

mile from this mine. This will be a new departure from hoisting coal out of a vertical shaft in this district and the result will be looked upon with much interest.

*Improvements.*—The Star Coal Co., at its No. 2 mine at Kangley, La Salle county, has sunk an air shaft at the face of the north workings, and has also made connections with an old shaft on the west side, which has greatly improved the ventilation of the mine.

The Chicago, Wilmington & Vermilion Coal Co., at Streator, has put in an electric haulage plant at its No. 2 mine. One locomotive is already in operation, and the second one will be put in operation in a short time.

The La Salle Carbon Coal Co., La Salle, has erected a new 14 foot fan of their own design, to take the place of the 10 foot fan formerly in operation at its Union mine, which has greatly improved the ventilation. A shaker screen has also been put in at this mine.

*Fatal Accidents.*—September 16, 1898, John Robinson, a miner, aged 49 years, married, was fatally injured by a fall of rock at the face of his room in the Star Coal Company's mine No. 3, Carbon Hill, Grundy county. Deceased had cut up one side of the brushing and entered a wedge over the top, intending to take it down, but, it being quitting time, he went home, intending to take it down in the morning. However, he neglected to do so, and commenced to load coal without examining the rock. About 10 a. m. the rock fell on him, crushing him so that he died about 3 p. m. He leaves a widow and six children, of whom two are dependent.

This accident was due to his own negligence. With proper care in taking the rock down, or putting a prop under it, the accident would have been avoided.

September 27, 1898, James Fairley, a miner, aged 22 years, single, was instantly killed by a fall of rock in the Star Coal Company's mine No. 3, Carbon Hill, Grundy county. Deceased and his partner had been taking down some rock at the face, and were in the act of cleaning it away, when, without any warning, a great mass of rock fell on him, resulting as stated.

October 27, 1898, Gus Downey, miner aged 45 years, single, was instantly killed by a fall of rock at the face of his room in the sixth right, northeast entry in the Chicago, Wilmington & Vermilion Coal Company's mine No. 1, at Heenanville, La Salle county. Deceased and his partner had been notified that morning to put more props in their room, as there was a fault or slip in the roof, running diagonally across the face of the room, which they did before commencing work. About 2 p. m. they fired a blast in the coal, returning immediately before the smoke had cleared away, when a stone fell on him, resulting as stated.

January 16, 1899, Edward Wheelwright, miner, aged 60 years, single, was fatally injured by a fall of rock in his roadway about thirty feet from the face of his room in the Star Coal Company's No. 2. mine at Carbon Hill, Grundy county. Deceased was eating dinner at the time of the accident. A piece of rock fell on him, breaking one of his legs and seriously injuring him about the back. He died two days after receiving his injuries.

January 24, 1899, Otto Gribkos, miner, aged 30 years, single, was instantly killed by a fall of rock at the face of his room, in the No. 1 mine of the La Salle County Carbon Coal Co., at La Salle. Deceased had taken off a break of coal, and instead of propping up his place where he had taken the coal out, which is customary in long-wall workings, the props being about six feet from the face, he commenced mining again, and just as he had got down to work, a large rock, weighing about 3,500 pounds, fell on him, killing him instantly.

January 26, 1899, Peter Herman, miner, aged 48 years, married, was instantly killed by the ascending cage, about 3:30 p. m., in the Chicago, Wilmington & Vermilion Coal Company's mine No. 1, at Heenanville, La Salle county. It appears from the evidence, that deceased, with fifty or sixty others was at the bottom of the shaft, waiting to go out at quitting time. The mine manager, Robert Jordan, gave the signal to the cager to quit, as they do not blow the whistle until four o'clock. The cager pulled the empty car off the cage and told the men to stand back; he then commenced to ring three bells, and while in the act of ringing, the men in the rear pushed the men in front onto the cage, when the cage was suddenly started and caught deceased between the cage and door head, killing him instantly. He leaves a widow and six children, all dependent.

March 16, 1899, John Crossen, miner, aged 50 years, married, was instantly killed by a fall of rock at the face of his room in the Chicago, Wilmington & Vermilion Coal Company's mine No. 1, at Heenanville, La Salle county. Deceased and his son had put off two blasts, and after waiting a reasonable time for the powder smoke to clear away, they returned to the face of the room. The son sounded the roof and thought there was no danger; but there was a slip running diagonally across the room at the face. The son told his father to stand back and he would take down the loose coal, but before he could do so, a large rock fell from the slip in the roof, killing the father instantly. Deceased leaves a widow and six children, two of whom are dependent.

The tables of casualties follow, also the statistical tables by counties, giving in detail all information regarding the industry in the district.

Respectfully submitted,

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