Jan. 10, 1928. 1,655,876

W. H. PAYNE

LINEMAN'S STAFF

Filed Jan. 25, 1927

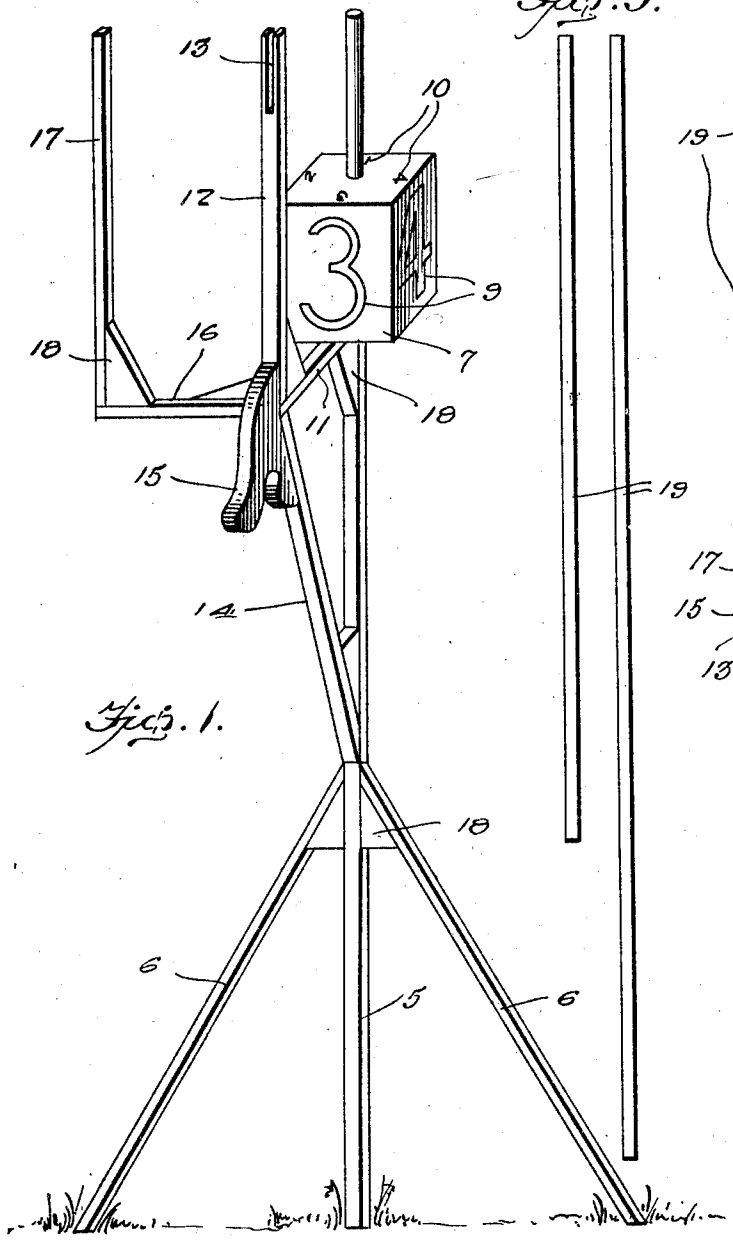


Fig. 1.

Fig. 3.

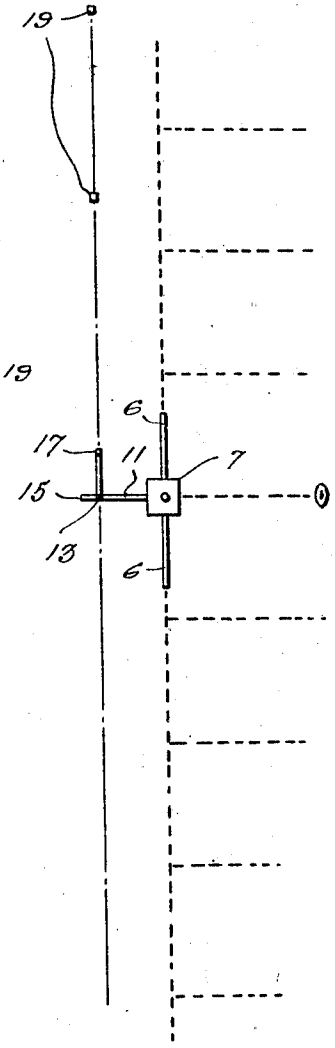


Fig. 2.

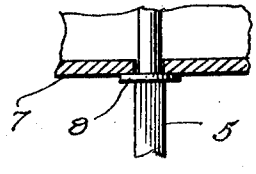


Fig. 4.

Inventor

W. H. Payne

By W. E. Beake Jr.

Attorney

Patented Jan. 10, 1928. 1,655,876

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. PAYNE, OF EAGLE GROVE, IOWA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-FOURTH TO A. B. PARSONS, OF EAGLE GROVE, IOWA.

LINEMAN'S STAFF.

Application filed January 25, 1927. Serial No. 163,543.

My invention relates to linesmen's staffs for quickly and accurately indicating at the side-line the position of a football upon the playing field.

