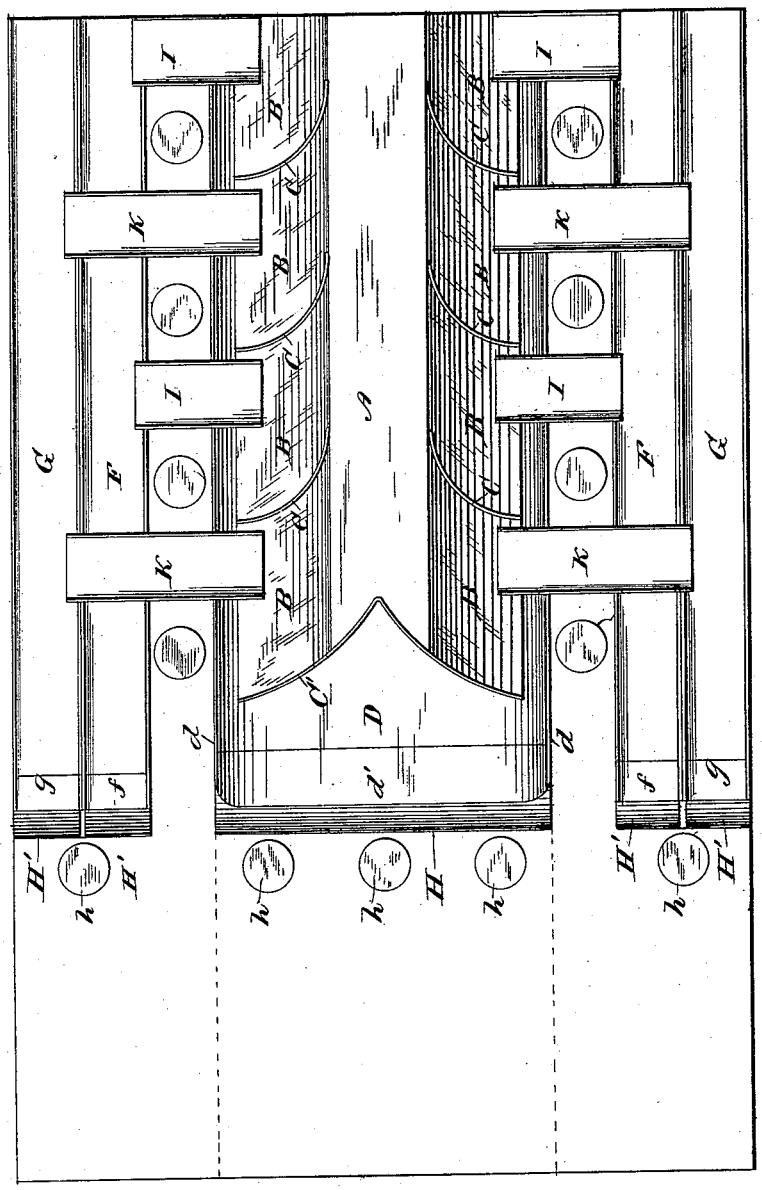
(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

I. CHRIST.

COAL PICKING TABLE.

No. 306,900. Patented Oct. 21, 1884.

Fig. 1.



WITNESSES

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(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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COAL PICKING TABLE.

No. 306,900. Patented Oct. 21, 1884.

