

LaSALLE COUNTY.

CHICAGO, WILMINGTON AND VERMILION COAL COMPANY.

No. 1 Shaft. There are two fans ventilating this mine, of the Champion pattern, one of them being ten feet in diameter. It was set to work one year ago and geared with a wire rope; the difficulties with it have been considerable, owing to the engine being too near the fan, the rope not having weight enough to give it tension. The result was that it slipped on the sheaves, occasioning lost motion. Then tension wheels were put on but they wore out the rope so soon that it would sometimes break in a few days. This has now been abandoned and the engine is to be moved to the fan and geared with teeth gearing. This will do away with all lost motion, and as the engine is powerful enough there is no reason why the air should not be good. The air-ways are good and they have been shortened up as much as possible.

No. 2 Shaft. Air-ways good and generally the mine is in good condition.

COAL RUN COMPANY'S MINES.

No. 2. This has been put down to No. 2 seam and it makes considerable fire damp. There has been but little done in it yet, but a fan has been placed in position and the ventilation is strong and good.

No. 3 Shaft. This is in fair condition, but the fan is not run as fast as it ought to be. I ordered it run to 450 revolutions per minute on my last visit, and it was promised to be done.

RIVER BANK COAL CO.

This mine has been ventilated with steam, but they are building a fan, and promise to have it running in a week.

STREATOR COAL CO. MINES.

At No. 1 Shaft I objected to the fan they had running, and asked for a larger one. They concluded as the mine was not a paying one, and as they had another shaft to sink for water, they would work out the rooms they had opened and abandon the mine. It will be finished in about two months.

No. 2. They are at present building a fan for this mine. It has formerly been run only during the winter months, but owing to No. 1 being abandoned, it will be necessary to run it the year round; hence the necessity for a fan. This mine is approaching abandoned workings, which are filled with water. I have ordered them to start bore-holes as soon as they get within one hundred feet of their line. I have a survey of the abandoned mine.

LaSALLE COUNTY CARBON COAL CO.

LaSalle Shaft.—This is in fair condition. The shaft has been repaired during the year where some of the timbers were giving way.

Rockwell Shaft.—This has been run only as an aid to LaSalle shaft, but it is expected to run steadily in the future. The air-ways have been cleaned up and enlarged during the year.

MATTHIESSEN & HEGLER ZINC CO.

This mine has always been in good condition. Escapement shaft completed and equipped during the year.

ILLINOIS VALLEY COAL CO.

These mines are in fair condition, the air having been changed and split into three currents during the year at No. 1 mine. No. 2 is near the shaft yet, and can get as much air as the men desire.

OGLESBY COAL CO.

This mine has had all the air passing around in one current, so that by the time it got around the circuit it was heavy and loaded with impurities. They are now at work making a road to have it split in two, which will improve it for those on the last of the circuit.

MITCHELL & DUNCAN.

Shaft at present abandoned. LaSalle County Carbon Company is talking of buying it, but the sale has not been completed yet. It wants an escapement, which is now due, and whoever may purchase it with the intention of running it must proceed with the escapement at once.

JAMES CAHILL MINE.

This had a very poorly constructed fan, and the mine being beyond its capacity the past year, I felt it my duty to stop a portion of the mine. I had called their attention to it several times, but it did not have the desired effect. They are now building a new fan that will be amply sufficient. They have completed their escapement shaft.

SENECA COAL MINING CO.

This is only a small mine; is well ventilated, and they have now their escapement down.

UNION COAL CO., PERU.

This mine has very careless management. They allow the fan to slow down below the requirements of the mine. I have gone there several times and found it running at half speed. This is sheer carelessness. When I am down, the fan is run at full speed, and