

The following table shows the total output by counties, with the increase or decrease for the years ending July 1, 1896 and 1897:

Counties.	1896.	1897.	Increase, tons	Decrease, tons
Grundy	1,247,394	1,077,576		169,818
Kankakee	72,395	180,633	108,238	
LaSalle	1,409,065	1,508,833	99,768	
Livingston	218,953	5,206		73,747
Will	86,951	25,632		61,319
Totals	3,034,778	2,937,960	205,036	304,834
Net decrease				96,798

Abandoned Mines.—Grundy county.—The C., W. & V. Coal Co. has abandoned its "P" shaft at Braidwood.

James Heather has abandoned his mine at Morris and opened a new mine near the city of Morris.

Griffiths & Wrenn abandoned their mine near Morris and have opened a new mine a mile and a half north of Morris.

George Burt has abandoned his mine at Morris.

William Wood has abandoned his mine at Morris.

LaSalle county.—John Penman has abandoned his mine at Coalville.

Myers & Casttetter have abandoned their mine near Streator.

Rynn & Roberts have abandoned their mine at Prairie Creek, near Streator.

Hudson & Stubbs have abandoned their mine in Coal Run at Streator.

Livingston county.—The Barrackman Coal Company has abandoned its mine at Coalville.

Mine Fires.—August 7, 1896, the boiler house at the new shaft of the Gardner & Wilmington Coal Company's Clark City mine was destroyed by fire. The miners escaped from the mine by way of the air-shaft stairway without loss of life or serious personal injury. After repairing the steam pipes, work was resumed in the mine after a suspension of two days.

Improvements in Mines.—The Coöperative Coal Company of Braidwood has built a new stairway in its escape shaft which is a great benefit to the men employed in the mine and increases its safety.

William Maltby, of Braidwood, has put two new cages on at his mine and has equipped one of them with a cover and safety catches and a new stairway in the escape shaft. This mine has been in poor condition owing to a soft soapstone overlying the coal seam, making it difficult to keep the airways open.

Emerson Haikes, of Rutland, has built a new fan of the Brazil type at the upcast or hoisting shaft, which has increased the volume of air circulating through the mine.

Joseph Kilburn has completed a new air and escape shaft at his mine south of Streator. This has put the ventilation of the mine in good order and increased the safety of the miners and others employed in the mine.

The C., W. & V. Coal Company has opened a new slope near the face of the south entries in their No. 1 mine at Heenanville. This has increased the quantity of air circulating on the south side of the mine.