An object of the invention is to provide a device of this character having a series of sighting elements whereby to enable the linesman to place the staff at a position along the side-line of the playing field corresponding to the position of the ball between the opposite goal posts.

A further object is to provide means for locating and placing the device along the side-line of the field should the same become obscured.

Other objects and advantages reside in the combination arrangement and construction of the various elements forming the invention as more fully hereinafter explained in the following specification and claims, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming part hereof wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout and in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view,

Figure 2 is a diagrammatic view of a portion of a playing field showing my invention in use,

Figure 3 is an elevational view of the targets for locating the side-line and

Figure 4 is a detail of the mounting for the down indicating box.

Referring now to the drawing I have disclosed a preferred embodiment of my invention comprising a vertically extending post 5 near the base of which is provided a pair of inclined braces 6 arranged at opposite sides of the post and constituting legs therefor. The upper end of the post is rounded and adapted to rotatably support a box 7, preferably cube-shaped and provided with a central bore for receiving the rounded end of the post. A washer 8 may be disposed at the base of the rounded section of the post upon which the box may rest so as to facilitate the free rotation thereof.

The box has its vertically disposed faces provided with suitable indicia 9, such as the numerals 1, 2, 3, and 4, for the purpose of indicating to the players or others the number of plays or downs which have been played and the top of the box is likewise provided near its edges with corresponding indicia or numbers 10.

I secure a horizontal arm 11 to the post immediately beneath the box 7, the arm extending at right angles to the sides of the post to which the braces 6 are attached. At the outer end of the arm I arrange a sighting member 12 comprising a short post extending vertically from the arm and terminating at a horizontal plane with the top of the post 5. A vertical slot 13 is formed in the top of the sighting member by means of which the upper end of the post may be aligned with a distant object. An inclined brace 14 extending from the post to the end of the arm is provided to support the arm in a horizontal position and a handle 15 is attached at the junction of the brace and the arm to facilitate the transportation and sighting of the device.

A lateral arm 16 is attached at the end of the arm 11 and is also horizontally arranged, the lateral arm being at right angles to the arm 11 and parallel along a vertical plane with the braces 6. At the end of the lateral arm I provide a short post 17 equal in height to the sighting member 12. Corner braces 18 are fitted at the junction of the various posts and arms to properly secure the parts.

In use the braces or legs 6 of the device are placed along the sideline of the playing field in such a position that the football appears in alignment with the post 5 and the slot 13 of the sighting member. Thus the exact longitudinal position of the ball upon the field is accurately indicated on the side-line by the base of the post 5.

Should the side-line become obscured or invisible, as by snow, targets 19, comprising stakes of a suitable height, are placed apart near one end of the field at a distance from the sideline equal to the distance between the post 5 and the sighting member 12. Thus by aligning the post 17 and the sighting member with the targets the correct position of the sideline may be located.

The various parts of the device are adapted for construction out of wood or light metal as desired.

While I have disclosed a preferred form of construction for carrying out my invention it is obvious the same is susceptible of

various changes and modifications without departing from the spirit thereof or the scope of the appended claims, and I accordingly claim as my own invention such modified forms to which I am entitled.

I claim:

1. A device of the character described comprising a post, inclined legs extending at opposite sides therefrom, a sighting member supported by the post in spaced parallel relation therefrom and disposed when in alignment with the post at right angles to the alignment of said legs and a laterally disposed post carried by said sighting member, the alignment of said sighting member and said lateral post being arranged in parallel relation with the alignment of said legs.

2. A football linesman's staff comprising a post, a pair of legs arranged at opposite sides thereof, a horizontal arm carried by said post and arranged at right angles with respect to the alignment of said legs and a sighting post supported by said arm having a sighting slot formed therein adapted for alignment with said first named post, one of said posts constituting a shaft and adapted to rotatably carry a device for indicating a certain element of play with respect to the position of the post.

3. A football linesman's staff comprising a post, a pair of legs arranged at opposite sides thereof, a horizontal arm carried by said post and arranged at right angles with respect to the alignment of said legs, a sighting post supported by said arm having a sighting slot formed therein adapted for alignment with said first named post, a laterally extending horizontal arm attached at the end of said first named arm and disposed parallel with said legs and a post supported at the end thereof, one of said posts forming a vertically disposed shaft adapted to have an indicator rotatably arranged thereon.

4. A football linesman's staff comprising a substantially elongated post rounded at its upper end, inclined legs extending outwardly from opposite sides thereof, a horizontally disposed arm attached near the upper end of the post and arranged at right angles with respect to said legs, an upwardly extending post secured to the end of said arm and having a sighting slot provided therein, a laterally extending horizontal arm detachably secured to said first named arm and arranged parallel with respect to said legs, an upwardly extending post secured at the end of said lateral arm, the posts of said arms being adapted for alignment with a pair of distantly aligned stakes and said first named post forming a vertical shaft adapted to have a cube-shaped box rotatably mounted at the rounded end thereof, said box having corresponding indicia displayed upon the sides and top edges thereof to indicate the number of plays required to reach the objective designated by the position of the post.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

WILLIAM H. PAYNE