Sept. 29, 1925. 1,555,290

F. H. JOHNSON

GAME APPARATUS

Filed Aug. 14, 1922 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

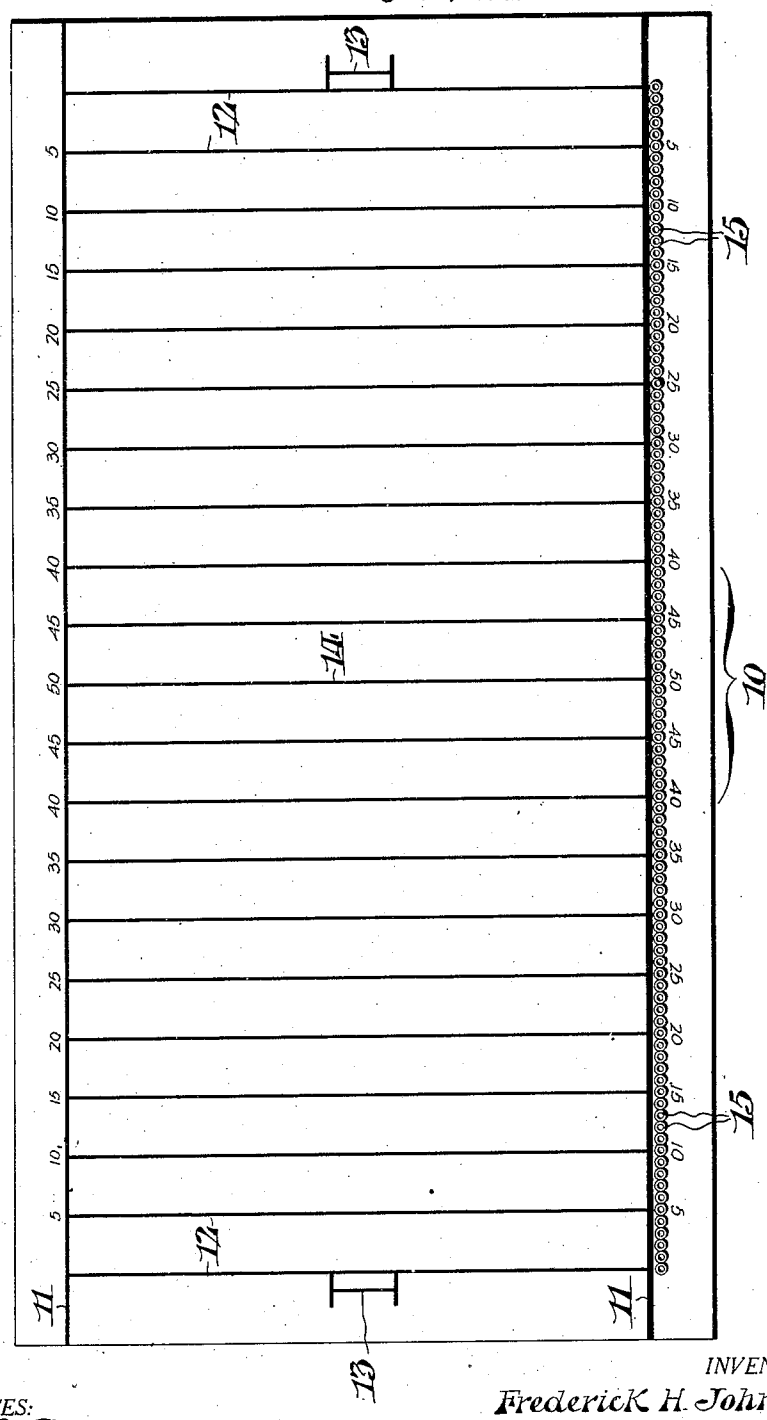


FIG. 1.

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FIG. 2.

