

# United States Patent Office.

BENJAMIN F. WRIGHT, OF CHARLESTOWN, AND JOHN ROWE, JR., OF WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNORS OF THREE-FIFTHS OF THEIR RIGHT TO, SETH H. WOODBURY, WILLIAM T. GRAY, AND CHARLES H. DREW.

Letters Patent No. 105,759, dated July 26, 1870.

## IMPROVEMENT IN PREPARING RAWHIDE FOR USE IN CHAIR-SEATS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same

### To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, BENJAMIN F. WRIGHT, of Charlestown, State of Massachusetts, and JOHN ROWE, Jr., of Wilmington, in said State, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in the Process of Preparing Rawhide for Use in Chair-Seats; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

As drawings are not necessary, in our judgment, to a full understanding of our invention, we have not deemed it proper to prepare any.

Our invention relates to the proper preparation of rawhide for chair-seats, so that it shall be free from all odor, and from all grease or oil, and shall be colored or polished, or both.

It is, of course, obvious that rawhide, while in many respects it would make a valuable chair-seat, yet would be decidedly unfit for that purpose unless measures were taken to remove the unpleasant odor frequently found in it, and to remove the grease and oil in it, so that, when used as a seat, there shall be no danger of soiling the clothes of one who may use it.

Also, it is obvious that if the hide has a rough surface, it will quickly become soiled, and will then be difficult to clean; while, if it is smooth or polished, it will soil with great difficulty, as well as present a more tasteful appearance.

Also, the employment of strips of rawhide, of various colors, interwoven in such pattern as taste may suggest, or making the seat entirely of strips of one color, other than the natural color of the hide, will make a tasteful, and even beautiful seat.

All these objects I secure by my invention.

We first take rawhide, as it is usually found in the market, and having first taken off the hair, in the method usually employed in the trade, to deprive it of any odor, or prevent it acquiring one, we submit it to the action of bran, or what is called by those in the trade, "a bran drench." The particular mode of doing this will not require explanation, as it is well known in the art of preparing hides.

We then strip the hide in small strips from the edge of the hide, that is, so that the thickness of the hide shall be the width of the strip when cut, and about one-sixteenth of an inch in thickness.

The most convenient and economical way of doing this is to first cut the hide into large circular or oval pieces, and then to cut a continuous strip from the edge of the several pieces, until the whole piece is cut up.

This may be easily done in the well-known way of causing the piece to be cut up into strips to re-

volve about its center, bringing the edge against a knife so placed as to cut a strip of proper thickness.

We do not, however, confine ourselves to this method of cutting, although we strongly recommend that it be cut in a continuous strip, and we believe this will be found to be, from its great saving as compared with other methods, by far the best that can be adopted.

Still the hide may be cut in any other suitable manner, and it may be first split into pieces about one-eighth of an inch in thickness, and then cut into strips.

We next deprive the strips of hide of all grease or oil, by subjecting them to the action of some alkali.

We prefer to use sal-soda for this purpose, although any other alkali will answer, and possibly some other may do as well.

The mode of applying the alkali is to immerse the strips in a solution of the sal soda, or by passing the strips through it. They require to be exposed to its action from one to two minutes.

The solution should contain about ten pounds of sal soda to one barrel of water.

We next impart a polish to the strips, if they are not to be colored. This may be done in any suitable manner, but we prefer to pass them through rollers, which will have the effect to press the fibers closer together, and impart a more durable and more polished surface to the strip, and we recommend that this mode be adopted.

If the strips are to be colored, we color them immediately after they have been dried, after the action of the alkali.

As raw-hide, previously deprived of its oil, will readily take almost any dyeing-material, and as our method of dyeing is not a peculiar one, no other explanation of this is necessary than to say that the strips need to be subjected to the action of the dyeing-material but a short time, say about one minute, or even less.

After the desired color has been imparted, we polish the strips in the manner above stated.

We do not desire to claim a seat made of rawhide strips, as that has already been secured by Letters Patent granted to BENJAMIN F. WRIGHT. We consider that this invention is materially different from that, inasmuch as his invention does not relate to the process of preparing the material, nor does he look to its preparation in the manner and by the succession of processes herein described.

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

1. The process of preparing rawhide for use in chair-seats and analogous purposes, by depriving the same of odor, or preventing its acquiring an odor, de-

prising it of all grease and oil, cutting it in a continuous strip, polishing the strips or imparting a smooth surface to them, and coloring or dyeing them; we do not claim either of these processes separately, but the whole of them in combination as one process, substantially in the manner above described.

2. The process of preparing rawhide for use in chair-seats and analogous purposes, by depriving the same of odor, or preventing its acquiring an odor, depriving it of all grease and oil, cutting it in a contin-

uous strip, and polishing the strips or imparting a smooth surface to them; we do not claim either of these processes separately, but the whole of them in combination as one process, substantially as above set forth.

BENJ. F. WRIGHT.  
JOHN ROWE, JR.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM T. GRAY,  
CHARLES DREW.