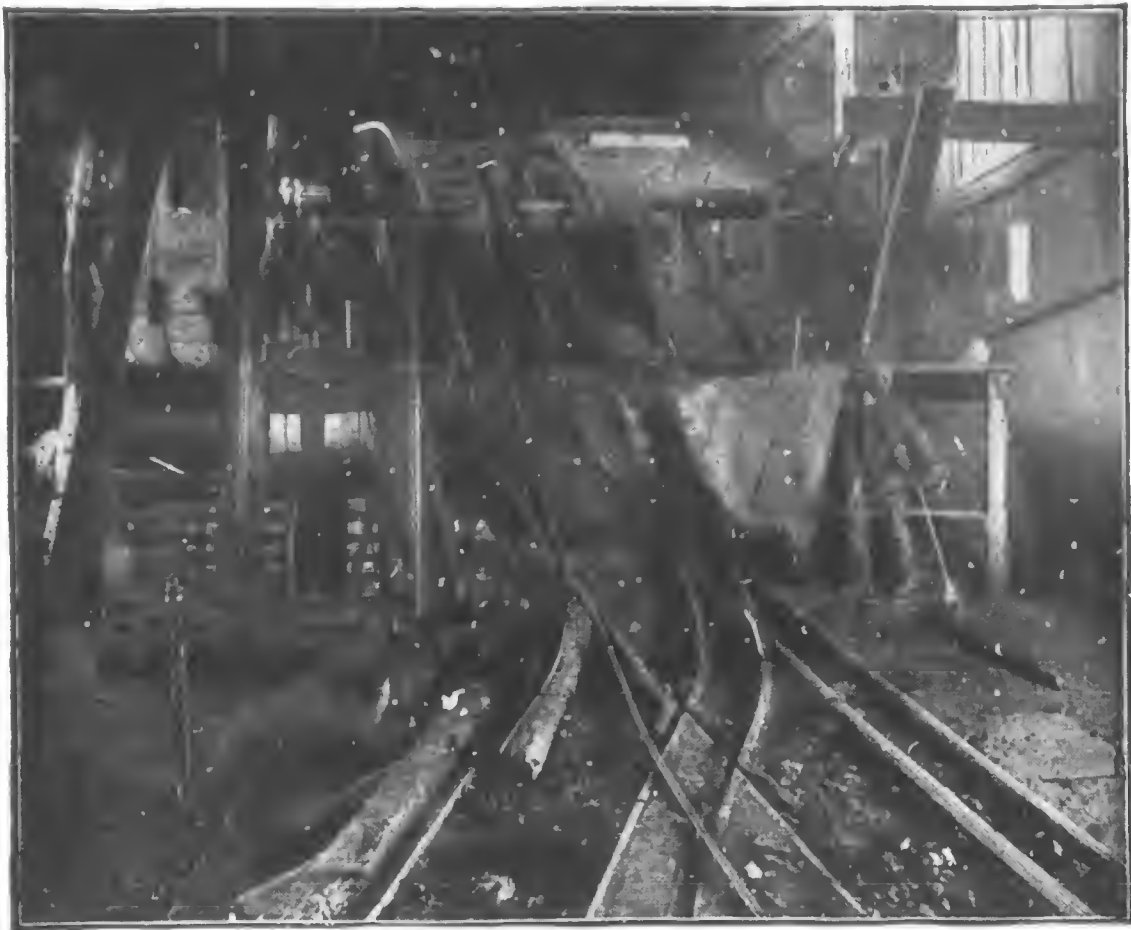


## SLATE PICKERS.

The slate pickers in an Anthracite breaker sit on benches above the drifting streams of coal, and, with patient eyes and grimy fingers, pick out slate and stone from among the mass sliding along in front of them. When it comes too fast they shut it off until the quantity in front of them has been cleaned and run off. Examining the Stove and Nut sizes are small boys, some of them perhaps but ten or twelve-year-old youngsters.

Behind the rows of little fellows who bridge these dusty brooks stands an overseer or task-master to keep them in order and up to their work. A very necessary provision, perhaps, to insure faithful work, but nevertheless one apt to arouse feelings of pity and indignation on the part of an uninitiated visitor, seeing for the first time such young fellows working at such a task in the dust-laden air prevailing all through a hard-coal breaker.



INTERIOR OF A BREAKER.

The breaker top, showing the means for hoisting and dumping the mine cars.