No. 632,891. Patented Sept. 12, 1899.

H. D. BURNETT.

TENNIS COURT MARKER.

(Application filed Aug. 23, 1898.)

(No Model.)

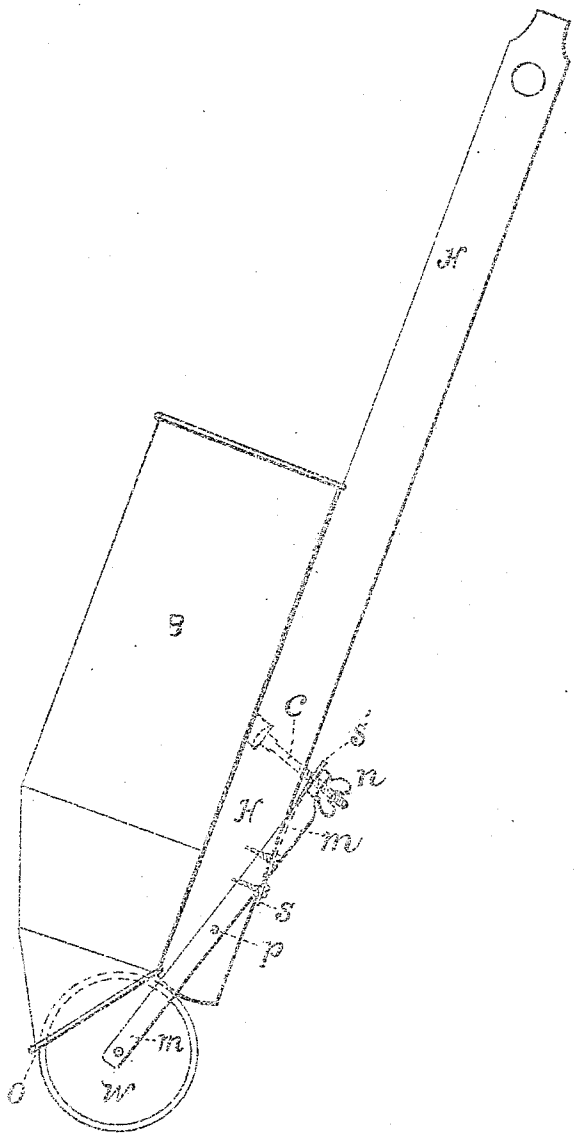


Fig. 1.

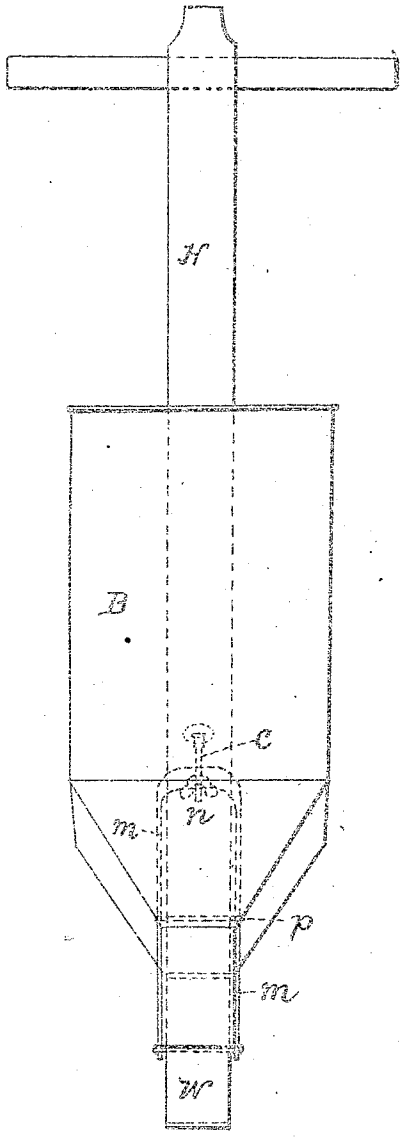


Fig. 2.

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HENRY DARLING BURNETT, OF PETERBOROUGH, CANADA.

TENNIS-COURT MARKER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 632,891, dated September 12, 1899.

Application filed August 23, 1898. Serial No. 689,316. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY DARLING BURNETT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Peterborough, in the Province of Ontario, Canada, have invented a new and useful Tennis-Court Marker, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to that class of tennis-court markers designed to use dry white powdered material, as distinct from those using whitened liquid for marking the lines of tennis-courts.

It consists, essentially, of a box for holding the powdered material and a wheel at the bottom, which serves as a ground-support for the box and at the same time serves the additional function of carrying the powder from the box to the ground and feeding and distributing it uniformly on the line traversed by the wheel.

The object is to provide a marker that can be more cheaply made and at the same time give more satisfactory results and be less likely to get out of order than other markers of the same general class.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a side view, and Fig. 2 a front view, of the marker.

B represents the box for holding the powdered material.

W represents the wheel, designed to rest on the ground and to fit into a rectangular-shaped opening in the lower part of the box, having at the point O a little larger space than elsewhere, but of such size that the powder will not freely escape from the box until the wheel is revolved, when the roughened periphery of the wheel carries the powder along with it out from the box at point O and thence to the ground.

m m is a U-shaped metal bar, to the free ends of which is pivoted the axle of the wheel, the two arms of the bar being pivotally attached at *p p* to the opposite sides of the handle-piece H, which also serves as a support to the box B.

