

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALFRED ROBINSON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVED ROOFING FABRIC.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 44,220, dated September 13, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALFRED ROBINSON, of New York, county of New York, State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Roofing Fabric, of which the following is a specification.

I construct my roofing fabric in the following manner: I take a sheet of paper or other fabric and spread on its surface a thin layer of bitumen or bituminous composition heated to the proper degree of fluidity, and then, while in this warm and adhesive state, apply upon it another sheet of paper or other fabric, and upon this second sheet I apply a second layer of bitumen or bituminous composition, and in this manner continue to add successive layers of bitumen or bituminous composition and sheets of paper or other fabric until the whole has attained suitable thickness and strength. A coating of the bitumen or bituminous composition should be applied upon the upper or weather surface of the upper sheet of the roofing fabric.

The roofing constructed in this manner from thin but strong paper—such as Manila or hardware paper—possesses very great strength, all that is required for roofing purposes, will not shrink away from its fastenings like woven cloth, and entirely prevents the tendency of

bituminous compounds to recede from the upper to the lower surface of the roofing fabric. This tendency is so great in woven fabrics that it is not uncommon after one summer's wear, however well the woven fabric may have been saturated and coated with the bituminous compound, to find the cloth entirely bare and rotten from exposure to the weather, the bituminous substance having entirely passed through the interstices of the woven cloth. The high price of cotton has compelled the substitution of coarse fabrics—such as burlap, bagging, &c.—with large openings through which the bituminous substance readily penetrates, to the certain injury of the roofing. All this is entirely obviated in my roofing. Moreover, my roofing costs only about half as much as the woven fabric. It can be made in any desired length and width, and put up in rolls suitable for transportation, and can be put on by any ordinary laborer.

I claim—

A roofing fabric made substantially as and for the purpose specified.

ALFRED ROBINSON.

Witnesses:

R. B. TINDALL,
B. FOSTER.