

## THIRD INSPECTION DISTRICT—1906.

## FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

Counties—Livingston, Marshall, Peoria, Putnam, Stark, Woodford.

JAMES TAYLOR, *Inspector, Peoria.*

HON. DAVID ROSS,

*Secretary, State Bureau of Labor Statistics, Springfield, Illinois:*

SIR—I have the honor to submit the first annual report of the coal mines located in the third inspection district as now defined, the coal producing counties of which are Livingston, Marshall, Peoria, Putnam, Stark and Woodford.

The tabular part of the report gives the number of tons of coal mined; the number of kegs of powder consumed; the number of boys over 16 years of age working in the mines; also the number of miners and others employed in and about the mines; the number of shipping and local mines; the aggregate value of the total product at the mines; the thickness of the coal seams, with the geological numbers and the depth of the seams below the surface; the number of casualties, fatal and non-fatal; the number of mines, old, new and abandoned; the total tons of the different grades of coal produced, and the number of days of active operation of each mine during the year.

The following summary presents, in condensed form, the items contained in the county and other tables:

Number of counties producing coal.....	6
Total number of mines.....	129
Number of shipping mines.....	29
Number of local mines.....	100
Number of abandoned mines.....	100
Total number of employes.....	3,623
Number of miners.....	2,692
Number of other employes underground.....	508
Number of boys underground.....	80
Number of employes above ground.....	343
Number of kegs of powder used.....	54,683
Total tons of coal produced.....	1,869,023
Tons of mine run.....	496,627
Tons of lump.....	989,251
Tons of egg.....	38,970
Tons of nut.....	51,595
Tons of pea or screenings.....	245,962
Tons of slack or waste.....	46,618
Tons of coal shipped from mines.....	1,498,229
Tons supplied to locomotives at mines.....	58,978
Tons sold to local trade.....	245,434
Tons consumed or wasted at mines.....	66,382
Aggregate value of total product.....	\$2,458,196
Average value per ton at mines, all grades.....	\$1.315
Average number of days, active operation, shipping mines.....	205

Average price paid for hand mining, shipping mines.....	\$0.678
Number of fatal accidents.....	6
Number of non-fatal accidents.....	24
Number of tons of coal to each fatal accident.....	311,504
Number of tons of coal to each non-fatal accident.....	77,876
Number of employes to each fatal accident.....	604
Number of employes to each non-fatal accident.....	151
Ratio of fatal accidents per 1,000 persons employed.....	1.7

The following comparative table presents the tonnage of each county now in the third district for the years 1905-1906:

COUNTY.	TOTAL TONS, ALL GRADES OF COAL.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1905	1906		
Livingston.....	244,394	281,035	36,641	
Marshall.....	510,968	437,230		73,738
Peoria.....	904,692	844,484		60,408
Putnam.....	42,964	135,004	92,040	
Stark.....	38,431	34,696		3,735
Woodford.....	118,679	136,574	17,895	
Totals.....	1,860,328	1,869,023	146,576	137,881
Net increase.....		8,695		

The counties of Livingston, Putnam and Woodford show an increase of 146,576 tons over last year. Marshall, Peoria and Stark show a decrease of 137,881 tons, leaving a net increase of 8,695 tons for the district.

The change in the number of inspection districts of the State, from seven to ten, which went into effect July 1, 1905, gave to this district Livingston county from the old first district; Marshall, Putnam and Stark from the second, and Woodford from the fourth, leaving only Peoria county in this district as formerly.

## IMPROVEMENTS.

At mine No. 2, Minonk, Woodford county, operated by the Minonk Coal Company, there have been installed two new boilers, 5½ by 21 feet, with three 16-inch flues; a pair of Crawford & McCrimmon first motion hoisting engines, 20 by 36 inches, with a drum 8 feet in diameter. Two new steel cages, with new steel ropes, 1¼ inches in diameter, have also been placed in the hoisting shaft, and a new stairway has been completed in the escapement shaft.

A new passageway has been provided for the men to travel to the escapement shaft, so as to avoid going through accumulated water in getting to the escapement. For the purpose of securing adequate ventilation a new fan 5 by 10 feet has been erected at the old shaft, and thereby a much needed improvement in ventilation has been secured.

The West End Coal Company at Fairbury, Livingston county, also the Brady Coal Company, at Pontiac, in the same county, have completed escapement shafts and connected them with the main workings.

## DISCIPLINE IN COAL MINES.

A more rigid discipline in the operation of coal mines in this State and a more judicious discrimination in the selection of miners should be exercised. The mine managers should see to it that a code of rules is officially issued and enforced, also that the present mining laws are complied with; shot frers should be compelled to comply with the statute, and make a thorough examination of all shots before they are fired; also to have a rule that all