PATENT SPECIFICATION

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Improvements in or relating to the Packing of Plantation Rubber and like Substances

We, N. V. GEBROEDERS VETH'S HANDELMAATSCHAPPIJ, a limited liability Company organised under Dutch law, of Prins Hendrikkade 123, Amsterdam, C,. Holland, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement :—

The present invention is concerned with improvements in or relating to the packing of natural rubber-like substances, such as plantation rubber, gutta-percha, balata and the like, in an unvulcanised condition.

The most satisfactory packing for rubber so far proposed has been packing cases of three ply wood notwithstanding the fact that splinters of wood were frequently found in the rubber and that after taking samples of the packed substance, the case had again to be remade.

When three ply wood cases became scarce and expensive it was proposed to pack rubber in jute sacks, rush or rotan mats, and it was also proposed to press the rubber sheets into bales which were then packed in sacks made from the sheets themselves (see India Rubber World 101 (1940) No. 6).

This latter method however has the disadvantages that part of the rubber serves as the packing and thus loses its value wholly or largely by becoming soiled ; whilst the bales of rubber thus obtained tend to stick to each other and to other cargo in the ship's hold due to the pressure and temperature and in spite of a liberal use of talcum.

Attempts were also made to use paper as a packing material for plantation rubber but this again appears to adhere strongly to the rubber and is liable during transport to be torn for instance when being handled in the docks. It is an object of the invention to provide an improved method of packing rubber and like substances which overcomes the above disadvantages in a simple and economic manner.

According to the present invention therefore there is provided a method of packing natural rubber and like substances characterised in that a bale or block of such substance is covered by two or more covers of vulcanised rubber the adjacent edges of which are caused to overlap each other.

We prefer to pack bales or blocks in two of the said covers in which case each cover will be in the form of a hollow container adapted to surround the end of a bale or block whilst the inner edges of the containers are brought into overlapping relationship.

The said covers are made somewhat larger than the bales of rubber to be packed, and in a preferred method of packing they are first rolled outwardly from their edges so that the end of a bale or block may be inserted into the cover which can then be unrolled onto the bale or block. It has been found that such covers of vulcanised rubber are practically free from the disadvantage of sticking to the sticky material to be packed. If desired however the bale or block may be sprinkled with talcum powder before packing. By this method of packing covers may be used repeatedly since to remove them they can be simply rolled off. Furthermore when samples are to be taken it is only necessary to roll back the covers and after removal of a sample to roll them around the bale again.

We prefer to provide rounded edges on the bales or blocks to be packed so as to prevent sharp edges which might result in tearing of the covers.

In order that the invention may be well understood a preferred embodiment thereof by way of example only will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which :

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bale of unvulcanised rubber, gutta-percha, balata or the like to be packed.

Figure 2 is cross sectional view of one cover according to the invention.

Figure 3 shows the cover of Figure 2 in rolled up condition,

Figure 4 shows how the cover is rolled around a bale of rubber and

Figure 5 shows a bale of rubber packed

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according to the invention,

Figure 1 shows a bale 1 of unvulcanised rubber, gutta-percha, balata or the like formed with rounded ends 2. This bale may be of any desired dimensions but it is preferred to form it of approximately 70 × 40 × 25 cms. so as to obtain a weight of about 50 kg. which can reasonably easily be handled without necessitating the use of docker's hooks.

Two covers 3 in the form of hollow containers are employed said covers 3 being made of vulcanised rubber. The edges 4 are rolled outwardly (Figure 3) and the end of the cover is placed against the end 5 of a bale to be packed and then rolled on as indicated by the arrows in Figure 4. A second similar cover 7 is then rolled onto the end 6 of the bale in a similar manner and the edges of the two covers 3 and 7 are overlapped as at 8, their combined lengths being selected as greater than the length of the bale.

Covers for use according to the invention may be made in any convenient manner. Thus for instance vulcanised latex can be formed on a suitable mandrel by dipping and can then be dried. Unvulcanised latex having a vulcanising agent incorporated therein can be shaped by dipping and can then be dried and vulcanised. In such cases the mandrel will be shaped to the required dimensions of the cover. If desired however a closed rubber cover of greater length than the bale to be packed can be made on a mandrel by dipping, the resultant product being then halved to produce two covers capable of being overlapped. Instead of dipping vulcanised or unvulcanised latex can be extruded onto a suitable mandrel.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of our said invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, we declare that what we claim is :—

1. A method of packing natural rubber and like substances characterised in that a bale or block of such substance is covered by two or more covers of vulcanised rubber the adjacent edges of which are caused to overlap each other.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 in which at least one of said covers is rolled outwardly, placed on the end of a bale or block to be packed and then unrolled therearound.

3. A method of packing natural rubber and like substance substantially as described.

4. Natural rubber blocks or bales when packed by a method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3.

Dated this 25th day of April, 1949.

For the Applicants,
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