

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN H. SMITH, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVED METHOD OF TREATING PEAT.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **50,743**, dated October 31, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN H. SMITH, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Treating Peat; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable those skilled in the art to make and use the same.

This invention consists in treating peat with wet steam or alternately with wet and superheated steam, in contradistinction to treating it with superheated steam alone. By the action of the wet steam the fibrous parts of the peat are reduced to a pulp, and the soluble salts are partially or wholly dissolved, and a product is obtained which can be readily compressed in the form of bricks or in any convenient form for use, and which is of great value for fuel in furnaces of any kind or in metallurgical operations.

In carrying out this process I reduce the peat into small pieces or powder, and place it in a vat of metal or other suitable material, and then I apply wet steam through the mass, which, being constantly agitated by suitable stirrers, will allow the steam to come in inti-

mate contact with all its parts, and by the action of the steam the peat is reduced to a pulp which can be conveniently brought in the desired form for use.

In some cases it may be desirable to apply wet and superheated steam to the mass in order to disintegrate the fibers of the peat and to free the carbonaceous matter from the adhering impurities.

By this process the peat is reduced to a compact mass, which can be readily transported to any distance, and which is of great value in many metallurgical operations, or for fuel in furnaces of any kind.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. Treating peat with wet steam, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. The application to peat of wet and superheated steam combined, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

JOHN H. SMITH.

Witnesses:

M. M. LIVINGSTON,
W. HAUFF.