

Comparative table of tons of lump coal by counties, for the years ending July 1, 1893 and 1894:

COUNTIES.	1893. Tons produced.	1894. Tons produced.	Tons increase.	Tons decrease.
Grundy	1,106,574	1,052,233	.....	54,341
Kankakee	83,700	50,883	.....	32,817
La Salle	1,242,566	968,244	.....	274,322
Livingston	402,370	276,654	.....	125,716
Will	77,934	19,285	.....	58,649
Totals	2,913,144	2,367,299	.....	545,845
Total output, all grades	3,394,686	2,685,245	.....	708,441

New Mines.—In Grundy county, the Big Four Company opened and equipped a new mine in first-class style near Coal City, and it promises to be one of the best in the county; the shaft is well conditioned below, with a good uniform vein, and dry, which is a very desirable thing in this field; the shaft differs from all others in the district, being a round shaft; it is timbered with two-inch plank, whether the using of such light timber is wisdom or not is questioned by many; but, the surface or drift through which the shaft is sunk is exceptionally good; if it had been otherwise, the two-inch plank might have proven to be too light. The other new mines in the county are all local mines of the small order; they are owned by F. Gilbride, Esply & Co., and Meagher & Datreman, all gin-shafts near Morris.

In Kankakee county, the Gardner-Wilmington Coal Co. has opened a shaft to No. 7 vein, about one mile south of Clark City; this shaft is excellently equipped with 16x32 in. first motion hoisting engines, two flue boilers, 5x20ft., and a large Norwalk compressor to run the mining machines, which they intend putting in soon. This company also has the Parker revolving screen, and Russell & Parsons self-dumping cages, which will make it in all a first class plant, and likely a great producer.

In LaSalle county, the Springhill Coal Company has opened a mine to No. 2 vein on the I. V. & N. railroad, between Streator and Kangley. Nelson Plumb has also opened a shaft to No. 2 vein at Streator. At Rutland a new shaft has been opened, although the coal is being taken from the same workings as the Emerson-Hakes shaft, which is now abandoned; the new company is the Northern Illinois Coal Company. The C. W. & V. Company has opened a mine at Heanan Park, about five miles from Streator. This shaft is equipped in first-class style, and will work a field of coal nine feet thick, and in all probability has the greatest capacity of any shaft in this district. Two small local mines have been opened in the neighborhood of Streator by Rynn & Roberts and Wm. Thorn; also two local mines near Heanan Park by Chas. Scott and Jack McNeil, making eight new mines in this county.

In Livingston county, three small local mines have been opened, viz.: Barton & Manahan, Oscar Kimes and William Burrell, all in the vicinity of Streator.

In Will county, one new mine has been opened, the "Q," by the C. W. & V. Coal Company, a little south of Braidwood. A record for one day's hoisting in this field was made by the Wilmington Mining and Manufacturing Company, at its No. 4 shaft, at Diamond, March 29, 1894. The

output was 2,061 tons of lump coal, and 290 tons of other grades, making a total of 2,351 tons. This was regarded as a very large output, considering that the thickness of the seam is only three feet, and the weight of the loads about 1,400 pounds.

Abandoned Mines.—In Grundy county, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Coal Company abandoned its No. 2 mine at Braceville, March 3, 1894. This has been a wonderfully productive mine, having since it was opened produced 2,294,285 tons of coal and worked out about 454 acres, an average of about 5,050 tons to the acre. At Braidwood, the Chicago, Wilmington & Vermilion Coal Company has abandoned for the present, April 1, 1894, its "O" shaft. It may be re-opened at some future time. At Morris, Frank Gilbride has abandoned his old mine and sunk a new one.

In LaSalle county, the Chicago, Wilmington & Vermilion Coal Company has abandoned its No. 2 mine at Streator. At Rutland, the Emerson-Hakes old mine has been abandoned and is used as an air-shaft for the new mine opened by the Northern Illinois Coal Company. The mines of J. L. Drake, Marseilles; Peter Rynn, Wm. Lawton, and M. Baldwin, Streator, and S. C. McClairy, at Kangley, have been abandoned.

In Livingston county, the mines of Lukins & Cavanaugh, John Marshall and the Pleasant Hill Coal Company have been abandoned.

Improvements.—In Grundy county, at Braceville, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Coal Company, at its No. 4 mine, has put in self-dumping kettles; the kettles rest below the level of the bottom of the shaft, and the coal is dumped into these kettles and then hoisted; the coal is dumped from the kettles very easy on to the screen, and the screening of the coal is done more efficiently. It is claimed to be just as economical as the self-dumping cage. At Kangley the Star Coal Company, at its No. 2 shaft, has put in an endless rope system of haulage, which is giving good results. The plant was put in by the Litchfield (Ill.) Manufacturing Company.

Electricity.—The Chicago, Wilmington & Vermilion Coal Company, at its No. 3 mine, Streator, is hauling coal by electric motors, using the Sperry type, good results are obtained. Before the strike, a Thompson-Huston motor was being tried. It is quite a sight to see a motor hauling a train of cars, numbering from sixteen to twenty, with the electric flashes, in the dark, from the motor wheels and trolley. Two large dynamos furnish the power. This company experimented with the Sperry electric mining machine at its "P" shaft, Braidwood, but finally took out the plant, from which it might be inferred it was not a success.

Ventilation.—In some of the older mines, in this district, the workings have become so extended and the number of men employed has so increased, that the provisions, which were ample for ventilating these mines when they were less extended, are now found to be insufficient. Some of the