

To His Excellency,  
Gov. Lowe,

Inspector of  
Ground Black  
Oak Bark

At the earnest solicitation of a number of shippers of Ground Black Oak Bark, (known in commerce as Quercitron) I write you to enquire if such a construction can be put on the Law of 1821, regulating the inspection of Ground Black Oak Bark, as to admit of the inspection passing bark in bags, shipped to a foreign port.

The arguments advanced by the shippers are, that the spirit of the law is to enhance the value of bark in the hands of the shippers, and that if the letter of the law - that is - no bark shall be shipped from the port of Balto, except such as shall have been inspected (marked &c) and packed in "Casks", continues to be carried out, instead of proving an advantage to bark, it will have a tendency to decrease its value in the hands of the shippers, as the freight on bark shipped in bags is a mere nominal sum, to that shipped in casks. In a word, the question is simply, can the inspector place his seal of office on bark shipped in "Bags" to a foreign port? The construction which I have put on the letter of the law, is, that they cannot; but they respectfully refer it to my superiors.

If you should consider this matter worthy your consideration, I wait your commands.

I am with the greatest respect,

Your Obedt. Servt.

W. H. Davis

Inspector of B. O. Bark.

Executive Department,  
Annapolis, August 23<sup>d</sup>, 1852.

Copy of State to Mr. H. Davis Insp.

in reply the  
Bark can-  
not be put  
up in Bag

Inspector of Ground Black Oak Bark,

Sir:

Your letter requesting to be instructed as to whether or not you can inspect and pass ground black oak bark packed in bags, instead of casks, under the provisions of the Act of 1821, Chapter 77, has been received and fully considered by the Governor. I am directed by him to reply, that the language and intention of the Act referred to are too manifest to admit of doubt or misconstruction. It is expressly and repeatedly provided, in the several sections of that Act, that, the bark shall be packed in Casks.