

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES KENT, OF GLOVERSVILLE, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN PROCESSES OF TREATING SKINS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 196,672, dated October 30, 1877; application filed August 2, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES KENT, of Gloversville, in the county of Fulton and State of New York, have invented a new and improved process for producing a valuable article of manufacture, which I denominate "Mocha Castor Leather," as hereinafter more fully set forth.

In this invention I use the skins of animals known to the trade as Mocha sheep and Mocha lambs, which skins heretofore have never been employed for producing castor leather, but have been heretofore considered worthless for producing a fine and soft leather with a castor-finish of surface, as is generally produced from skins of other animals, such as gazelles, chamois, still-born lambs, small goat kid chevieux, &c.

The structure of the Mocha sheep skins imported from Mocha, Arabia, and known to the trade as "Mocha skins," differs from the skins of other animals, as the same operations with them as are had with the skins of other animals will not produce the same result. Hence they have to be treated differently to produce a castor-dressed leather.

It should be understood that castor-finish leather has heretofore been made only from skins of animals which would friz at the same time the process of unhairing is being had—that is to say, when, by a proper tool, the hair is being removed from the skin. The cuticle or outer layer of the skin will be at the same time removed in a ready manner, and leave a frizzed surface, which is subsequently worked up into a velvety appearance, which is known to the trade as the "castor-finish."

It should also be further understood that those skins of animals which will not friz when unhaird, but "nip," have heretofore been considered unfit to produce castor leather; hence their use heretofore has been limited to other kinds of leather, in which the outer or grain surface or flesh surface was to receive the finish. To this latter class of skins the Mocha sheep and lamb skins belong, and though its texture, strength, and thinness are such as to render it a desirable skin from which to make glove-leather, yet it has not heretofore been employed by the trade for producing castor leather, not only because the skin would not friz, but also because, between the body of the skin and the cuticle, there exists what is termed by the trade the "scud," which is ex-

cessively filled with oil or fatty secretions, which will work up and render the skin incapable of receiving a castor-finish. Beneath this scud there is a fine body which is susceptible of being worked up into a fine and silky nap, which will produce a castor-finish of surface far superior, in both appearance and fact, to the castor-finish given to skins which readily friz and expose a surface that will receive a nap.

In the process of producing my new article of manufacture, I proceed in the usual manner with the skin, and unhair the same as practiced by the trade, after which I treat the skin with a solution of an alkaline nature that will enter below the cuticle and act on the scud. I then friz the skin, and remove the scud also down to the body or ground, or what is known as the middle substance of the skin, and lay the same uniformly exposed; after which I work up the surface with an emery-wheel or bucking-machine, in the manner heretofore practiced by the trade, or by the process described in a former invention of my own, for which Letters Patent of the United States have been issued to me.

The leather thus made will be of a fine castor character, and have a surface of fine silky character, free from spots or greasy appearance, while the body of the skin of the leather will itself be firm to hold stitches, soft as kid, and strong to resist a heavy strain, and in every way adapted for glove material, while at the same time the appearance of the finish of the nap-surface will be better than ordinary castor leather.

Having described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The process of treating the unhaird skins of Mocha sheep and lambs by first submitting them to the action of an alkaline solution that is capable of entering below the outer cuticle and acting on the scud beneath, to prepare it for a ready and uniform removal; and, secondly, in the removal of the scud and exposure of the middle substance of the skin to the operation of an emery-wheel or bucking-machine, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

JAMES KENT.

Witnesses:

CYRUS STEWART,
HENRY LANGENBACH.