

Total number of kegs of powder used.....	53,944
Average number of days worked.....	175
Average price for mining in summer.....	\$0 48.83
Average price for mining in winter.....	54.35
Average value of the coal at the mines.....	85.7
Number of employés to each fatal accident.....	524
Number of employés to each non-fatal accident.....	88.7
Number of tons of coal produced for each fatal accident.....	251,316
Number of tons of coal produced for each non-fatal accident.....	42,530
Number of new ropes put in, in the place of old ones.....	41
Number of new cages put in, in the place of old ones.....	17
Number of new fans.....	16
Number of new furnaces.....	2
Number of new boilers, replacing old ones.....	7
Shafts retimbered.....	4
Number of new escapement shafts completed during the year.....	12

*Litigation*—It became absolutely necessary, at times, to enter into litigation, on account of the persistency with which a few operators and mine managers continue to violate the mining laws.

Suit was commenced in Justice Phillips' court at Belleville, against Daniel Marsh, of Marsh & Son, of that place, for hoisting men on a cage, the safety catches of which were not adjusted, and with a rope that had been previously condemned. While hoisting men out of the shaft this rope broke, and the safety-catches not being properly adjusted, the cage with its load fell about 75 feet to the bottom of the shaft, injuring several men. This accident was reported in 1888. Justice Phillips decided the case against the State, on the grounds that Mr. Marsh not being present at the mine when the men were being hoisted, could not be held responsible. Suit was immediately brought against Mr. Alex. Powell, the superintendent for Marsh & Son, on the same charges, before Justice Gentz; a change of venue was taken by Mr. Powell to Justice Case, and the case was tried by a jury, July 7, 1888; a verdict was rendered against the defendant, and he was fined in the sum of \$50.00 and costs. The result of this suit has had a salutary effect upon those operators and mine managers who heretofore have been negligent in carrying out the provisions of the mining laws. An injunction was applied for and granted September 30, 1888, by Master in Chancery W. J. Underwood, of Belleville, prohibiting Jacob Lill and St. Libory Coal Co. from further operating their mines until they had sunk escapement shafts. These operators had been duly notified before the injunction had been applied for; the escapement shafts have been sunk and completed, and the mines are now in operation.

Notice had been served on John Carroll, operating the Vancourt mine, located at O'Fallon, St. Clair county, to make several improvements in and about that mine; one of which was that of putting in a new boiler, the old one being considered unsafe. During the interval between the serving of the notice and the next visit of the inspector, the mine was operated, and is still being operated by the Consumers' Coal Co.; at the request of the inspector the boiler was tested by an expert, appointed by the company, who pronounced it as dangerous; the company then promised not to operate the mine until the necessary repairs had been made; but learning subsequently that the mine was still being operated, and being apprehensive of danger from explosion, an injunction was asked for and granted by the Master in Chancery September 30, 1888. The company have since resumed work, having put in a new boiler.

Suit was entered in Justice Gentz' court, November 16, 1888, against James Beatty, of Mascoutah, for not furnishing a certificate of boiler inspection; he was fined \$50.00 and costs. Afterwards the boiler was tested and found to be unsafe, and a new one was put in.

Suit was brought against Henry Taylor, of Belleville, February 23, 1889, who persistently refused to fence off his two abandoned mines. Justice Gentz, before whom the case was tried, found him guilty, and fined him \$50.00 and costs. The mines have since been securely fenced off.

Three suits were commenced March 4, 1889, before Justice Young, against William Hartman, superintendent of the Gartside Coal Co., Murphysboro. Two of the suits were for employing child-labor, and one for not reporting an accident occurring to Fount Clayton, whose leg was broken February 8, 1889, by a sliding gob. Justice Young found the defendant guilty in all three cases, and fined him \$125.00 and costs.

Those companies who have been indifferent in securing affidavits from the parents or guardians of boys—that they are 14 years old—are no longer negligent. They require the affidavits to be furnished before giving employment to boys of doubtful age.

*New Mines*—The new shaft at Elkville, Jackson county, sunk by Halliday Bros., is being operated under the name of the Muddy Valley Coal Co. This company bought the whole outfit of the Mattoon shaft, Coles county, with which they have fitted out their present plant in a very substantial manner. An Ingersoll compressor furnishes air to operate the Ingersoll drills, and the Chouteau mining machine, with which the eight-foot seam of coal is undermined. The mine has not been very rapidly developed, owing to an extensive fault, or up-throw, which was met with in the main and south entries. When the coal was again found it was 27½ feet vertically above the original level; an inclined plane has been made, and the loaded cars will bring up the empty ones. The whole output of coal from this mine is shipped to Cairo. Ventilation is produced by a ten-foot fan.