

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## DETERGENT AND STARCH-POLISHING COMPOUND.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 560,758, dated May 26, 1896.

Application filed August 28, 1895. Serial No. 560,803. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. SHEPHER, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Paul, in the county of Ramsey and State of Minnesota, have invented a new and useful Composition of Matter to be Used for the Twofold Purpose of a Detergent and Starch Polish, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in washing preparations; and the same composition is employed both in washing and starching clothes, the objects of which are, first, to facilitate and expedite the washing of clothes; second, to save the clothes; third, to increase the polishing properties of the starch; fourth, to prevent the sad-irons from adhering to the clothes and scorching.

My composition, employed according to the manner hereinafter mentioned, acts by penetrating and loosening the particles of foreign matter to be eliminated from the clothes, so that but little rubbing or agitation is required to thoroughly do so. It increases the polishing properties of the starch by furnishing a film of oil and wax, which, by lessening the adhesive properties of the starch, prevents the sad-irons from sticking.

It is used in the following manner:

In washing, the clothes to be washed are soaked in cold water for at least one hour. To each bar of any good laundry soap use a quantity of the washing preparation of about two inches square. Boil this amount of soap, shaved up, and the compound together in three or more quarts of water until they are thoroughly dissolved and mixed. Fill the boiler nearly full of water, leaving room enough for the clothes, and when the water is hot add the mixture previously dissolved, stirring it in. Then wring out the clothes from the cold water and put them into the boiler. Boil them from twenty to thirty minutes, turning them over several times. Take them out and suds them, only using the washboard for rubbing the more soiled spots, such as hems, bindings, &c. Blue them in the usual way, and they are ready to hang out. If there are more clothes than will fill the boiler, save out some of the mix-

ture for the second boiling. It will be necessary to occasionally add clean water to the suds. When the white clothes are finished, the flannels and colored clothes may be washed in the same suds, but, of course, must not be boiled.

In starching, dissolve in each quart of boiling starch an amount of the compound fully one inch square in size. Starch the clothes in the usual manner, rubbing it thoroughly in. If the starch is too thick, thin only with hot water.

My composition consists of the following ingredients, combined in the proportions stated, viz: petrolatum, one hundred pounds; paraffin, fifty pounds; stearin, fifteen pounds; colored with alkanet, one and one-quarter pounds; scented with oil of citronella, one pound. These ingredients are combined by gradually heating and thoroughly stirring.

The color of the alkanet is extracted in a portion of the mixture heated in a separate vessel to near the boiling-point. It is then strained and is added to the above mixture, and, lastly, the oil of citronella, and all thoroughly incorporated. It is then run into tin boxes, and when cool is of the form of a paste of a reddish-brown color.

The petrolatum used in my composition is the unctuous jelly-like residue obtained from crude petroleum after the distillation of the lighter oils.

My invention is not a soap, but has a dual use as a detergent and starch polish when employed according to the directions herein stated.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

The herein-described composition of matter, to be used as a detergent and starch polish, in the manner substantially as stated, consisting of petrolatum, paraffin, stearin, alkanet, and oil of citronella, in the proportions specified.

WILLIAM A. SHEPHER.

Witnesses:

J. W. WHITMAN,  
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