Feb. 19, 1924. 1,483,996

G. W. R. TONGUE

METHOD OF MARKING COAL

Filed June 14, 1922

Fig. 1

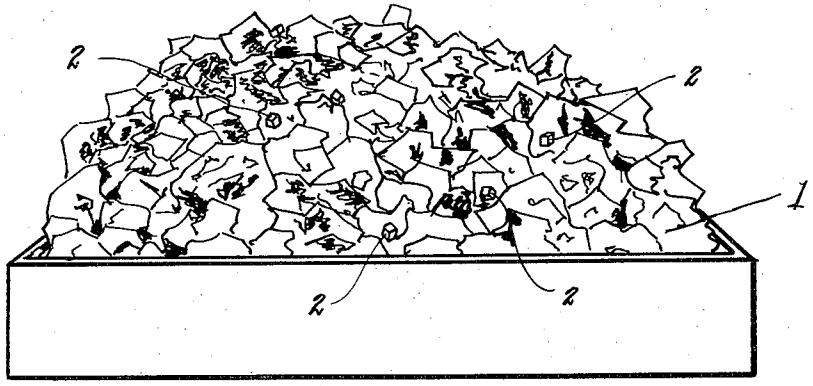
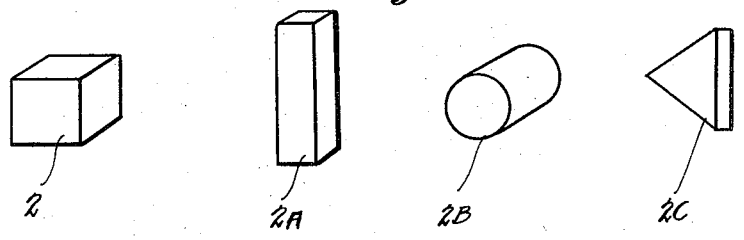


Fig. 2



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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METHOD OF MARKING COAL.

Application filed June 14, 1922. Serial No. 568,264.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GORDON WALTER ROBERT TONGUE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Seattle, county of King, and State of Washington, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Methods of Marking Coal, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a method of marking coal for purposes of identification. More particularly, the invention relates to a method of marking coal, in order that the consumer may know its kind or grade, and detect any fraud or deception on the part of unscrupulous coal retailers in the delivery of coal.

Here-to-fore it has been practically impossible for the consumer to identify different grades of coal, and frequently coal retailers who are inclined to be, or are, without principle will deliver a cheaper or a different grade of coal than the unsuspecting consumer orders. This practise is unjust, not only to the consumer but also acts as a detriment to the coal producer from whom the retailer obtains his supply, since, if the consumer is dissatisfied with the results obtained from the coal that is delivered to him, his dissatisfaction is directed against that particular kind of coal that he believes he has been using and this finally acts in a detrimental manner to the producer.

It is, therefore, the object of this invention to provide a method and means whereby the producer of coal may mark his product in such manner that the consumer will be able to identify it as to kind and grade.

A further object of the invention resides in a method and means of marking which will, in no way, interfere with the thermal efficiency of the coal.

Referring to the accompanying drawing—

Figure 1 represents a bin of coal wherein identifying blocks of the present character are used.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of different kinds of identifying blocks.

Referring to the drawing more in detail—

1 designates a bin of coal and 2 identifying blocks that will mix with the coal.

The present method of marking coal contemplates the use of small, inflammable blocks, preferably of wood, and colored so that they may be easily seen when mixed with coal. Ordinarily, the blocks would be about one-inch square and would be colored green, red or other colors that contrast with the color of coal blocks of other shapes as indicated at 2^A, 2^B and 2^C in Figure 2, may be used. These blocks would be mixed with the coal as it is delivered from the mines, and certain kinds, shapes, or colors of blocks would be used to identify certain kinds and grades of coal.

After a certain amount of publicity had been given to this method of marking coal for the purpose of identification, a consumer, after ordering a certain kind of coal, would undoubtedly look for the identifying blocks and, if he failed to find them, he would know that deceit had been practised upon him.

It is readily apparent that wooden blocks, being inflammable, will in no way interfere with the proper burning of the coal, but will, if anything, add to its inflammability.

It is readily apparent, also, that with these blocks mixed profusely with the coal, it would be practically impossible for retailers to deceive their customers and this will act as a protection to the producer as well as to the consumer.

If it is so desired, the producer may mark the blocks with the name and grade of the coal, so that the consumer will know the grade and kind of coal which he is using and the place where it is produced.

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

1. An article of manufacture, a self-identifying coal, comprising inflammable articles of predetermined characteristics mixed with the coal.

2. A method of marking coal for purposes of identification which consists of mixing with the coal small inflammable objects of pre-determined or designated shapes.

3. The method of marking different grades or kinds of coal for purposes of identification which consists of mixing with the different grades or kinds of coal inflammable blocks of different color.

Signed at Seattle, Washington, this 9th day of June, 1922.

GORDON WALTER ROBERT TONGUE.