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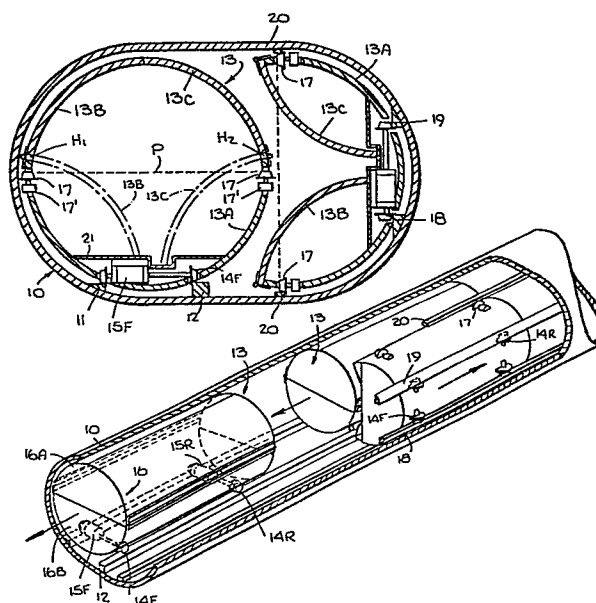
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54 Tubular coal transport system.

57 A tubular coal transport system wherein a continuous succession of individually-powered loaded cars (13) travel through a tube (10) from a coal source to a receiving terminal over an extended distance. Each wheeled car has a generally cylindrical form and includes a bottom trough (13A) in which electric motors (15F, 15R) are installed to drive the car wheels (14F, 14R) at a controlled rate, and a cover composed of two arcuate sections (13B', 13C') hinged to the trough and foldable therein to collapse the car when it is empty, thereby reducing the volume of the emptied car. When loaded, the cars travel from the coal source to the receiving terminal along a forward track mounted on the base of the tube adjacent one side wall thereof. When empty, the collapsed cars travel back to the coal source on a return track (18, 19) mounted on the opposite side wall of the tube, the cars being held in place by guide rails (20). The arrangement is such that the succession of loaded and empty cars travelling in opposing directions occupy substantially all available tube space.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. ³)
A	FR-A-2 315 475 (PAILLERON et al.)	1	E 21 F 13/02 B 61 C 3/00 B 61 B 13/10
A	--- AU-A- 411 081 (DASHEW et al.)	1	
A	--- US-A-3 443 677 (TRIBE et al.)	1	
A	--- US-A-3 358 812 (TRIBE et al.)	1	
A	--- CH-A- 616 891 (VEVEY S.A.) -----	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. ³)
			E 21 F B 61 B B 61 C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 17-08-1983	Examiner SCHMAL R.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	