

At the Wolf Bros. colliery, Edwardsville, new hoisting engines have been put in, coupled first motion engines, in place of the single geared engine, with increased boiler power, which will largely increase the output of this colliery.

At No. 1 colliery of the Pana Coal Co. the endless rope system of haulage has been introduced, and is working very successfully, ten cars are hauled at a trip. The rope runs at a speed of 150 to 200 feet per minute, the trains being kept at a distance of about 1,000 feet apart, always insures a full supply of coal at the bottom of the shaft. This system of haulage is very much superior to the tail rope system used in most of the mines in this district. In the tail rope system, owing to the speed of the trains, a special traveling road for the men is required, while in the endless rope system, the speed of the train being slow, the men can get out of the way of the trains at any point; no signals are required, no danger from the cars getting off the track, less wear and tear on the cars and ropes, no coal or coal dust on the tracks, lighter rails can be used and less labor is required in keeping the tracks in repair, and with the improved grip as used at Pana, the endless rope will work and pull coal from all parts of the mine; the hauling roads are always in a safe condition for the employés traveling to and from their work, and in the average of most of the mines in this district, at the distance of a mile of haulage, the endless rope will produce the coal at the bottom of the shaft fully one-fourth cheaper than by mules.

At the No. 2 colliery of the Pana Coal Co. a 20-foot Guibal fan, with expanding chimney, has been erected, a box car loader and a new revolving screen put in. The underground works have been considerably improved, the main entries improved and a double track extended from the shaft for a distance of over 1,000 feet; one new overcast has been put in during the year, and the company is now putting in the endless rope system. This company has dispensed with the coal-cutting machines; the compressor and mining machines have been sold to the Consolidated Coal Co. of St. Louis.

At the Mount Olive Coal Company's colliery, Mount Olive, the ventilation has been increased fully one-half by connecting the engine direct to the fan, and splitting the air currents. Two new overcasts have been put in, and the colliery will be worked from this time on in the three entry system, one intake and two returns; guides have been put in the escape shaft and a suitable cage put in; a pipe has been put in from the fan drift to the general office, connected to the water-gauge, so that the superintendent can at all times see the barometer, water-gauge and thermometer readings from his desk.

Edinburg Coal Co., at Edinburg, Christian county, a large brick tile plant has been erected and is run in connection with the mine company has also erected an electric light plant for lighting the and is at present experimenting with the Thomson & Vandepo cutting machine.