Patented Sept. 3, 1929.

1,726,612

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CONSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL.

No Drawing. Application filed July 30, 1925. Serial No. 47,177.

This invention relates to constructional material preformed from a mass of reenforced bituminous binder in sheets or slabs, and pertains particularly to expansion joint strips.

The invention is typified by an expansion strip as the preferred embodiment which is employed in building and paving construction to provide for expansion and contraction between rigid elements.

Heretofore it has been known that excelsior could readily be mixed with asphalt, rosin, tar compositions and the like and the fibre would help bind the material together. This mixture is known to the general public and in most instances would form a brittle substance. Excelsior employed as known to the trade is a rounded fibrous fibre of very little tensile strength, with the result that when mixed with a material which is ductile in nature under heated conditions at normal temperatures the mixture often flexes and cannot readily be handled as a construction material.

My invention relates to incorporating with a bituminous material, preferably a blown product, what is known as ribbon excelsior which is a fibrous material approximately one-fourth of an inch wide and one-thirty-second of an inch in thickness. The wide facing of the cores or ribbon excelsior gives it great binding strength and at the same time the interweaving or mixing of the ribbon excelsior gives a basket weave effect which when matted together causes air cavities to form in the mixture and when rolled into sheets makes a very resilient material for expansion joint purposes.

The preparations may be approximately 70% of bituminous material and 30% of the ribbon-like fibres. This fibrous matter need not necessarily be excelsior but other materials which may be formed into ribbon-like strands which would give like tensile strength and great compressibility and resilience.

I claim:

1. An expansion joint comprising a preformed strip of bituminous material having a fibrous filler incorporated therein in the form of ribbon-like strands approximately one-fourth of an inch wide and one-thirty-second of an inch in thickness.

2. An expansion joint comprising a preformed strip of blown bituminous material having fibrous filler incorporated therein in the form of ribbon-like strands of excelsior approximately one-fourth of an inch wide and one-thirty-second of an inch in thickness.

3. Constructional material consisting of a homogeneous mixture of blown bituminous material and commercially known ribbon excelsior, said bituminous material being approximately seventy (70) per cent in the mixture.

Signed at Chicago, Illinois, this 10th day of March, 1925.

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