

JOSEPH TAYLOR'S MINE

is situated at Alma, or Ridge Prairie, and is one of the old mines of the Gartside Coal Co., the other at this place having been abandoned. The present proprietor bought the remnant of coal in these old workings, the use of plant, etc., and is getting what he can out of them, with a force of 43 employes in the works. At both of my visits the air at the working faces was unavoidably bad, owing to the extent and irregularity of the old workings and the accumulations of old refuse. I advised taking the pillars in sets from the face backwards, as a means of insuring better air-ways.

James Conroy, a blind miner well known throughout the field, was badly hurt at this place while drilling out a shot which had missed fire. His injuries were thought to be fatal, but he recovered, and has given up mining.

THE VANCOURT MINE.

This mine is situated on the Ohio and Mississippi railroad at O'Fallon, and at my first visit was operated by B. W. Williamson. I found the place in very bad condition, and ordered extensive repairs, especially on the shaft, which subsequently caved in. In February a co-operative company of miners took the property, and have made good progress in excavating and retimbering the shaft, and have promised to put the place in good condition.

THE GARTSIDE COAL CO.

This company operates two mines, located on the Ohio and Mississippi railroad at Ridge Prairie, and known as the "Cross-Roads" and "Mentor" mines.

The Cross-Roads is an old mine, wrought on the double-entry plan, which gives employment to 65 men inside. The coal is mined with 5 Harrison machines. There is no escapement shaft, but an entry is being driven to connect the working with the company's mine adjoining.

The Mentor mine is a new mine, the shaft having been completed in June last. In November they were still working at the bottom, having just started cross-entries, one of which is to make the connection with the old mine, thus affording not only the necessary escapement for both, but a gallery for conducting the pipes conveying air from the compressor to the machines of both mines.

William Mellett, Superintendent.

THE EMMETT MINE.

This mine is on the Louisville and Nashville railroad. It was found in good condition, employing 28 men, to whom over 5,000 cubic feet of air per minute was distributed. This force has since been reduced until the engineer is able to do all the hoisting and dumping, and then trim the cars.

THE REINECKE MINE No. 2.

This property is located contiguous to the Belleville Nail Mill, and supplies that establishment with coal, which is delivered direct from the mine in pit cars to the mill. The miners at this place put a check-weighman at the top to inspect the weighing of the coal, and the proprietor thereupon removed his weighmaster, leaving the whole matter in the hands of the representative of the men.

Twenty-five men were employed underground at the time of inspection. A good volume of air was passing in the main entries, but still it was deficient in some of the rooms, and the attention of the pit-boss was called to it, with instructions to correct the evil.

YOCK BROS. MINE.

This is a single-entry mine, with entries 30 feet wide. It is connected with a foundry and machine shop owned by the same parties, who are the patentees and manufacturers of the Yock mining machines. The mine is worked with these machines, and gives employment to 65 men underground. All men are paid by the day. The blaster and loader work together, and receive \$4.40 for 24 boxes of coal, which is considered a day's work. The boxes contain 22 bushels. The air-ways are $10\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and the volume of air passing measured 7,623 cubic feet per minute.

HAZZARD & EMORY, BELLEVILLE.

This is also a single-entry mine, employing 15 miners. At the time of my visit the air was being turned so as to thaw the ice out of the hoisting shaft, and since then I have had no opportunity to give it a personal inspection. Miners report good air and a good escapement. Mr. Emory, Sup't, looks after this place, and also the mines of the same parties on the Cairo Short-line.

A. OGDEN & SON, RENTCHLER.

These parties are operating a small single-entry mine, employing about 20 men. They ventilate with a furnace, and had an abundance of air. One or the other of the firm runs the engine. I have not been able to visit any of the mines on this road more than once.

RENTCHLER COAL CO.

This company employs about 10 miners, and shows a good volume of air in the workings. The coal is weighed at the bottom by the cager before it is hoisted, and the engineer dumps it and trims the cars. This company has only been in operation since last December.

WILLIAM CRAWSON & SONS, RENTCHLER.

These parties employ about 20 men, and are spoken well of by them. The volume of air is somewhat more than 100 cubic feet to the man. The scales at this place are also at the bottom of the