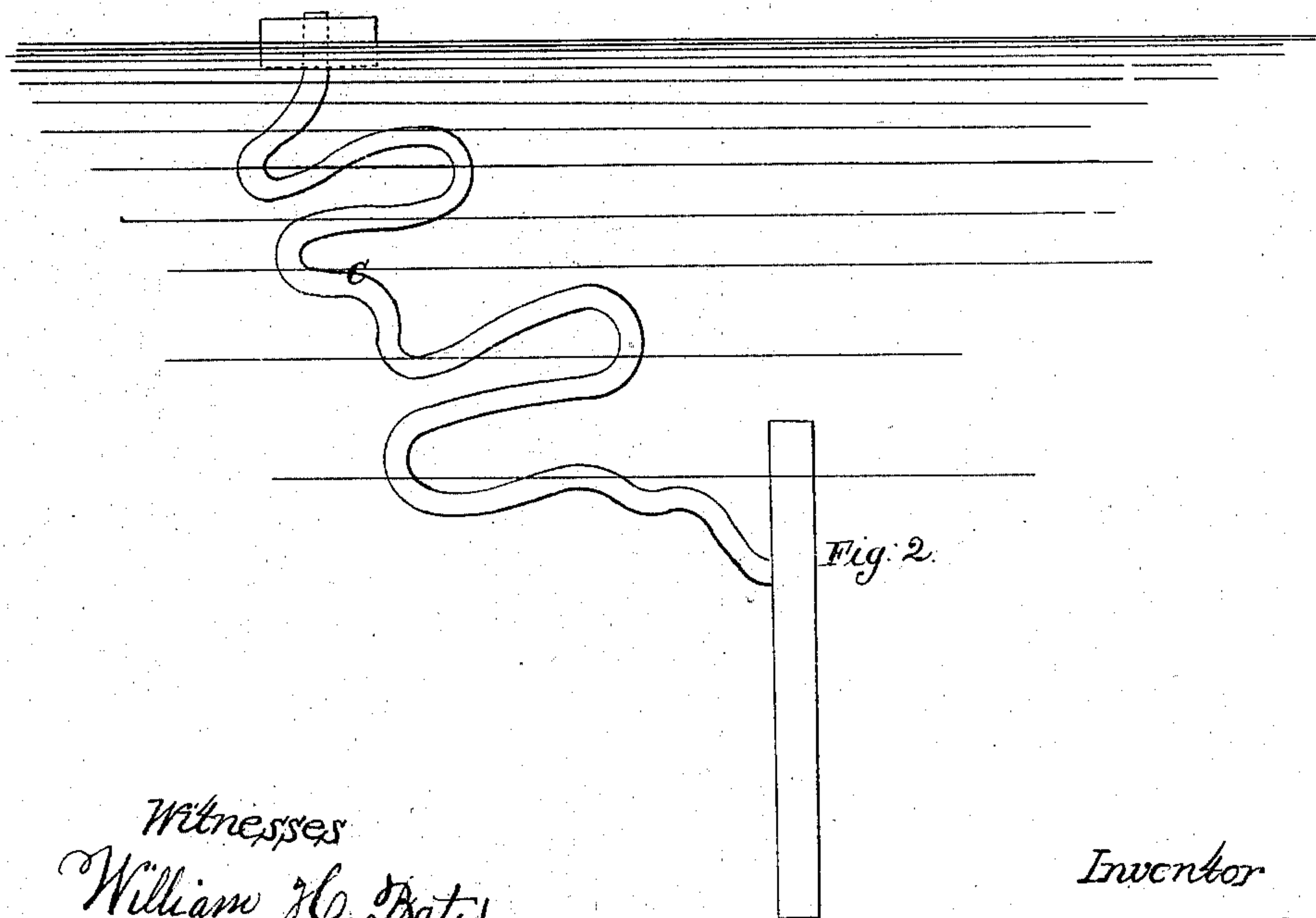
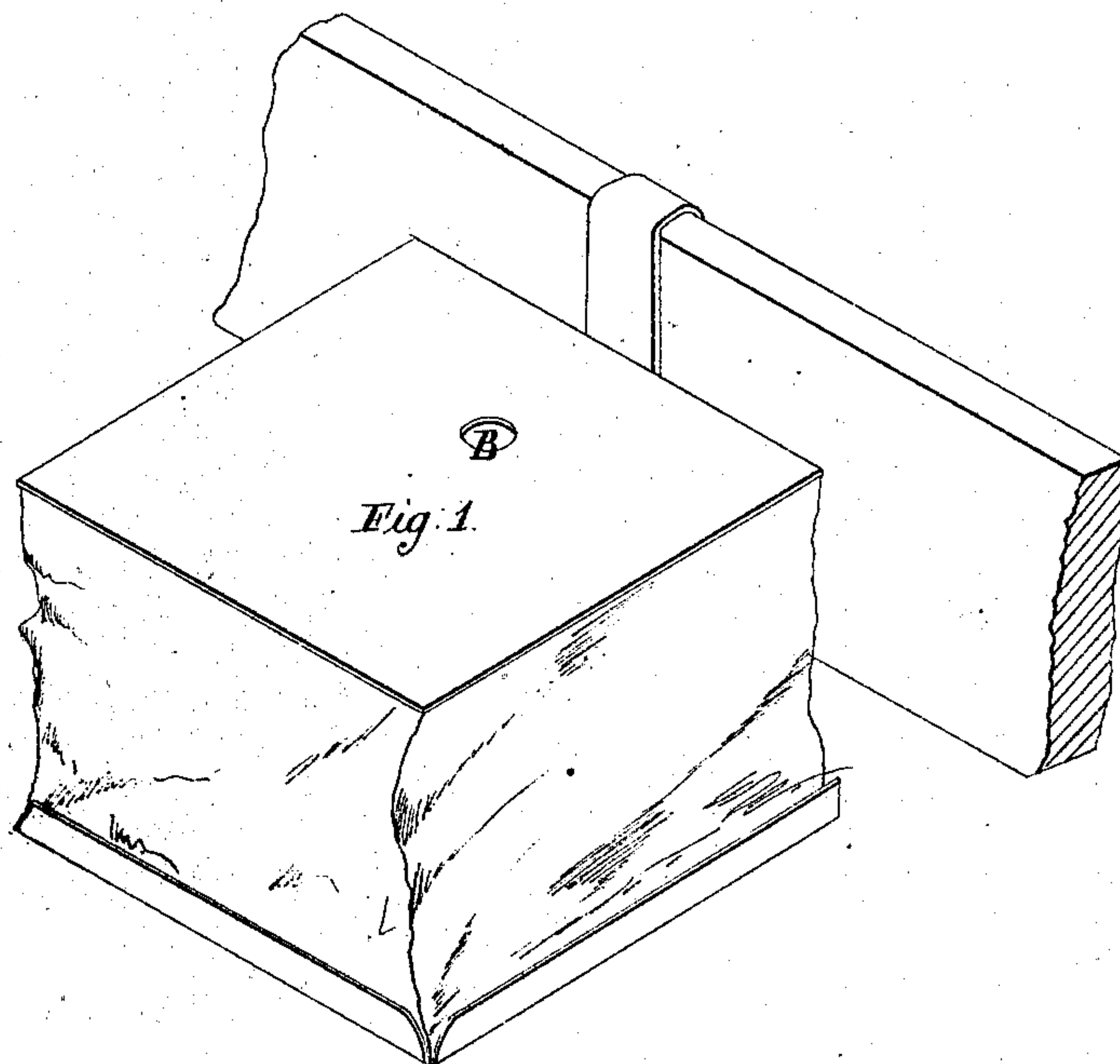


