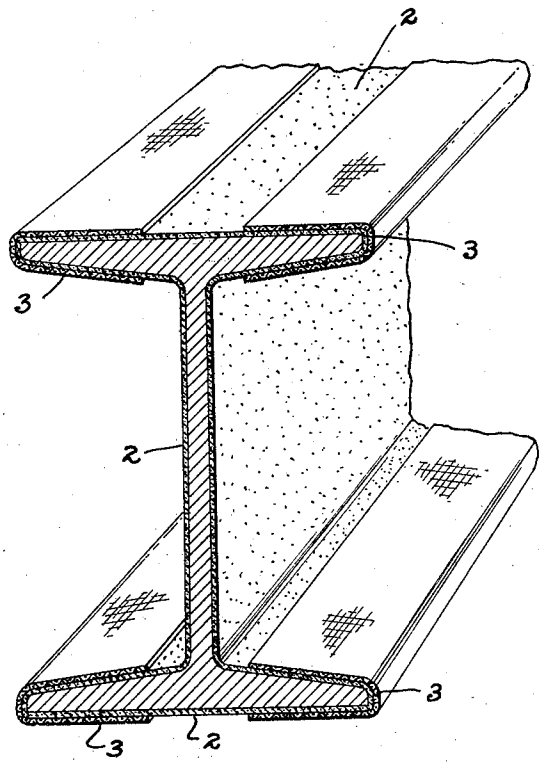
Jan. 24, 1933. E. JANSEN 1,895,190

PROTECTING COATING OF STRUCTURAL STEEL

Filed May 28, 1930



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Patented Jan. 24, 1933 1,895,190

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PROTECTING COATING OF STRUCTURAL STEEL

Application filed May 28, 1930. Serial No. 456,779.

This invention relates to the protection from corrosion of steel beams and irregular structural shapes, such as H-beams and I-beams, and the like.

Where steel structural members are exposed to severe atmospheric conditions or to the action of salt water, fog or spray, they are subject to rapid corrosion unless given a heavy coating of asphaltic or bituminous enamel or paint or other protective composition. If these shapes, and particularly irregular ones, such as H-beams or I-beams are coated before being set in place, great difficulty is experienced in protecting the coated edges or flanges, as handling of the beams often causes the coating material to be scraped off the edges and corners.

In order better to protect the coating on these various surfaces and to prevent the coating from chipping off and at the same time to make the coating more resistant to abrasion in handling, it is proposed to apply a strip of fabric, such as canvas or burlap over the edges or surfaces to be protected. This fabric is applied over the coating, usually bituminous material, and is mopped on with an additional application of either hot or cold material. The fabric thereby being thoroughly bonded to the original coating provides a substantial reinforcement to the latter.

Having reference to the accompanying drawing:

The figure illustrates the invention.

A is an I-beam. This steel I-beam or other structural shape is first treated to a heavy priming coat of material designed to protect the metal from corrosion and to form a bond between the metal and the next application of coating. Next, there is applied a hot or cold coating of bituminous material 2. Over this coating 2, while either soft or hard, as in the case of bitumens, or wet or dry, as in the case of paint, a fabric 3, either saturated with bituminous material or paint, or an unsaturated fabric, is applied. This fabric is then mopped or wiped so as to press it smoothly over the beam; and over the fabric an additional coating is preferably applied. It is understood that the fabric may be applied by hand or by any suitable mechanical means, and that in the case of cold coatings it may not need an additional application of material but may be rolled or pressed into the previously applied original coating.

By this method of treatment the protective coating for the metal may not only be greatly strengthened but its life is materially extended, and it also aids materially in resisting abrasive damage in the handling of heavy beams.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. A method of protecting structural steel beams against corrosion which consists in applying a protective coating material to the surface of the beams, applying strips of fabric covering over the edges only of the beam to protect the coating material against removal, while the coating material is in a viscous state, and wiping the fabric to press it into bonded relation with the coating material.

2. A method of protecting the edges and supporting surfaces of structural steel beams which have been coated with a corrosion-resisting compound adapted to harden after being applied which consists in covering said surfaces and edges with fabric to resist abrasive damage when handling the beams, and uniting said fabric with the coating material, by pressing the same against the said compound before it has hardened.

3. An article of manufacture comprising irregular structural steel shapes, a coating of rust-resisting composition, and a relatively heavy textile material bonded into said composition about the edge of the steel shapes.

4. An article of manufacture comprising irregular structural steel shapes, a coating of rust-resisting composition, and canvas pressed into bonded relation with said composition and covering the edges of the steel shapes, said canvas being sufficiently heavy to protect the coated edges of the beam from abrasion caused by ordinary handling.

5. An article of manufacture comprising irregular structural steel shapes, a coating of rust-resisting composition, and strips of tex-

tile material pressed into bonded relation with said composition and covering the edges only of the steel shapes.

6. An article of manufacture comprising irregular structural steel shapes, a coating of rust-resisting composition, and separate strips of burlap arranged over the edges of the steel shapes and bonded into said composition.

7. In the method of making a protected structural beam which comprises applying directly to said beam a plastic material and then pressing fabric strips onto the outside surface of the plastic material to cover the projecting edges of the beam whereby the beam is protected against rust by the plastic material and the plastic material is protected against abrasion by the fabric.

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