

that work will be commenced on the main hoisting shaft during September. The Germantown Coal Co. has recently built up the top works at its mine and has commenced shipping coal.

The Henrietta Coal Co., now known as the Penny Coal company, has put down an escapement shaft and is making preparations to put a fan at the top of the same. The company has also equipped its mine with electric mining machines, installed by the Morgan & Gardner Electric company. The machines are now working at a great disadvantage; the roof, which is soapstone varies in thickness from 6 inches to 2 feet and is very brittle, requiring props to be placed close to the face of the coal.

The following companies have put electric machines in their mines: The Tirre & Sons Coal Co., Lenzburg; the Johnson Coal & Mfg. Co., Marissa; and the Hippard Coal company, Belleville, all in St. Clair county. The Sorrento Prospecting and Mining company, Sorrento, Bond county, has added to its plant two electric mining machines, put in by the Link-Belt Electric company. The Conrad Reinecke Coal company, Belleville, has replaced drills with electric cutting machines, put in by the Jeffrey Electric company.

The Missouri & Illinois Coal company has put in three mining machines in the mine at Wilderman, where formerly air drills were operated.

The Kolb Coal Co. of Mascoutah, has put in four mining machines where it formerly had air drills.

*Escapement Shafts.*—The following escapement shafts have been put down during the year: The Trenton Coal, Light & Power company, Trenton, Clinton county, and the Hydraulic Press Brick company, known as the Independent Coal Co., Collinsville, Madison county.

The sinking of the escapement of the Kinmundy Coal company, Kinmundy, Marion county, is still in operation. The depth at present is nearly 700 feet.

The following escapement shafts caved in, owing to the severe winter, and the shaft timbers being a little decayed, but all have been reopened: the escapement shaft at Zildolph's mine, Marissa, St. Clair county, and one at the Brookside mine, Troy, Madison county, both owned by the Consolidated Coal Company.

*New Mines in Contemplation.*—The St. Louis & O'Fallon Coal company has sunk a main and escapement shafts. It is located in what is called "Nigger Hollow," one and a half miles northeast of Birkner, St. Clair county. The size of the main shaft is 7½ x 15 feet, and the escapement shaft 5x10 feet. This is the Belleville seam known as Number 6.

The company is at present grading railroad bed to the mine and has possession of a right of way between East St. Louis and the mine.

The Donke Bros. Coal & Coke Co., Belleville, St. Clair county, has started to sink a shaft. The size is 9x18 feet in the clear. It is the intention to equip it with all the modern and latest improved machinery, steel top works and electric mining machines, and to place their coal in the market over their own railroad. The shaft is located nearly two miles west of Collinsville, Madison county.