

entries, as soon as they are worked out, to increase the ventilating facilities. By this means the air-courses are greatly shortened and improved. This company shows an evident desire to anticipate and keep in advance of legal requirements.

GREENVIEW COAL COMPANY.

This mine is in very fair condition and is worked on the double-entry system. It has enough air in circulation if properly conducted, but by using screens, for the most part in dilapidated condition, instead of doors, much of the air is wasted. Mr. Wadsworth, Superintendent, proposes to remedy this defect in the ventilation.

I had been informed that this company did not weigh the miners' coal and was requested to enforce the law in this respect. Believing it my duty to do so, I made an effort in that direction, but found that I was powerless in the matter, owing to the fact that the miners had entered into a special agreement with the company for the purpose of evading this provision of the law.

The Athens Coal Company has good ventilation, but their escapement is too small. Otherwise the place is all right.

An escapement has been sunk this year at the Sweetwater mine.

CASS COUNTY.

THE CASS COUNTY COAL COMPANY, ASHLAND.

This is a co-operative company composed of coal miners, who at great cost of labor have sunk a shaft 205 feet, only to find 30 inches of coal. They have no trade except to supply the local demand. The time has already expired in which they should have had an escapement, but I do not suppose they will be able to sink it.

THE VIRGINIA COAL AND WATER Co., VIRGINIA.

This company has a three-foot seam of good quality, which they are just opening, though not in good shape. If the workings were properly laid out on the long-wall system, and a market were secured, the property could be made to pay. An escapement was begun, but work was subsequently suspended because they could not secure railroad facilities for shipping. On my last visit only six miners were at work, merely for the purpose of keeping the place in workable condition, and I allowed them to continue while negotiations with the railroad company were pending.

TAZEWELL COUNTY.

This county has eight mines, though one of them—Vaglesang's, at Hilton,—has this year been worked out.

The principal mine is operated by D. M. Alexander, and has been worked for fourteen years. The air-courses are consequently