

No. 721,267.

PATENTED FEB. 24, 1903.

J. W. WILSON.
FISHING FLOAT.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 18, 1902.

NO MODEL.

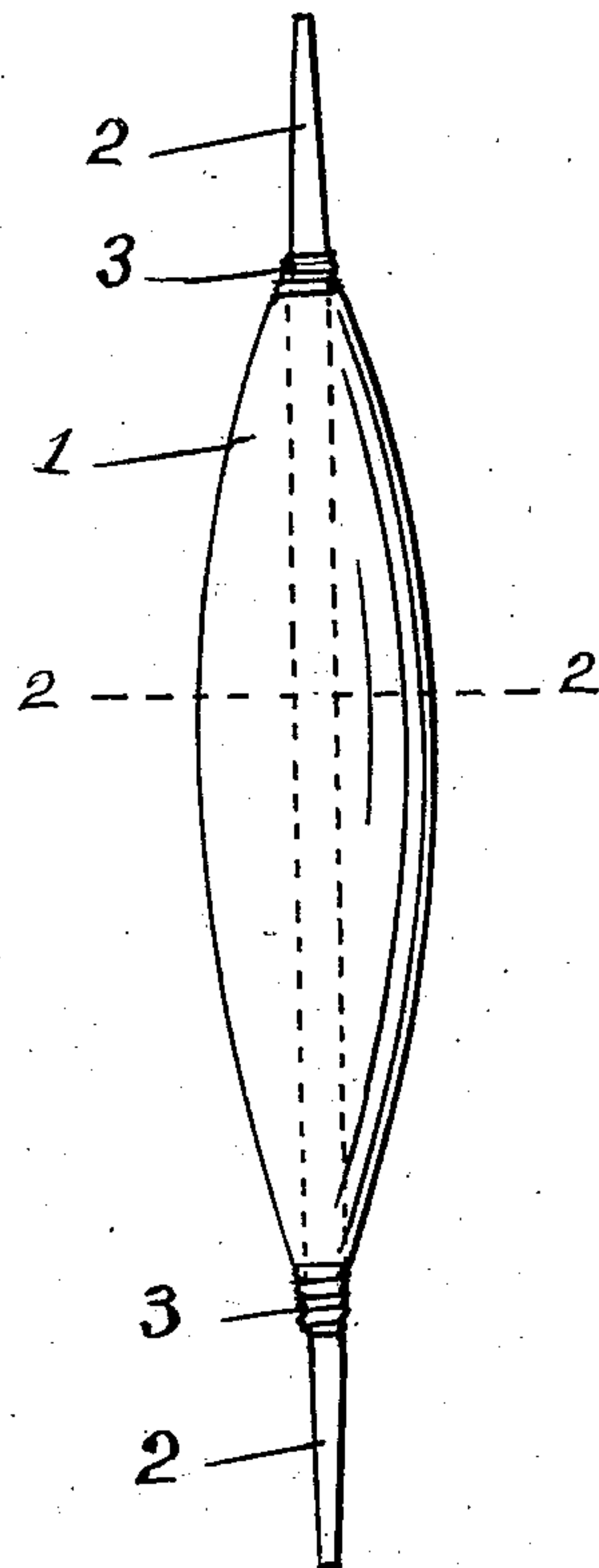


Fig. 1.

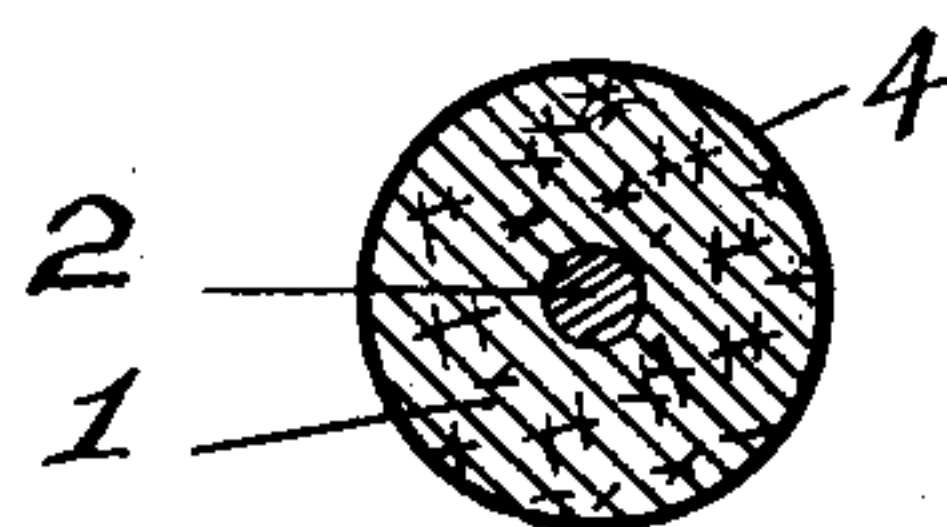


Fig. 2.

Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN W. WILSON, OF CYNTHIANA, KENTUCKY.

FISHING-FLOAT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 721,267, dated February 24, 1903.

Application filed April 18, 1902. Serial No. 103,657. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. WILSON, a resident of Cynthiana, in the county of Harrison and State of Kentucky, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fishing-Floats; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use the same.

The invention relates to floats suitable for attachment to fish-lines in the well-known manner.

The main object of the invention is to provide an improved float and one both cheap and durable.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate the invention, Figure 1 is a side view of a float, and Fig. 2 is a sectional view on line 2 2 of Fig. 1.

The body 1 of the float according to this invention is made of vegetable pith, sometimes called "cellulose," and particularly the pith of cornstalks, which, though very light, has sufficient strength when properly handled to allow forming it into float form by suitable apparatus. While the pith is still soft, a stick is pushed lengthwise through it, which stick is useful for securing a fish-line to the float. It is evident that the soft pith will be supported and strengthened by said stick. After the soft pith is dried and formed into proper float shape it is coated with shellac, paint, and varnish, or other waterproofing material 4. These materials applied to the pith float exclude water from float, which is essential, owing to the great absorptive power of said material. The materials applied to the outer surface also increase the hardness and strength of said surface of the pith float. At each end of the pith body on the stick said body is bound with wire or other wrapping 3 to exclude water from entering between the stick and the body. Said wrappings are applied before the surface of the float is given

the outer hardening waterproofing coating. The wrappings will sink into the pith a little, thereby being permanently held in place, particularly after the application thereover of the materials applied to the surface of the float.

The pith float-body, with the stick embedded in it—that is, pushed or run through the soft pith—is an important feature of this invention.

I am aware that wooden floats having similar form to mine have been proposed, and such devices are not broadly claimed. Cornstalk-pith has special properties which by my improvement are utilized in manner not practicable with wood or with any material heretofore used in floats. Such pith is easily penetrable by the stick, and the manufacture is thereby facilitated. Further, pith is compressible, so that by the wrappings made at the end joints between itself and the stick, whereby when such compression is effected said joints are made impervious in large degree to the entrance of water without the additional protection of a coating. Pith is lighter than wood, and the present use is remote from any heretofore proposed, as far as known to me.

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

An article of manufacture, consisting of a fishing-float having a body of pith with a stick embodied therein but with projecting ends, means for preventing water from entering between the pith and the stick, and a hardening and waterproofing coating for the pith body.

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

JOHN W. WILSON.

Witnesses:

JOSEPH BOYD,
CHESTER M. JEWETT.