

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS J. BARRON, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

IMPROVED MODE OF PREPARING INFLAMMABLE LIQUIDS SO AS TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 46,987, dated March 28, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS J. BARRON, of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in the Preparation of Explosive and Inflammable Oils and Fluids, whereby their use is rendered more safe; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof and of its mode or manner of operation.

The nature of my invention consists in giving to oils and fluids which are explosive or which easily catch fire from contact with a flame or spark, and which are or may be used for illuminating purposes and for other uses, a bright and distinctive color, so that they may easily and certainly be distinguished from other oils and fluids. The object or purpose of so preparing and treating such oils and fluids is to guard against their use, by mistake or otherwise, in the place of those which naturally resemble them, and which are non-explosive and harmless.

Many of the very volatile and explosive fluids which are now used for illuminating and other purposes resemble so nearly in appearance, color, smell, &c., others that are entirely or almost wholly non-explosive and capable of being used with entire safety that they can be distinguished from each other even by those who are familiar with such articles only with great difficulty, and cannot be so distinguished, or at least with any certainty, by ordinary persons. As a consequence there is great danger that accidents, and often of a very serious character, will happen from a mistaken or negligent use of such explosive and inflammable fluids under the supposition they were non-explosive and harmless, whereas there would be but very little, if any, danger of the happening of any such accidents could such explosive fluids be readily distinguished from others. To guard against the liability of such accidents, it becomes therefore extremely desirable that those fluids which are explosive and inflammable should be so prepared or treated that they can quickly and certainly be distinguished from all others. This object I secure by giving to such explosive and inflam-

mable oils and fluids a bright distinguishing color—as red, blue, or yellow—which will quickly and effectually arrest the attention of those using such fluids, and at once indicate the true nature and character of the article so colored and cause a careful use of such fluids, or guard against their use in the place of others. A red color can be given such oils or fluids by the use of alkanet root or aniline, a blue color by the use of Prussian blue or indigo, and a yellow color by saffron or turmeric. The red color I prefer because it presents a greater contrast to the ordinary appearance of such fluids. The explosive and inflammable fluids are colorless, as are also those even explosive, and hence there is greater danger of accidents such as have been referred to happening so long as such different fluids are not plainly distinguished from each other. A practical and somewhat extensive application and use of fluids so distinguished by some such bright color has satisfactorily proved the value of this method of preparing such fluids, and has demonstrated that when so treated they can be used without danger or liability of accident. This treatment I apply to all inflammable fluids which will easily take fire from contact with a flame or spark, such as benzine, camphene, alcohol, pyroxylic spirits, naphtha, and all other essential oils, and many of which are now used in lamps, fixed and portable. By such treatment, also, a bright and beautiful appearance is given to the lamp, as well as protection secured.

Other colors than those above named may be employed, it being only necessary that the color used should plainly distinguish the fluid.

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

Giving to explosive and inflammable oils and fluids used for illuminating and other purposes a bright distinct color to plainly distinguish them from other oils and fluids, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

THOS. J. BARRON.

Witnesses:

S. D. LACE,
W. R. RONALDS.