

future that it is understood that the importation into New Zealand of works believed to infringe copyright will not be prohibited until security in respect of all expenses and damages that may be incurred consequent on the detention of such works and in respect of any proceedings that may arise from such detention has been given to the Customs Department of New Zealand.

I have, &c.,

L. S. AMERY.

Governor-General His Excellency General Sir C. Fergusson, Bart.,
LL.D., G.C.M.G., K.C.B., D.S.O., M.V.O., &c.

No. 4.

New Zealand, Dominions No. 34.

SIR,—

Downing Street, 14th January, 1927.

I have the honour to request Your Excellency to inform your Ministers that the First Commissioner of His Majesty's Works has reported that Mr. R. Gilbert, B.Sc., one of the officers of the Board of Works, has recently patented, under section 29 of the Patents and Designs Acts, 1907 and 1919 (Consolidated), an invention of a dust-allaying fluid known as "Dust-allayer" (Patent No. 236731). A brief description of the invention and its use, which has been prepared by Mr. Gilbert, is enclosed.

2. The Commissioners of His Majesty's Works and Public Buildings have agreed to waive their right to require an assignment to themselves of the said invention upon condition that the patentee should give to the Commissioners certain rights. An agreement has accordingly been concluded with Mr. Gilbert which provides, *inter alia*, that "The Commissioners or any other Department of the Imperial Government or the Government of India or of any British Dominion or colony protectorate or protected State may by themselves or their agents or contractors and others authorized by them at any time hereafter notwithstanding the existence of any patent that may at any time be in operation in respect of the said invention whether such patent shall have been granted in Great Britain and Ireland Isle of Man India or in any British Dominion or colony protectorate or protected State or foreign country use the said invention and any improvement therein or additions thereto which the patentee may make or discover whilst he is in the employment of the Commissioners for the services of the Crown in any part of the world at any and all times and notwithstanding any assignment or license or disposal of the said invention or letters patent which the patentee may execute grant or make and may sell any part-worn or surplus stock of articles made in accordance with the said invention improvements or additions or covered by the said patent and no royalty or other payment whatsoever shall under any circumstances be required in respect of such user or sale either from the Commissioners or any such other Department or Government as aforesaid or from their agents or contractors or others authorized by them."

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Enclosure.

THE fluid consists of an oil of high flash-point and a suitable body mixed with a small percentage of cresols, preferably pale cresylic acid. It is applied to the surfaces to be treated with a mop, and should be well spread so that only a thin film is left, which will not be slippery owing to the type of oil used. (Excess oil left on the floor should be absorbed by sawdust or sand and then swept.) The oil film on the surface effectively prevents dust rising, and the usual sweeping and dusting operations can be carried out without dust rising. The cresols impart a slight carbolic odour which suggests cleanliness, and at the same time they have a preserving effect on the wood and a slight germicidal action. Floors do not require scrubbing with soap and water after use, but only a periodic treatment with the fluid, from every six weeks to three months, dependent upon the amount and type of traffic. It is largely used in the postal sorting-offices and libraries.