No. 736,182. PATENTED AUG. 11, 1903.

F. WENKE.

NECK YOKE COUNTER STOP FOR ARTILLERY CARRIAGES.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 14, 1903.

NO MODEL.

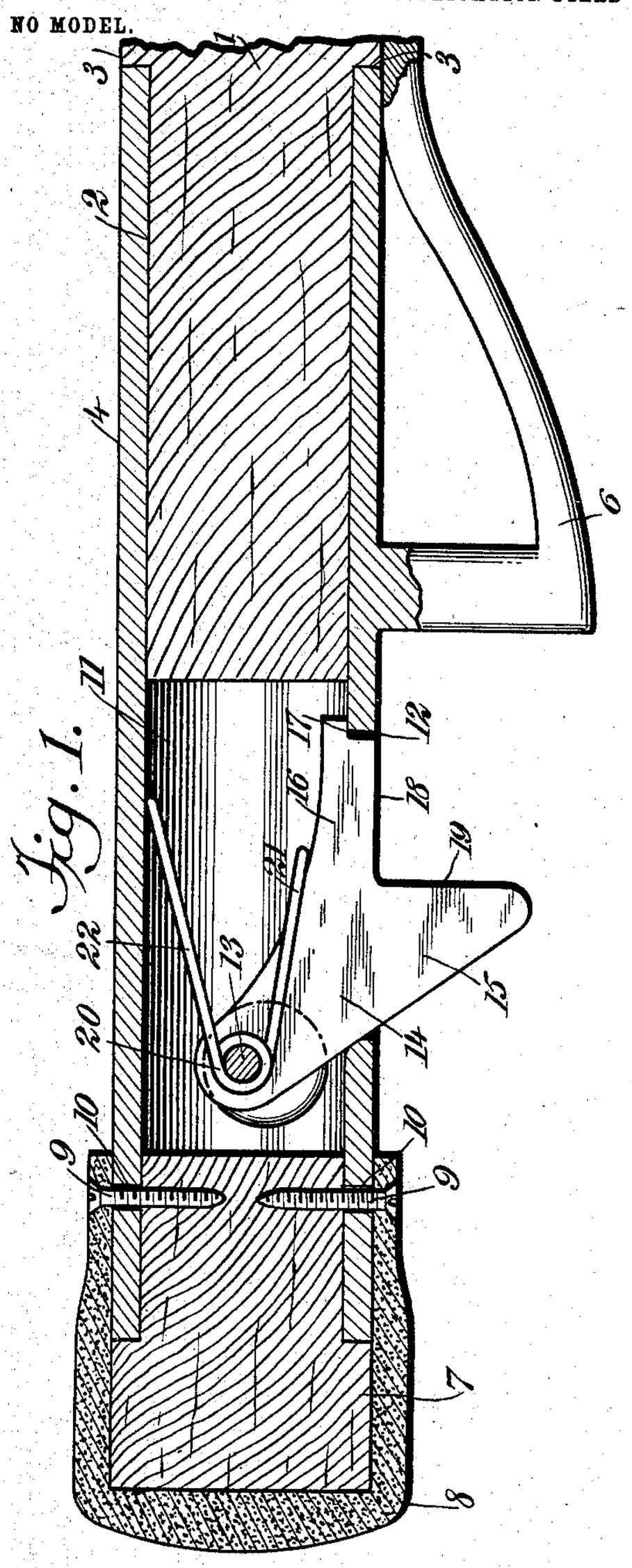

Fig. 1.