S S′ is a curved flat spring fastened to the handle H at one end, while the other end presses against the bar *m m* at S′, tending to hold the bar in contact with the wing-nut *n*. This wing-nut *n* by being screwed up onto the stationary bolt *c* moves the wheel within the opening of the box, so as to enlarge the aperture at point O, and thus permit a larger quantity of powder to be delivered. By properly setting the adjusting-nut *n* any desired quantity of powder may be fed onto the line, thus securing the desired distinctness and permanence in the marking. The flat curved spring S S′ serves to keep the bar *m m* in contact with the nut *n* when the latter is unscrewed in order to diminish the size of the opening at O, and also allows the opening at O to automatically enlarge whenever a stone, a lump of the material, or other obstruction becomes clogged in the passage, thus allowing the obstruction to escape, after which the opening at O immediately assumes its normal size. This spring S S′ is not, however, essential to the working of the apparatus, as with the powdered material properly selected or prepared obstructions are not likely to be encountered. The spring might be dispensed with and still permit of an adjustment of the position of the wheel by using in place of *n* a nut having an annular groove for engaging the cross-branch of the bar *m m*. I do not therefore confine myself to the particular arrangement of spring and adjusting device here shown. There are several modifications making use of different styles of springs which any mechanic could adapt to the particular form of box and support which the manufacturer might choose to adopt. The wheel might be made adjustable in position by providing grooves or other ways in which the bars *m m* or other similar supports for the wheel might slide and be clamped in the desired position. Moreover, the box might be made in any one of a variety of shapes and, if desired, be supported by one or more additional wheels other than the marking-wheel; but it is believed that no advantage of importance would be gained by such modifications, while additional wheels add to the complexity of the apparatus and expense of manufacture. For these reasons a form similar to that here shown is preferred.

I do not limit myself to any particular shape or composition of the wheel, the only essentials being that it shall be circular or symmetrical with respect to its axis and that its periphery be somewhat roughened. It may be composed wholly or in part of wood, iron, or

any other suitable material. Its periphery may be, in section, a straight line or an arc of a circle; but it is preferred to make the wheel a simple geometrical cylinder about two inches long, whose axis is the axis of the wheel. The surface of the periphery should be sufficiently rough or coarse grained to catch and carry along with it a thin layer of the powdered material as it passes through the body of the latter. This roughness may consist of indentations, corrugations, or other regular unevenness in the surface of the wood, iron, or other material composing the wheel, or it may consist of a rough-textured material tacked upon or glued to the smooth surface of the wheel. Any coarse fabric—such as felt, carpet, or loosely-woven cloth—will answer the purpose. A very slight degree of roughness, such as would be left on the periphery of a wheel sawed from a two-inch board, would answer my purpose, but not so satisfactorily as if such a wheel had its periphery covered by a one-quarter-inch layer of coarse felt or a layer of Brussels carpet.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, in a tennis-court marker, of a wheel with a rough periphery and a box or chamber having an opening in its lower part of suitable size to permit a portion of the wheel to enter and practically close or nearly close the opening substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The combination, in a tennis-court marker, of a wheel with its periphery covered with felt or other material of similar surface and resilience, and a box or chamber having an opening in its lower part of suitable size to permit a portion of the wheel to enter and practically close or nearly close the opening, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. The combination, in a tennis-court marker of a wheel with its periphery roughened or covered with felt or other coarse, resilient material, a box or reservoir with an opening in its lower part of suitable size to permit a portion of the wheel to enter and practically close or nearly close the opening, and an adjustable support for the wheel whereby the opening at one portion of the periphery of the wheel may be easily varied in size substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

4. The combination, in a tennis-court marker of a wheel with its periphery roughened or covered with felt or other coarse, resilient material, a box or reservoir with an opening in its lower part of suitable size to permit a portion of the wheel to enter and practically close or nearly close the opening, an adjustable support for the wheel whereby the opening at one portion of the periphery of the wheel may be easily varied in size, and a spring in connection with the adjusting device whereby the wheel will move automatically when pressed by an obstacle so as to enlarge said opening but will not permit said opening to be diminished to a size less than that for which it has been adjusted, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

5. A tennis-court marker consisting of a box or reservoir, a wheel, with its periphery roughened or covered with coarse resilient material and supported to permit of being revolved while practically closing or nearly closing an aperture or opening in the lower part of the box, and with a suitable handle for use in propelling the apparatus, substantially as described.

6. A marker for tennis-courts or other similar use, consisting of a box or reservoir, a wheel with its periphery roughened or covered with rough resilient material and supported to permit of being revolved while practically closing or nearly closing an aperture or opening in the lower part of the box, and with its support adjustable so as to permit the wheel to be easily varied in position so as to vary the size of the opening at one portion of the periphery of the wheel, and with a suitable handle for use in propelling the apparatus, all substantially as described.

HENRY DARLING BURNETT.

Witnesses:
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