T. P. EDSON.
SELF INFLATOR FOR RAISING SUNKEN VESSELS, &c.,
No. 48,539. Patented July 4, 1865.



Witnesses
William H. Bates.
J. R. Herring

Inventor
Thomas P. Edson

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

TEMPERANCE P. EDSON, OF CAMBRIDGE, ILLINOIS.

SELF-INFLATOR FOR RAISING SUNKEN VESSELS, &c.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 48,539, dated July 4, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, TEMPERANCE P. EDSON, of Cambridge, in Henry county, in the State of Illinois, have invented a new and Improved Mode for Raising Vessels or other Substances or Preventing them from Sinking; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

I distinguish it by the name "self-inflator." This can be made in any shape most practicable for the thing to which it is applied. When made in the form of a box, as shown at No. 1 in the drawings, the top and bottom may be of wood or of some solid material; or, if more convenient, the whole can be made of flexible material. It is expanded by means of springs. It will be found most convenient to place them inside the inflator; but the same results can be brought about by their being attached to the outer side of it. The number of springs required depend upon its size and the kind of springs used. There must be a hole or opening, B, into the interior of the inflator sufficiently large to allow it immediately to fill with atmospheric air as it is forced open by means of the springs. An india-rubber tube, c, applied to this hole, must correspond in length to the depth of water to which it is plunged, the other end of the tube to pass through a small buoy resting on the surface of the water. The inflator must be drawn endwise into the water in its collapsed state, as shown by No. 2, with the air-tube c leading to it under water.

The number of inflators to be used must correspond to the weight to be raised. The manner of attaching them can be varied according to circumstances. Vessels going to sea can be provided with a sufficient number permanently attached to the inside or outside of a ship, and when allowed to fill with air will prevent the ship from sinking in case it springs a leak; and they can be so arranged that by slipping a bolt they will all expand at once; or, as the inflators, when compressed, are very portable, they can be carried in a box and applied, when needed, either outside or inside of the vessel. No. 1 represents one in its expanded state attached to a vessel or some other substance. It applies to any sinking or sunken body or substance. It may serve as a life-preserver or a harbor, a channel, or a river clearer of snags, lumber, or other impediments.

By turning a button, slipping a bolt, or touching a spring the inflator expands and becomes filled with air, thus raising to the surface sunken objects to which it has been attached, or preserving objects from sinking.

The inflator can be held in a collapsed state by any convenient device, as above intimated.

What I claim as my improvement, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The herein-described inflator, when constructed, applied, and operating as and for the purpose set forth.

TEMPERANCE P. EDSON.

Witnesses:

EDM. F. BROWN,
WM. H. BATES.