

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT LOERCHER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN PREPARING TAN-BARK FOR TRANSPORTATION.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **184,638**, dated November 21, 1876; application filed January 8, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT LOERCHER, of the city of New York, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Tan-Bark, and process of treating the same, of which the following is a specification:

This invention has for its object to prepare tan-bark for transportation, and for more profitable use in the arts, and to protect it against injurious atmospheric influences, especially on sea-voyages.

Tan-bark is usually transported in bulk, and ground when and where it is to be used. It is often materially injured and reduced in value by atmospheric contact, more particularly by moisture. It is also, in the manner in which it is usually transported, unnecessarily bulky, as a considerable proportion of useless moss adheres to and is sent with it.

My invention consists in grinding the useful parts of the bark before transportation, then compressing the ground bark firmly into blocks or cakes of convenient form and size, and in also covering or coating each block with a solution of tan-bark or other substance that will prevent the air from entering the block, and injuriously affecting the ground bark, during transportation or storage.

Upon arrival at the place of destination, the blocks of ground bark are reground, to be rendered proper for use.

The apparent additional expense involved by the double grinding process is fully offset by the saving in cost of transportation and the lessened liability of the bark to be injured by moisture.

The compressed blocks can be closely packed, and occupy, therefore, less room than the body of the unground bark; they contain only material actually useful in the tanning process, and maintain such material in a proper and desirable condition.

Another advantage of compressing the bark is, that it is thereby brought into compact form for regrinding, and can, consequently, be more readily and finely reground than ground bark which is not compressed.

I claim as my invention—

As an article of trade, a block of compressed ground tan-bark coated with a solution of tan-bark, substantially as specified.

R. LOERCHER.

Witnesses:

ERNEST C. WEBB,

F. V. BRIESEN.