

NEW MINES.

In Vermilion county the Westville Coal Co. has completed its mine No. 2. This mine is intended for, and no doubt will be, a large producer in the near future, being fitted with all modern improvements. The escape and air shafts are completed and a 20-foot Crawford & McCrimmon fan installed. This company has also sunk mine No. 3, and have recently reached coal.

The Riolo Coal Co. is also sinking mine No. 4 in the same field.

The Electric Coal Co. has completed and equipped a new mine on the Big Four railroad about three miles west of Danville; the escapement and air shafts are also completed and a 15-foot Crawford & McCrimmon fan has been installed.

E. S. Gray has sunk and put in operation a new mine on the Big Four railroad about five miles west of Danville.

In Macon county the Blue Mound Coal Co., Blue Mound, has completed the sinking of its mine at that place; striking the number five seam at a depth of 500 feet; the coal is five feet and two inches thick. This mine is equipped with a steel tower, Duncan shaker screen and cages, and Litchfield engines, 24x36 inches. The air and escape shaft, which will be 8x12 feet in the clear, is now down about 150 feet.

The Manufacturers and Consumers Coal Co. of Decatur, has completed and put in operation a new mine at Decatur, striking the number five seam at a depth of 544 feet; the seam has an average thickness of four feet eight inches; the company has opened this mine on the room-and-pillar system, and have put in mining machinery. This is a departure from the system in the other two mines at Decatur, both of which are working on the long-wall plan. The engines are first motion. The company has also put in shaker screens to handle the output. The escape shaft is down about 450 feet.

In Shelby county the Century Coal Co. of Tower Hill, reached the coal about a year ago, at a depth of 802 feet, striking the Pana seam, with a thickness of eight feet; however, no work has been done excepting the driving of entries some 300 or 400 feet from the bottom. The engines, tower and cages are now in place and everything ready to begin operations as soon as a mining price can be agreed upon. The escape and air shaft, which is 8x12 feet in the clear, is down about 400 feet.

The foregoing are all shipping mines; regarding the local mines, there has been more or less changes as usual from year to year, and it will not add to the interest of this report to give such changes in detail.

ABANDONED MINES.

There have been no shipping mines abandoned in this district this year; but among the local mines there have been quite a number abandoned, and a like number have taken their places; the individual cases have not been noted.

PROSPECTIVE MINES.

The Kirksville Coal Co., Kirksville, Moultrie county, is sinking a shaft at that place. The shaft is now down about 100 feet; the company expects to strike the small seam, which is worked in Shelby county, at a depth of 150 feet, then drill from that depth and find what seam is below, if any. Some 30 or 35 years ago there was a small mine operated about half a mile from the present opening, which is one mile south of the village of Kirksville. The present company is composed of citizens of Sullivan and Kirksville, prospecting ventures are being made, the outcome of which is problematical.

The Lovington Coal Co., Lovington, Moultrie county, has commenced the sinking of a shaft at that place. This is the same location where the Moultrie County Coal Co. began to sink a shaft two years ago and failed. The new company is making the second attempt in sinking and hope to be successful.

The Christian County Coal Co. has commenced sinking operations at Stonington, Christian county.