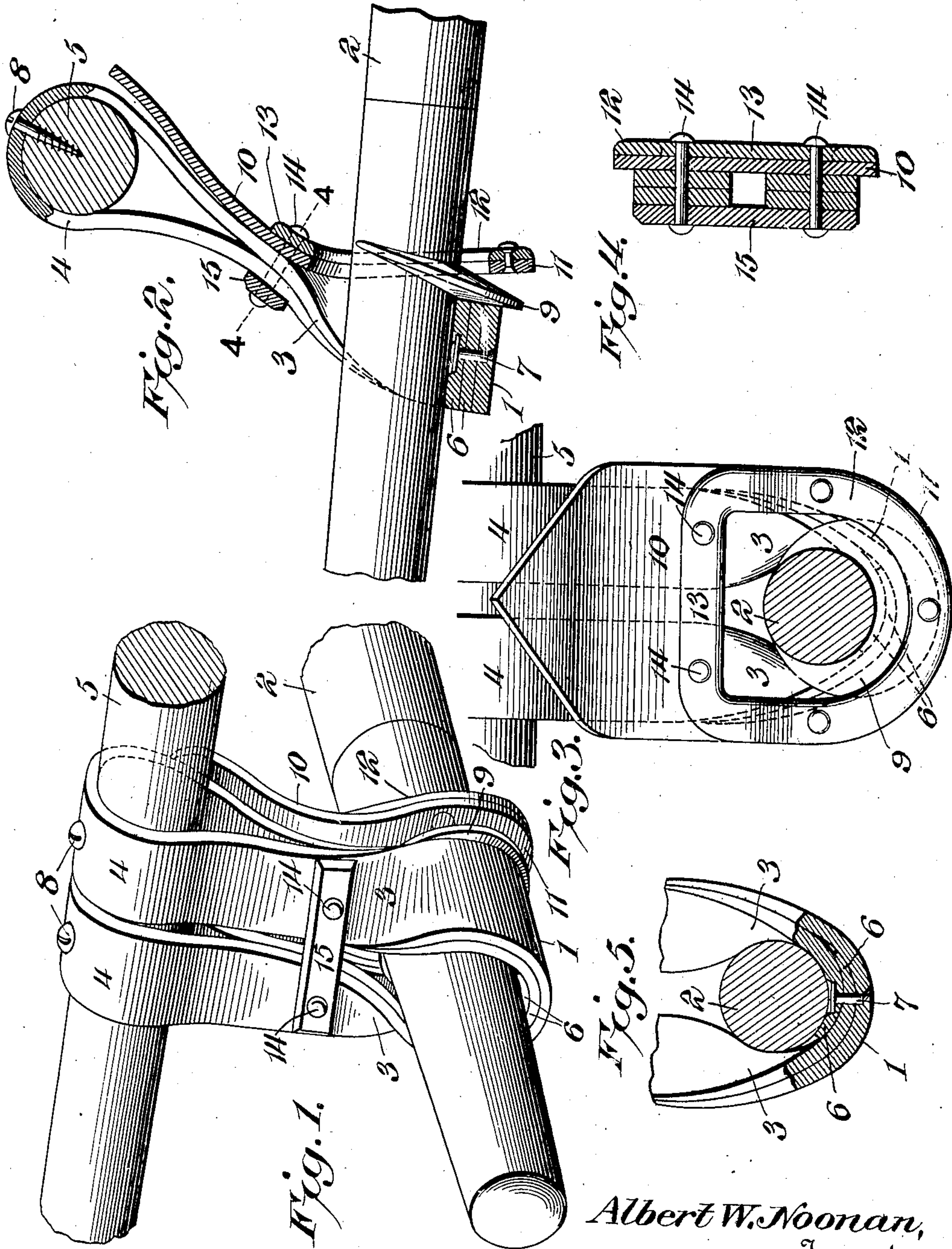


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NECK YOKE CENTER.
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912,153.

Patented Feb. 9, 1909.



Witnesses

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ALBERT W. NOONAN, OF BRITT, IOWA.

NECK-YOKE CENTER.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT W. NOONAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Britt, in the county of Hancock and State of Iowa, have invented a new and useful Neck-Yoke Center, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to improvements in neck yoke centers.

The object of the present invention is to improve the construction of neck yoke centers, and to provide a simple, inexpensive and efficient neck yoke center constructed of leather and equipped with a safety catch, adapted to effectually prevent the tongue or pole, supported by the neck yoke, from dropping in case the traces should become detached.

A further object of the invention is to provide a leather neck yoke center of this character, having a body portion constructed of a continuous strap of leather, forming complete loops for receiving both the neck yoke and the tongue or pole without relying on rivets to form such loops.

