

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARTIN T. MEAD AND SAMUEL M. CLEMENS, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, ASSIGNORS OF ONE-THIRD TO JOHN L. BOONE, OF SAME PLACE.

SKATING-RINK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 517,823, dated April 3, 1894.

Application filed August 8, 1893. (No specimens.) Serial No. 482 688.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, MARTIN T. MEAD and SAMUEL M. CLEMENS, citizens of the United States, residing in the city and county of San Francisco and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Skating-Rinks; and we do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of said invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it most nearly appertains to make, use, and practice the same.

We have discovered that the mineral, sulphur, possesses the slippery quality of ice and can be used as a substitute for ice in the construction of rinks for skating purposes, and our invention is based upon that discovery.

Our invention therefore consists of a skating rink whose surface is formed of sulphur, either alone or combined with other substance.

To prepare the skating surface we take commercial sulphur, and subject it to heat until it is melted, and then we pour it upon a prepared level surface so that it will flow and form a smooth even level surface like ice. This surface can then be used like ice for skating on, and the skates used may be similar to ice skates. The action of the skates

on this sulphur surface will be very similar to the action of like skates on an ice surface so far as its slippery and skating qualities are concerned.

In some cases we shall combine other substances with the sulphur. For instance; we have discovered that alum (pulverized) when added to the sulphur increases its toughness, without affecting its slippery quality. To renew the surface, after it has been cut and abraded by skating upon it, we pass heated irons or rollers over it, so as to melt the surface and roll it smooth, thus removing the effects of use.

Skating rinks having a sulphur prepared surface will be beneficial to the health of invalids.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A floor for skating and sliding purposes composed of a sub-base or foundation and a surface coating of sulphur, substantially as specified.

MARTIN T. MEAD.
SAMUEL M. CLEMENS.

Witnesses:

JUSTIN B. MOORE,
CHARLES J. ARMBRUSTER.