

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH M. BROWN, OF AUSTIN ARKANSAS.

## PROCESS OF TANNING.

947,433.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 25, 1910.

No Drawing.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOSEPH M. BROWN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Austin, in the county of Lonoke and State of Arkansas, have invented a new and useful Process of Tanning, of which the following is a specification.

This invention is a novel process of tanning which may be practiced by unskilled labor at a slight expense and without the use of any particular machinery.

In practicing the invention, if the hides are dry, they are soaked in clear water until they are soft and pliable; alum is then rubbed, on the flesh side, from 1 to 2 pounds being used, according to the size of the hide. If the hides are soft, the preliminary soaking may be omitted and the dry alum rubbed at once on the flesh side of the hide. The hide is then rolled up and allowed to remain in that condition for from 24 to 48 hours. I next dissolve from 1 to 5 pounds of Terra Japonica in about 4 gallons of hot water, a clean metal vessel being employed to hold the liquid. After this ooze is cool, the hide is immersed and permitted to remain in the same from 1 to 5 days, according to the size and thickness of the hide. When the hide has been subjected to this bath or ooze for a sufficient period of time, it is taken out and washed in clear water until the hair or fur is clean, after which it is beaten or pressed until it is smooth. The flesh side is then oiled and the hide placed in a shaded place until it is dry, after which the hair or fur is combed or brushed until it is finished.

If the hair or fur is to be removed, the hide is placed in a bath of water and slaked lime or wood ashes and left therein until the hair or fur slips freely. The hide is then put in clear or running water for from 6 to 12 hours, according to the thickness and size of the hide after which it is subjected to the action of the tanning ooze in the manner described.

In treating small hides, such as calf or goat skins, after the tanning has been completed, the grain side of the skin may be

whipped with a coarse cloth and the flesh side beaten until both sides are smooth. Both sides are then oiled and the hide is placed in a shaded place to dry.

The above described process produces a leather of great durability and a high finish. The application of dry alum to the flesh side of the green hide drives from the same all gluten or albuminoids and leaves the hide open and porous so that the ooze in which it is subsequently treated will penetrate the hide deeply and thoroughly. The hair will be set sufficiently to prevent its slipping during the subsequent treatment of the hide, and the Terra Japonica will convert the hide into a permanently flexible and tough leather from which the hair will never shed nor lose its natural softness.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is.

1. The herein described method of tanning a hide which consists in rendering the same soft and absorbent, then rubbing it on the flesh side with pulverized alum, then rolling it and allowing it to stand for a sufficient length of time to permit the alum to perform its function, and then immersing it in an ooze consisting only of Terra Japonica and water.

2. The herein described method of tanning a hide which consists in rendering the same soft and absorbent, then rubbing it on the flesh side with pulverized alum, then rolling it and allowing it to stand for a sufficient length of time to permit the alum to perform its function, then immersing it in an ooze consisting only of Terra Japonica and water; then washing it, and finally working and oiling it.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JOSEPH M. <sup>his</sup> X BROWN.  
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Witnesses:

R. G. GRAHAM,  
J. C. FISHER.