(No Model.)

L. CHASE.

MATERIAL FOR FILLING MATTRESSES, PILLOWS, &c.

No. 309,523. Patented Dec. 23, 1884.

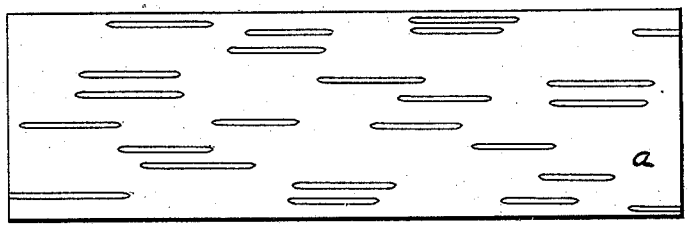


FIG. 1.

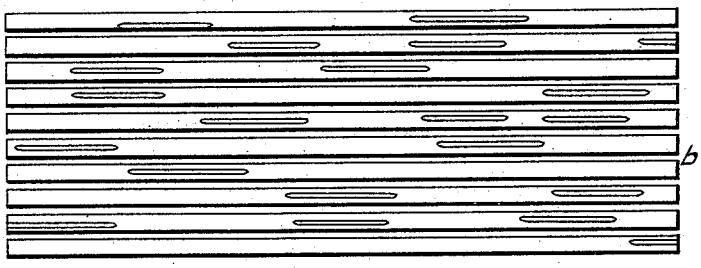


FIG. 2.

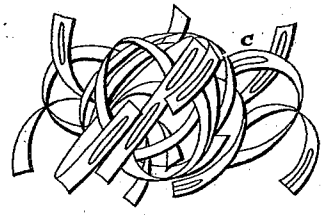


FIG. 3.

WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LORENZO CHASE, OF PORTLAND, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO WILLIAM. H. SCOTT, OF DEERING, MAINE.

MATERIAL FOR FILLING MATTRESSES, PILLOWS, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 309,523, dated December 23, 1884.

Application filed Septemebr 24, 1884. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LORENZO CHASE, of Portland, in the county of Cumberland and State of Maine, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Material for Filling Mattresses, Pillows, &c.; 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 shows a view of a piece of birch-bark. Fig. 2 is a view of the same when divided into strips. Fig. 3 is a view of the strips when curled by heat.

Same letters show like parts.

My invention relates to the production of a new and useful article in the way of pillows, mattresses, sofas, &c.

My invention consists in the process of treating birch-bark, so as to render it useful in the manufacture of mattresses, pillows, and all such articles, and also in the product of such process, to wit: these articles themselves when manufactured.

In carrying out my process I first take the white or nearly white outer bark from the white-birch tree, in strips of such dimensions as may be convenient in stripping. This birch I then submit to the action of two grooved rolls, one above the other. The projections of each roll fit into the spaces between the projections of the other. The birch is drawn in between these two grooved rolls, and by their action divided or stripped into long narrow bands of the desired width. This width is of course controlled by the rolls and their spaces. When the bark has thus been stripped, I then submit the necessary quantity of it for any particular purpose to the action of heat, both to curl it up and interlock the different strips, and to form the whole mass into the desired form. I perform this step in my process by placing the desired or requisite quantity of the strips into a pan or vessel of the form into which I desire to shape the whole mass of the strips. The action of heat to curl white-birch bark is familiar, as well as its tendency to cause several fibers or strips to interlock. This is the object I aim to accomplish by heat, and the effect is satisfactorily produced thereby. I then have my strips intermingled and intertwined, like hair or excelsior. They then form a coherent mass well locked together. The strips or ribbons will be found hooked into each other, so as not too easily to pull apart.

If I desire to make a mattress, then my heating-pan is of that form; if a pillow, then of a different form. The form of the object into which the birch is to enter controls the form of the heating or curling-pan. I then have my stripped and curled-up birch fit to enter into the manufacture of mattresses, pillows, and all kindred articles, to take the place of hair, &c.

I will specify that I have the further object of utilizing in this manner the well-known medicinal properties of this bark. It has long been known to be a very highly efficacious remedy by external application for rheumatism and analogous complaints, as well as for certain cutaneous diseases, and for many others not necessary to be enumerated. It is sufficient to say that I propose in this way to avail myself of the curative virtues of this vegetable growth, by having persons thus lying upon it and brought into prolonged contact with it. Furthermore, it makes an exceedingly soft, elastic, dry, and fragrant bed or pillow. It is a preventive to the accumulation and propagation of disagreeable or offensive insects.

I do not limit myself to the forming of the mass of strips or ribbons to the shape of the pan merely. I reserve the right to curl the strips in a mass and in any form or shape.

In the accompanying drawings, *a* shows a piece of bark as taken from the tree. *b* shows the same after being divided into ribbons or strips. *c* shows the same after having been subjected to the action of heat.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. The process of producing a white-birch-

bark stuffing for mattresses, &c., which consists in first stripping the bark into long narrow ribbons or bands, then subjecting the bands or ribbons in quantities to the action of heat in a curling-pan, to curl up the strips and interlock the same so as to form them into a coherent mass, as herein set forth.

2. The article of manufacture herein described, to wit: a mattress, pillow, &c., the stuffing or filling of which is made of stripped, curled, and interlocked ribbons of birch, as herein set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

LORENZO CHASE.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM HENRY CLIFFORD,

CHAS. H. KIMBALL.