

FIRST DISTRICT---1892.

MR. JOHN S. LORD,

Secretary of the State Bureau of Labor Statistics, Springfield, Ill.

SIR:—In compliance with section twelve of the mining code of the State, defining the duties of State Inspectors of mines, I herewith submit the ninth annual report of the First District for the year ending July 1, 1892.

The following report gives tabulated statements showing the number of mines in operation, both shipping and local; new and abandoned mines; also giving depth of shafts, elevation of surface over the coal in slopes and drifts; the geological number of the seam; also thickness of seam; the estimated number of acres worked out during the year; the average number of miners employed; also the highest number employed at any time during the year, and all other employes in and around the mine, with the number of boys employed under ground; the number of running days in the year for each mine, with averages for each county, and the district; the number of kegs of powder used; the prices paid for mining, both in summer and winter; casualties, fatal and non-fatal; the total number of tons of all grades produced; the average value of lump coal per ton at the mine, with the aggregate value of the total product; the number and kind of coal cutting-machines in operation, and the total number of men employed cutting and handling the mineral; also a recapitulation of all the coal producing counties in the district.

The following summaries are presented:

Total number of mines.....	70
Shipping mines.....	37
Local mines.....	33
New mines.....	11
Abandoned mines.....	10
Estimated number of acres worked out during the year.....	737.72
Average number of miners employed.....	6,295
Highest number employed at any one time during the year.....	7,579
Number of other employes in and around the mine, including 232 boys.....	1,993
Total number of employes.....	9,572
Average number of working days for the district.....	189.7

Total number of kegs of powder used.....	16,291
Average price paid for mining, summer.....	\$0.783
Average price paid for mining, winter.....	\$0.856
Number of tons of lump coal produced.....	2,965,067
Number of tons of other grades produced.....	492,999
Total number of tons produced in the district.....	3,458,066
Average value of lump coal at the mine, per ton.....	\$1.32
Average value of total product.....	\$4,096,145
Number of machines in operation.....	21
Number of tons cut by machines.....	169,104
Number of employes operating the machines.....	147
Number of fatal accidents.....	10
Number of non-fatal accidents.....	115
Total number of accidents.....	125
Number of employes to each fatal accident.....	957
Number of employes to each non-fatal accident.....	83
Number of tons produced for each fatal accident.....	296,507
Number of tons produced for each non-fatal accident.....	25,783

Comparative table for each county, in tons of lump coal, for the years ending July 1, 1891, and 1892:

COUNTIES.	Tons produced in 1891.	Tons produced in 1892.	Tons increase.	Tons decrease.
Grundy.....	861,507	1,108,419	246,912
Kankakee.....	84,808	81,793	3,015
LaSalle.....	1,174,961	1,261,467	86,506
Livingston.....	355,800	404,491	48,691
Will.....	224,576	108,897	115,679
Totals.....	2,701,652	2,965,067	382,109	118,694

Net increase in the district for the year, 263,415.

New Mines.—The following named mines have been put in operation during the year. In Grundy county, the Wilmington Mining and Manufacturing Coal Co.'s No. 4, located three-fourths of a mile northwest of the No. 3 mine, near the Diamond; the Chicago, Wilmington and Vermillion Coal Co.'s P mine, located one mile west of Braidwood, also Goode Bros. mine, one mile north of Morris; in LaSalle county, Caquelin & Co., Fairbairn & Bliss, Peter Ryan, and Purshuse Bros., all local mines around Streator; in Livingston county, at Streator, Samuel Simpkins and John Marshall opened mines; also Jesse Masey reopened an old mine; in Will county, at Braidwood, the Ballantine and Fleming mine.

Prospective Mines.—In Grundy county, at Morris, James Cryer, George Blair and Leharty Bros., all local mines; in LaSalle county, at Seneca, George McClairry & Co. have completed their hoisting shaft, reaching coal at 103 feet from the surface; at Marseilles the Galloway Co. have

commenced sinking operations convenient to the town for local trade; two miles north of Hangley, F. Scott has finished sinking operations, reaching coal at a depth of 30 feet from the surface; in Will county, J. K. Stewart has finished a new shaft located a short distance south of his old mine at Braidwood.

Abandoned Mines.—In Grundy county, the Braceville Coal Co.'s No. 3 shaft, at Braceville, was closed down September 3, 1891; in LaSalle county, at Streator, Robert Fairbairn's mine, December 14, 1891; Tukins and Cavanaugh mine, May 20, 1892; also Charles Scott mine, at Kangley, June 1, 1892; in Livingston county, the River Bank Coal Co., at Streator, abandoned its mine March 31, 1892, sold the entire plant and quit the coal business; in will county, J. K. Stewart's mine was abandoned on account of the timbers at the bottom of the shaft giving way, allowing the shaft to cave in.

