

# United States Patent Office.

WILLIAM H. MERRICK, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

Letters Patent No. 105,354, dated July 12, 1870.

## IMPROVEMENT IN PREPARING PAPER PULP FOR PACKING AND TRANSPORTATION.

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

I, WILLIAM H. MERRICK, of Philadelphia, county of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, have invented an Improvement in Preparing Paper Pulp for Packing and Transportation, of which the following is a specification.

### *Nature and Object of the Invention.*

My invention consists in the draining or drying of paper pulp, by subjecting it, while mixed with, and while the fibers are held in a subdivided state in suspension in water, to the action of a centrifugal machine, in order to facilitate the packing and transportation of the said pulp.

### *General Description.*

The manufacture of paper pulp has of late years become a speciality, and a separate business from that of converting pulp into paper, large quantities of pulp being transported from pulp-works to paper-makers in different localities. In packing paper pulp for transportation it is important that it should be dry, or nearly so, and this drying has hitherto been effected by the exposure of the pulp to air or to heat. In some cases the paper pulp, after being bleached, has been subjected to a machine for conversion into a thick sheet, which is rolled up for transportation.

In order to avoid the delay incurred by the ordinary process of drying pulp, or by converting it into sheets to be rolled up, I subject it, either before or after it is bleached, to the action of a centrifugal machine, such

as is now generally used for drying clothes or draining sugar. The construction and operation of these machines are too well understood to need description or illustrative drawings. Before the pulp, however, can be subjected to a centrifugal machine, with good results, it is necessary that the fibres should be subdivided and held in suspension in water. Any suitable mixing apparatus may be employed for this purpose; an ordinary vat, for instance, with suitable stirring devices, may be used, the vat communicating, through a hole or spout, with the centrifugal machine, so that the water holding the subdivided fibers in suspension may flow in a stream to the said machine, by which the water is rapidly discharged, leaving behind it a mass of dry or comparatively dry pulp, which can be at once packed for transportation.

### *Claim.*

The draining or drying of paper pulp by subjecting it, while mixed with, and while the fibers are held in a subdivided state in suspension in water, to the action of a centrifugal machine, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

W. H. MERRICK.

Witnesses:

JOHN WHITE,  
WM. A. STEEL.