

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EMILE MÉROU, OF PARIS, FRANCE.

WATERPROOF FABRIC.

No. 874,101.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 17, 1907.

Application filed January 16, 1907. Serial No. 352,635.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EMILE MÉROU, a citizen of the Republic of France, residing at Paris, in the Republic of France, merchant, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Waterproof or Impermeable and Washable Fabrics for Hangings or Decorative Purposes, for which application has been made in France, dated 6th February, 1906; Belgium, dated 17th December, 1906; Germany, dated 19th December, 1906.

This invention has for its object a kind of fireproof and washable fabric more particularly applicable to decoration. The fabrics at present employed for this purpose have little power of resistance to strains, and when decorated with water-color their tints and designs are rapidly destroyed, more particularly when they are applied to damp walls, fresh plaster or the like.

This improved kind of fabric although flexible and having on the face or front side an absolutely ordinary appearance provides nevertheless these qualities of resistance, more particularly to strains, which cannot be found in the ordinary fabrics. This kind of fabric is further absolutely waterproof, which allows of its being employed on walls or partitions of any kind, and, further, prepared with grease, it is capable of receiving by printing or other suitable manner any desirable oil decorations which are consequently indestructible. Finally, the improved fabric is washable, which allows of its being kept clean and insures a longer life for it.

In order to obtain this improved industrial product, any kind of fabric which must however be suitable for the applications which is to be made of it, may be employed. The fabric is covered on its back only with a coating composed of a mixture of whitening (or Spanish white) and zinc white, half raw oil and a siccative or drier. For this purpose the fabric wound on a warp beam is passed between two pressure rollers, and receives between the warp beam and the rollers the composition in any suitable manner by hand or mechanically. The thickness of the coating which is variable at will is regulated by a movable guide or scraper which is arranged between the point where the composition is

poured on the fabric and the pressure rollers. The fabric immediately after having been passed between these latter is conveyed into a stove heated to about 160° where it remains 12—24 hours.

On emerging from the stove, the fabric is rendered absolutely waterproof and has nevertheless not changed the appearance of its front face which has remained flexible while then possessing great strength. The fabric may be used from this moment, but it generally receives an oil decoration by printing or in any other manner. This decoration is facilitated owing to the greasy coating applied to the back of the fabric and which has wholly or partially impregnated the latter. Finally, instead of employing the decorated waterproof fabric hereinbefore described it may be varnished on the front face by means of a greasy, dull, varnish having a spirit basis, which renders it quite washable, but this latter operation is not indispensable.

The completed fabric has a certain thickness which does not affect its flexibility but which, however, allows of its being applied in a perfect manner, without creases, on the walls, ceilings, or any other spaces intended to receive it, but also allows of its being fitted with close joints, which is inexpensive but giving excellent results, and impossible to be realized with the fabrics at present employed for hangings. Finally when this improved fabric is hung ultimate deformations due to humidity need not be feared.

I declare that what I claim is:—

As a new article of manufacture, a fabric consisting of a foundation and at the back only thereof a layer of waterproofing material composed of whitening, zinc white, half raw oil and a siccative, a printed design on the front of said fabric, and a layer of varnish over said printed design.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name this 28 day of December 1906, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

EMILE MÉROU.

Witnesses:

ALPHONSE MÉJEAN,
HANSON C. COXE.