United States Patent Office.

GOLDSBURY H. POND, OF RUTLAND, VERMONT.

Letters Patent No. 110,495, dated December 27, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN CLEANING WOOL, COTTON, &c.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GOLDSBURY H. POND, of Rutland, in Rutland county in the State of Vermont, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in the Process of Cleaning Wool, Cotton, and other fibrous substances, and the fabrics made thereof; and I hereby declare the following to be a full and exact description thereof.

The nature or essence of my invention consists in immersing the fibrous substance or fabric to be cleaned in sulphide of carbon, naphtha, or benzole, to soften, dissolve, or saturate the excrements, oil, gum, dirt, and other impurities, and then sinking the fibrous materials in water and allowing the impurities to rise to the surface of the water, with the sulphide of carbon, naphtha, or benzole, and then removing the impurities from the surface of the water, leaving the cleansed or partially cleansed wool in the water ready for scouring or otherwise.

Heretofore manufacturers of wool have been compelled to abandon or throw away as waste the clippings and trimmings of fleece and other wool, consisting of those portions matted into balls or clots, with the excrement, urine, dirt, and sweat of the animal, because they had no process for removing the above-mentioned impurities from the wool, without felting it together, so that they could neither card, draw, nor spin it. Hence, they were subject to a very great loss of the raw material.

The object of my new process is to provide a cheap and easy method of separating the above-mentioned impurities from the wool, without felting the wool, but leaving the fiber and staple of the wool open and free, so that it can be carded, drawn, and spun, as freely as wool that has never been fouled by the impurities above mentioned, thus saving great quanti ties of wool to the manufacturers.

To perform my improved process, I first prepare a vat six feet long, three feet wide, and four feet deep; and fill it two feet deep with water, and one foot deep over the water with sulphide of carbon, naphtha, or benzole.

I make two screens of wire, with meshes fine enough to retain the wool, and just large enough to work up and down in the vat, and arrange one of them at the top of the water, to support the wool in the naphtha until the hard balls of excrement, dirt, &c., are softened or dissolved, which is done in about thirty minutes; when the second screen must be put in on the wool and pressed down, so as to force the wool and lower screen down to the bottom of the water, when the oil, naphtha, and other impurities will rise to the surface of the water, when the naphtha, with the impurities separated from the wool, may be drawn by a side gate from the top of the water, and the wool taken out of the water with the screens and spread to dry, and when dried it is ready for sale or for use in the manufacture of fabrics.

What I claim as my invention and improvement in the process of cleaning wool, cotton, and other fibrous substances, and the fabrics made thereof, is—

Immersing them in sulphide of carbon, naphtha, or benzole, to soften, dissolve, or saturate the excrements, oil, gum, dirt, and other impurities, and then sinking the fibrous materials or fabrics in water and allowing the impurities to rise to the surface of the water, with the sulphide of carbon, naphtha, or benzole and removing them from the surface of the water, leaving the cleansed or partially cleansed wool in the water.

GOLDSBURY H. POND.

Witnesses:

J. DENNIS, Jr.,

M. W. BELSHAW.