No. 683,595. Patented Oct. 1, 1901.

A. DROUILLARD.

MARSH SHOE.

(Application filed Jan. 9, 1901.)

(No Model.)

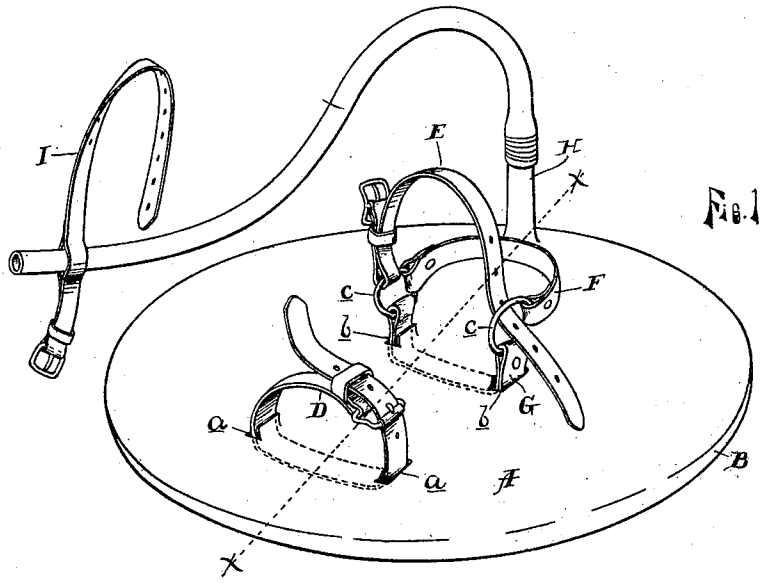

Fig. 1.

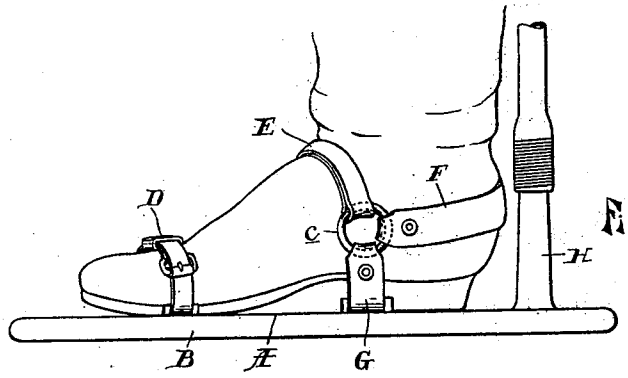

Fig. 2.

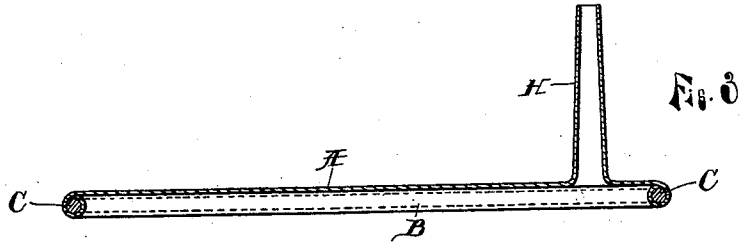

Fig. 3.

WITNESSES:

Lewis E. Sanders

Joseph A. Noelke

INVENTOR:

Albert Drouillard

By Bartlett & Bartlett

Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT DROUILLARD, OF WINDSOR, CANADA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO ANDREW ANDERSON, OF SAME PLACE.

MARSH-SHOE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 683,595, dated October 1, 1901.

Application filed January 9, 1901. Serial No. 42,587. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT DROUILLARD, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, residing at Windsor, in the county of Essex and Province of Ontario, in the Dominion of Canada, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Marsh-Shoes, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to that class of devices designed to be fastened to the sole of shoes to prevent sinking into soft ground when walking over it.

The object of my invention is to produce a device of this character specially adapted to the use of hunters in the pursuit of game over swampy or marshy ground; and my improvement consists in certain novel features of construction hereinafter more fully explained whereby the device is better suited to accomplish the object desired, all as more fully hereinafter described, and shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective of my device. Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof. Fig. 3 is a vertical central section on line *x x*, Fig. 1.

A is a disk of sheet metal formed with a strong rigid rim B, projecting on the under side of the disk. As shown, the rim is formed by means of a wire hoop C, secured in the edge of the disk. This disk is imperforate and of a larger diameter than the length of the foot and is provided with suitable means for securing it detachably to the sole of the boot similar to the manner of securing skates. As these means should permit the wearing of rubber boots, I preferably use leather straps in the manner shown, one strap D being provided to pass over the toe of the boot and the other strap E to pass over the instep, the strap D being secured by passing it directly through apertures *a* in the disk and the other strap E being secured by means of a separate strap G, which passes through apertures *b* in the disk and terminates in rings *c*. A heel-strap F is also secured to these rings. In this manner secure and adjustable means are provided to fasten a disk of this kind to the sole of each boot similar to the way skates are fastened on. Directly in rear of the heel of the boot the disk is provided with an air-pipe H, which may be more or less prolonged upwardly. Ordinarily I make it with a rigid lower portion and a flexible upper extension formed by securing a piece of rubber hose to the rigid lower portion, as shown. This flexible portion should reach up to the hip and is to be secured to the leg, for which purpose a strap I may be secured to the hose. In practice a pair of these disks are neither heavy nor cumbersome to carry on a hunting trip and can be quickly adjusted to the foot or taken off, as circumstances may require, and equipped with them the hunter can readily walk over soft ground without sinking in, and grasses and reeds will be readily bent aside or trodden down under it without any liability to catch or become entangled therewith. The rim projecting on the under side prevents slipping in any direction, as otherwise walking over oozy ground would be quite difficult. Besides the rim gives a firm support, while the body of the disk acts to a certain extent like a flexible diaphragm, and its action in lifting up the heel is like that of a diaphragm-pump by sucking air in through the air-pipe and conducting it beneath the disk to permit its ready withdrawal. Nor does it make any difference if the hunter accidentally or intentionally steps into deep miry ground up to his knees the air will still be drawn in in struggling to get out, and thus make extrication an easy matter, whereas without this assistance he would become hopelessly mired. By making the pipe H flexible or partly flexible it will give free movement in walking or in sitting down, and by making it detachable from the rigid lower portion it can be left off when the nature of the ground does not call for it.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. In a device of the character described, the combination of the flexible disk formed with a rigid rim projecting downwardly below the under surface of the disk, means for securing the disk to the sole of the boot or shoe and an air-pipe extending upwardly above the disk and communicating with the under side of the disk at or near the heel thereof.

2. In a device of the character described, the combination of the disk A formed of sheet

metal and having a downwardly-projecting rigid outer rim B, straps secured in apertures of the disk and forming the means for adjustably securing the same to the sole of the boot or shoe, and the air-pipe H extending upwardly and forming the means for attaching a flexible rubber hose thereto.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ALBERT DROUILLARD.

Witnesses:
OTTO F. BARTHEL,
JOSEPH A. NOELKE.