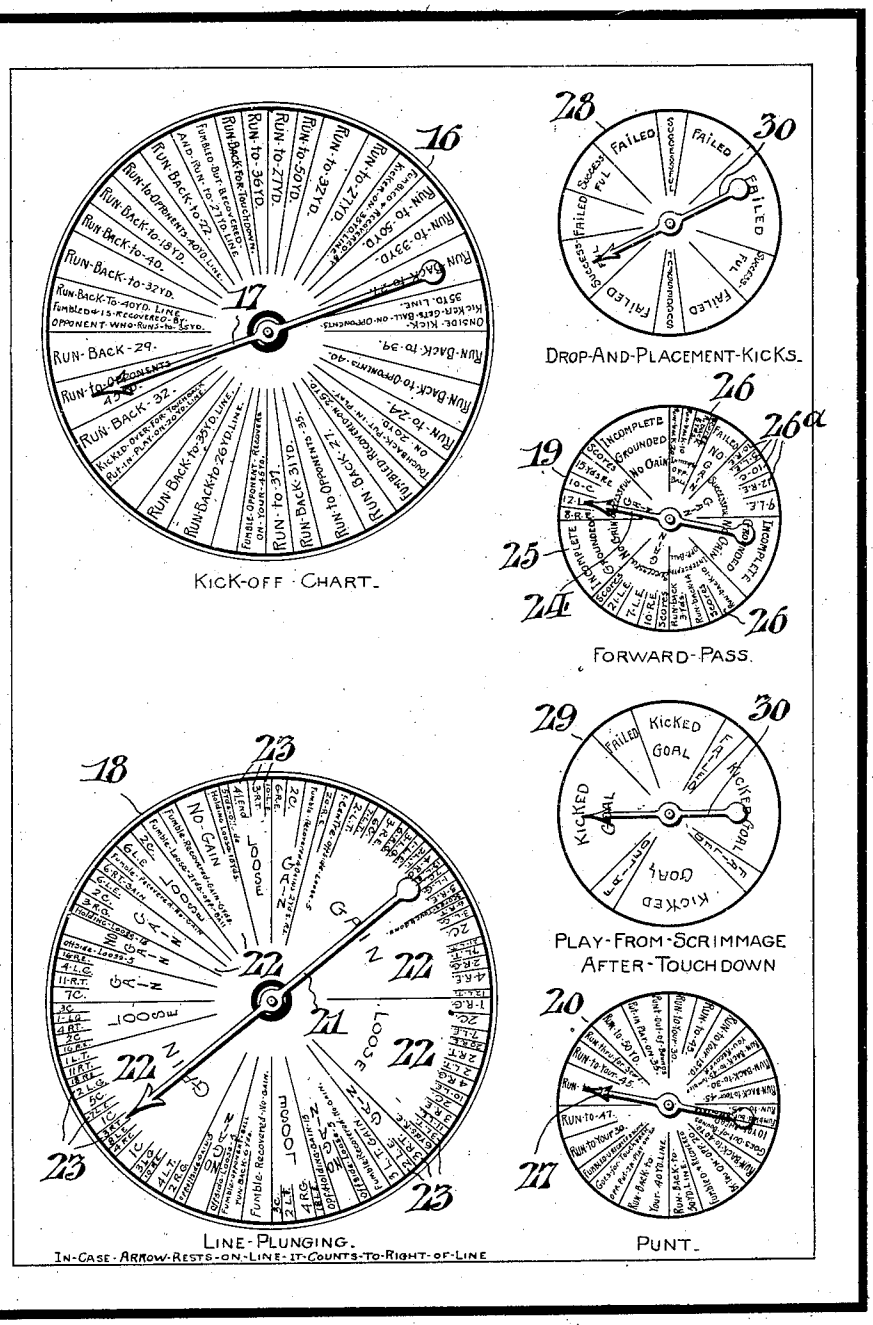
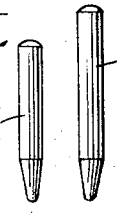


FIG. III.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK H. JOHNSON, OF ALLEN' OWN, PENNSYLVANIA.

GAME APPARATUS.

Application filed August 14, 1922. Serial No. 581,618.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK H. JOHNSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Allentown, county of Lehigh and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game Apparatus, whereof the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to game apparatus, and an object of the invention is to provide an assemblage comprehending among its elements a game board and associated chance controlled devices whereby the game of football may be played and the various plays and incidents of an actual game simulated with a degree of accuracy and fidelity calculated to render its playing highly interesting and instructive.

Another object of the invention is to provide a game apparatus of the character above set forth which includes a game board having indications inscribed thereon representing incremental units of progression similar to a regulation football field, and an associated series of spinning indicators to be selectively utilized by the players to dictate rates of progression of a game piece and gains and forfeitures realized and encountered during the progress of a game.

These and other objects are accomplished by what I now regard as the preferred embodiment of my invention from among many other possible forms and arrangements embraced within the spirit of the invention and the scope of the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Fig. I, is a view in top plan of a game board designed in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. II, is a view in plan of a series of spinning indicators for convenience mounted on a single support; and, Figure III, shows the game pieces or counters hereinafter more particularly referred to.

With reference to the drawings 10 indicates a game board of oblong configuration having its surface inscribed with longitudinal, spaced lines 11 indicating the lateral boundaries of a football field, and transverse lines 12 indicating unit increments of progression in either direction from the end goals 13 to the center line 14. The transverse lines may be numerically valued as in a regulation football field, and indicated on the board by placing the values along the longitudinal margins in multiples of five, beginning at the ends of the field and terminating at the center line 14. A series of eyelets 15 or other recessed devices are embedded in the material of the board and extend in a line along one of the longitudinal boundaries of the field, with five eyelets included between each adjacent pair of lines 12.

