

United States Patent Office.

AUGUST BERTRAM, OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA.

Letters Patent No. 77,863, dated May 12, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN FINISHING LEATHER.

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, AUGUST BERTRAM, of New Albany, Floyd county, State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Improvement in the Method of Finishing "Upper-Leather," by which the same is rendered entirely water-proof; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

I am aware that the habit has long prevailed, especially in the country, to grease in winter with bacon, tallow, lard, or other animal fat, boots and shoes, in order to render the leather soft, and, in a degree, water-proof; but this plan has always been considered objectionable, as it gives to the boot a most ungainly appearance, it being impossible to black or polish the same after the grease has been applied, and, besides, it only accomplishes in a very imperfect manner the desired object.

My invention consists in rendering the leather entirely water-proof, by applying to the finished hide the tallow obtained from walrus fat, in a soft state, and then in thoroughly drying the same over a slow fire.

To enable others skilled in the art to use and apply my invention, I will proceed to describe the same.

I take the tallow or "fatty part" of the walrus, which is a well-known article of commerce, and melt the same until it is reduced to a soft solution.

I then take an ordinary calf-skin or other hide that has been properly tanned, and apply, with the hand or a brush, the solution. After the leather has been thoroughly moistened with the solution, I dry the same over a slow fire.

Experience has clearly shown that when the solution is applied, and the leather afterwards treated as described, the pores of the leather are so filled with the solution that a perfectly water-proof article is produced, without in the slightest degree injuring the appearance of the leather, be it of the finer or coarser quality. Experience has also proven that the leather, after the solution has been applied, is more durable, and its value in every regard enhanced.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim therein as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

Rendering leather water-proof, when the same is accomplished by the process substantially as described.
New Albany, Indiana, August 29, 1867.

AUGUST BERTRAM.

Witnesses:

W. BULLITT,
HERMANN SCHMIDT.