

No. 625,970.

Patented May 30, 1899.

W. A. FRETWELL.
STYLE OF MANUFACTURED TOBACCO.

(Application filed Nov. 18, 1898.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig. 1.

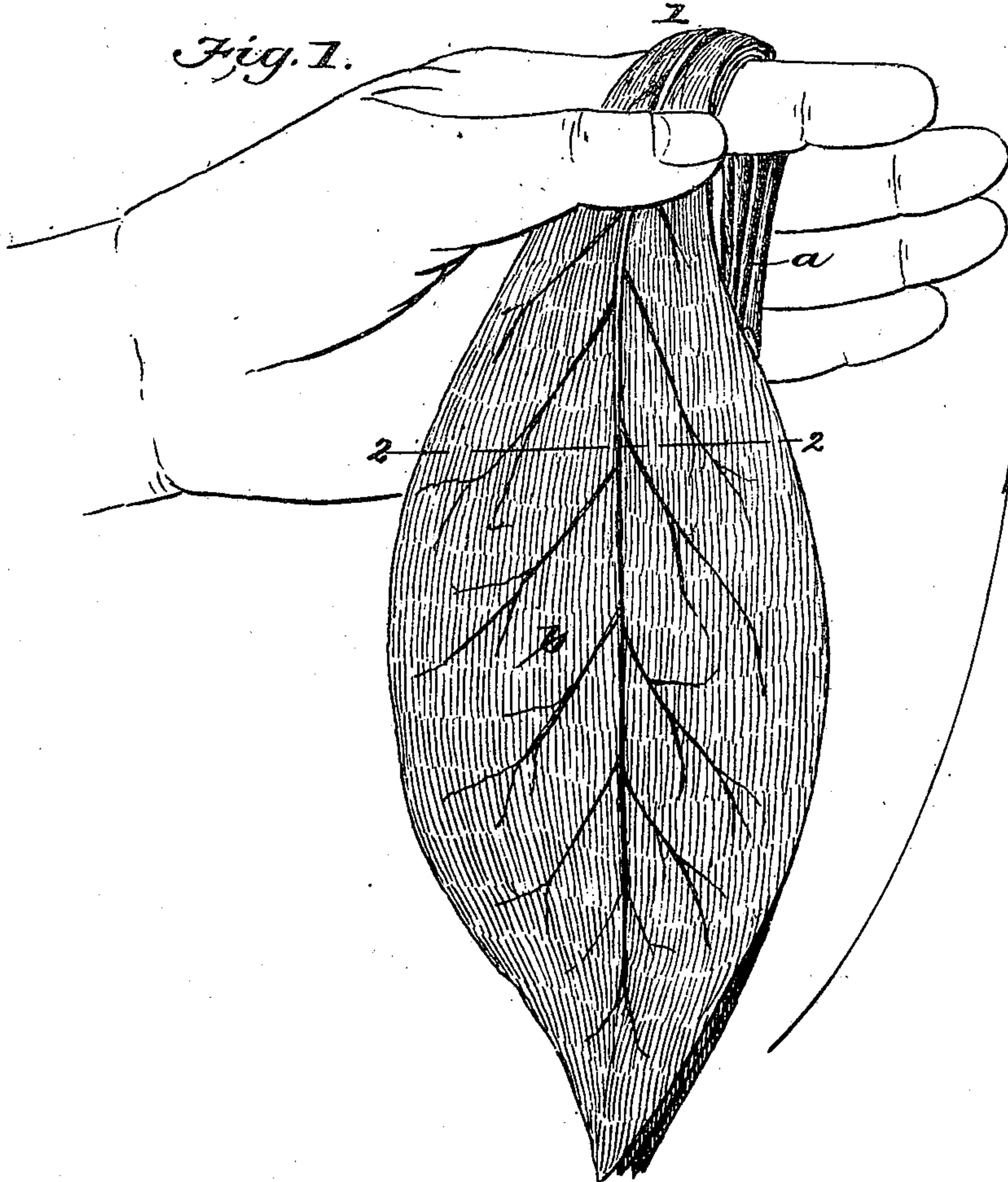
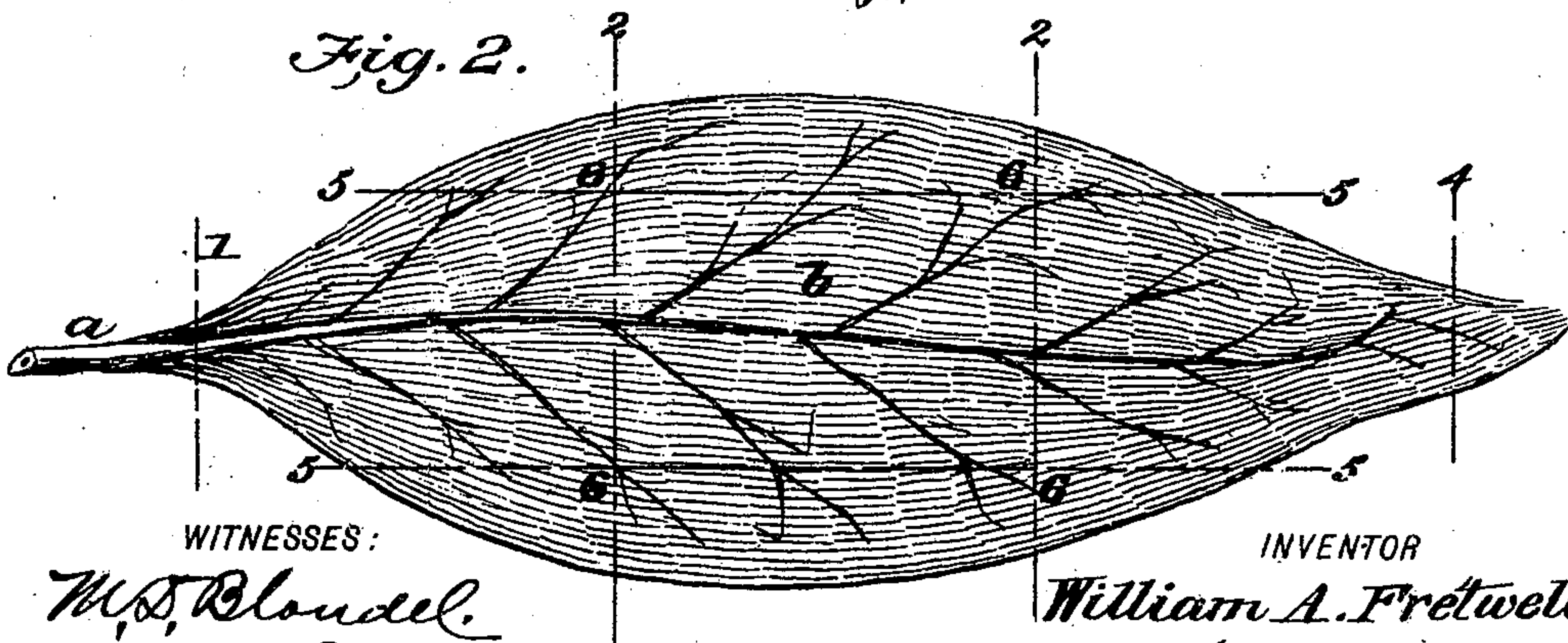


