

931,568.

Fig. 1.

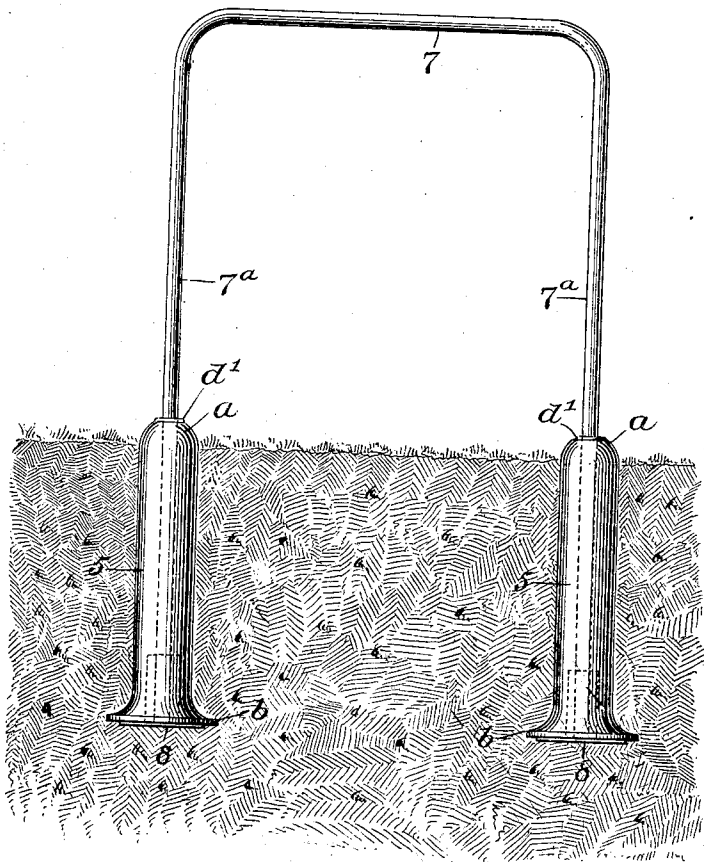
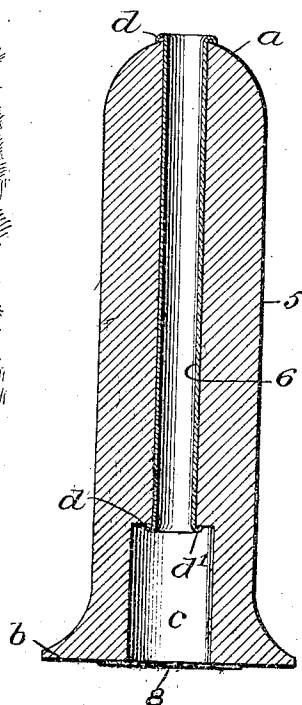


Fig. 2.



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SOCKET-POST FOR SUPPORTING CROQUET-ARCHES.

No. 931,568.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 17, 1909.

Application filed November 6, 1908. Serial No. 461,307.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY B. COLLIER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Prairie Grove, in the county of Washington and State of Arkansas, have invented a new and Improved Socket-Post for Supporting Croquet-Arches, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The purpose of my invention is to provide novel details of construction for a socket post, which adapt it in pairs for a secure embedment in the ground at suitable points in upright positions, and for the convenient insertion of the limbs of a croquet arch thereinto, and thus afford stable support to the arch in a vertical plane and permit the removal of said arch as may be desired.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of parts, as is hereinafter described and defined in the appended claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a side view of a pair of the improved socket posts, embedded in the ground in parallel vertical planes, and a like view of a croquet arch having its limbs inserted down into the sockets of the posts and thereby supported vertically for use; Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the improved socket post; and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a modified form of the improved post, broken away for exposure of the interior details of construction.

The body 5 of the socket post in its preferred form, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, is mainly cylindrical, of suitable dimensions and preferably constructed of hard wood. The upper end of the post is given semi-cylindrical form, as appears at *a* and at the lower end a circular flange *b* is formed.

