

# United States Patent Office.

JOHN E. WOOTTEN, OF READING, PENNSYLVANIA.

*Letters Patent No. 76,286, dated March 31, 1868.*

## IMPROVED PACKING FOR JOINTS.

*The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.*

### TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, JOHN E. WOOTTEN, of Reading, Berks county, Pennsylvania, have invented an Improved Packing; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

My invention consists of a packing, of felt or other fibrous material, prepared in the manner described hereafter, and thereby rendered serviceable as an efficient and economical packing-medium for the rear of axle-boxes, pipe-joints, &c.

I take ordinary woollen felt, and cut it to the desired shape for the packing. I prepare a mixture of ochre, or other mineral paint, (the common brown oxide of iron, commonly called mineral paint, will answer the purpose very well,) with paint-oils and driers, the proportions being such that, when mixed together, the composition will be of about the consistency of cream. The piece of felt to be prepared for packing purposes is immersed for a short time in this composition, and soon becomes thoroughly impregnated with it. The felt is then withdrawn, placed in a proper position to dry, and in about forty-eight hours is ready for use.

I have found that felted material, or tightly-woven woollen or other textile fabric, when treated in the manner above described, forms a packing well adapted for axle-boxes, as a substitute for the more expensive leather or cork strips heretofore used for preventing the escape of oil at the rear of the said boxes. The prepared material also forms excellent packing for pipe-joints, and for other packing purposes.

The peculiarity of my improved packing consists in the fact that it will retain its flexibility and compressibility for any required length of time, and so be always fit for use.

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

A packing, composed of felt or other suitable fibrous material, prepared in the manner and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

J. E. WOOTTEN.

Witnesses:

GEO. F. BOYER,

DE B. KEIM.