UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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COMPOUND FOR TREATING TOBACCO.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 661,275, dated November 6, 1900.

Application filed April 14, 1900. Serial No. 12,932. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WILLIAM A. PIKE, ALBERT C. CHADOIN, and HUTCHISON M. PIKE, citizens of the United States, residing at Springfield, in the county of Robertson and State of Tennessee, have invented a new and useful Compound for Treating Tobacco, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a compound for treating tobacco immediately after it has been cut and hung up or such other tobacco that has been subjected to other curing processes or methods; and the object in view is to effectively obtain the result usually derived from a long and tedious natural treatment commonly pursued with material advantages and benefit to the tobacco and in addition prevent the loss of the oils which are dried out by treatment under ordinary methods by the fumes of combined chemicals and substances burned by a slow fire and properly cure and color the leaves and preserve the desirable quantities, and consequently increase the market value of the tobacco so treated.

The compound employed consists of ingredients as follows: creosote, thirty-two parts; sulfur, one part; lignin, four parts; ammonia, four parts; charcoal, thirty-five parts; salt, (chlorid of sodium,) twenty parts.

The tobacco to be treated directly after cutting is hung up in an inclosure similar to the ordinary method of tobacco treatment and a slow fire started adjacent to or in the said inclosure. The above-stated compound in a thoroughly-mixed state is placed upon and burned by the fire and the inclosure becomes filled with the fumes, which envelop the tobacco. The tobacco is subjected to this treatment for a period of time sufficiently long to obtain the desired condition and color. In addition to obtaining a uniformity of color of a character which is exceptionally desirable and hard to obtain under ordinary curing processes and methods the substances of the stems and oils are equally diffused through the leaf.

Under ordinary methods of tobacco treatment the oil is expelled along with the watery matter, owing to the application of too much heat and too rapid curing; but by the use of the compound before set forth burned by a slow fire this disadvantage is avoided.

The amount of fire required to burn the compound is comparatively small owing to the combustible nature of some of the ingredients of the aforesaid compound and the tempering character of others, and conflagrations, now frequently resulting from the large fires necessary, are entirely avoided.

The action of each ingredient is as follows: The salt softens and opens the pores of the tobacco, so as to render it susceptible to the speedy action of the other elements. The charcoal is resolved into or emits carbonic-acid gas, which fixes or aids in bringing out pungency of flavor, as do also sulfur and ammonia, neither singly giving the desired result, but jointly or in combination producing the flavor sought. Creosote being composed of a complex mixture of various phenols acts to preserve and impart the desired color to the tobacco, and lignin gives the proper gloss to the leaves and throws out the color with better effect and also the gummy and substantial feeling to the leaves.

As a compound the sulfur, ammonia, and creosote completely unite with the charcoal by the affinitive constituents of each closely commingling, and by absorption the salt and lignin become thoroughly intermingled in the concrete mass. The greater quantity of charcoal used will produce an increased amount of carbonic-acid gas, which will serve as an efficient vehicle for conveying the fumes of the remaining components in proper proportions to the tobacco treated and simultaneously affect all parts of the leaves alike and avoid the disadvantages of an unequal application of the fumes in their separate estates. As before indicated, the sulfur, ammonia, and charcoal by their combination fix the flavor desired at the time the salt is operating to open the pores. The salt also tempers the very flammable tendency of the sulfur and charcoal and renders the consumption of the lignin more slow, and the combined effect of all the said ingredients will be more beneficial in view of the prolongation of their at-

tack on the tobacco-leaves. The lignin also acts to temper the harsh effect of the sulfur and creosote and the tendency of the latter to dry out the leaves, the ammonia acting to work up and circulate the oil and obstructed in a too free action in this direction by the combined sulfur, creosote, and charcoal.

Any inclosure may be used to render the burning compound effective, and the delay incident to curing green tobacco by the commonly-employed methods is avoided. In recuring tobaccos that have been previously subjected to other treatments whereby the leaves are badly colored or faded and dull and lifeless in appearance a uniform color and velvety finish is imparted thereto, the color in each instance varying from light chocolate to mahogany and at the same time imparting a flavor resembling the better and higher grades of tobacco.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

A compound for treating tobacco consisting of creosote, sulfur, lignin, ammonia, charcoal and salt (chlorid of sodium) in or about the proportions mentioned.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as our own we have hereto affixed our signatures in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM A. PIKE.
ALBERT C. CHADOIN.
HUTCHISON M. PIKE.

Witnesses:
J. W. BELL,
A. M. PIKE.