Fig. 2

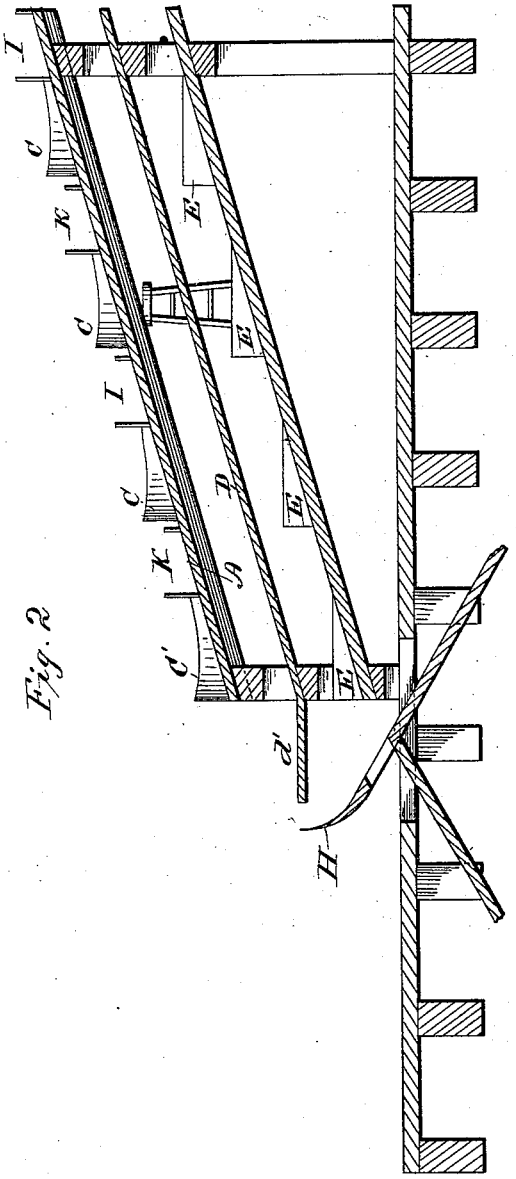


Fig. 4.

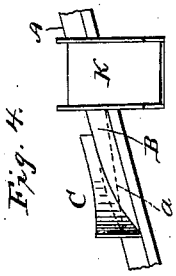
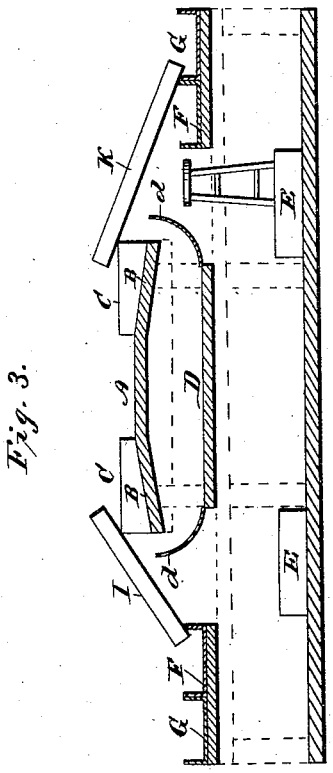


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ISAAC CHRIST, OF ASHLAND, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO LEWIS STOCKETT, OF MAHANOY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA.

COAL-PICKING TABLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 306,900, dated October 21, 1884.

Application filed June 19, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ISAAC CHRIST, a citizen of the United States, residing at Ashland, in the county of Schuylkill and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Coal-Picking Tables; 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 appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to certain improvements in that class of picking-tables for separating slate and bone from coal, in which the slate, bone, or other foreign substances are removed by hand. It has for its object to provide a picking-table which economizes labor, and is so arranged that the pickers stand or sit at the sides of the table, allowing the light to fall upon their work, and are at the same time in full view of the picker "boss," and to have the coal passing over the table divided into separate portions, only one layer thick, each picker handling only the coal immediately before him, and disposing of it without passing it to the next picker. This feature is a great advantage over the picking-tables generally used, in which the upper layer covers the impurities of the lower layers, and where the pickers have to handle over and over again material that has already been examined. My table is also convenient and comfortable for the pickers, and enables a smaller number of hands to do a larger amount of work much better and quicker than is possible with the old style of picking-table. It is also simple in construction and can be manufactured very cheaply.

The particular construction and arrangement of the various parts I will now proceed to point out and describe, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of a coal-picking table embodying my improvements; Fig. 2, a longitudinal section of the same; Fig. 3, a vertical cross-section of said picking-table, and Fig. 4 a detail showing one of the deflecting-wings.

