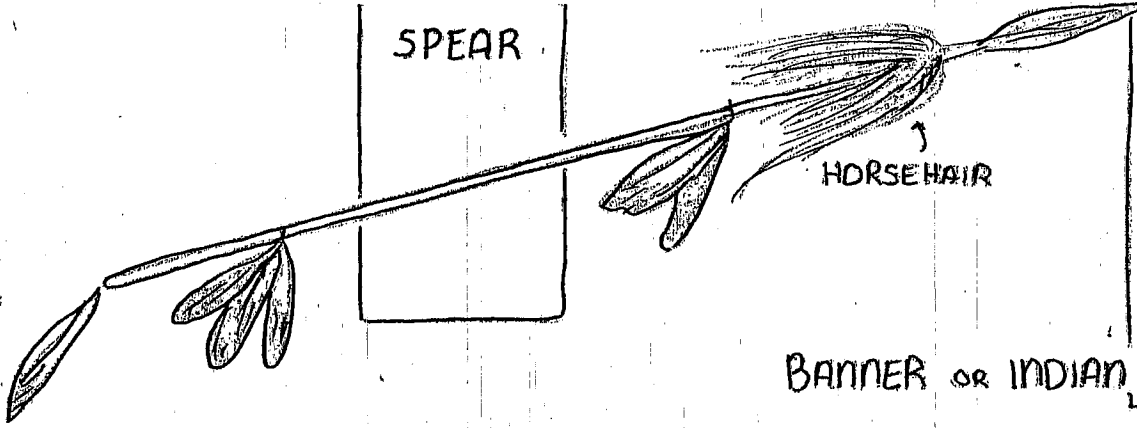
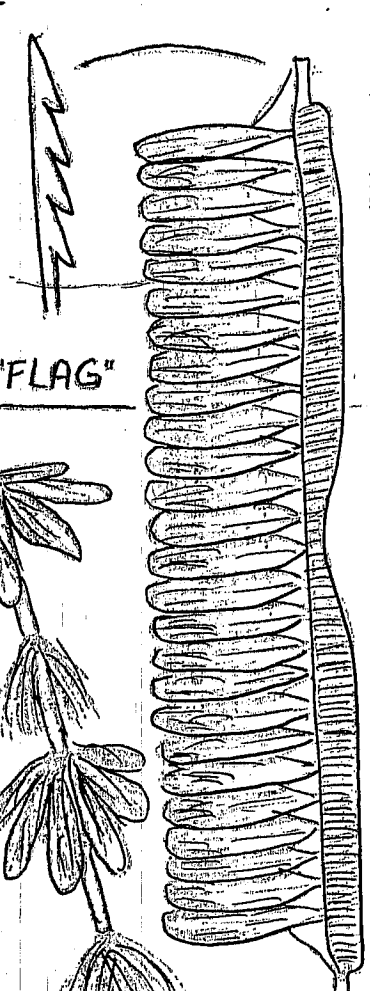


SPEAR



HORSE HAIR

BANNER OR INDIAN "FLAG"



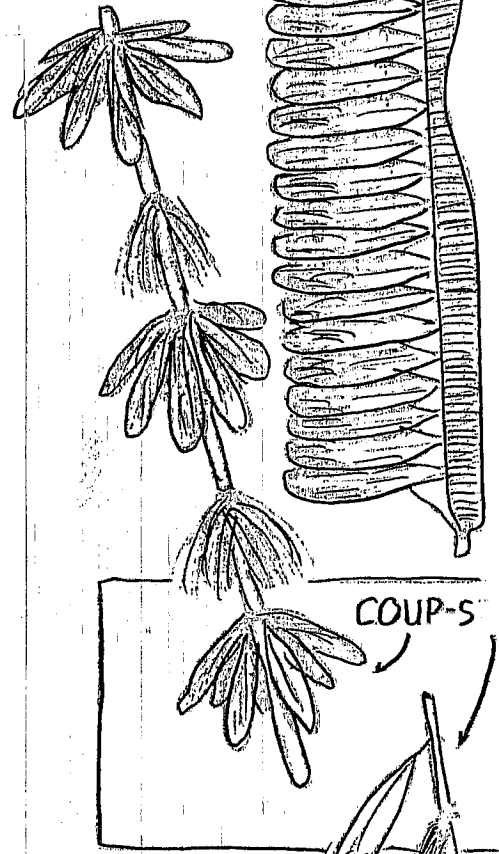
### COUP-STICKS AND SPEARS

A coup-stick is a long slender staff resembling a spear but lacking the business end of the spear. It is an honor stick, used for "counting coup" in battle, that is, for striking an enemy, and as such was harmless, for the highest honor went to him, not who killed, but who touched a living enemy with hand or harmless stick.

The spear with its flint point is seen at the top, six or more feet long. For ceremonial use, as in dances, the point is often of wood, and among the Chippewas is often barbed as in the upper corner.

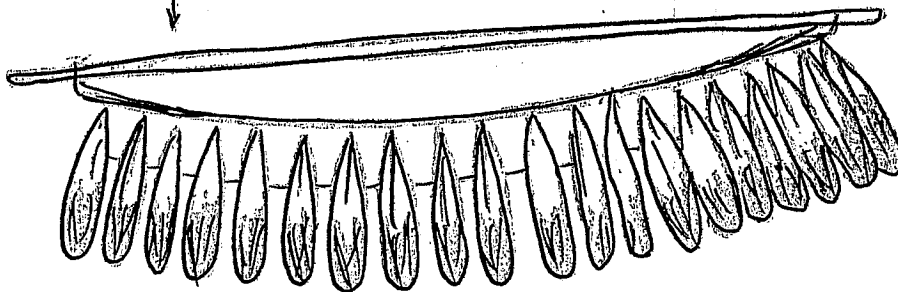
Coup-sticks are of many types, but all are made of light, slender sticks about 1/4 inch thick. The banner type, much loved as a battle flag, consists of eagle or other fighting-bird feathers, prepared as for a war-bonnet and laced to a strip of felt, which is folded over the stick as in the upper corner, or attached at the ends only as at the bottom. This arrangement is also often used on dance spear.

Most famous of coup-sticks is the dog-soldier staff, symbol of the highest of the high among fighting men, carried by the unconquerable dog-soldiers of the Plains. It has a crooked end and is covered with otter or other fur, cut in strips and wrapped on, bandage-fashion. Use black ash for the stick, soak it for a day, heat the end in a fire, and bend very cautiously.

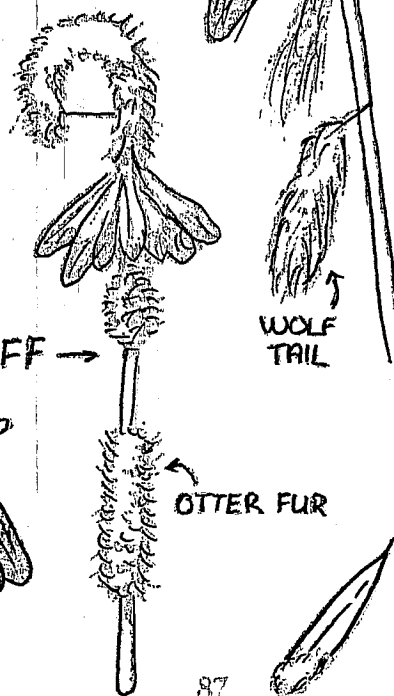


COUP-STICK

COUP-STICK  
BANNER TYPE



DOG-SOLDIER STAFF



WOLF TAIL

OTTER FUR