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

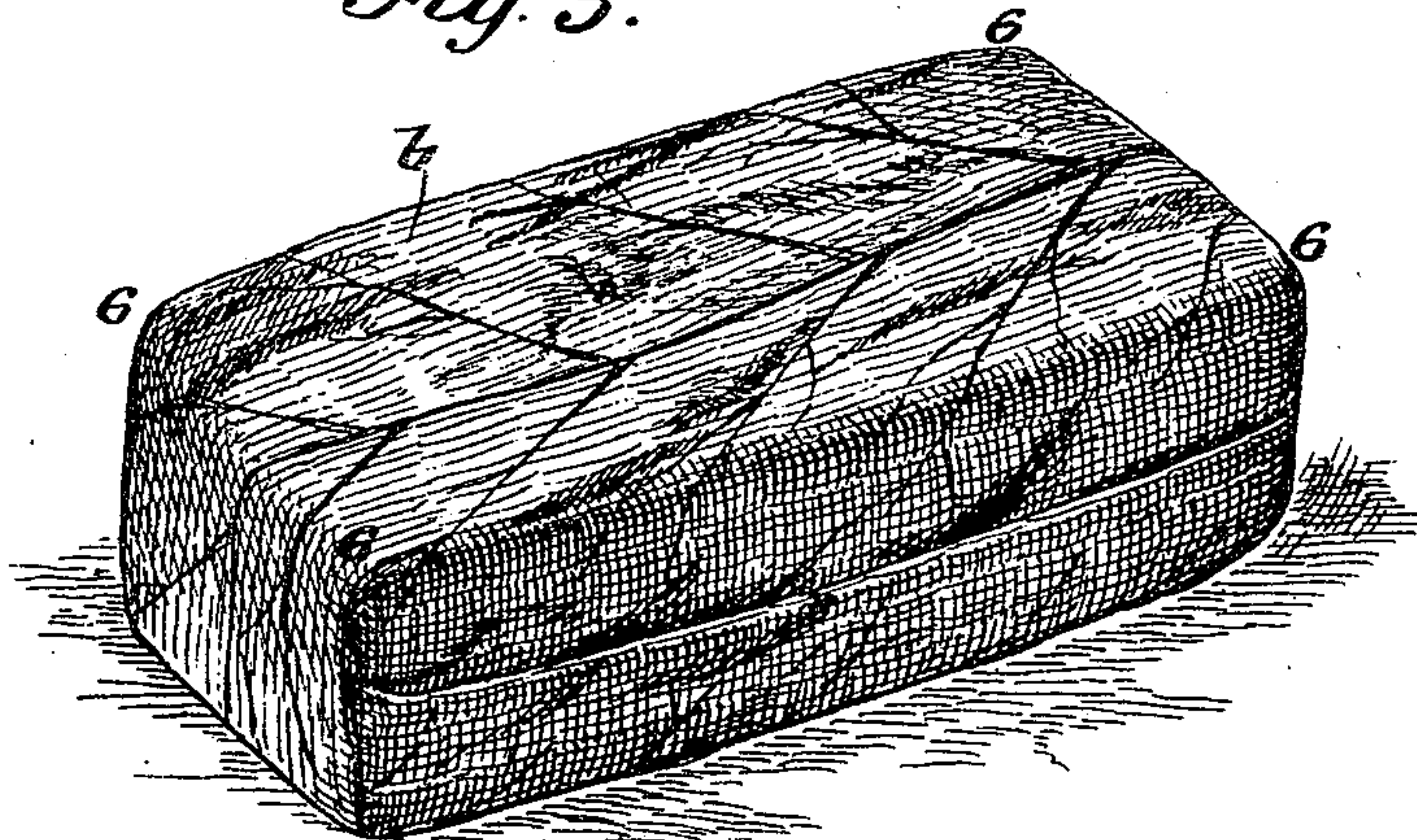
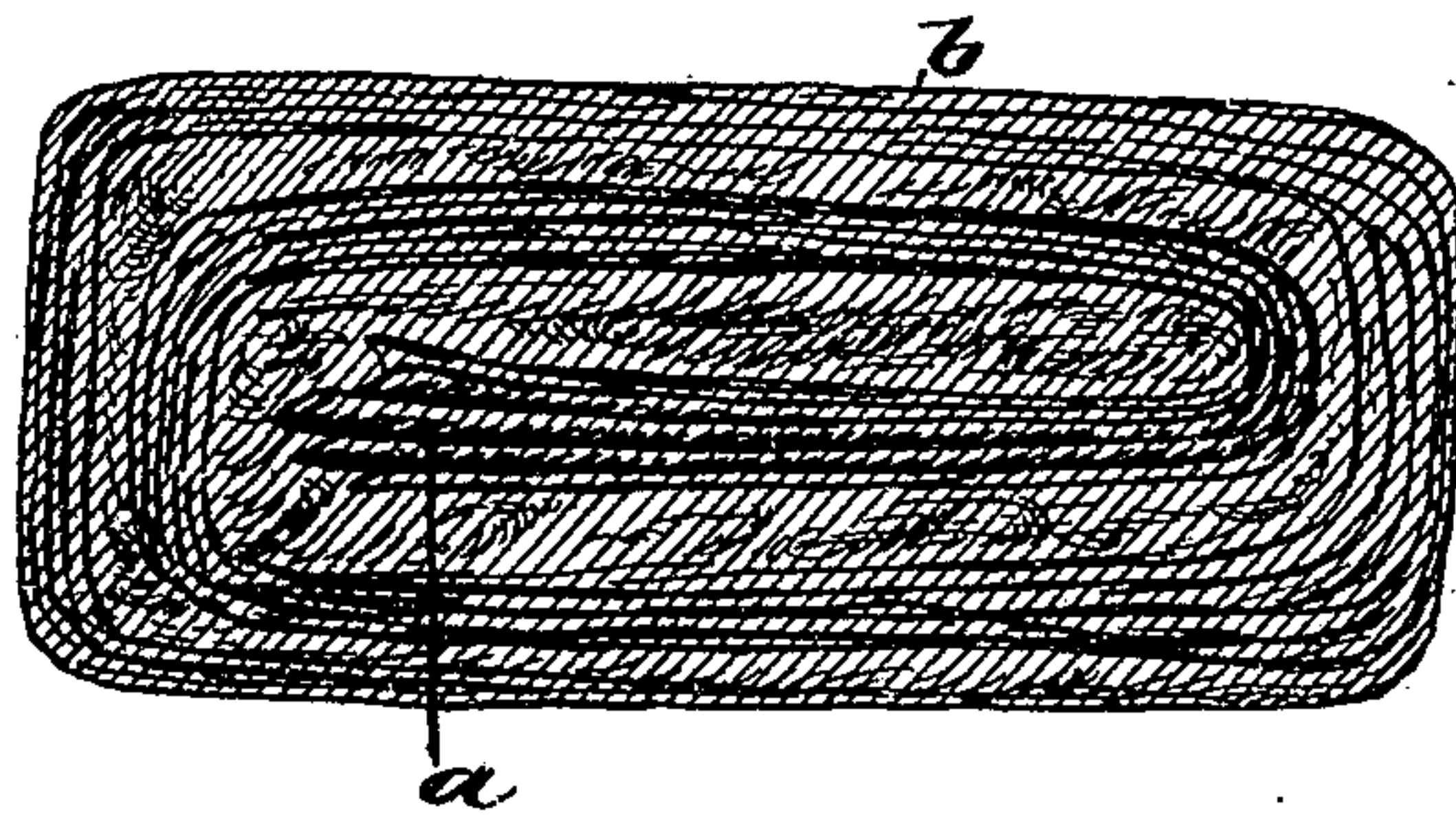


