

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN ALEXANDER VAN WINKLE, OF ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI.

COMPOUND FOR SOFTENING AND DYEING BROOM-CORN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 334,140, dated January 12, 1886.

Application filed August 7, 1885. Serial No. 173,880. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN A. VAN WINKLE, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Joseph, in the county of Buchanan and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Compounds for Treating Broom-Corn, of which the following is a description.

My composition consists of the following ingredients, combined in the proportions stated, viz: pure water, thirty gallons; alum, one-half ounce; saltpeter, one-half ounce; cider-vinegar, one quart; diamond dye, (green,) one dram. These ingredients are to be thoroughly mixed by shaking. After the preparation is well stirred up the broom-corn must be dipped two or three times into it successively until thoroughly saturated, then well drained, and placed in the bleachery for about twelve hours, during which time it should be subjected to a thorough smoking of burning brimstone, which sets the color.

By using the above composition as stated the broom-corn, more particularly second-class or inferior stock, is restored to its native green color, will not mold in bundles of the ordinary size in three or four days, is ren-

dered more pliable and thereby more easily manufactured, is less liable to waste while being manufactured, avoids the necessity of being moistened in hot dry weather, saves the trouble of drying the brooms before bunching them for marketing, saves the labor and trouble of emptying the bleach-barrel or slack-tub, as must ordinarily be done every two days, because the water in its natural state becomes offensive and unhealthy, and the brooms made of corn subjected to the above treatment will retain their bright green color longer than first-class stock, and wear longer, and are scarcely to be distinguished from first-class goods or brooms made of first-class stock.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

The herein described compound for treating broom-corn, consisting of water, alum, saltpeter, cider-vinegar, and diamond dye, (green,) in substantially the proportions specified.

JOHN ALEXANDER VAN WINKLE.

Witnesses:

LUKE H. MOSS,
JAS. H. RINGO.