UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES H. SHAW, OF OAKLEY, CALIFORNIA.

PACKING MATERIAL.

1,401,198. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 27, 1921.

No Drawing. Application filed May 15, 1920. Serial No. 381,668.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES H. SHAW, a citizen of the United States, residing at Oakley, in the county of Contra Costa, State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Packing Materials; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the characters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this application.

This invention relates to improvements in packing materials, the principal object of the invention being to provide a material for the purpose which is adapted to be used instead of moss in packing asparagus and similar produce, and also for packing fragile articles for shipment.

The material not only serves as an ordinary packing-filler, but protects the articles packed both against breaking and against the possible injurious action of heat and cold, since in its very nature it is an insulator against changes in temperature.

It also forms a moisture absorbent, thus further protecting the articles shipped against atmospheric or weather conditions.

The principal ingredient of my material is paper pulp from mill-wood refuse, the pulp itself being made in any desired fashion known to the art. The pulp when thus made or "green" is a watery mush, to which I add 1/20 of one per-cent. by volume of sodium sulfite to prevent the formation of mold or similar destructive formations. The pulp is then poured into molds to form slabs or blocks of various shapes and sizes, the water in the pulp being then evaporated by the application of a blast of hot air, or some similar means. In this manner the pulp, from the line of its formation and pouring in a wet state until it is dried, is left undisturbed, which prevents disintegration thereof, the fibers of each slab or block cohering to form a single unit mass.

The material is then ready for use, and is very light and relatively bulky while being substantial and stiff, so that it forms a protection for the articles packed therewith against shocks tending to shatter the articles, should they be breakable.

Should the articles be perishable produce, the packing material will prevent changes in temperature from affecting the same, and will also prevent moisture from reaching them, as I have found from tests that 6 ounces of this material is able to absorb 5 pounds of water, and in the short period of ten seconds. Thus it will be seen that I have produced a packing material which fulfils the objects of the invention as previously set forth.

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

As a new article of manufacture, a packing material consisting of unpressed wood paper pulp formed into various shapes and sizes and thoroughly dried.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JAMES H. SHAW.