

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUIS H. G. EHRHARDT, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO
RICHARD B. WIZE, TRUSTEE, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE METHODS OF PREVENTING ALTERATIONS OF CHECKS, &c.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **150,548**, dated May 5, 1874; application filed
November 3, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LOUIS HENRY GUSTAVUS EHRHARDT, of the city and county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Process for Preventing Alteration of Checks, Drafts, &c., re-use of stamps, &c.; and I do hereby declare the following to be a clear and exact description of the nature thereof, sufficient to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to fully understand, make, and use the same.

My invention consists in applying to the surface of checks, drafts, stamps, and other paper, a preparation of such a nature that when fluid of any kind is applied thereto for the purpose of altering or removing the writing on the check, &c., or for removing the canceling-ink on stamps, &c., the fluid will combine with the preparation, and cause an ineffaceable discoloration or stain on the article to which the preparation has been applied.

In carrying out my invention I take: Sulphate of iron, (dried 210° white salt,) ten parts; gallic acid, ten parts; gum sandarac, four parts; red or yellow prussiate of potash, one part.

These ingredients are finely pulverized, and well mixed or combined, and constitute a dry preparation ready for use.

I take a quantity of the preparation and merely rub or otherwise similarly apply it in a dry state to the surface of the check, draft, receipt, document, revenue-stamp, postage-stamp, or other article desired to be pro-

tected, either before or after the same has been written upon, printed, or manufactured, and the protection is complete.

If attempts are made either to alter the writing, or tamper with or remove the same, or to remove canceling-inks on stamps, &c., by the use of any fluid, whether acid, alkaline, or neutral, such fluid will quickly combine with the ingredients of the applied preparation, and thus cause a discoloration or stain wherever the fluid has been applied, thus reliably indicating attempts at alterations of, tampering with, or removal of, the writing or cleansing of stamps previously used and canceled.

All efforts to remove the applied preparation by fluids of any kind will likewise be indicated by discoloration or stains, and thus the security of the paper is insured.

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

The within-described compound, consisting of the ingredients and in about the proportions named, or their equivalents, and constituting a dry preparation for application to the surfaces of checks, drafts, stamps, and other papers, and operating to discolor the paper when a fluid is applied thereto, for the purpose set forth.

L. H. G. EHRHARDT.

Witnesses:

JOHN A. WIEDERSHEIM,
G. S. HETHERINGTON.