

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM EASBY, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

METHOD OF CONVERTING FINE COAL INTO SOLID LUMPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 5,739, dated August 29, 1848.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM EASBY, of the city of Washington and the District of Columbia, have discovered a new and useful method of converting fine or powdered coal or refuse coal, either anthracite, bituminous, or charcoal, into solid lumps or blocks or prisms for the use of steam-vessels or any other purpose in which fuel is required, which method is described as follows:

I take the fine coal and put it into a strong mold of the form and size of the intended blocks, lumps, or prisms to be formed, and of sufficient depth to remove the necessary quantity of fine coal. To form the required block, lumps, or prisms and subject the mass to sufficient pressure to cause the particles to adhere and form a solid mass, which may be effected by a piston of a size corresponding to that of the mold to be operated upon by any suitable mechanical means, and when the fine coal shall have been thus pressed into a solid body it will be discharged from the mold by any convenient mechanical means. The fine coal, being thus formed into solid cubes or other suitable forms, will be in a convenient state for packing, for transportation, or for burning.

The utility and advantage of the discovery

are that by this process an article of small value and almost useless can be converted into a valuable article of fuel for steamers, forges, culinary, or other purposes, thus saving what is now lost. The fuel thus prepared will be equal to any now in use. It will be highly advantageous for steam-vessels, as when formed into hexagonal prisms it can be stowed in a smaller space than other fuel. Its specific gravity being greater than that of the natural coal will also contribute to this advantage. For culinary purposes it will have an advantage over any other fuel. Its compactness renders it less liable to break or fall to pieces. It is contemplated to form the fuel for the last-named purpose into oval or egg-shaped lumps, thereby leaving no angles to be worn off by abrasion.

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

The formation of small particles of any variety of coal into solid lumps by pressure, in a manner and for the purposes substantially as herein described.

WM. EASBY.

Witnesses:

H. N. EASBY,
J. W. EASBY.