

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT W. TRAYLOR, OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA.

STARCH FOR LAUNDRY AND OTHER PURPOSES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 257,108, dated April 25, 1882.

Application filed March 15, 1882. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT W. TRAYLOR, a citizen of the United States, residing at Richmond, in the county of Henrico and State of Virginia, have invented new and useful Improvements in Starch for Laundry and other Purposes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in the manufacture of starch-gloss for laundry purposes; and it consists of a new composition of matters which I term "mica-starch," the said compound being composed of finely-powdered mica combined with ordinary starch, and with or without the admixture of gum-arabic or other like substance, as hereinafter more fully set forth.

Heretofore mica in the form of scales having perceptibly flat surfaces has been combined with solutions of starch, glue, gum, and other transparent or translucent adhesive substance, glycerine being sometimes added to said mixture, which is applied in a liquid state, by means of brushes or other suitable means, to surfaces of paper, cloth, wood, metals, and other materials, for the purpose of ornamenting the same by causing the mica-scales to adhere to said surfaces, which may then be printed upon, embossed, or otherwise treated as may be desired. This, however, differs from my invention in several particulars, viz: In the manufacture of my improved laundry-gloss or mica-starch the mica, instead of being employed in the form of scales, is reduced to a state of minute division prior to its incorporation with ordinary dry starch, and the compound, which is designed especially for laundry purposes, is not discolored until it is required for use. I employ gum-arabic or other similar material merely for the purpose of giving body to the compound, and such material may therefore be dispensed with, if desired. In practice, however, I prefer to employ all of said ingredients, and in about the following-named proportions—that is to say, nine and one-quarter ($9\frac{1}{4}$) ounces of finely-powdered mica, six (6) ounces of starch, and three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of an ounce of gum-arabic, the whole forming one pound of mica-starch.

The several ingredients employed in the manufacture of this compound are first separately reduced to a fine powder by any suitable means, and are then thoroughly mixed, in

a dry condition, in about the proportions above stated. If the gum-arabic or other like substance is omitted, as before indicated, the proportionate quantity of either the mica or starch may be increased accordingly, or an increase may be made in both for the purpose of producing a definite quantity of the compound.

This article of mica-starch is valuable for imparting a gloss to laundered fabrics, and when used for such purposes is employed in the same manner as ordinary starch. It is also applicable for use in coating the surfaces of various materials, and owing to the finely-powdered condition of its ingredients it is capable of penetrating and being absorbed by paper, linen, wood, leather, and the like, so as to render the same impervious to oils and grease of all kinds. This property of the mica-starch is of special advantage when the compound is used for laundry purposes, as articles of clothing and similar fabrics treated therewith may thereby be kept in a cleanly condition for long periods. The finely-pulverized condition of the mica combined with the starch precludes the liability of its being merely deposited upon the surface of the fabric, whence it is likely to peel, as would be the case if it were employed in the form of scales, however thinly split.

By the employment of my improved laundry-gloss or mica-starch a white pearly luster is produced on linen and similar fabrics without injury thereto, and with the effect of causing said luster or gloss to remain unimpaired for a long time.

What I claim is—

1. As a new article of manufacture, a starch-gloss or mica-starch for laundry purposes, composed of finely-powdered mica and ordinary starch, with or without the admixture of gum-arabic or other material, substantially as specified.

2. The herein-described composition of matter, consisting of finely-powdered mica, ordinary starch, and gum-arabic, in about the proportions and for the purposes specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

R. W. TRAYLOR.

Witnesses:

ALBERT H. NORRIS,
JAMES A. RUTHERFORD.