

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALFRED ROBINSON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVED PAINT FOR BITUMINOUS ROOFING FABRICS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 45,275, dated November 29, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALFRED ROBINSON, of 73 Maiden Lane, in the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Bituminous Roofing Fabrics; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

This invention relates to all that class of water-proof fabrics for covering roofs which are generally known as "bituminous" "composition," or "cement" roofing—that is to say, composed of cloth, paper, felt, or other fibrous web saturated or coated with any preparation containing bitumen, asphaltum, pitch, mineral or vegetable tar, or substances of a similar nature.

The principal objection hitherto urged against these fabrics for roofing purposes has been their black color. Some attempts have been made to remedy this objection by coating the fabrics with powdered soapstone or sand; but after exposure to the weather these substances are soon removed or the black composition comes through them. The fabrics have in some cases been coated with oil-paints of a desirable color, after having been applied and secured to the roof; but the menstruum of these paints is absorbed by the bituminous compound without drying, and the coloring-matter soon washed off from the surface by rain.

With a view to remedy these defects in the ordinary bituminous roofing fabrics, and to obviate the necessity of painting them after their application to a roof, my invention consists in the manufacture of such a fabric with a surface of any desirable color. The means or

method by which I produce this result is as follows:

I take naphtha, benzine, turpentine, or other suitable liquid hydrocarbon, and, having mixed in a proper amount of Spanish brown, Venetian red, or other pigment, apply the mixture to the surface of the roofing fabric while sufficiently warm to enable the naphtha or menstruum used to take hold of or unite with the bituminous preparation. The naphtha, or substance used instead, readily acts as a partial solvent of the bituminous particles immediately in contact, and these, in this condition, being very sticky, adhere to the coloring-matters contained in the menstruum, which soon evaporates, leaving the colors adhering to the surface of the bituminous preparation. No common paint-oil will act in this manner. A better adhesion of the pigment may be obtained by dissolving in the menstruum a small amount—say one-tenth part by weight—of bitumen, rosin, gum, or gum-resin.

The coloring-coating may be applied with a brush, or by any other suitable means, to the surface of the bituminous fabric while the latter is in the piece, and quickly dries, so that the piece may be rolled up for the market.

What I claim as my invention as a new article of manufacture, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A bituminous roofing fabric having its surface made of any suitable color, substantially as herein described.

ALFRED ROBINSON.

Witnesses:

HENRY T. BROWN,
GEO. W. REED.