

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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IMPROVEMENT IN PROCESSES FOR TREATING TOBACCO.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 136,872, dated March 18, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JUDSON A. STAFFORD and HARVEY C. FOWLER, of Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented a certain new and Improved Process for Treating Tobacco; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and complete description of the same.

The nature of our invention consists in extracting the rank taste or nicotine from the American tobacco and imparting to the same American tobacco the flavor of the Cuba or Havana, thereby improving the American tobacco so that it has an improved flavor and none of the rank flavor.

We first take the American or domestic tobacco and soak it in either cold or warm water from six to twelve hours, or a sufficient time to dissolve the rank "gummy" substance, after which the tobacco is pressed so as to extract this rank substance therefrom, leaving the tobacco free from nicotine and all other obnoxious flavors, while at the same time a certain amount of the good qualities of the tobacco is retained, which is necessary and desirable, for which reason no other vegetable than tobacco could be substituted. The tobacco thus treated is then dried and then impregnated with a substance to impart to the same the flavor of the Cuba or Havana tobacco, which flavor or substance is obtained as follows:

In the manufacture of cigars (or tobacco in other form) from the Havana tobacco, the stems and scraps are usually wasted or used in the ordinary form of smoking-tobacco, which is rendered of inferior quality because of the wood contained in the stems, while the said stems and scraps do possess a certain quantity of the desired and essential elements of the tobacco. These stems and scraps are taken and put in water and left there from two to five days, or a sufficient time to become thoroughly impregnated with the water, and then subjected to a heavy pressure sufficient to extract all the moisture therefrom, thus extracting all the desirable properties in a liquid form. The American or domestic tobacco, prepared and dried as first described, is then thoroughly saturated in this liquid taken from the Cuba

or Havana tobacco, and then dried in the usual manner, when it is ready for use.

The advantage presented by our invention is that we render the domestic tobacco of nearly equal desirable flavor with the more desirable imported tobacco, taking from the same all obnoxious flavors and imparting to it flavor more desirable, which flavor is taken generally from that part of the tobacco where it cannot, by any process before known, be used. No chemicals are used of any kind, nor do we use any substance but tobacco.

Of course any liquid may be used, or even steam, to accomplish our purpose, as well as water, the purpose being in this respect to simply get the tobacco sufficiently moist to extract the desirable properties.

It will be observed that no deception is purposed, inasmuch as all persons accustomed to manufacture, vend, or use tobacco are presumed to be capable of distinguishing between Havana and American tobacco by the appearance of the same. Nor is there any analogy between this process and those by which perfumers impregnate one substance with another. In the present instance a superior mode has been discovered of compounding different kinds of tobacco for economic and other purposes; and this process is manifestly in advance of all others, inasmuch as it is the only one which selects and retains the desired qualities and excludes those which are objectionable.

An important advantage of our process is that the American tobacco, which is desirable to be used as wrappers for the Havana fillers, may, when treated by our process, be used without the disagreeable flavor in smoking.

We are aware that paper for cigar-wrappers has been impregnated with the flavor of tobacco obtained from water in which tobacco had been macerated; but this has its analogies in the processes hereinbefore referred to, and not in the subject herein claimed.

Although two qualities of tobacco are herein denominated—Cuba and American, respectively—it is to be understood that the first is intended to indicate the rich and aromatic tobacco of southern climes, and the latter the

more robust and grosser qualities of the higher latitudes.

Having thus fully described our invention; what we claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The improved process herein described of treating tobacco by extracting the rank flavor from the domestic tobacco and impregnating

the same with the flavor of the Havana tobacco, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

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Witnesses:

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