

THIRD DISTRICT---1891.

MR. JOHN S. LORD,

Secretary of the State Bureau of Labor Statistics, Springfield, Ill.

SIR: In compliance with the requirements of section twelve of the mining laws of this State, I herewith submit to you the eighth annual report for the Third Inspection District:

This report contains a brief statement of the following subjects, *viz.*: New openings; tabular statement of each county, showing the output for each compared with the preceding year, also a recapitulation of the statistics of the district; labor difficulties; report of fire-damp explosions, and a report of the fatal and non-fatal accidents for the year.

New Openings: Vermillion County.—One of the most important new openings is that of M. Kelly & Co., Westville. This company has bought six hundred acres of coal land, located one mile west of their No. 1 mine. They have sunk a shaft near the center of this coal-field, striking the Grape Creek coal seam, six and one-half feet in thickness, at a depth of 180 feet. The hoisting equipment and plant are fair; they also have an escapement and air shaft which was sunk and equipped inside of four months after the completion of the main hoisting shaft; they have also erected a 15 ft. diameter ventilating fan on top of this shaft, which is well fitted up.

C. M. Swallow operated a model local mine at Glenburn, which is situated one and one-half miles north of Oakwood. Within the past year he formed it into the Glenburn Coal Co., which built a railroad from Oakwood to the mine; enlarged the area of the hoisting shaft, also increased the capacity of the pit-cars, etc. This change was completed in May of this year. The company is hoisting and shipping about sixteen cars per day, and operating between sixty to seventy men. The main trade of this mine is with the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railway. The coal is loaded mine-run.

France Bros. operated a gin-shaft on the C., C., C. & St. L. Railway, one and one-half miles east of Oakwood; within the past year they have taken in some partners, forming the Middle Fork Coal Co. They have changed the hoisting power to steam, putting in a neat pair of hoisting engines and one new steam boiler; other changes have been made on the tower, etc. To meet

the enlargement of the hoisting capacity of the mine, the company put in a ventilating fan. The total product of this mine is taken by the C., C., C. & St. L. R. R. in mine-run form.

Estes & Booth are sinking a coal shaft one mile south of Higginsville, on the Middle Fork creek.

Menard County.—The Wabash Coal Co. has sunk and equipped a coal shaft one-half mile west of Athens. The coal seam was found at a depth of 187 feet below the surface. The hoisting equipment, steam boilers, tower and buildings around the mine and the general lay-out on top, are all well arranged and creditable to the management. The company only opened out a small amount of entry this year, quitting the same in May until such time as they had their escapement and air-shaft completed. The manager contemplates having this done and everything in good order for the fall trade. The capacity of this mine is good for at least one thousand tons of lump coal per day.

Cass County.—The Bowen Coal Co. of Chandlerville has just completed sinking a shaft one-fourth of a mile east of town. The coal is three feet high and lies eighty feet below the surface.

The total number of new openings is twenty-six, with the same number of abandoned mines, the greater number in both cases being very small openings.

The total output for the district shows a shortage of 39,468 tons, as compared with that of last year; the falling off has been in Menard, Woodford, Fulton and Logan counties. Considerable gain was made in Vermilion, Peoria and McLean counties.

The following table shows each county's output of lump coal compared with 1890:

COUNTIES.	1891.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cass.....	5,680	4,660	1,020	.....
Fulton	391,721	404,417	.....	12,696
Logan.....	155,048	164,650	.....	9,602
McLean.....	184,629	173,492	11,137	.....
Menard	171,786	230,662	.....	58,876
Peoria	498,601	482,725	15,876	.....
Tazewell.....	85,692	81,141	4,551	.....
Vermilion.....	728,156	704,509	23,647	.....
Woodford.....	115,189	129,724	.....	14,535
Totals.....	2,336,502	2,375,970	56,241	95,709
Net decrease .....	.....	.....	.....	39,468

The following are the summaries for the district for the fiscal year 1891:

Total mines in operation.....	273
Total shipping mines.....	90
Total local mines.....	183