

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUIS HENRY RAW, OF EAST MOSELEY, AND ROBERT SUMNER, OF FARNCOMBE, ENGLAND
ASSIGNORS TO ROBERT GORDON ORR, OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

TREATMENT OF RAMIE AND OTHER SIMILAR SUBSTANCES.

No. 915,218.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 16, 1909.

Application filed November 4, 1907. Serial No. 400,708.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, LOUIS HENRY RAW, a citizen of the United States, and resident of "Macequece," Moseley Park Road, East Moseley, Surrey, England, (whose post-office address is 615 Salisbury House, London Wall, London, E. C., England,) and ROBERT SUMNER, a subject of the King of Great Britain and Ireland, and resident of The Lodge, Somers Road, Farncombe, Surrey, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements Relating to the Treatment of Ramie and other Similar Substances, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a process for the treatment of ramie or other similar fibrous substances in the raw condition and has for its object to produce a fiber of such physical character as to be capable of being used in substitution of or in combination with cotton, wool, silk, hair or other fibers in the production of woven fabrics.

The invention relates to a process of treating fibers, and particularly ramie fiber on the cane or in the condition of brown ribbon or china grass, whereby its physical character is altered with the effect of rendering the fiber more flexible and fine, and so as to have the quality of felting, and the invention comprises the intermediate and final product of such treatment.

According to the invention we lay the raw material in earth which is dry or has merely its normal content of moisture for a number of days depending upon the general condition of the raw material used and the description of product required and after such treatment we find that the ribbon or grass is altered in character so that the fiber resulting after passing through the breaker and carding engine is more flexible and finer and is of such a character as to felt and produces a sliver and thread similar to wool.

In carrying the invention into effect in the treatment of ramie fiber we prefer to lay the cane, brown ribbon or china grass within a trench of say about twelve inches deep and of any convenient width in single layers, and we cover each of the layers with say three, four or five inches of earth, that is to say with such a quantity of earth as completely to cover the layer or respective layers of ramie so that the earth may be in close contact with the fiber, and we allow the cane, brown ribbon or china grass to remain in the ground for from say five to six days by which time the process of preparation is completed and the product of this process is then treated in the usual way to produce a sliver and thread. It will however be understood that the period of treatment is varied according to the general condition of the raw material and the description of product required.

What we claim as our invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. A process of treatment of ramie or other similar fibrous substance consisting in laying the fibers in thin layers in earth so that all the fibers are completely covered in close and complete contact with earth.

2. A process of treatment of ramie or other similar fibrous substance consisting in laying the fiber in thin layers in earth so that all the fibers are completely covered in close and complete contact with earth and breaking and carding the fiber so treated.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto signed our names to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

LOUIS HENRY RAW.
ROBERT SUMNER.

Witnesses:

W. E. EVANS,
J. W. YOUNG.