

The Gus Blair Big Muddy Coal Company, Jackson county, has sunk a new mine at Murphysboro. The mine was sunk in 1906 and coal was reached August 17, at a depth of 120 feet. The shaft is 12 by 18 feet; the coal is No. 1 and No. 2 seams. The engines are 12 by 18 geared 3 to 1, with one inch rope and 5 foot sheave wheels. The boiler is 72 inches by 20 feet with 25 six inch flues. The company intends working the coal by punching machines, as they have a New York Air Compressor; the capacity of the compressor is ten machines. The head-frame is 50 feet high built with long leaf yellow pine; having a shaker screen. The engine room is 22 by 45 feet covered with galvanized iron; the office 12 by 14 feet; the blacksmith shop 18 by 20 feet; both covered with galvanized iron. This shaft is located 2½ miles north of Murphysboro, on the Iron Mountain railroad, and is an up-to-date shaft for the size of it.

Several new mines have been opened in Williamson county. The Scranton & Big Muddy Coal Mining Company has sunk a new shaft 3 miles northeast of Marion. This shaft struck coal at a depth of 184 feet; the coal is 8 feet thick. The height of the tower is 75 feet; the upright timbers are 12 inches by 12 feet yellow pine and white oak; the buntons are 12 by 12; white oak braces, 6 by 8 and the guides 4 by 6; the sheave wheels are 6 feet in diameter and are from the Aetna Foundry & Machine Co., Springfield, Illinois.

The length of the shaker screen room is 77 feet, the size of timbers are 10 by 10 inches and 12 by 12 inches yellow pine, with white oak braces 6 by 8 inches.

The shaker screens are in length 62 feet by 8 feet wide and are in two sections, each 31 feet long; the shaker engine is direct to the screens, size 8. by 14. One five-ton weighing hopper is used with Fairbanks & Morse scales. The screens and engine also the hopper are of the Blakeslee make. The size of the engine house is 29 by 36 feet; the hoisting engine is Aetna make, 20 by 36 with two drums; an Ingersoll-Rand compressor is installed, the steam cylinders being 22 by 24 inches, and air 24 by 24 inches; the size of the boiler room is 45 by 24 feet; there are two Atlas boilers 72 inches by 18 feet with 70 flues, 150 H. P. each with a Gardner feed pump 6 by 4 by 6 inches. A National single pump, size 9 by 5½ by 10 inches, a Blakeslee duplex pump 19 by 6 by 10 inches. The fan is a Blakeslee 15 by 4 feet with a 10 by 16 inch incline engine; this is not erected yet. This shaft is 9 by 16 feet inside of timbers and has two feet partitioned off at the end for pipes. The shaft is built for a capacity of two thousand tons a day.

The Chicago & Carterville Coal Company has opened and equipped a new mine about two miles northeast of Herrin, on the C. B. & Q. railroad. The sinking of the hoisting shaft was begun in August, 1905, but owing to many difficulties encountered in the way of mud, quicksand and water, the coal was not reached until October 1906; the depth of the shaft is 236 feet to a seam of coal 9 to 10 feet in thickness. This mine is equipped with a wood tower covered with galvanized iron; the engine house is of brick; having double hoisting engines with 20 by 36 inch cylinders, and conical drums 5½ by 7 feet; two boilers are installed each 6 by 20 feet, provided with automatic stokers. All other necessary buildings and machinery are supplied to make a first class up-to-date plant.

The air and escapement shaft was completed in March, 1907, and is provided with a 10 foot steel, high speed ventilating fan of the Murphy type, manufactured by the Sullivan Machinery Company.

ABANDONED MINES.

There have been really no shipping mines abandoned during the year, however, the Carterville Coal Company, Carterville, has not operated its shafts A and B during the year; the company claiming that these have not been abandoned. The Hemlock Coal Company, Herrin, and the Lake Creek Coal Company, Johnston City, have not shipped any coal this year on account of not having any railroad tracks laid to their mines.