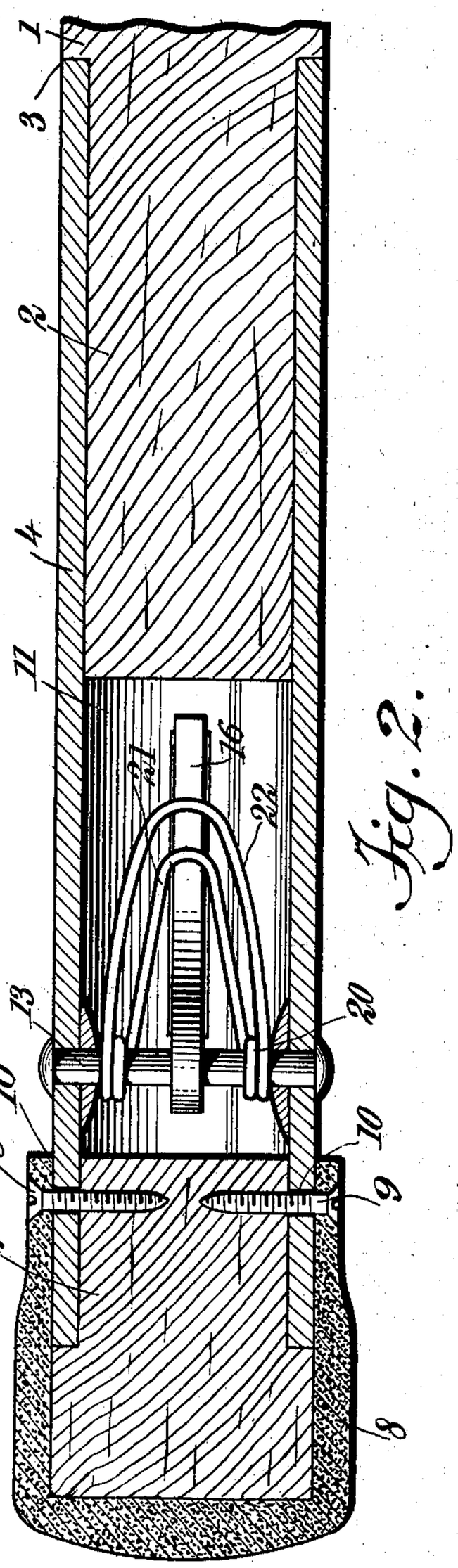

Fig. 2.

WITNESSES:

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No. 736,182. Patented August 11, 1903.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK WENKE, OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-THIRD TO LEWIS MAVERICK, OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.

NECK-YOKE COUNTER-STOP FOR ARTILLERY-CARRIAGES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 736,182, dated August 11, 1903.

Application filed April 14, 1903. Serial No. 152,547. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK WENKE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of San Antonio, in the county of Bexar and State of Texas, have invented new and useful Improvements in Neck-Yoke Counter-Stops for Artillery-Carriages, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to an improved counter-stop especially adapted for use on the limber-pole of artillery field-carriages.

As is well known, every carriage supporting the gun of a caisson is drawn by being attached to what is commonly termed a "limber," the horses being hitched not to the carriage, but always to this limber, the latter comprising two wheels, an ammunition-chest, and seats for the cannoneers. This limber is generally drawn by four or more horses, and between the two wheel-horses is the pole of the limber, the end of which pole when the limber is unsupported rests upon the ground. When in use, the end of the pole is run through a ring attached to the neck-yoke, which neck-yoke is in turn supported by a strap fastened to the horses' collars. The neck-yoke ring is prevented from slipping back on the pole toward the limber by abutting or pushing against the neck-yoke stop, which is fastened to the under side of the iron tubular section or ferrule secured at the end of the pole. The traces by which the wheel-horses draw the limber have at the ends which are fastened to the swingletree short strong springs, commonly known as "mogul" springs, placed for the purpose of relieving the strain on the horses' shoulders by easing any jerking back of the limber and in starting. While on a gallop and during quick maneuvering it sometimes happens that the pole is released by the neck-yoke ring slipping over the end of the pole and falling to the ground, the pole striking with such force as to splinter or break it, the shock throwing the men off of the limber and frequently severely injuring them, in addition to damaging the carriage or limber. This accident is oftentimes caused by the wheel striking an obstruction or going down into a rut or gully while traveling at a fast gait, the check to the speed of the limber causing the pole to fly upward, relieving the weight on the neck-yoke and stretching the springs.

It is to obviate the possibility of accidents such as above described that the present invention is designed; and to the accomplishment of such object the invention consists in the construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, as will be described in this specification, delineated in the accompanying drawings, and set forth 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 both the figures.

Figure 1 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view taken through a section of a limber-pole of an artillery-carriage, and Fig. 2 is a longitudinal horizontal sectional view of the same.

