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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

R. B. THOMPSON, OF GALESBURG, ILLINOIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN TANNING.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **26,800**, dated January 10, 1860.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, R. B. THOMPSON, of Galesburg, in the county of Knox, in the State of Illinois, have invented a new Compound for Tanning Leather; and I do hereby declare that the following is a true and exact description of the same.

The nature of my invention or improvement consists in the discovery and use of the following compound, viz: root of the *Polygonum bistorta*, ten pounds; root of the *Geranium maculatum*, two pounds; sulphate of copper, one-quarter pound; one barrel weak solution catechu, tan-bark, or hot water. After digesting thirty-six hours I then strain or filter the decoction, and when cool it is ready for use. I prepare my hides for the tan as follows: First remove the hair by any of the

common modes. They are then submitted to the action of the compound or tan-bath until tanned, which will be accomplished in the time here specified—calf-skins in from two to four days, and hides of any dimensions in from fifteen to twenty-five days.

I do not claim the individual use separately of the ingredients hereinbefore specified; but

What I do claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination and use of the several ingredients, compounded in proportion as described, for the purpose of tanning leather from hides, as above set forth.

R. B. THOMPSON.

Witnesses:

ZIMRI POND,

J. B. WOODRUFF.