

to be used in letting down material and doing necessary repair work in the air shaft. The escape ways consist of stairways in a separate compartment. The plans, taken as a whole, contemplate an absolutely fire proof outfit, and no expense has been spared to secure the most perfect and safest arrangement of machinery and other devices providing for safety in the handling of men and material.

ABANDONED MINES.

The following mines have been abandoned in LaSalle county: William McMillen, Streator; Joseph Sowerby & Co., Streator; William G. Francis, Streator; Mathew White, Ottawa; also the North Wilmington Coal Company, at Seneca; and in Grundy county the Wilmington Coal Mining and Manufacturing Company's No. 4 mine at Diamond and Max Davidson & Son's mine near Morris. The Rixson Coal Company of Braceville, Will county, has not been in operation since the strike in 1906, but intend to open the mine again this fall.

PROSPECTIVE MINES.

In LaSalle county the Streator Fuel Company of Streator is sinking a new shaft about three and one-half miles northeast of the town. Harrison & Co. are taking the water out of the old mine formerly operated by the Joliet and Streator Coal Company, which was abandoned eighteen years ago. The mine is located on the C. & A. Railway, a half mile east of Streator. The Chicago-Wilmington and Vermillion Coal Company is preparing to sink a new shaft one-half mile north of the corporate limits of Streator. The Chicago-Wilmington and Vermillion Coal Company is also sinking a new mine a half mile south of its No. 1 mine at South Wilmington, Grundy county.

FIRES AT MINES.

The night of August 13, 1906, the tower, engine house, boiler room and fan house of the LaSalle County Carbon Coal Company's LaSalle mine were destroyed by fire. The fire also extended down the hoisting shaft about twenty feet, so that it had to be retimbered. The fire was discovered by the night watchman in the fan house. How it originated no one knows.

A new tower has been erected, also a new brick engine house and boiler room have been built. The fan house has been built about seventy feet from the air chamber and made fire proof. The fan is 6 by 16 feet. A new shaker screen has been put in. The company has also put in an endless chain, to take the pit cars from the shaft to the railroad chutes, a distance of about 200 feet. The repairing of the mine was completed and put in operation November 12, 1906.

The night of September 26, 1906, a fire destroyed the tower, railroad chutes, engine house, boiler room and all outside buildings of Mrs. E. Hakes' mine at Rutland, LaSalle county. There were seven men in the mine at the time. After extinguishing the burning timbers at the bottom of the shaft, the men all got out safely by way of the escape shaft. A new tower has been erected, railroad chutes, engine house and boiler room have been rebuilt and work was resumed December 1, 1906.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The Oglesby Coal Company has built a new tippie a short distance southwest of the hoisting shaft on a branch of the C., M. & St. P. Railway. The pit cars are taken from the upper landing and conveyed by an endless chain about seventy-five feet to the new tippie, where the coal is loaded into the railroad cars. The company has also put in a new shaker screen and box car loader. This gives an outlet of its coal on two roads, the Illinois Central and Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul.