

FOURTH INSPECTION DISTRICT—1897.

HENRY E. MALLOY, *Inspector.*

HON. DAVID ROSS, *Secretary,*

State Bureau of Labor Statistics, Springfield, Illinois:

SIR:—In compliance with section twelve of the mining law of this State I herewith submit the fourteenth annual report of the State Inspector of Mines for the Fourth District for the year ending July 1, 1897.

The report gives tabulated statements showing the number of mines in operation, both shipping and local; the number of tons of coal mined, number of accidents fatal and non-fatal; number of miners employed and the number of all other employes in and about mines; the number of kegs of powder used; number of tons of coal produced to each accident, both fatal and non-fatal; the aggregate value of all coal mined and the average price paid for mining.

The following summary is for the year ending July 1, 1897:

Total number of mines.....	95
Number of shipping mines.....	36
Number of local mines.....	59
Number of miners employed.....	2,858
Number of other employes.....	1,163
Total number employed in and about mines.....	4,021
Tons of coal mined (2,000 pounds).....	2,916,162
Tons of lump coal.....	1,955,690
Tons of other grades.....	960,472
Average value of lump coal at the mines.....	\$0.79.7
Average price paid per ton for mining—gross weight.....	\$0.36.9
Aggregate value of total product.....	\$2,024,325
Number of fatal accidents.....	10
Number of non-fatal accidents.....	57
Number of tons of coal to each fatal accident.....	291,616
Number of tons of coal mined to each non-fatal accident.....	51,160
Kegs of powder used during the year.....	63,607
Number of machines in use.....	49
Number of tons of coal cut by machines.....	809,002

New Mines—The Himrod Coal Co. has commenced taking coal out of its new mine near Westville, Vermilion county. This mine was sunk last year but did not commence operation until February of this year. This shaft is equipped in first-class shape and will be one of the largest producers in the State. It is intended for a machine mine.

The Brookside Coal Co., of Grape Creek, has commenced taking coal out of its new shaft and has also opened another slope which they are busy equipping with rope haulage and Michell tipples and it is intended to put machines into it in the near future.