Calvin W. Parsons (1852-1898) learned his skill as a mechanical engineer as an apprentice at Wyoming Valley Manufacturing Co. He worked as a draughtsman and mechanical engineer in New York; Providence, RI; and New Jersey for Edison; and returned to Wilkes Barre to work for Vulcan Iron Works. Parsons moved to Scranton in 1882 to work with the Dickson Manufacturing and with the Lackawanna Iron and Coal. In 1894 he opened his own business, specializing in inventions.
He was the inventor of several important coal processing machines: a coal grader, an automatic screen, and his shaker screen improvements.

The objects of that invention were: to balance the moving parts having a so that no vibration is communicated to the attached floors or building; to improve the movement making the reversal of the motion more abrupt; and to provide easy speed adjustments.

Anthracite plants still use machines based on this patent.