Referring to said drawings, A is the main chute or telegraph, inclining from top to bottom, the sides of the same pitching toward their outer edges and forming the picking-tables B. These tables can be raised at their lower ends, if desired, as shown in dotted lines at *a*, Fig. 4, thus forming a series of steps on the sides of the main telegraph.

C are curved deflecting-wings extending inward and upward from the outer sides of the tables B toward the longitudinal center of the chute, but leaving the same open from top to bottom. The two lower wings, C′, extend entirely across the bottom of the chute or telegraph. Said wings C also separate the tables B.

D is the coal-chute arranged under the main chute A, and having the same downward incline as chute A. Said chute D is provided with upwardly-curved sides *d d*, and terminates in the horizontal table *d′*.

E E are a series of platforms or steps so arranged that each step is at the side of and opposite a picking-table, and lower than said table. On these steps are placed removable stools for the pickers, and when desired these stools can be removed and the pickers can stand upright upon the steps E E. The pickers are thus able to work at the sides of the tables and main telegraph. The picker boss, standing at one end of the main telegraph, can readily superintend the work done, and the pickers being at the sides of the table instead of in the middle of the main telegraph, and one above the other, as is the case in most picking-tables, the table can easily be arranged so that the light will fall directly upon the material to be picked as it comes before the pickers. On the outer sides of the platforms or steps E E are inclined bone-chutes F and slate-chutes G, said chutes terminating in the tables *f* and *g*.

I are bone-troughs, and K slate troughs, leading from the picking-tables B to their respective chutes.

H is a return, by means of which the coal is transferred to the coal-bins, and H H′ are returns for carrying the slate and bone to the hoppers or bins, and are of the same construction as the return H.

Across the bottom of the tables *d′*, *f*, and *g* are seats *h* for pickers who give the coal, slate, &c., a final inspection before it is transferred to the bins or hoppers.

My table is used as follows: The pickers sit or stand at the sides of the tables B. The coal enters from the screens at the top of the main telegraph, and, sliding down the same, comes in contact with the deflecting-wings C, and is moved in a single layer upon the picking-tables B. The coal thus being divided into several streams and presented to the picker in a single layer, the impurities can readily be detected and separated from said coal, which is dropped into the coal-chute D. The slate and bone being thrown into the proper troughs are conveyed to their respective chutes. The outward pitch of the tables B renders it very easy to move the coal toward the pickers. When the coal, bone, slate, &c., reaches the tables *d*, *f*, and *g*, it is subjected to a final inspection and picking before it goes to the bins or hoppers.

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

1. An inclined chute or telegraph provided on its upper side with deflecting-wings extending inward and upward toward the longitudinal center of the chute, leaving an open center through its entire length, substantially as and for the purpose shown and described.

2. An inclined chute or telegraph having its sides pitching toward their outer edges and forming the picking-tables B, and provided with the deflecting-wings C, separating said picking-tables, substantially as shown and described.

3. An inclined chute or telegraph having its sides pitching toward their outer edges and forming the picking-tables B, and provided with the deflecting-wings C, separating said picking-tables, and extending inward and upward toward the longitudinal center of the chute, leaving an open center through its entire length, and having the lower deflecting-wings, C′, extending entirely across the bottom of said chute, substantially as and for the purpose shown and described.

4. The inclined chute or telegraph A, provided with the picking-tables B and deflecting-wings C and C′, arranged substantially as shown, in combination with the chute D, arranged immediately under the chute A, and having the same angle of incline as said chute A, substantially as described.

5. In combination, the inclined chute A, provided with the picking-tables B, deflecting-wings C C′, seats for the pickers arranged at the sides of the picking-tables, the chute D, and chutes F G, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ISAAC CHRIST.

Witnesses:
JAS. F. GRADY,
LEWIS STOCKETT.