A cylindrically walled chamber *c* is formed longitudinally and centrally in the post, extending from the normally lower end whereon the circular flange is produced. From the center of the chamber and normally upper end wall *d* thereof, an axial bore of reduced diameter is extended through the body of the post 5, said bore having a tubular lining 6 closely fitted therein and secured at its ends by turning flanges *d'* thereon, outward and into enforced engagement with the defining edges of the bore. A foraminated base plate 8 is secured upon the flat

bottom wall of the post 5, thus completing the details of construction thereof; said plate while excluding the earth, permitting the escape of water.

The arch 7, as usual, is formed of resilient wire bent into form, either as shown in Fig. 1, or it may be given a true semicircular shape that is a well known form the eof, either shape affording two spaced parallel limbs 7^a for the arch or wicket. Two posts of the improved form are provided for each arch 7, and are at a proper location embedded in the ground so as to leave their upper rounded ends *a* projecting above the upper surface of the soil. The posts are spaced apart parallel with each other and in the same vertical plane, the distance between their axial centers being the same as that between the limbs 7^a of an arch 7, thus permitting the limbs to be pressed down into the tubular linings 6 until they impinge upon the base plate 8. It will be noted that with the form given the upper ends of the pair of socket posts 5, the croquet balls will not come in contact with the posts but are permitted to impinge upon either limb 7^a when driven with a mallet by the player, which is often quite essential to give a desired deflection to the ball during the course of a game.

The provision of the tubular lining 6 for the bore in the post 5, is of advantage as a means of protection for the wall of the bore, as it prevents the limbs 7^a from wearing away the material and enlarging the bore so that the arch would be loose and thus rendered defective in service. By forming a chamber *c* at the lower end of the post 5, a receptacle for dirt that may have entered the tubular lining wall 6, is afforded, so that the latter is at all times in proper condition for the reception of the limbs of an arch 7. The circular flange *b* on the body of a post 5 provides an increased area for the bottom of the post, and when earth is tamped over said flange the post will be held erect, and the pair of posts may thus be spaced apart in vertical planes before the earth is filled into the excavations and tamped around the bodies of the posts.

In Fig. 3 a modified form of the post is shown that cheapens its construction. In this example of my improved socket posts, the body 9 thereof is rendered angular having four sides *g* and angles *g'*. The normally lower end of the body 9 is tapered as

shown at 9^a, thus adapting it for driven insertion into the soil. Centrally in the flat upper end of the body 9, a perforation *h* is formed that extends to a suitable depth, and at the bottom of said perforation, a branch or lateral perforation *i* is formed that permits the expulsion of dirt from the axial bore *h* when a limb on an arch for a croquet "lay out" is inserted therein.

10 The modified form of socket post is cheaper to construct, and is available for use when the ground will permit the same to be driven thereinto a proper depth without injury, and said post may be formed of hard

15 wood or metal as may be preferred.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A socket post having an axial bore, an outlet at the bottom of the bore, a foraminated plate covering the outlet, and a tubular lining in said bore.

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2. A socket post, having a cylindrical body rounded at the normally upper end, a flange on the lower end thereof, and further provided with a chamber at its lower end from

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which extends an axial bore through the upper end, and a tubular lining inserted through the axial bore and held in place by outwardly-turned flanges that bear on the defining edges of the bore.

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3. The combination with a socket post having an axial bore, and a chamber therein at the lower end of said bore, of a tubular lining secured in the bore, and a foraminated base plate covering the lower end of the chamber.

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4. A socket post comprising a cylindrical body rounded at the upper end, having a circular flange at the lower end, and also having an axial bore, a tubular lining in said bore, a chamber at the lower end of the body intersected by the tubular lining, and a perforated base plate on the lower end of the post.

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In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

HENRY BURGESS COLLIER.

Witnesses:

J. H. BREWSTER,
E. F. BAIN.