

HOPE MINE.

This is a shaft 120 feet deep, located two miles east of Pekin, on the C., P. & S. W., and I., B. & W. railroads, and is operated by Louis Grant & Sons. The system by which this mine is worked renders it very difficult to maintain good air courses and hauling roads, as the entries or roadways are driven 15 feet wide, requiring a great deal of timber and labor to keep them secure. The ventilating current was found to be largely in excess of the legal standard, and was produced by a seven foot fan of their own make, located at the bottom of the escape shaft, but the quality of the air was poor, on account of the black-damp that is emitted from the old workings, which are very extensive. Improvements that were about to be made were prevented by fire, which occurred on the night of December 7, 1884, consuming all the top buildings, including engine and boiler house, dumps and railroad chutes. Estimated loss \$8,000. The fire is supposed to have originated from a spark from one of the locomotives on the I., B. & W. R. R. The place was rebuilt and put in operation May 6, 1885, by Louis Grant, who leased it from D. M. Alexander, of Pekin, proprietor and former operator.

Louis Grant, Manager.

HAWLEY'S MINE.

This is a shaft 90 feet deep, situated four miles south of Pekin, on a switch from the P., D. & E. R. R. The operators of this mine have had trouble with standing water in six acres of old workings adjoining, but have succeeded in getting it out by tapping in several places. Otherwise the mine is in good condition. Guards had been put around the shaft opening, and the managers were notified to put a brake on drum, and safety catches on cages.

P. Connars, Mine Manager.

LEDTERMAN MINE.

This is a mine 90 feet deep, located two miles southeast of Pekin, supplying local trade, and is a poorly managed place. The operator was restrained from working more than one man from May 9, until he had secured an escapement by connecting with an old shaft 300 feet distant, and repaired his hoisting shaft, which was unsafe. I have since learned that the escapement is completed. The ventilation in this mine was very poor, but will be somewhat better now that the connection between the two shafts is made. Guards have been put on shaft opening, and the operator notified to put in new cages and safety catches.

Rundle & Goold's mine, adjoining the above, was in fair condition.

In Dissman's mine, three miles east of Pekin, the air was found to be very bad. The operators were notified to hang doors to conduct the air properly, and to fire the furnace, and also to put guards around the opening.

Millard's mine, at Hilton, is shut down because lacking an escapement.

The Rushia mine was found to be in fair order, but rather wet on the hauling roads.

WOODFORD COUNTY.

There are two mines in this county working seam No. 2, which averages two feet five inches in thickness, and has produced 119,740 tons of coal in the past year.

THE CHICAGO AND MINONK COAL CO.

This shaft is 550 feet deep, located at Minonk, on the lines of the I. C. R. R. and the C., P. & S. W. R. R., and worked by long-wall. The coal face is nearly three-fourths of a mile from the bottom of the shaft. Here are fine facilities for rope haulage, and it is contemplated putting a rope in to haul from two different sections. The condition of this mine below was good, though the ventilating current, produced by a twelve-foot fan, was hardly up to the legal standard. A subsequent visit found it much improved, from having had a number of openings left for air to circulate through, instead of one, as formerly, and the distance has been shortened. The cleaning and enlargement of the air-courses leading to the upcast, when finished, will give good results for the labor and money expended. The escapement shaft at this mine is located 100 yards from the hoisting shaft, but is so situated with frame buildings adjoining, in connection with tile and brick manufacture, that it would be greatly endangered in the event of fire. I recommended a fire-proof building being erected around the escapement shaft. A brick boiler house is also being constructed. The erection of these two buildings, with the fire pumps, hose-piping, and the abundant supply of water at command, will reduce the danger from fire at the mine to a minimum. There were eleven boilers generating steam for the mine and for the brick and tile works. These have now been reduced to eight, and tubular boilers with 39 tubes each have been substituted for the two flue boilers.

Miner T. Ames, Proprietor and Superintendent.

D. McDonald, Mine Manager.

THE ROANOKE MINING CO.

This company has a shaft 480 feet deep, situated at Roanoke, on the C., P. & S. W. R. R., and worked by long-wall. The ventilation in this mine has been very defective, but will be good now that the escapement shaft is completed, with a ten-foot Brazil fan in operation at the top.

Joseph Belsley, Superintendent.

John Grey, Mine Manager.