

NEW MINES.

The Farmersville Coal Mining Company of Farmersville, Montgomery county, has sunk a mine one-half mile south of town, to the No. 6 seam, and are now equipping the mine in the most modern style.

The shaft is 369 feet to the coal; the seam is 9 feet thick and has a very good roof. The company is now sinking the air shaft, also putting in the side tracks on top, and will probably be ready to ship coal the beginning of the coming winter.

The Montgomery County Coal Company of Hillsboro, Montgomery county, has sunk a mine to the No. 6 seam, two and one-half miles southwest of Hillsboro; the company is equipping this mine for a very large tonnage. Both the hoisting and air shaft are down to the coal; both are the same dimensions, 9 by 16 feet. The shaft is 470 feet deep. A shaker screen has been put in, 8 by 52 feet, equipped to make all sizes of coal. There are two Bonson patent boilers, each 400 horsepower, with a working pressure of 150 pounds. The engines are the Litchfield make, 26 by 42 inches, with a cone drum. Steel pit cars of 4-ton capacity are used in the mine. All the other equipments are of the latest style.

FIRES.

Sept. 28, 1907, a fire at the Consolidated Coal Company's mine No. 15, Mt. Olive, Macoupin county, completely destroyed the engine and boiler rooms, together with one large compressor; also damaging another compressor and the hoisting engine. The destruction of the property caused the mine to remain idle until December 3rd following.

The night of Oct. 3, 1907, a fire destroyed the top works of the Penwell Coal Mining Company at Pana, Christian county. There were eighteen men in the mine at the time, all of whom were rescued, but with great difficulty; not, however, because the way of escape was not in first-class shape. The men came out through an opening from this mine to the Smith-Lohr mine, which was on the east side of the shaft; the men were on the west side and had to cross to the east side, passing the shaft. The hoisting shaft is both a down and an up cast, the two currents being separated by a partition. The hoisting compartment, being the downcast, carried the flame to the bottom, setting the mine cars on fire, also burning through the partition, filling both the intake and return air courses with smoke, which almost completely shut the men from retreat. All of the mules, except five which were burned, were taken out the next day.

The company has since connected the west side of the mine with the Pana Coal Company's No. 1 mine, making a separate escape for each side of the mine.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The Penwell Coal Mining Company at Pana, Christian county, in consequence of a fire, had to rebuild the entire whole top works of its mine, consisting of the tippie, screenings bin, box car loader house, fan house and all machinery therein, also the railroad chutes. The old-style cage was replaced with a self-dumping cage, thereby increasing the capacity of the mine; the time consumed in dumping with the new cage is much less than with the old. Special cars have been built to convey the coal from the mine to the railroad chutes, thus doing away with the storing of mine cars on top at night, as is done at many places where railroad engines are coaled. The Crawford and McCrinnon fan, which was also burned, was replaced with a 12-foot Stevens fan. This fan, under a trial, produced 167,000 cubic feet of air with a water gauge of 4.7 inches. The Clover Leaf Coal Company at Coffeen, Macoupin county, has installed at its No. 2 mine a Capell fan of 200,000 cubic feet capacity; also electric haulage.

The Superior Coal Company at Gillespie has installed electric haulage at its No. 3 mine, operating one motor on each side of the shaft.