Another object of the invention is to provide an automatic neck yoke center, which, after wear, will not become loose and rattling.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists in the construction and novel combination of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing, and pointed out in the claims here-
to appended; it being understood that various changes in the form, proportion, size and minor details of construction, within the scope of the claims, may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the drawing:—Figure 1 is a perspective view of a neck yoke center, constructed in accordance with this invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view of the same. Fig. 3 is a rear elevation, the pole being in section. Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view, taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a detail sectional view of the lower portion of the neck yoke center.

Like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawing.

The neck yoke center comprises in its construction a body portion consisting of a single continuous strap, doubled at its center

to form a depending loop 1 for the reception of a tongue or pole 2. The sides of the loop 1 are provided above the tongue or pole with quarter bends 3 to arrange the faces of the side portions of the strap transversely of the neck yoke center, and the strap at opposite sides of the link 1 are extended upward and doubled to provide a pair of transversely alined loops 4, which receive a neck yoke 5. By this construction the upper and lower loops are formed without riveting the strap to complete any one of the loops, and the inconvenience of the loops becoming opened by the loosening of the rivets is effectually avoided.

The terminal portions of the strap are extended downward along the inner faces of the sides of the tongue-receiving loop 1, and the ends 6 of the top are overlapped and secured together and to the bottom of the loop by a rivet 7, which pierces the overlapped ends 6, as clearly shown in Fig. 5 of the drawing. The terminal portions of the straps line and thereby reinforce the lower loop. The rivet 7 for securing the terminals of the strap to the bottom of the tongue-receiving loop is not essential to the formation of the upper and lower loops in that the upper and lower loops will not open should the rivet be removed. The upper transversely alined loops are pierced by screws 8, or other suitable fastening devices for securing the neck yoke center to the neck yoke 5.

The tongue or pole 2 is provided with the usual depending flange 9, and the neck yoke center is equipped with a safety catch, consisting of a member 10, constructed of leather and provided with a depending loop 11 receiving the tongue or pole and diverging from the tongue-receiving loop. The loop 11, which is approximately U-shaped, extends downwardly at each side of the tongue or pole 2 to a point in rear of the flange 9, and it is preferably reinforced by a metallic loop or frame 12, consisting of a plate and conforming to the configuration of the U-shaped loop and secured by rivets, or other suitable fastening devices to the rear faces of the same. The metallic frame, which stiffens the depending loop 11, is provided with a curved body portion and it has a straight top portion. The depending loop of the safety catch is adapted to engage the flange 9 of the tongue or pole, and it will

effectually prevent the same from dropping should the traces become broken or otherwise disconnected from the swingletrees. The upper portion of the rear member 10 of the neck yoke center is extended upwardly in rear of the spaced loops, as clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3 of the drawing.

The top bar or portion 13 of the frame or plate 12 is secured to the body portion of the neck yoke center by means of rivets 14, or other suitable fastening devices, which also pierce the sides of the body portion and a front transverse connecting bar or piece 15. The connecting bar or piece 15 extends across the front of the neck yoke center and is located between the upper and lower loops and connects the sides of the said body portion.

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

1. A neck yoke center including a body portion consisting of a strap doubled to form a lower tongue-receiving loop and extended upward at opposite sides thereof and doubled to provide a pair of spaced transversely alined neck yoke receiving loops, a metallic frame in the form of a loop arranged at the lower portion of the neck yoke in position to encircle a tongue and having its opening substantially corresponding with the lower tongue-receiving loop of the said body portion, the top portion of the metallic frame being extended across the sides of the body portion above the tongue-receiving loop thereof, a transverse piece located at the opposite face of the neck yoke and extending across the sides thereof, and fastening devices piercing the transverse piece, the

metallic frame and the sides of the body portion and securing the parts together.

2. A neck yoke center including a body portion consisting of a strap doubled to form a lower tongue-receiving loop and extended upward at opposite sides thereof and doubled to provide a pair of spaced transversely alined neck yoke-receiving loops, a safety device secured to the opposite sides of the body portion of the neck yoke center and connecting the neck yoke-receiving loops and composed of a depending loop of leather, and a metallic reinforcing loop or frame secured to the leather loop.

3. A neck yoke center including a body portion consisting of a strap doubled to form a lower tongue-receiving loop and extended upward at opposite sides thereof and doubled to provide a pair of upper neck yoke-receiving loops, a safety device including a rear member constructed of leather and secured to the body portion between the upper and lower loops and connecting the neck yoke-receiving loops and provided with a depending loop spaced at the bottom from the bottom of the tongue-receiving loop, a metallic loop or frame secured to the loop of the rear member, and a transverse bar extending across the front of the body portion and secured to the same by the fastening means, which secures the rear member to the said body portion.

In testimony, that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

ALBERT W. NOONAN.

Witnesses:

HENRY C. MEYER,
C. W. ERWIN.