

local mines being opened in Vermilion and Shelby counties, but, as about the same number have been abandoned during the year it is unnecessary to particularize.

ABANDONED MINES.

The Moultrie County Coal company, Lovington, Moultrie county, after expending considerable money, time and labor in an attempt to sink a shaft, at that place, finally abandoned the project, and sold its interest to the Prudential Mining company of Danville.

The latter company expect to commence sinking operations some time in the future.

The Brookside mine No. 1, operated by the Brookside Coal company has been abandoned.

ESCAPEMENT SHAFTS.

Escapement shafts have been completed as follows:

The Kellyville Coal company, Danville, at its No. 4 and 5 mines; the John O'Connell Coal company has sunk an additional escape and air shaft at the Blue Bird mine, Grape Creek; the Latham Coal company, Lincoln, after a good deal of trouble with sand and water, and at a big expense has finally succeeded in completing the escapement shaft at its mine.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The Westville Coal company, Westville, Vermilion county, has changed the system of haulage, from mule to electric. The company has also put in two six-ton motors of the Morgan-Gardner type, and can now handle the output of the mine with ease.

The Penwell Coal company, Pana, Christian county, has changed the system of haulage underground, and have put in the Goodman Electric system. The company has built an addition to the engine room for the dynamo and engine. The engine is 147 horse power indicated, of the McEwen type, 17x16 inches bore. The dyamo is a six pole multipolar, 125 Kilo Watt, Goodman generator, driven by a belt. The motors underground are of the Goodman eight ton type, developing 75 horse power, and are geared to eight miles an hour. Two motors are in operation, one on the east and one on the west side of the mine. The main haulage ways are lighted by electricity, east and west, the plant is a success in every particular.

The Pana Coal company, Pana, Christian county, has also changed its system of haulage, from endless rope to electric. The engine is of the McEwen type 17x16 inches bore, and 150 horse power direct, connected to a Goodman Dynamo, which is a 125 Kilo Watt, multipolar generator. The underground motor is of the Goodman 12-ton type, developing 200 horse power. It is geared to 12 miles an hour. This plant for some reason is not as successful as was expected, but no doubt all difficulties will be overcome in a short time.

The Citizens' Coal Mining company, Lincoln, Logan county, has sunk an additional chamber at its mine, alongside the main shaft, and down to the lake of water, that was encountered, in order to reduce the pressure, and

drain the water out of the main shaft. The company has retimbered the upper part of the hoisting shaft, also raised and repaired and put a new foundation under the tower.

There have been some improvements in the general condition of many mines during the year, especially in ventilation, and the safety of traveling roads. The operators as a rule have shown a disposition to live up to the requirements of the law, when attention has been called to anything that was contrary to its provisions; in only one instance was it necessary to resort to extreme measures; that was in the case of the Muncie Coal company, Muncie, Vermilion county. This mine was in a very poor and dangerous condition. The management, after repeatedly promising to put the mine in shape, failed to do so, until "forbearance ceasing to be a virtue," I then instituted proceedings in the circuit court of Vermilion county to close the mine, until the company was willing to comply with the law. An injunction was issued against the company by Judge Thompson of that court, Nov. 19, 1902, and the mine was closed. After a few days the company asked permission to reopen the mine and resume work, promising at the same time to comply with all the requirements demanded if allowed to resume work; permission was given, conditional, that the mine be put in good shape and that the company report progress of work being done to the county mine inspector, once every week; this was done for some time when the company again became dilatory and neglectful; however, a letter issued by the court, cautioning the company as to the provisions of the injunction, had the desired effect, and repairing was resumed. The injunction is still in force, but in a short time the condition of the mine will be such that it can be dissolved.

BUSINESS CHANGES.

Jan. 1, 1903, the Himrod Coal company, Danville, disposed of its two mines in Vermilion county, the Pawnee and Himrod, selling the same to the Kellyville Coal company, of that city.

The Taylorville Coal company, Taylorville, has disposed of its mine at Taylorville, selling to the Springfield Coal Mining company, Springfield, Sangamon county.

The Weaver Coal and Coke company is now operating the Springside mine of the Springside Coal Mining company, of Pana, Christian county.

The North mine of the Pana Coal company, after being abandoned for eight years, has been reopened and is being operated by the Newbent Coal company, of Pana, Christian county.

FATAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of fatal accidents has increased in this district from 20 in 1902 to 30 in 1903; about two-thirds of the whole number are from falls of rock and coal. This increase can be accounted for in several ways—first, the increased activity in the mining business over the preceding year; second, the failure of the miners to properly secure their working places, and taking unwarranted risks in order to get a few more tons of coal; the failure of the oper-