Mining Machines.—At Carbon Hill, Grundy county, the Star Coal Co. has removed its boilers and compressors, also the Kangley mining machines from the No. 2 mine to the No. 1, the eastern section of the No. 2 shaft being so hard and costly to undermine by hand the change was considered necessary to get the coal extracted. The Chicago, Wilmington and Vermilion Coal Co. has placed an Ide engine and large dynamo at its P mine, with the intention of operating a portion of it with Sperry's electric mining machines, two of which are now in operation.

Fires.—October 10, 1891, at Carbon Hill, Grundy county, the boiler-house and two engine rooms, engines, etc., were partially destroyed by fire; at the No. 1 mine of the Star Coal Co., March 23, 1892, at Streator, LaSalle county, the tower boiler-house, engine-room, slack-washing plant and connecting buildings, were destroyed by fire; the property was owned by N. Plumb and was partially insured; March 26, 1892, the engines, engine-room, boiler-house, tower, etc., at the Ballantine & Fleming mine, at Braidwood, Will county, were partially destroyed by fire, and although insured, the plant has not been rebuilt up to the present time.

Labor Troubles.—The only trouble of any note during the year in the district, was that which occurred at Braceville in September, 1891, on account of a few miners being discharged by the superintendent; the feeling was very bitter on both sides, and the struggle lasted over a month before work was resumed. In May, 1892, the annual contract was signed, by all the miners, with but few changes from last years contract.

Floods.—The following mines were flooded with water during the heavy rainfall in May, 1892: At Streator, in LaSalle county, Goodman & Dawson, and William Lawton. In Livingston county, Lukins & Cavanaugh, Barrackman & Son, Richard Evans, Pleasant Hill Coal Co., John Marshall, Munce & Son and Jesse Masy.

Fatal Accidents.—During the year ten fatal accidents have occurred. Of those killed four were married, one widower, and five were single men; fifty-five per cent of which occurred at the face of the rooms in which the men were employed.

Fatal Accidents in Detail.—July 22, 1891, Reinhart Beyrenther, miner, a married man, was fatally crushed by a fall of rock, while at work in his room, in No. 2 mine of the Chicago, Wilmington & Vermilion Coal Co. at Streator, LaSalle county; he succumbed to his injuries and died eighteen days after the accident occurred.

September 15, 1891, John McEnery, cager, a married man, was instantly killed by the ascending cage, at mine No. 1 of the Illinois Valley Coal Co., at Oglesby, LaSalle county; he was assisting to push a car of props off of the cage when, through some mistake in signalling, the cage was raised, before the deceased was clear of it, his head was caught between the cage bottom and shaft timbers causing instant death.

September 18, 1891. Joseph Soloman, miner, a married man, was fatally injured by a large piece of rock falling on him while working at the face of a cross entry, in Howe & Co.'s mine at Streator, LaSalle County. He had his leg broken and was injured internally. He died thirty minutes after the accident occurred.

November 1, 1891, John Wickens, miner, a widower, was instantly killed by a large piece of rock falling on him while at work in the "P" mine of the Chicago, Wilmington and Vermilion Coal Co. at Braidwood, Grundy County. He was engaged making a double road at the shaft bottom, and had secured this rock until he could get the coal out to the width required; but a shot being fired on the other side of the roadway, part of the material from which was blown across, striking the prop and displacing it. The deceased went under the rock without replacing the prop. He was only under the rock a short time when it came down, causing his death.

January 8, 1892. Oscar Stokes, miner, a single man, was fatally crushed by a piece of coal falling on him while extracting pillars in Richard Evan's mine at Colville, Livingston County. He was undermining at the time, but failed to secure the outer portion of the coal with spraggs. He died two hours later.

February 12, 1892. Alexander Ritchie, miner, a single man, was fatally injured by a large piece of rock falling on him while loading a car in his room in No. 2 mine of the Braceville Coal Co. at Braceville, Grundy County. He was so severely injured about the lower part of the body that he died four days after the accident occurred.

March 23, 1892. John Zimkophski, miner, a single man, was fatally injured by a large piece of rock falling on him while at work in his room at mine No. 1 of the Illinois Valley Coal Co. at Oglesby, LaSalle County. His injuries on the back and breast were so severe that he died one hour after the accident occurred.

April 17, 1892. Henry Simpkins, night watchman, a single man, was fatally injured by falling down the shaft operated by his father, Samuel Simpkins, at Streator, in Livingston County. His duties were to keep up steam on top and attend to the pump below during the night; he instructed a comrade how to run the hoisting engine so as to lower and raise him on the cage, to save him climbing the ladder-way, when it was