

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RUFUS KEELER, OF ROCHESTER, ASSIGNOR TO LEWIS C. ENGLAND, OF
NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN TANNING PROCESSES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 12,148, dated January 2, 1855.

all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RUFUS KEELER, of Rochester, county of Monroe, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in the Process of Tanning Leather; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

My invention consists in incorporating a large quantity of oil with the leather while yet in the tan-pits. The result of this is seen in the production of a very superior article, both in regard to flexibility, elasticity, and weight. By my said improvements I am enabled to make as fine leather with hemlock-bark and oil as can be produced by the use of the most costly materials.

The stock is prepared and placed in the tan-pits in the usual manner and quantity, and the tan-liquor is also prepared as usual. Into this the oil which is to be incorporated with the stock is poured; but this alone would not accomplish any result, as the oil would remain separated.

I have found that by constant agitation of the liquor and skins and the addition of the oil by little at a time a large quantity of oil is gradually absorbed by the leather, and I have also found that while this is going on a much larger proportion of tannin is taken up by the skins than would be if there were no oil, and

hence from their joint action results the greater weight before named, and consequently greater value of the article.

In order to effect the incorporation of the oil with the best result, I use the agitating-wheel known as "England's Patent Handler." This is a paddle-wheel of which the buckets just touch the top of the tan-liquor in the vats and by their revolution keep the same in commotion. While this goes on the oil is to added little by little and as fast as it is absorbed, which will be in the quantity of from eight to ten gallons for the pack of one hundred and fifty skins of calf. The incorporation is so complete that the presence of the oil cannot be perceived in the finished skins in any other manner than by its effects.

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

The herein-described improved method of tanning leather by introducing oil into the tanning-liquor and effecting its incorporation with the leather, in combination with the tannin, substantially in the manner and for the purposes as set forth.

RUFUS KEELER.

Witnesses:

S. H. MAYNARD,

JAMES L. ROBERTS.