

tian Coal Co., mine No. 2, Marissa; Kolb Coal Co., Vinegar Hill mine, Mascoutah; Missouri & Illinois Coal Co., St. Clair mine, Freeburg; Tirthle Coal Co., Lenzburg; Prairie Coal Co., and Vulcan Coal & Mining Co., Belleville.

CHANGE OF NAME.

Fisher Fuel Co. to Northern Coal Co.; McGouch & Stone to McGouch & Kuntz.

IMPROVEMENTS.

In compliance with a law recently enacted, all coal companies in this district have provided wash houses at their mines, except at small local mines where there is no desire on the part of the miners to have this law enforced, and at mines that are not in operation.

The Southern Coal, Coke & Mining Company has installed a gasoline haulage motor at No. 7 mine.

The Tower Grove Coal Company has put in a 42-inch by 24-foot cylinder boiler.

The Kolb Coal Company has put in another gasoline motor at Fairbanks mine.

The International Coal Company has electrified the Carbon mine to the extent of installing a fan motor and electric mining machines; the power plant consists of a 150 K. W., 250 volt, 525 ampere generator, driven by a 220 horsepower motor.

The Superior Coal Company has installed an electric motor haulage, power being furnished by a 75 K. W., 273 ampere, 250 volt generator, driven by a 150 horsepower motor.

Coal chutes were erected at the Richland mine, located about two miles south of Belleville, on the I. C. R. R., for the purpose of coaling engines on that road.

The Southern Coal, Coke & Mining Company has erected a new engine and boiler house at No. 5 mine.

FIRE AT MINES.

On the 24th day of February, smoke was discovered coming from the old works of the Joseph Taylor Coal Company's Ridge Prairie mine. It was at first thought that the smoke was coming from an old fire that had been sealed up in the mine for years. Steps were taken immediately to suspend operation of the mine with a view of repairing the old fire walls, but, upon investigation, it was discovered that a new fire had originated, the supposition is, from spontaneous combustion, and after all efforts to locate the seat of the fire had failed, the management decided to appeal to the Superior Coal Company's rescuing corps of Gillespie for assistance. These gentlemen responded to the call at once, and arrived with the necessary paraphernalia, consisting of helmets and other necessary instruments, the same day, and proceeded at once to locate the fire, but owing to the dense smoke and intense heat, the management decided to abandon the idea of extinguishing the fire, and at once made preparations to seal it in. This work was successfully carried on with a day and a night shift, so that on the 15th day of March the mine resumed operation. Owing to the unsystemlike manner in which mines were worked in former years, a mine fire in old workings becomes a very difficult problem to handle, and on account of this fact, the working force was put to a great disadvantage by not being able to properly conduct the ventilating current, so as to carry away the smoke and obnoxious gases given off by the fire. Sufficient timber to properly secure the roof also became a serious matter. Timber had to be carried through old workings, over rock and slate falls, to the place where it was needed. Twenty-one fire walls were put up before the fire was finally considered safely under control.

FATAL ACCIDENTS.

September 28, 1914, John Mullitt, miner, married, employed in the St. Louis & O'Fallon Coal Company's No. 2 mine, East St. Louis, St. Clair County, was killed, while loading a car, by a fall of slate. He leaves a widow and three children.

October 28, 1914, Hiram A. Cobb, mining engineer, age 32 years, single, was caught between a motor and coal rib and killed in No. 7 mine of the Southern Coal, Coke & Mining Company, Belleville, St. Clair County.

March 5, 1915, Frank DeLorme, trip rider, age 39 years, married, was killed in the St. Louis & O'Fallon Coal Company's No. 2 mine, East St. Louis, St. Clair County. Deceased was riding the front end of a trip of empty cars when he fell off and under the trip, the first four cars passing over him.

March 16, 1915, Louis Zebie, miner, age 30 years, single, was killed in No. 2 mine of the St. Louis & O'Fallon Coal Company by a premature shot. The supposition is, that while deceased was charging a shot, the last cartridge got fast in the drill hole, and in trying to break it with the sharp end of the tamping bar, he ignited the powder.

May 22, 1915, Dan Darmstetter, miner, age 51 years, married, was killed by a fall of rock while loading a car in the Kolb Coal Company's Fairbanks mine, New Athens, St. Clair County. He leaves a widow and seven children.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. HARTMAN,
State Inspector of Mines, Ninth District, Belleville, Ill.

FATAL CASUALTIES, NINTH DISTRICT, JUNE 30, 1915.

Date.	Name.	Age.	Occupation.	Residence.	Married.	Single.	Widow.	Children.	Dependents.	Cause of death.
1914										
Sept. 28	John Mullitt.....		Miner.....	Belleville.....	1	1	3	4		Falling slate.
Oct. 28	Hiram A. Cobb.....	32	Mining engineer	..do.....	1					Caught between motor and rib.
1915										
Mar. 5	Frank DeLorme.....	39	Trip rider.....	Caseyville.....	1	1	1	2		Pit cars.
16	Louis Zebie.....	30	Miner.....	Collinsville.....	1	1				Premature shot.
May 22	Dan Darmstetter....	51	..do.....	New Athens... ..	1	1	7	4		Falling rock.
	Total.....				3	2	3	11	10	

RECAPITULATION OF FATAL ACCIDENTS, NINTH DISTRICT, 1915.

Residence.	No.	Occupation.	No.	Cause of death.	No.	Colliery.	No.
Belleville.....	2	Miners.....	3	Caught between mo-		Kolb Coal Co.....	1
Caseyville.....	1	Mining engineer...	1	tor and rib.....	1	St. Louis & O'F. C. Co.	4
Collinsville.....	1	Trip rider.....	1	Falling rock.....	1		
New Athens.....	1			Falling slate.....	1		
				Pit cars.....	1		
				Premature shot....	1		
Total.....	5		5		5		5