period of about 10 minutes. The gasoline is one of the principal features of the compound as it thoroughly penetrates the hide and opens the pores so as to admit the tanning substances. In this manner the solution enters the hide or pelt from both sides so as to produce a uniform tan.

After boiling the compound is allowed to cool until it becomes like warm so that the hide or pelt will not be burned. The hide or pelt is then placed in the solution and allowed to remain for about 2 minutes when it is removed and hung up over the tub or other vessel. It should be thus suspended for about 10 minutes or until the grain becomes set or in other words, until the grain runs in a common direction throughout the body of the hide. It is then again placed in the compound and great care should be exercised to see that there is no air under the hide as it is submerged. The hide or pelt should be allowed to remain in the compound for from 5 to 20 days in accordance with the thickness of the same. It may be easily determined when the hide or pelt has become thoroughly tanned by cutting one edge. As the tanning substances seep through the hide from each face to the center thereof, it can be seen whether or not they have met. If so the tanning process is complete. The hide is then removed and washed in clear water. A heavy piece of plate glass is used to work the hide or pelt which should be done on the flesh side only. This working of the hide will prevent further stretching of the same.

After the hide or pelt has been subjected to the action of the above compound it is then ready to be oiled.

By the use of my improved compound the hide or pelt may be thoroughly tanned at a minimum expense, the various ingredients being purchasable at a slight cost. By the use of gasoline, the thorough penetration of

the tanning substances into the hide or pelt is assured.

While I have above specified the particular proportion of the various ingredients, it will be understood that these may be somewhat modified in accordance with the particular kind or character of the hide or pelt which is to be tanned.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed is:—

1. A tanning compound consisting of the following named ingredients: water, borax, garden sage, fluid extract of wild cherry bark, catechu and curcuma.

2. A tanning compound consisting of the following named ingredients: water, borax,

garden sage, fluid extract of wild cherry bark, catechu, curcuma, and gasolene.

3. A tanning compound consisting of the following named ingredients in substantially the proportions specified: water, 15 gallons, borax 1 ounce, garden sage, 3 ounces, fluid extract of wild cherry bark 1½ ounces, catechu 1½ pounds, curcuma 1 ounce and gasolene 4 ounces.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN M. DILL.

Witnesses:

JOHN H. CRAIG,
HENRY G. BUMBERGER.