

(No Model.)

E. HEATON.  
STAGE EFFECT.

No. 473,927.

Patented May 3, 1892.

Fig. 1

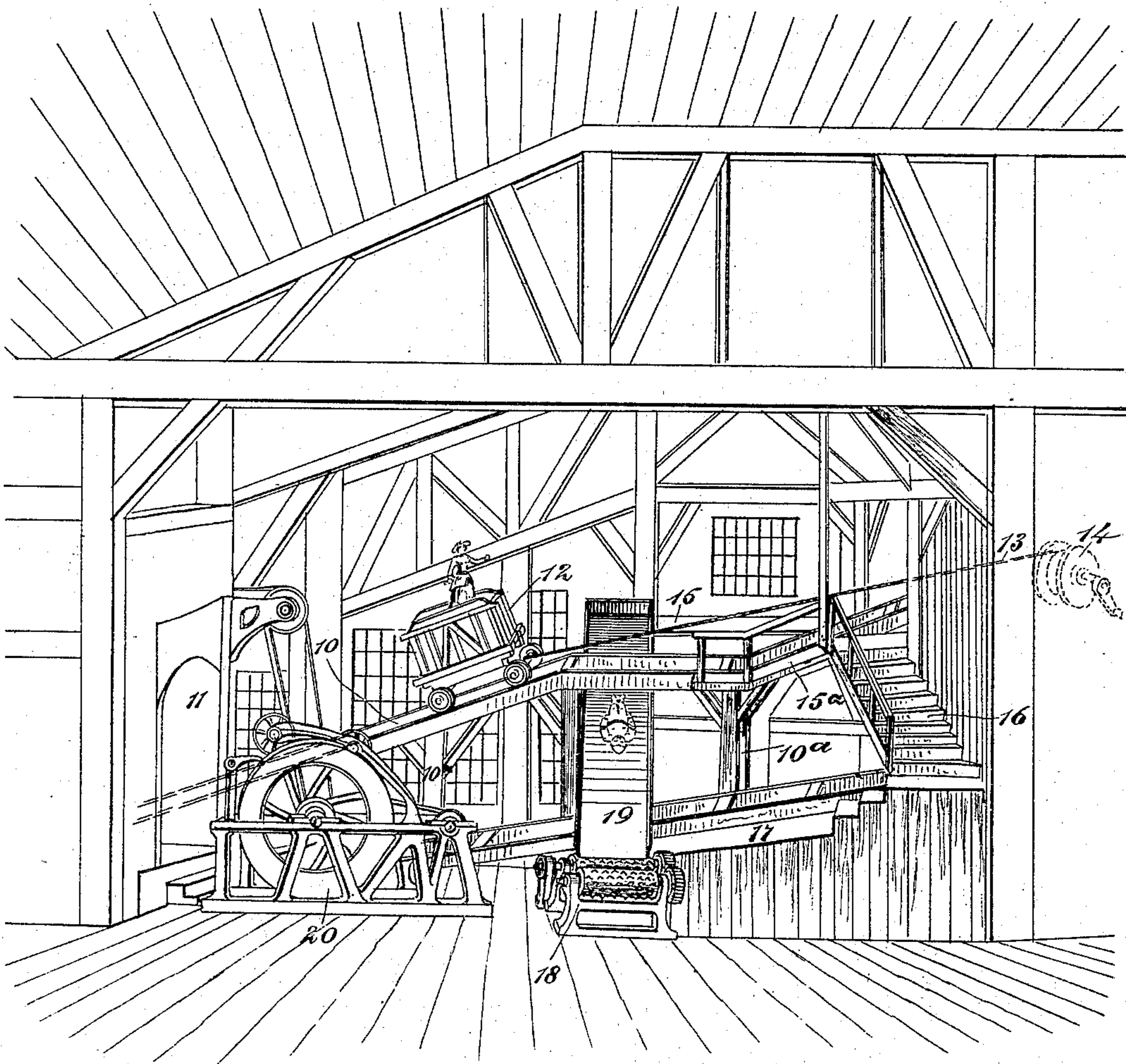
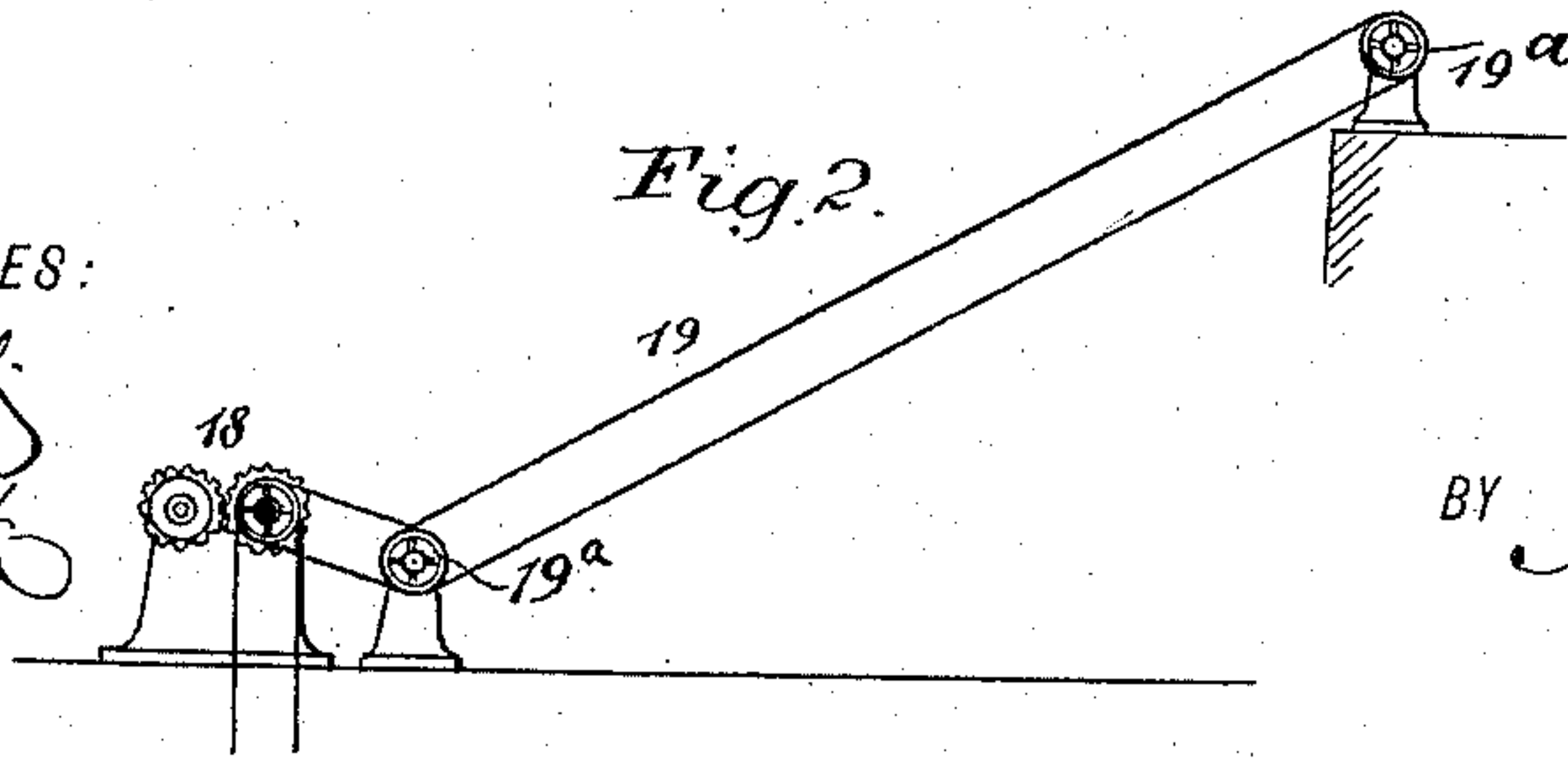