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. FRETWELL, OF SOUTH BOSTON, VIRGINIA.

STYLE OF MANUFACTURED TOBACCO.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 625,970, dated May 30, 1899.

Application filed November 19, 1898. Serial No. 696,932. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. FRETWELL, of South Boston, in the county of Halifax and State of Virginia, have invented a new and
5 useful Style of Manufactured Tobacco, of which the following is a specification.

In the preparation of plug-tobacco for the market many operations are involved. The tobacco-leaves as they are taken from the
10 warehouse-floor are first dipped or sprinkled with a sweetening and flavoring compound, usually a solution of licorice and sugar. They are then stemmed, which is a tedious and expensive operation. The stemmed leaves
15 are then wrapped up into thick plugs or lumps while still wet and are then alternately dried and set to draw—that is to say, after the outside moisture is dried off they are allowed to stand until the internal moisture is drawn
20 out to the surface and is again dried off. It is important to get all the moisture out, for if the tobacco is left wet when it goes to the press it will get moldy and rot. The lumps after having been sufficiently dried are then
25 put into a press and pressed into plugs of smaller dimensions. All of these operations involve such an expensive plant of special machinery that the marketing of plug-tobacco is practically in the hands of the manufac-
30 turers and the tobacco-grower must be satisfied with the price that he gets from the manufacturers, being unable to put his tobacco in an attractive or acceptable form for the consumer.

Some efforts to market the tobacco direct to the consumer have been made by twisting the leaf into twists or bunches; but this did not meet the conditions nor supply the results of my invention.

My invention is designed to enable the tobacco-grower to market his tobacco in an acceptably-manufactured form for chewing or smoking and by avoiding the necessity for a manufacturer's plant and the ordinary ex-
45 penses and tedious operation of manufacturing to market his tobacco to the consumer more directly, with a better profit to himself, and at the same time to give to the consumer a better and cheaper article. To this end I
50 omit the stemming operation and the alternate drying and drawing of the moisture of the lumps and also the pressing, and in place

thereof, after the tobacco is dipped or sprinkled with the flavor, it is at once completely dried while the stems are still intact and then
55 ordered by steam or dampness. A number of leaves are then folded and wrapped into a package in a peculiar way, with the butt-ends of the stems inside the package and the leaves folded outside the stems, so as to present a
60 neat smooth exterior which affords no harsh projecting stems to break or pierce the tin-foil, paper, or other outer wrapper and which fully preserves all the natural juices and full
65 flavor of the tobacco, as well as saving the large per cent. of tobacco that is lost in the stemming and at the same time affording a package which, never being hard-pressed, may be
70 unfolded and inspected by the consumer, so as to assure himself of the good quality of the same and the absence of dirt, grit, and other foreign matter that is so frequently imprisoned within the plugs.

In the old way the leaf passes through the following operation: first, dipping or sprin-
75 kling with flavoring; second, stemming; third, wrapping in lumps while still wet; fourth, drying; fifth, drawing, and, sixth, pressing into plugs.

