

Coal production by counties in the First District, with increase or decrease in each, for the years ended June 30, 1898, and 1899:

COUNTIES.	Total Output of all Grades of Coal in Tons.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1898.	1899.		
Grundy	796,249	1,280,332	484,083
Kankakee.....	84,632	129,018	44,386
LaSalle.....	1,165,490	1,975,939	810,449
Livingston.....	122,087	117,248	4,839
Will.....	40,904	32,779	8,125
Total.....	2,209,362	3,535,316	1,338,918	12,964
Increase.....				1,338,918
Decrease.....				12,964
Net increase.....				1,325,954

The district shows an increase in output over that of 1898 of 1,325,954 tons, or 60.6 per cent. The largest increase is in LaSalle county, which is 810,449 tons, or 69.5 per cent. Grundy county comes next with an increase of 484,093 tons, or 60.8 per cent, and Kankakee shows an increase of 44,386 tons, or 52.4 per cent. Will county shows a decrease of 8,125 tons and Livingston county 4,839 tons.

New Mines.—Grundy county.—The Chicago, Wilmington & Vermilion Coal Co. has opened a new mine in Grundy county, three and a half miles from Gardner. A town site has been located, which will bear the name of South Wilmington. About twenty houses have been built and many others are in course of construction. The shaft is 189 feet to the coal, which is No. 2 of the geological section; a new steel tower has been erected; the engine and boiler houses are covered with galvanized corrugated iron; a shaker screen has been put in, and the plant is in every way first class and intended for a large output.

The Star Coal Co. has reopened its No. 1 mine at Carbon Hill, Grundy county. This mine was destroyed by fire two years ago. The company has erected a new tower, engine house, and all necessary out-buildings, and the plant has been put in first class condition.

James Heather has opened a new mine near Morris.

Tasdal Bros. have opened a new mine at Nettle Creek, about nine and a half miles northwest of Morris.

John Telfer has opened a new mine near Morris.

George R. Blair has reopened his No. 4 mine near Morris.

William Wood has abandoned his mine at Morris and sunk a new shaft about 400 feet west of the old one.

Milo E. Howe purchased the mine formerly operated by Charles Heather, but abandoned the same after operating it a short time.

Thomas Fleming & Co. have purchased the mine formerly operated by William Laherty, near Morris.

La Salle county.—Price, Jones & Co., have opened a new mine one mile north-west of Streator.

Bargreen Bros., have opened a new mine one mile south-west of Streator. James Penman has opened a new mine one mile southwest of Streator.

Dawson & Gray have opened a new mine near Streator.

J. C. Dawson & Co., have opened a new mine at Deer Park.

Livingston county.—A. W. Pank & Co., have opened a new mine two miles south of Streator.

Abandoned mines.—A. M. Barackman has abandoned his mine at Coalville, Livingston county, and purchased the mine formerly operated by Oscar Kimes, of the same place. He has put in a switch from the Santa Fe railroad to the mine, and has also erected a new tower, put in a pair of hoisting engines and a fan, and now has the mine in first class condition.

L. A. Munts & Sons have abandoned their mine at Streator and opened a new mine about one mile northwest of Streator, in Livingston county.

Joseph Kilburn has abandoned his mine near Streator, in Livingston county.

Edgar Hamilton has abandoned his mine near Streator, in Livingston county.

The Kimes Cooperative Co., opened a new mine in Coalville, but abandoned the same after operating about six months.

The Chicago, Wilmington & Vermilion Coal Co., has abandoned its "R" shaft near Braidwood, Grundy county.

The Gardner Wilmington Coal Co., has abandoned its mine at Gardner, Kankakee county.

The Pontiac Coal Co., Pontiac, Livingston county, has abandoned the No. 2 seam; there being so many faults and slips in the coal, it would not pay to operate it, and have commenced developing seam No. 5 of the geological section.

William Thomas & Co., have leased the mine formerly operated by D. W. Thorne, one-half mile west of Streator.

Henry Wonders has leased the mine formerly operated by C. G. Darm, one mile south of Streator.

Charles Kain has abandoned his mine at Deer Park, La Salle county.

Prospective Mines.—The Campus Coal Co., has sunk a new shaft two miles north of Campus, Livingston county, on the Wabash railroad; the shaft is 255 feet deep to No. 2 seam of the geological section; the coal is 3½ feet thick. In sinking the company passed through a seam of coal 12 feet thick, 4 feet above the 3½ foot seam. At the present time the company is developing the thicker seam.

The Star Coal Co., of Streator, is now sinking a shaft near its No. 2 mine at Kangley, La Salle county, to the No. 2 seam, which is 210 feet below the surface.

The Big Four Wilmington Coal Co., has sunk a slope at its "Marie" mine as a traveling way for the employes; there is also a good escape shaft at this mine. This company is now sinking a slope, dipping about 25 degrees, one