

The district shows an increase of 857,517 tons, which is largely due to Sangamon county. This county alone gives an increase of 713,539 tons. Macoupin county shows an increase 147,802 tons.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN AND ABOUT THE MINES DURING THE YEAR.

The Consolidated Coal company, St. Louis, Mo., has done an extensive amount of grading in the underground works of its No. 10 mine, Mount Olive, Macoupin county, and has retimbered both the No. 8 and No. 10 shafts. New dump cages have also been put into these mines.

The Weaver Coal and Coke company, Nilwood, Macoupin county, has retimbered the hoisting shaft of its mine at that place from top to bottom.

The Greenridge Mining company, Greenridge, Macoupin county, has put two new boilers in its mine.

The Girard Coal company, Girard, Macoupin county, has put in new boilers, retimbered the air shaft from top to bottom, put up a new boiler house, improved the tower and has put in new track scales.

The Chicago-Virden Coal company, Virden, Macoupin county, has put in two new boilers at its No. 3 mine at Chatham.

The Auburn and Alton Coal company, Auburn Sangamon county, has put in a 20-foot fan at the air shaft of the mine and built a brick fan house.

The Victor Coal company, Pawnee, Sangamon county, has put in a 20-foot fan at the air shaft of its mine and built a brick fan house.

The Springfield Coal and Mining company, Springfield, Sangamon county, has put in two new boilers at its No. 4 shaft, and has retimbered parts of its No. 2 and No. 5 shafts. The company has also put in a 20-foot fan at its No. 1 shaft and built a brick fan house.

The Springfield Coöperative Coal company, Springfield, Sangamon county, has erected a new 20-foot fan at its mine, which has largely increased the ventilation. The company has also put in two new boilers.

The Spaulding Coal company, Spaulding, Sangamon county, has put in new dump cages and shaking screens, and improved the tower of its No. 2 mine at Bissell.

The Montgomery Coal company, Paisley, Montgomery county, has put in new dump cages, shaking screens and improved the tower of its mine at that place.

The Madison Coal company, has retimbered the air shaft of its No. 5 mine at Mt. Olive, Macoupin county, and put up a new tower at the escapement shaft.

The Barclay Coal and Mining company has installed the Morgan third rail motor for hauling, in its mine at Barclay, Sangamon county, and has also rebuilt the tower at this mine and put in a weighing hopper.

MINE FIRE.

SHAFT, TOWER, ENGINE AND BOILER HOUSE DESTROYED BY FIRE.

The top works of the Sangamon Coal company, were destroyed by fire February 21, 1903. The engine house, boiler house, carpenter and blacksmith

shops were burned and the fire extended down into the hoisting shaft, burning the curbing which caused the top part of the hoisting shaft to cave in; a number of men were working on repairs in the night shaft. They came out through the stairway at the escapement shaft. The mine is now working as usual. A steel tower has been erected and brick buildings have been erected for the engine, boiler, carpenter and blacksmith shops. A new pair of first motion engines, 18 by 32 inches, built by the Ætna Foundry and Machine shop, Springfield, Ill., have been put in for hoisting. The plant on the surface is now first-class in every particular.

NEW AND PROSPECTIVE MINES.

A new mine has been sunk on the line of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, about two and one-half miles east of the corporate limits of the city of Springfield, Sangamon county, by the Tuxhorn Coal company. It is intended by the owners to make this a model shaft. The main hoisting shaft is now down, and through the coal; the air and escapement shafts are not down but will be started in the near future.

A new shaft in Sangamon county, two miles north of the State Fair grounds, is being sunk. It is on the line of the Chicago & Alton railroad. The name of the company is the Chicago and Springfield Coal company. This is a fine location for a shaft and it is the intention of the owners to equip the plant in first-class style.

A new shaft is being sunk on the line of the Chicago & Alton railroad, about one and three-fourths miles south of Sherman, Sangamon county. The name of the new firm is the Peabody Coal company. It is the intention of this company to put up a plant for a large output; a steel tower will be erected and all the latest modern appliances put up to handle large quantities of coal at a minimum cost.

A new shaft is being sunk about two miles west of the city of Virden, Macoupin county. Connection to the mine will be made by a spur from the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad. The company will be known as the Royal Colliery company. The hoisting, air and escapement shafts are being sunk simultaneously.

A new shaft is being sunk about two and one-half miles south of Gillespie, Macoupin county. The name of the firm is the Superior Coal company. The company intends to go largely into the coal business; plans are made for three different shafts, all the latest improvements for the handling and mining of coal will be introduced. A town site has been laid out.

The Consolidated Coal company of St. Louis, Mo., is sinking a new shaft at Staunton, Macoupin county. The shaft is located about one and one-half miles northwest of their old No. 5 mine; a spur will be run to the mine from the Wabash railroad. It is the intention of the company to make this mine first-class in every particular. It will be known as No. 14.

Plans and specifications are being made for a new shaft at Cora, on the line of the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis railroad. It is about eight miles north of Springfield. This company is incorporated under the name of the Cora Coal and Mining company.