

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FELIX GROGNET, OF BOURBEVOIE, FRANCE.

ART OF PREPARING HIDES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 503,235, dated August 15, 1893.

Application filed June 20, 1892. Serial No. 437,307. (No specimens.) Patented in France January 6, 1890, No. 202,985.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FELIX GROGNET, a citizen of the French Republic, residing at Bourbevoie, France, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in the Art of Preparing Hides, (for which I have obtained Letters Patent in France, No. 202,985, dated January 6, 1890,) of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

10 My invention has relation to the art of preparing hides of all kinds for use in the manufacture of various articles, and the invention relates more particularly to a composition designed to absorb the liquid or fatty matter
15 exuding from the hides preliminary to the tanning operation, whereby said hides are especially adapted for said tanning operation, and the quality of the prepared hides enhanced.

20 My invention consists in the composition of matter for treating the hides prior to tanning the same, as hereinafter fully described and pointed out in the claim.

My improved composition which I employ
25 for treating the hides is composed of one-third part of yellow clay (silicate of alumina hydrate and silica) one-third part of talc or chalk; and one-third part of protoxide of barium or baryta. These ingredients when in a
30 pulverulent condition possess great absorbent and siccative properties, which latter adapt the composition for the desired purposes.

In practice, the hides are to be subjected to the action of the described composition
35 prior to the final tanning operation, and for this purpose the composition (in a powdered form) is spread upon the flesh side of the hides to any desired thickness; usually a layer of from one-half to one and one-half inches in
40 thickness is sufficient. The composition when spread upon the hides as described forms a coating which prevents access of the sur-

rounding air to the flesh side of said hides, and by reason of the great siccative and absorbent properties of the composition the liquid or fatty matters exuding from the hides will be readily absorbed by the composition, until the hides will be entirely free from any liquid or fatty matters which usually tend to prevent the complete and thorough tanning of the
50 said hides, and it will also be found that the hides will be thoroughly dried and any fatty or fleshy matter adhering to the hides will be destroyed or at least rendered capable of being readily removed by a knife. If desired a constant current of air may be forced upon the
55 hides covered with the described composition whereby the liquid matter absorbed thereby will be evaporated and the consequent drying of the hides expedited. The length of time necessary for the thorough drying of the hides will
60 of course vary, though in practice it will be found that fifteen days will be ample for that purpose. When the composition has been removed from the hides it may be spread out
65 to dry and afterward used for a second operation, and so on for a considerable number of operations. When the composition finally becomes thoroughly saturated or impregnated with the fatty matter it forms an excellent manure or fertilizer, and may be used as such.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The herein described composition of matter for treating hides, consisting of clay, talc, and
75 protoxide of barium or baryta.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of May, 1892.

FELIX GROGNET.

Witnesses:

V. MATRAY,
JOSEPH SALING.