

wards of two thousand five hundred patents mouldering away in the United States Patent Office. A great many of them are very ingenious and reflect lots of credit for the thought and inventive ability displayed by their creators, but these very features as a rule require so much complicated and delicate machinery as to absolutely make them useless and inoperative under the corrosive and destructive conditions encountered at sea that an apparatus of this description is required to undergo.

There have been, however, several practical improvements made in davits that have successfully stood the test of time and the rigors of the conditions met at sea. One of them is the "Pett" Davit (See Fig. 1). It is virtually an old style

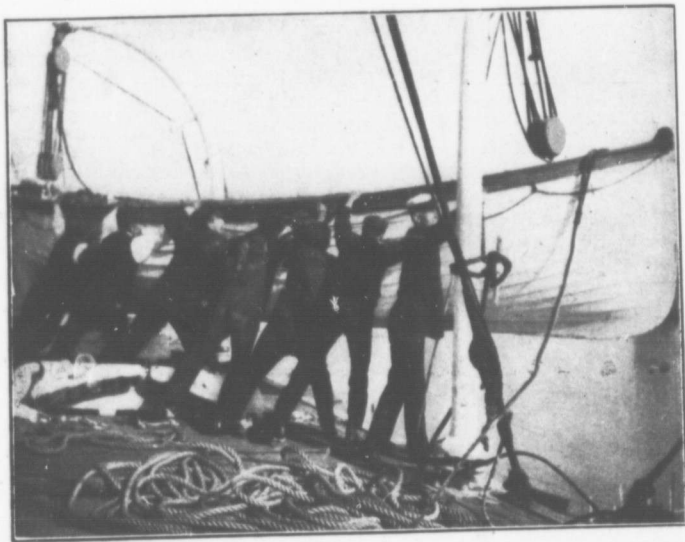


FIG. 2

davit equipped with a worm and worm wheel on the vertical portion of the davit, by means of which the power necessary to swing the davit out is largely augmented over methods required to do the same with the old-fashioned davit (See Fig. 2) which takes anywhere up to a dozen men under favorable conditions to swing out a boat of considerable size, say of 26 feet to 30 feet and 8 feet to 9 feet beam and is attended with a great deal of danger, as the boat is very likely to come back with a sudden swing when a ship is rolling, should the men have been unable to get the boat swung out sufficiently and the