In connection with the game board 10, I employ a series of indicators shown in Fig. II which for convenience are mounted on a single support, although they may be made separated if desired, in which 16 indicates a circular dial called the "kick-off chart" with a spinning pointer 17 pivoted centrally and having its periphery divided into indicia which are valued to designate units of progression and retrogression with respect to the designated location or extent of movement of the ball at the initial opening of the game. In other words the indicia consist of directions to move the ball across the field to an extent depending upon the magnitude of the particular index, and the indicia are of several kinds; those directing an advance movement of the ball, those directing a retrogressive movement of the ball, and those showing an incident in the game, as for instance "Run back for touchdown", and "Fumbled, recovered on 25 yard line," the object being to supply an index for every possible play that might occur during a kick-off in the actual game. The scrimmage plays are indicated by means of dials 18, 19 and 20, the first mentioned having a pointer 21 pivoted centrally in traveling over a series of indicia representing gains and losses in "line plunging", and the dial has been designated by this name. In this instance the periphery is divided in major indicia 22 of varying angular magnitudes designating gains and losses, and the major indicia are in turn subdivided into minor indicia 23 designating numerical values of the losses and gains with indications for controlling directional movement of the ball, such as "4 L. T." and "6 R. T." The indicator 19 likewise consists of a dial having a centrally pivoted pointer 24 which serves to point out after spinning one of a series of radial indicia indicating gains and losses during the execution of a "forward pass". In a similar manner the periphery of this dial is divided into major indicia 25 representing gains and losses and indicia 26 representing a play as "Intercepted opponents' ball". The gain in-

dicia and the indicia 26 are further subdivided into minor indicia 26ª designating numeral values of possible plays included in the succeeding or losing plays.

Another form of scrimmage play is permitted by use of the dial 20 which is similarly provided with a centrally pivoted pointer 27 which moves over a series of radial indicia representing gains and losses in all possible plays while "punting." The free plays in addition to the "kick-off" are indicated by the dials 28 and 29 which are designated respectively as "Drop and placement kicks" and "Play from scrimmage after touch down." Each includes a centrally pivoted pointer 30 which moves over peripheral indicia indicating successes and failures alternately arranged and arbitrarily assigned in number in effecting the several plays indicated.

The game is played with two game pieces or counters which may consist of pegs 31, 32, one of which 32 is slightly longer than the other 31 and they are insertable in the eyelets 15, the taller peg 32 being selected arbitrarily to represent the point to which the player must gain and the shorter 31 to represent the position of the ball as it advances and recedes across the field during the course of a game. The initial play is made with the "Kick-off" indicator the particular player having first opportunity of using the indicator being determined by chance. After the pegs 31, 32 have been set as directed by the result indicated as the pointer 17 comes to rest the following player in exercising his judgment may select any one of the scrimmage play indicators 18, 19 or 20, in accordance with the practice well known to those familiar with the regulation game of football, the pegs 31, 32 being adjusted following the indication pointed out after spinning any one of the indicators. The changing relation of defence and offence between the players is regulated by the results shown by the indicators. The free play indicators 28 and 29 are used at the proper stage of the game and the number of indicia in each of these indicators has been determined and their angular distances correlated with a view to closely approximating the chances for the success or failure of the plays in the actual performance of a football game.

I am aware that game apparatus simulating the playing of regulation football have heretofore been advanced but as far as I know at present no game has been devised in which every play could be correctly manipulated and the actual circumstances and opportunities for success and losses simulated with a sufficient degree of accuracy. The present invention by reason of the character of the indicators employed and the nature and arrangement of the indicia thereon afford the players an opportunity to exercise a scientific control over the action and progress of the game and the hazards that occur during the actual playing of a game are plentifully supplied to render its playing interesting.

For instance in the indicator designated "Line plunging" there should be ninety-two more or less spaces which comprehend the entire number of possible gains and losses and variations that may occur during line plunges or end runs. The result desired has been obtained by arranging the angular distances of the gain and loss indicia around the dial and the subdivision of each gain and loss space into units of pre-calculated numerical value so that the possibilities of variations in the play are accurately indicated. The arrangement of the "kick-off" dial and the "forward pass" and "punting" dials have been made with the same object in view and with the employment of the same expedients.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In a parlor game apparatus for playing football, a game board having a field simulating in outline and proportion a regulation football field, a series of recessed eyelets contiguous to said field of progressive increment indicating units, game pieces of unequal length for progression along the indicating units, and an associated series of indicators governing movement of the game pieces comprising free and scrimmage play indicators, the latter having major indicia of varying magnitudes representing losses and gains, each of said major indicia being subdivided into indicia of varying numerical values defining rates of progression for the game pieces.

2. A parlor game apparatus, comprising a game board having a field simulating in outline and proportion a regulation football field, a succession of recessed eyelets contiguous to the field of uniform unit increments of progression, markers of unequal length for movement along the aforesaid units, a chance indicator including a number of indicia corresponding to all the actual possibilities occurring during a kick-off, and an associated series of selective indicators for effecting scrimmage plays; each of the latter including major indicia of varying magnitudes representing losses and gains and subdivided into minor indicia having varying numerical values defining the rate of movement of the markers.

3. A parlor game apparatus for playing football, comprising a game board having a field simulating in outline and proportion a regulation football field, a succession of recessed eyelets contiguous to the field of uniform unit increments of progression, peg markers for relative movement along said eyelets, a chance indicator having indicia

representing in number and value all of the possible plays in an initial free play, an indicator selective to effect line plunging having major indicia of varying magnitudes indicating losses and gains, and said indicia subdivided into unit increments of varying numerical magnitude to indicate rate of progression for the peg markers, and a series of indicators selective to effect other free and scrimmage plays.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name at Allentown, Pa., this 7th day of August 1922.

FREDERICK H. JOHNSON.