

FIFTH INSPECTION DISTRICT—1896.

Mr. George A. Schilling, Secretary of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Springfield, Illinois:

SIR:—In accordance with section 12 of "An act providing for the health and safety of persons employed in coal mines," I have the honor to present the first annual report for the year ending July 1, 1896, of the Fifth district, as now defined by section II of the above act, as amended by the Thirty-ninth General Assembly, being the thirteenth annual report of the State Inspectors of mines.

The following is a summary of the tabular statements for all of the counties in the district:

Number of counties in the district.....	17
Number of counties in which coal is produced.....	10
Total number of mines.....	94
Total number of shipping mines.....	51
Total number of local mines.....	43
Total tons of all grades sold or consumed.....	4,689,990
Total tons of lump coal produced.....	3,199,961
Total tons of other grades.....	1,490,029
Total tons produced by hand mining.....	1,765,179
Total tons produced by machine mining.....	5,796
Total number of employes.....	5,758
Total number employed below ground.....	5,131
Total number employed on the surface.....	627
Boys under 16 years of age employed under ground.....	121
Number of fatal accidents.....	16
Number of non-fatal accidents.....	98
Number of tons produced to each person killed.....	293,124
Number of tons produced to each person injured.....	47,857
Number of persons killed per 1,000 employed.....	2.76
Number of persons injured per 1,000 employed.....	16.9
Number of persons employed to each person killed.....	362
Number of persons employed to each person injured.....	59

New Mines.—The Montgomery County Coal Company has recently sunk a shaft on the Cleveland, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railway, at DeWitt. At the depth of 534 feet a seam of coal eight feet thick was reached, which is probably No. 5 of the Illinois Geological Survey.

At the depth of 324 feet, a seam of coal seven feet six inches in thickness, probably No. 5 of the Illinois Geological Survey, was found in a shaft sunk by D. J. Lloyd, on the line of the Pawnee railroad, at Pawnee, Sangamon county.

Developments.—Work in two small seams found at 900 feet deep in the shaft of the Moweaqua Coal Mining and Manufacturing Company, at Moweaqua, Shelby Co. has been abandoned, as the thickness of the seams and the price obtained for the coal did not justify further development. The working of No. 5 seam is continued, part of the coal being mined by machinery.

The Litchfield Mining and Power Company drilled a hole with a diamond drill from the bottom of the shaft, which was 535 feet deep, to a seam six feet 4 inches thick, which was found at the depth of 68 feet. The shaft has been sunk to the lower seam; the upper seam has been abandoned and the lower seam is now being developed.

The Chicago-Virden Coal Company has purchased the mine formerly owned by the Sugar Creek Coal Company at Auburn, Sangamon county.

Ventilation—A fan twenty feet in diameter has been erected at the mine of the Girard Coal Company, Girard, Macoupin county.

Fires—The entire top works and the timbering of the hoisting shaft at the mine of the Coffeen Coal and Copper Company, Coffeen, Montgomery county, were destroyed by fire during the night of November 5, 1895. One of the smokestacks set fire to the roof of the boiler house. When the fire started, the engineer had the pump installed for fire purposes apart, packing the water end, so the water service could not be used to extinguish the fire. The mine was idle until April 22, 1896.

The engine house and hoisting-department boiler house were destroyed and the hoisting engine damaged by a fire that started about 5 a. m. on March 6, 1896, at No. 6 mine of the Consolidated Coal Company of St. Louis, at Staunton, Macoupin county.

June 12, 1896, at about 8 o'clock, a fire started in the oilhouse, near the bottom of the hoisting shaft, of the Taylorville Coal Company, Taylorville, Christian county. The bottom timbers became ignited, then the fire was conveyed up the shaft to the top works, which were quickly destroyed. The damage consisted in the burning of the bottom timbers, which let down large masses of unbroken rock for some distance along both sides of the main roadway from the bottom of the shaft; the partial burning of the lining of the shaft, so that it had to be renewed throughout; the entire destruction of the mine buildings and coal-cleaning plant, and damage to the hoisting engine, air compressor and boilers. The rapidity with which the fire was communicated from the bottom to the top was somewhat surprising, as it is reported that there was very little inflammable oil in the oilhouse, and there was no more timbering about the bottom than the ordinary unlined sets that are placed where the roof and sides are fairly good; the shaft was wet, as there is a lodgement below the surface drainage that occasionally overflows, and the shaft was being used as the down cast at the time. The men in the mine left by way of the escapement shaft.

Fatal Accidents—John L. Dixon, aged 53 years, married, occupation mine manager, was killed at 9:10 a. m., July 9, 1895, at the mine of the Penwell Coal Mining Company, Pana, Christian county. He was standing near the elevator boot, removing an obstruction on the slide, when a railroad car partly filled with nut coal crushed him against a post of the elevator frame, causing instant death. There was a clearance of six inches between the car and the posts of the elevator. The car was being moved with a pinchbar. A man was talking to Mr. Dixon, and the sliding door of the elevator boot