

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JULES LOUIS MORET, OF PARIS, FRANCE.

COMPOSITION FOR DEPILATING HIDES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 281,287, dated July 17, 1883.

Application filed January 19, 1883. (No specimens.) Patented in England May 10, 1882, No. 2,213.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JULES LOUIS MORET, of Paris, France, have invented a new Composition for Preserving and Unhairing Hides and
5 Skins; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and that I have received Letters Patent of England for fourteen years for said invention, which bear date May 10, 1882, No. 2,213.

10 This invention relates to a composition for enabling hides and skins to be preserved for transport or storage in such condition that while the hair remains firm until it is desired to remove it the hides and skins may be im-
15 mediately unhaired at any subsequent time by a simple steeping in water—that is to say, they are impregnated with the depilatory agent and with a suitable preservative, so that while pro-
20 tected by the latter from dry-cracking or putrefaction and from the attacks of insects, the former, being already contained in the pores of the skin or hide, is brought into such intimate contact with the hair follicles or glands
25 as to act with immediate effect thereon as soon as the hide or skin is plunged into water, loosening the hair and enabling it to be removed with ease.

To prepare the composition for this purpose I first make a strong solution of American pot-
30 ash, or ordinary caustic potash, and heat to from about 180° to 200° Fahrenheit. I then add (stirring the composition well meanwhile) realgar in powder in the proportion of about
35 two ounces to three and a half ounces for each pound of potash employed. I may also add quicklime in the proportion of three ounces, five ounces, or seven ounces for each pound of potash, the precise proportions in each case
40 depending on the kind of potash used and on the manner in which the composition is to be applied or used. The quicklime may, however, be dispensed with altogether when the potash is sufficiently caustic without it, the quicklime being only used when and in such
45 quantities as it may be absolutely required to effect this object. The composition is allowed to settle and the clear liquor decanted off. This clear liquor is diluted with water

until it marks 10° Baumé. I also make separately a solution of American potash in water at from 8° to 15° Baumé, to which I add
50 thirty grains (or more) of salicylate of soda or other preservative salt for every hundred-weight of the clear liquor above mentioned at 10° Baumé. These solutions are then poured
55 together. The composition thus produced is to be applied, either with a brush or mop, to the hide or skin, or by immersion, the hides or skins being either left in this state or dried,
60 according as they are to be kept a greater or less length of time. In the dry state they may be kept for an indefinite period, and may be at any subsequent time restored to their original green and natural condition by simply
65 steeping them for about twelve hours in water, whereupon the hair and scud may be immediately removed with ease without further treatment with chemical agents.

This mode of preservation forms an admirable substitute for the salting treatment generally used for preserving hides, and renders
70 unnecessary the injurious liming or other treatment for unhairing. The quality of the leather obtained from hides thus preserved by my improved process will be found to be superior to that of hides treated in the ordinary
75 way.

I do not here claim depilating hides by sulphide of arsenic, either alone or dissolved
80 in a solution of potash.

I claim—

The herein-described composition for impregnating hides and skins and preserving them in such condition as to be capable of being
85 unhaired at any subsequent time by a simple immersion in water, such composition being composed of a solution of caustic potash and realgar combined with a solution of potash and salicylate of soda, all prepared substantially in the manner and in the proportion
90 herein specified.

JULES LOUIS MORET.

Witnesses:

ROBT. M. HOOPER,
JEAN BAPTISTE ROLLAND.