

The Litchfield Mining and Power Company drilled a hole with a diamond drill from the bottom of the shaft, which was 535 feet deep, to a seam six feet 4 inches thick, which was found at the depth of 68 feet. The shaft has been sunk to the lower seam; the upper seam has been abandoned and the lower seam is now being developed.

The Chicago-Virden Coal Company has purchased the mine formerly owned by the Sugar Creek Coal Company at Auburn, Sangamon county.

*Ventilation*—A fan twenty feet in diameter has been erected at the mine of the Girard Coal Company, Girard, Macoupin county.

*Fires*—The entire top works and the timbering of the hoisting shaft at the mine of the Coffeen Coal and Copper Company, Coffeen, Montgomery county, were destroyed by fire during the night of November 5, 1895. One of the smokestacks set fire to the roof of the boiler house. When the fire started, the engineer had the pump installed for fire purposes apart, packing the water end, so the water service could not be used to extinguish the fire. The mine was idle until April 22, 1896.

The engine house and hoisting-department boiler house were destroyed and the hoisting engine damaged by a fire that started about 5 a. m. on March 6, 1896, at No. 6 mine of the Consolidated Coal Company of St. Louis, at Staunton, Macoupin county.

June 12, 1896, at about 8 o'clock, a fire started in the oilhouse, near the bottom of the hoisting shaft, of the Taylorville Coal Company, Taylorville, Christian county. The bottom timbers became ignited, then the fire was conveyed up the shaft to the top works, which were quickly destroyed. The damage consisted in the burning of the bottom timbers, which let down large masses of unbroken rock for some distance along both sides of the main roadway from the bottom of the shaft; the partial burning of the lining of the shaft, so that it had to be renewed throughout; the entire destruction of the mine buildings and coal-cleaning plant, and damage to the hoisting engine, air compressor and boilers. The rapidity with which the fire was communicated from the bottom to the top was somewhat surprising, as it is reported that there was very little inflammable oil in the oilhouse, and there was no more timbering about the bottom than the ordinary unlined sets that are placed where the roof and sides are fairly good; the shaft was wet, as there is a lodgement below the surface drainage that occasionally overflows, and the shaft was being used as the down cast at the time. The men in the mine left by way of the escapement shaft.

*Fatal Accidents*—John L. Dixon, aged 53 years, married, occupation mine manager, was killed at 9:10 a. m., July 9, 1895, at the mine of the Penwell Coal Mining Company, Pana, Christian county. He was standing near the elevator boot, removing an obstruction on the slide, when a railroad car partly filled with nut coal crushed him against a post of the elevator frame, causing instant death. There was a clearance of six inches between the car and the posts of the elevator. The car was being moved with a pinchbar. A man was talking to Mr. Dixon, and the sliding door of the elevator boot