

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN COOPER, OF DANBURY, CONNECTICUT.

COMPOUND FOR STIFFENING HATS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 583,328, dated May 25, 1897.

Application filed March 6, 1897. Serial No. 626,341. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN COOPER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Danbury, in the county of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, have invented a certain new and useful Compound for Stiffening Hats; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention has for its object to produce a compound for stiffening hats which shall perfectly meet the requirements of the trade and shall be simple and inexpensive to produce.

With these ends in view my novel compound consists of the following ingredients compounded in substantially the proportions specified, viz: shellac, one hundred pounds; alcohol, twelve gallons, (either wood or grain alcohol may be used;) gasolene, six gallons, (benzene, naphtha, or kerosene may be substituted, if preferred;) linseed-oil, (preferably boiled,) one quart; paraffin-wax, two to eight ounces; turpentine, one quart. The shellac, ten gallons of alcohol, and the gasolene may be put in a revolving barrel or other mixing apparatus. The paraffin-wax is dissolved in the boiled linseed-oil by heating, and the turpentine is added. These ingredi-

ents are then mixed with two gallons of alcohol and put into the barrel or other mixing apparatus with the other ingredients and are thoroughly mixed together.

I do not desire to limit myself to the exact quantities stated above, as the quantities of all the ingredients may be varied within reasonable limits without changing, essentially, the character of the compound. Where an exceedingly stiff compound is desired, the quantity of shellac may be increased, and vice versa.

In numerous experiments I have discovered that with the ingredients above stated, compounded in substantially the proportions specified, I am able to produce a stiffening compound of the very best quality and at reasonable expense.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

The herein-described compound for stiffening hats consisting of shellac, alcohol, gasolene, linseed-oil, paraffin-wax and turpentine in substantially the proportions specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

BENJAMIN COOPER.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM H. CABLE,
HENRY A. PURDY.