

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JEHU BRAINERD, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN DEPILATING AND BATING SKINS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 35,293, dated May 20, 1862.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JEHU BRAINERD, of Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented new and useful Improvements in Depilating and Bating Hides and Skins; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and complete description thereof.

The nature of my invention relates to a combined depilating and bating process by means of which some two or three weeks' time is saved in fitting skins and hides for the tan, besides a saving of expense and labor, and the dispensing wholly with the solution of hens' or pigeons' dung, commonly called the "bate," the skins and hides being left in a soft and flacid condition, and affording a better quality of leather than when unhaired and bated in the common method.

Green skins need no preparation except the usual operation of fleshing. Salted or dried skins and hides need soaking and working on the beam till they are soft, and they are ready for the depilating and bating liquid. To prepare this liquor I take eight pounds of unslaked lime and gradually moisten it with water till the heat is pretty fully developed. I then add one pound of sulphur, mixing thoroughly with a hoe, gradually adding water until the whole forms a thick paste. I then dissolve one pound of sulphate of potash or one pound of sulphate of soda in water and thoroughly incorporate the same with the lime-and-sulphur

paste before described, and it is ready for use. The depilating-vat is filled with clean water, and one-sixth of an ounce of the paste (calculated dry) is added for each gallon of water the vat contains, and thoroughly mixed, and it is ready for use, and as many skins or hides may be immersed therein as will freely float. They should be handled as many as three or four times during the first twelve hours, and the temperature of the liquid should range from 60° to 80° Fahrenheit. Usually for light skins twenty-four hours' immersion will be found sufficient. Heavy hides, especially those that have been salted or dried, will require more time. The same liquor may be strengthened for another pack; but I prefer to prepare anew for each pack. After the skins are unhaired they should be soaked in clean water and worked upon the beam. The above-named proportions may be varied; but one-sixth of an ounce will generally be sufficient for each gallon.

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

The herein-described compound for depilating and bating hides and skins, the same being combined in one operation, as specified.

J. BRAINERD.

Witnesses:

CHAS. MCD. BROWN,
EDM. F. BROWN.