

**Improvements.**—The Christian County Coal Co., Taylorville, Christian county, has completed its escapement shaft. The Penwell Coal Co., of Pana, has replaced six of its old boilers with two new Springfield boilers, and has raised and repaired its screen house. The Colfax Coal Co. of Colfax, McLean county, is reopening the north side of its mine which has been closed for several years. This company recently bought out the Colfax Coal and Mining Co., and is expending considerable money in improving the property.

The Davis Coal Co. of Chenoa, McLean county, has sold its mine to a Chicago company. The new company intends to develop the property into a paying mine.

There have been other small improvements at the different mines in the district which have bettered the conditions.

**Fires.**—Sunday night, Dec. 16, 1901, the boiler house, engine house and hoisting drum of the East Colfax Coal Co.'s mine at Colfax was destroyed by fire, caused by the explosion of an oil lamp. The Anglo-American Coal Co. had leased and had taken possession of this mine, expecting to operate it after making the repairs made necessary by the fire. The company however failed to get the insurance money, as the old company claimed and collected it; as a consequence the mine was abandoned.

Feb. 18, 1902, the fan house at the Moweauqua Coal Mining and Manufacturing Co.'s mine was partially destroyed by fire; the damage was small and was repaired in a few days.

**Fatal Accidents.**—July 15, 1901, W. B. Foster, miner, age 49 years, was killed by a fall of coal at the face of his room in the Springside Coal Co.'s mine, Pana, Christian county; he had fired a rib shot which left part of the coal standing; after loading the loose coal he started to mine out the part that was left standing; when he had mined to the powder break the coal rolled over on him, killing him instantly; he leaves a widow and five children.

July 23, 1901, Arthur Langdon, miner, age 17 years, was killed by a fall of coal at the face of his room, where he worked with his father and brother, in the Taylorville Coal Co.'s mine at Taylorville, Christian county. He was undermining and while breaking down the front of the coal for the purpose of cutting deeper, a lump of coal weighing about 300 pounds fell, breaking his neck and killing him instantly.

July 23, 1901, William Engle, driver, age 24 years, was instantly killed by being crushed under a loaded pit car in the Kellyville Coal Co.'s mine No. 3, Westville, Vermillion county. He leaves a widow and one child.

Aug. 12, 1901, John Michena, miner, age 33 years, was instantly killed by a fall of rock in the Brookside Coal Co.'s No. 2 mine, Grape Creek, Vermillion county; he leaves a widow and three children.

Aug. 13, 1901, O. Stevens, driver, age 28 years, employed at the Himrod Coal Co.'s Himrod mine, Grape Creek, Vermillion county, was fatally injured by being crushed between a pit car and the coal rib. He died five days after the accident, leaving a widow.

Aug. 17, 1901, John Cairns, superintendent of the Moweauqua Coal Mining & Manufacturing Co., Moweauqua, Shelby county, was fatally injured by