

Number of kegs of powder used.....	38,075
Number of kegs used for other purposes.....	3,211
Tons of coal cut by machines.....	29,348
Number of machines in use.....	9
Number of tons of coal shipped.....	3,130,264
Tons supplied to locomotives at the mines.....	88,604
Tons sold to local trade.....	321,938
Tons consumed at the plant.....	161,243
Tons of coal mined to each fatal accident.....	205,669
Tons of coal mined to each non-fatal accident.....	30,345

Coal production by counties in the First District, with increase or decrease in each, for the years ending June 30, 1899 and 1900:

COUNTIES.	Total Output of all Grades of Coal in Tons.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1899.	1900.		
Grundy	1,280,332	1,299,863	19,531	
Kankakee	129,018	138,741	9,723	
LaSalle	1,975,939	2,027,864	51,925	
Livingston	117,248	184,649	67,401	
Will.....	32,779	50,932	18,153	
Total.....	3,535,316	3,702,049	166,733	

The district shows an increase in tonnage the present year over 1899 of 166,733 tons, or 4.72 per cent. The largest increase is in Livingston county, which is 67,401 tons, or 57.48 per cent; Will county comes next, with an increase of 18,153 tons, or 55.38 per cent; Kankakee county has an increase of 9,723 tons, or 7.53 per cent; LaSalle county has an increase of 51,925 tons, or 2.63 per cent, and Grundy county an increase of 19,531 tons, or 1.52 per cent.

New Mines.—The Cardiff Coal Co. has sunk a new shaft at Cardiff, in Livingston county. A steel tower has been erected and all the buildings made fire-proof; a pair of first motion engines has been put in, 20x32 inches, also two 250 horse-power water-tube boilers. The escape shaft has been completed; a new fan has been erected, operated by an engine 7x14 inches, made by Bailey & Sons, of Milwaukee, Wis. Shaking screens have been put in for cleaning the coal. This is one of the best plants in the state.

The Star Coal Co. has sunk a new slope one mile north of its No. 2 mine at Carbon Hill, Grundy county. The coal is three feet thick, and is 75 feet from the surface. This plant is equipped first-class in every particular. The slope has been made wide enough to admit the putting in of a double track, and the intention is to put in an endless rope haulage.

The Big Four Coal Co. has sunk a new slope one mile southeast of its No. 2 mine at Coal Branch Junction; this mine is equipped in a first-class manner, and is intended for a large output.

The Morris Carbon Coal Co. has opened a new mine near Morris, in Grundy county.

Castetter Bros. have opened a new mine two miles southwest of Streator, in LaSalle county; after working the same during the winter, it was abandoned as unprofitable, owing to the number of slips in the coal and a very soft roof.

Benjamin Davis has opened a new mine at Coalville, three miles south of Streator, in Livingston county.

The Gardner-Wilmington Coal Co. has sunk a new slope at its mine in Clark City, Kankakee county, from No. 7 seam to No. 2 of the geological section; both seams are being developed at this time.

William Maltby, Braidwood, Will county, has sunk a new shaft to replace the old one which has been abandoned.

L. A. Munts & Sons have opened a new mine one mile southwest of Streator, in Livingston county.

Price & Jones have leased the mine formerly operated by Burrell & Massey, in Livingston county.

Evan Roberts has leased the mine formerly operated by A. W. Pauk & Co., two miles south of Streator, Livingston county. After operating it during the winter it was found unprofitable and abandoned. Henry Worthington & Co. have leased the mine formerly operated by Benjamin Davis, one mile southwest of Streator, LaSalle county.

Abandoned mines.—The following mines have been abandoned in LaSalle county: Price & Jones, Bargreen Bros., Castetter Bros., and L. A. Munts & Sons, all near Streator, and Chas. Scott, at Kangley.

The Braceville Coal Co. has abandoned its No. 4 mine, near Braceville, Grundy county.

A. W. Telfer & Son have abandoned their mine near Morris, Grundy county.

Improvements.—The Acme Coal Co., of Streator, LaSalle county, has erected an 8-foot fan, built by L. W. Graves, of Streator, in place of the small Murphy fan formerly in operation, which greatly improves the ventilation of the mine.

The LaSalle Carbon Coal Co., of LaSalle, has put in a pair of first motion Litchfield engines at its LaSalle shaft.

The Oglesby Coal Co., Oglesby, LaSalle county, has reconstructed the entire top works at its shaft, having erected a new tower, put in two new pulleys, and two section four-track shaker screens. These screens were manufactured by the Duncan Foundry & Machine Works, of Alton, Ill. The company has also put in a new 66-foot 100-ton Fairbanks' track scales, also one new boiler, and has reconstructed the fan and fan-house.

Mine Fires.—The fan house of the C. W. & V. Coal Co., at South Wilmington, Grundy county, was destroyed by fire Oct. 22, 1899, about 11 o'clock p. m. How the fire originated is not known, as no one but the night engineer was around the top at the time. There were eight men in the shaft, but all got out safely. Six mules in the mine were suffocated.

Prospective Mines.—The Wilmington Coal Mining & Manufacturing Co. has sunk a new shaft, one mile south of its No. 4 mine, at Diamond, Grundy county.

Labor Trouble.—The LaSalle Zinc Co., of LaSalle, notified the miners, about the last of April, 1900, to square up their places, as the company was going to close down the mine; the reason given was, that they could not operate the mine and pay the present scale of prices; that the company could buy coal cheaper than it could be produced at its own mine. About seventy men were employed at this mine, but all have found employment at other mines in and around LaSalle.

Fatal Accidents.—July 1, 1899, Matthew Brown, sinker, aged 40 years, single, was fatally injured in the sinking shaft at Cardiff, Livingston county. Deceased, with five other men, was working in the shaft, when a small piece of rock fell from the pump room, a distance of 35 feet, striking him on the head and fracturing his skull. He died two days after receiving the injury.