In my operation the leaf is treated as follows: first, dipping or sprinkling with sweet-
80 ening or flavoring; second, drying completely; third, ordering, and, fourth, wrapping it into packages in a peculiar way, which I will presently describe. In these latter operations it
85 will be seen that all the expensive operations which require a special plant of special machinery are dispensed with.

Figure 1 shows the way of handling a bunch of leaves preparatory to wrapping it into a
90 package. Fig. 2 shows a leaf with the lines of folding involved in forming it into a package ready for the wrapper in accordance with my invention. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the completed package, and Fig. 4 is a lon-
95 gitudinal section of the same.

Assuming that the leaf from the warehouse-floor has been dipped or sprinkled with a flavoring, such as a solution of licorice and
100 sugar, it is dried completely until all moisture is out of it. It is then put through the process of ordering by a direct contact with wet steam or damp air. A group of leaves of requisite weight is then taken in the left hand,

as shown in Fig. 1, with the stem ends *a* all brought together and bent around the forefinger. The leaf portions *b* are then taken in the right hand and, being fairly well flattened out, are carried around and around the left hand, as indicated by the arrow, which makes a series of transverse bends in the leaves, as shown by lines 1 2 3 4 of Fig. 2. If a half-pound package is wanted, the folds of the leaf inclose the four fingers, as shown in the drawings. If a quarter-pound package, the little finger is closed up, and if a pound package is wanted the folds inclose all four fingers and the thumb also. The left hand is next slipped out of the wrappings of the leaf, leaving the stem ends entirely within the interior of the convolutions, as shown in Fig. 4. The package as thus formed is then lightly flattened and the edges are tucked in or folded along the longitudinal lines 5 5 in Fig. 2, so as to give the approximately rectangular shape shown at 6 6 6 6 in Fig. 2 and by the outlines of Fig. 3. In this shape the packages are retained by the slightly gummy or plastic nature of the leaf, and the packages are then surrounded by paper or tin-foil, the revenue-stamp applied, and the packages lightly packed into the box or receptacle to receive them and in which they are now ready for the market. This tobacco is a new article on the market and is known as "flavored free leaf."

The advantages of this manner of preparing the tobacco and the form in which it is presented are as follows: First, it involves a saving of over fifty per cent. in the cost of manufacture; second, it does away with all special apparatus for this purpose and enables every tobacco-grower to prepare his own tobacco in condition ready for the consumer; third, the liability to mold from imperfect drying is avoided; fourth, it may be opened and inspected at any time by either the dealer or consumer; fifth, the great expense and loss of tobacco in stemming are avoided, not being simply the utilization of the stems, but all the adhering fragments which are inevitably torn off with the stems; sixth, as the veins of the leaf are not opened by stripping from the stem the qualities of the leaf are fully preserved by the maintenance of the leaf and stem intact; seventh, the butt-ends of the

stems are completely inclosed and cushioned by the overwrap of the leaf, thus preventing the unsightly appearance of the stems and the tearing of the protective wrappers by the same; eighth, the stem ends arranged longitudinally within the package form a stiffening-core that maintains the oblong or rectangular shape of the package.

I am aware that in the process of making fine-cut tobacco a slight sweetening of a saccharine solution is put into the leaf before the stem is removed and after which the stem is removed and the stripped leaves cut up. My invention is distinctive in that it presents as a finished manufactured article the sweetened and flavored leaves of tobacco with the stems still in or intact. This not only gives the advantages named, but the tobacco constantly gets better in quality as the leaf seems to feed from the stem and to get better as it gets older.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. Sweetened or flavored leaves of tobacco retaining their stems intact, as a finished manufactured article.
2. Sweetened or flavored leaves of tobacco, unpressed, and retaining their stems intact as a finished manufactured article.
3. A package of tobacco-leaves with stems intact, with butt-ends of stems folded inside the package and away from their wrapper.
4. A package of manufactured tobacco consisting of a group of leaves with stems intact folded with the butt-end of the stems inside and forming a stiffening-core, and the leaves overwrapping and cushioning the stems substantially as and for the purpose described.
5. A package of manufactured tobacco consisting of a group of leaves with stems intact folded with a series of transverse bends into wrappings or convolutions with the butt-ends of the stems inside, and having its sides also folded or tucked in along the longitudinal lines of the leaf substantially as and for the purpose described.

WILLIAM A. FRETWELL.

Witnesses:

EDWD. W. BYRN,
 SOLON C. KEMON.