In the accompanying drawings, wherein an embodiment of my invention is delineated, 1 designates the end section or portion of a wooden limber-pole such as is used on artillery-carriages, said pole having a reduced end portion, as at 2, forming a shoulder 3, against which shoulder is adapted to abut one end of the tubular metallic section or ferrule 4, which ferrule extends for some distance beyond the end of the wooden portion of the pole and has formed integral therewith and depending therefrom an ordinary or common form of neck-yoke stop 6. At the free or open end of the ferrule is inserted a plug or block of wood, as at 7, having an enlarged head portion and covered by a cap of leather or rawhide 8, the plug extending some distance into the ferrule, said plug and cap being secured rigidly in place through the medium of screws 9, which pass through the leather, through apertures 10, formed in the ferrule, and into the material of the plug.

It will be observed that within the ferrule and between the adjacent ends of the pole 1 and the block 7 is formed a chamber 11, provided in its under surface with an elongated slot 12. Arranged transversely of said chamber and adjacent to the plug or stop 7 is a bar or pin 13, to which is centrally pivoted

my improved counter-stop, which is designated by the numeral 14. The shape, construction, and arrangement of this counter-stop is clearly shown in Fig. 1 and comprises a downwardly and rearwardly extending tongue portion 15, adapted to normally protrude through the opening or slot 12 in the ferrule, and an approximately horizontally extending finger or projection 16, having its extremity shouldered at 17, which shoulder rests upon the rear wall of the slot 12 when the tongue 15 is in its projected or protruding position, the inner edge 18 of said projection 16 meeting the edge 19 of the tongue 15 at right angles, the construction being such that a secure holding and abutting surface is formed for the yoke-ring, which is inserted or slipped over the pole and lies between the stop 6 and the edge 19 of the stop 14. In order to positively hold the counter-stop in its normally protruding position, I employ a double-acting spring 20, which is coiled or wound about the pivot 13 on either side of the counter-stop in such manner that one member 21 of said spring will bear firmly upon the counter-stop while the other member 22 presses in the opposite direction and bears against the top wall of the ferrule.

From the above description, taken in connection with the drawings, the construction and operation of my invention will be readily apparent. The counter-stop and its accompanying parts are inserted within the ferrule, and the plug and its cap are then secured in position. When it is desired to place the neck-yoke ring over the end of the pole, the counter-stop is pushed inward against the tension of the double-acting spring and the ring is slipped up against the stop 6. The counter-stop is then released and is pressed back by the spring into its normally extending or protruding position, and the ring, held as it is between the downwardly-depending tongue and the stop, is prevented from slipping forward over the end of the pole.

While I have herein shown and described one particular embodiment of my invention, it is of course to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise details of construction shown herein, as there may be modifications and variations in certain respects without departing from the essential features of the invention or sacrificing any of the advantages thereof.

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

1. The combination of a pole having a ferrule secured to one end thereof, a stop formed on said ferrule, said ferrule having an elongated slot formed therein between the stop and the front end thereof, a pin or bolt extending transversely through said ferrule, a counter-stop pivoted on said pin and having a tongue portion adapted to normally protrude from said slot, a double-acting spring coiled about the bolt on each side of the counter-stop, said spring having two members, one exerting pressure on the counter-stop, the other pressing against the upper wall of the ferrule, the construction being such that the spring will hold said counter-stop in its normally protruding position, a plug closing the front end of the ferrule, said plug having a head portion equal in diameter to the outside cross diameter of the ferrule, and a covering of soft material fitting over the head portion and secured to the ferrule, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination of a pole having a tubular section or ferrule secured at the free end thereof, said ferrule having an elongated slot formed on the under side thereof, a bolt passing through said ferrule, a counter-stop pivoted to said bolt, said counter-stop comprising a downwardly-projecting tongue portion and a laterally-extending portion formed with a shoulder adapted to normally rest upon the rear wall of the slot, and a double-acting spring bent centrally and coiled on the bolt at both sides of the counter-stop, one member of said spring pressing upon the counter-stop, while the other member bears against the upper wall of the ferrule, the construction being such that the counter-stop will be normally held in its protruding position, substantially as set forth.

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

FRANK WENKE.

Witnesses:
C. R. DAY,
HARRY B. JORDAN.