

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RALPH M. SHEETS, OF TOWER, MINNESOTA.

COMPOSITION FOR FIRE-KINDLERS.

No. 930,803.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 10, 1909.

Application filed September 14, 1908. Serial No. 452,981.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RALPH M. SHEETS, citizen of the United States, residing at Tower, in the county of St. Louis and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Composition for Fire-Kindlers; 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 relates to preparations and processes for making such preparations for use in lighting coal or wood fires in stoves, ranges, furnaces and the like.

The object of my invention is to produce an article which will take the place of ordinary kindling wood, and do away with the difficulties attendant upon the use of the same, and at the same time be more effective than kindling wood in the process of lighting fires.

In order that my invention may be clearly understood, I have described it in the following specification, and pointed it out more particularly in the claim at the end thereof.

My improved fire lighter is preferably made in the form of a brick of any desired dimensions, which is composed of wood, rosin and tallow.

The wood preferably pine, is cut into small pieces or blocks about three quarters of an inch in diameter, and may be of any shape, although I have found small cubes or squares desirable.

The principal reasons for using blocks or pieces of wood of the dimensions specified, are that when combined with the other materials used, the mass may be readily molded into a desired form or bricks, and after the brick is ignited and begins to burn, the in-

dividual blocks quickly catch fire and in burning fall away from each other, thus permitting the air to have free access which causes them to burn with a bright, clear flame lasting until the blocks are consumed.

The rosin is placed in a receptacle and heated to near the boiling point when tallow is added and the whole mass again heated to the boiling point. The small pieces of wood are then put into the receptacle with the rosin and tallow and the mixture heated, after which the product is poured into molds of any desired shape or size.

The proportions in which I use the above ingredients may be varied, but I obtain excellent results by using the following proportions per brick: 5½ ounces of rosin, 3½ ounces of wood, 3 ounces of tallow. In this combination of ingredients the wood absorbs more of the tallow than of the rosin, and is very readily ignited and affords a bright and lasting blaze and intense heat. The rosin gives body and a more massive flame and lengthens the duration.

Coal fires may be started by the use of my preparation under almost any conditions.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

An article of manufacture for lighting fires, consisting of small blocks of wood, rosin and tallow, the dimensions of the blocks of wood being approximately three-quarters of an inch or more, the whole being molded when in a heated state into the form of a brick, substantially as described.

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

RALPH M. SHEETS.

Witnesses:

JOHN B. PEARSON,
RAY KEITH.