Fig. 2.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EVA HEATON, OF HOLLY BEACH, NEW JERSEY.

## STAGE EFFECT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 473,927, dated May 3, 1892.

Application filed May 27, 1891. Serial No. 394,237. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EVA HEATON, of Holly Beach, in the county of Cape May and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and Improved Stage Effect, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to improvements in stage effects. It has become necessary in the production of certain kinds of dramas to introduce as much realism as possible to satisfy the public, which refuses to be satisfied with imaginary results, but demands that the machinery by which certain thrilling effects are produced shall be made visible.

The object of my invention is to meet the popular demand by setting the stage in such a manner that the spectators will be transferred for the time to a coal-breaker.

To this end my invention consists in an arrangement and combination of machinery and its accessories to produce a novel effect upon the stage, and this combination and arrangement will be hereinafter described and claimed.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in both the figures.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a stage arranged in accordance with my invention, and Fig. 2 is a detail view showing the chute-bottom and the means for operating it.

An inclined railway 10, the rails being supported upon trusses 10<sup>a</sup> in the usual manner, extends transversely across the stage and apparently comes from the shaft 11 of a coal mine. Upon the railway is an ordinary coal-car 12, which is drawn by a cable 13, the cable being wound upon a drum 14, which drum is shown in dotted lines in the drawings, and is arranged upon the stage so as to be behind the scenes. A landing 15 is arranged on one side of the upper portion of the railway 10, and a landing 15<sup>a</sup> is arranged on the front side of the railway, the latter landing communicating by winding stairs 16 with a landing 17, which latter landing is below the railway and adjacent to a coal-crusher 18. An inclined chute 19 leads from the upper landing 15 to the crusher 18, and down this chute the coal is supposed to descend from the car 12 to be crushed in the crusher. The bottom

of the chute 19 is formed of an endless belt, which is carried by the rollers 19<sup>a</sup>, arranged at the ends of the chute, and the lower roller is connected by a belt with the crusher 18, so that the rollers and chute-bottom will operate in unison with the crusher. Near the entrance to the shaft 11 is a large blower 20, which is to supply air to the shaft. The various machines are driven by the ordinary mechanism, and the accessories of the stage are so arranged that it appears like an ordinary coal-breaker.

In the drawings, the figure of a girl appears in the car 12, and the figure of a man bound hand and foot is seen descending the inclined chute 19 to the crusher. At a certain point in the play some ruffians have seized the man on the landing 15, have rendered him insensible, and then have bound him hand and foot and thrown him into the chute. The ruffians have then descended to the floor and started the machinery, which, when under way, makes a tremendous rumble and roar, like the ordinary machinery in a coal-breaker. When the machinery is started, the chute-bottom begins to move and the man begins to descend toward the crusher. As he nears the crusher the car 12 appears traveling up the inclined railway, it having emerged from the shaft 11, and the girl in the car sees the man and recognizes him as her lover. She immediately springs from the car upon the landing 15<sup>a</sup>, opposite which the car has by this time traveled, and she rushes down the stairway 16 to the landing 17, seizes the man just as he is about to pass between the rolls of the crusher, cuts his bonds, draws him from the chute, and lands him safely upon the landing 17.

It will be readily understood that, taken in connection with the other parts of the plot, this effect will be very thrilling, and it is rendered so largely by the setting of the stage and the din of the machinery.

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

1. The herein-described arrangement and organization of machinery to produce a stage effect, consisting of an inclined railway extending upward across the stage, a car traveling upon the railway, a crusher beneath the



railway, and an inclined chute extending forwardly beneath the railway and at its lower end delivering into the crusher, substantially as described.

5 2. The herein-described arrangement and organization of machinery to produce a stage effect, consisting of an inclined railway extending across the stage, a car to run upon the railway, landings arranged at the upper  
10 end of the railway and upon the stage beneath, a stairway connecting the two landings, a crusher at the foot of the lower landing, and a chute extending from the upper landing beneath the railway and delivering  
15 upon the crusher, substantially as described.

3. The herein-described arrangement and organization of machinery to produce a stage effect, consisting of an open shaft produced on one side of the stage, an inclined railway  
20 leading upward across the stage from the shaft, a car traveling upon the railway, land-

ings arranged at the upper end of the railway, a crusher beneath and in front of the railway, a chute extending forwardly under the railway from the upper landing to the  
25 crusher, and a stairway leading from the upper landing to a point adjacent to the crusher, substantially as described.

4. A scenic effect to represent a coal-breaker, comprising an entrance to a mine-shaft, a  
30 track extending from the shaft-entrance upward across the stage, a car on the track, a crusher on the stage below the track, a chute inclined downward and forward under the track to the crusher and having its bottom  
35 formed of an endless belt, and means for operating the car, the crusher, and the belt, substantially as set forth.

EVA HEATON.

Witnesses:

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