

the Abend mine operated by Brosius Bros., have been permanently abandoned. The Lenzburg mine at Lenzburg, and the John Kloess mine at Belleville are also on the list of abandoned mines.

*Escapements.*—The Massie Coal Company has connected mines No. 1 and 2 which furnishes escapement for the former mine. Crown Coal & Tow Company has sunk an escapement shaft for their No. 4 mine, it is equipped with a horse gin and new cage.

The Consolidated Coal Company has sunk and equiped with gin and cage an escapement at White Oak, near Marissa.

Con. Reeb has sunk an escapement which is used for an air shaft for his new mine near Belleville. The Superior Coal Company is sinking an escapement for their mine at Kinmundy.

The Summit is nearly done with their shaft.

The Kolb Coal Company at Mascoutah is sinking an escapement for their mine and experiencing a great deal of trouble in getting through the sand.

*Iires.*—On September 23, 1895, the whole of the top works of the Mentor mine belonging to the Consolidated Coal Company was consumed by fire. The fire occurred a little after two o'clock in the morning; an engine had stopped for coal at the chutes, and the watchman assisted in coaling it up; immediately after, he discovered fire in the shaft tower, which in a few minutes was communicated to the engine and boiler houses, and in a short time was reduced to ashes. The engine and boiler houses were rebuilt of brick and work resumed November 4, 1895. It was supposed a spark from the engine was the cause of the fire.

On April 10, 1896, the engine and boiler houses of the Knecht mine belonging to the Consolidated Coal Company were burned to the ground. It was supposed that a spark from the smoke stack set fire to the weeds and grass adjacent to the pit. The topmen fought the fire and believed they had put it out; sufficient care had not been taken, however, as some sparks had been left unnoticed near the back of the engine house, where there was considerable combustible material; the fire broke out at this point and in a few moments the engine house was in flames, the fire beyond control, and a short time sufficed to complete the destruction of engine and boiler houses. The men were at work in the mine at the time, and although there were four separate openings to the mine, none of them were equipped as an escapement, and the men had to be hoisted from the mine at first, by means of a windlass which proved to be too slow; then most of them were hoisted up by the men pulling on a rope over a pulley; there were 31 but all arrived on top safely.

Dutch Hollow mine which was leased by the company used to be the escapement for the mines when it was running, but, having been abandoned it left them without an equipped escapement. The company had been notified and had taken steps towards having an escapement, but the fire caught them before they had one equipped. The buildings destroyed by the fire have been rebuilt and the escapement shaft properly equipped.

On May 4, 1896, about 11 p. m., a fire took place at the bottom of the John James mine, Bethalto, badly burning the timber of the shaft. The fire