

were unwilling witnesses and shielded the company as much as possible. The consequence was the case was dismissed, but the fan was afterward kept running.

#### STREATOR COAL Co.'s MINES.

Shaft No. 1 of this company has been abandoned.

At No. 2, now Luther & Tyler's mine, a new fan has been built. This is a small mine, and will soon be worked out. It is now within 34 feet of the workings of an old mine which are filled with water, but bore-holes are kept in advance of the workings approaching it.

All the mines from which coal is shipped, in the vicinity of Streator, are located so as to have easy access to the following railroads, and more or less business is done with all of them: The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, Chicago, Alton and St. Louis, Chicago, St. Louis and Western, Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific, and Indiana, Illinois and Iowa.

#### ROCKWELL SHAFT.

This mine has had a new fan erected of the Champion pattern, and the air is now good and the roadways safe.

#### OGLESBY COAL Co.

This mine has had the air split into two currents during the past year, which has increased the volume, and I have the superintendent's promise to build a new fan, and put a more powerful engine on it.

#### JAMES CAHILL'S MINE.

This mine has had a fan of the Champion pattern put on in place of the old one.

#### UNION COAL Co.

This company has put a tension wheel on the fan belt, and also a governor on the engine. The valve is now opened next to the boilers, so that the engine keeps up a uniform speed. The air is also split in the No. 2 seam.

#### LIVINGSTON COUNTY.

##### H. E. HAMILTON'S MINE, FAIRBURY.

This mine, formerly Porter, Wager & Co.'s, has been abandoned.

##### FAIRBURY COAL MINING Co.

This is the result of a combination effected between Mr. Hamilton and the Walton Brothers; whereby the old shaft of the former is closed and the entire business of the place transferred to the Walton Brothers' shaft, the capacity of which is correspondingly enlarged.

#### W. H. LEVERS' MINE.

This mine, located at Pontiac, was found running last fall, but the operators had abandoned seam No. 5 and commenced developing seam No. 2. They asked for time to sink an escapement, claiming that the new works should be construed to be a new mine, as the miners were working close to the bottom of the shaft. They put on new cages and covered them with boiler iron. The present shaft is in rather poor condition. The proprietors have been trying to organize a company to operate it, but have not succeeded as yet. The prospect is not a very promising one, the shaft being down on a fault, and an escapement being necessary. It would require quite an outlay of money with not much prospect of an adequate return. On all my visits to the place, except one in the fall, I have found it closed, and have failed to discover any one who was interested in it. I could not get any account of the production, which is small, not exceeding a few hundred tons, so I have dropped it from the list.

#### STAR COAL Co.

The mine owned by this company has had the circuit of the air course reduced nearly one-half by getting a connection with an abandoned mine. This brings the air direct to the miners, which is a very great improvement.

#### ALEXANDER HELON'S MINE.

I was obliged to file information against the owners of this mine for refusing to make good roadways to the escapement shaft. It was nearly filled with water, so that the miners could with difficulty get through it, and it also reduced the air current by lessening the area of the air-way. He afterward built a roadway through an abandoned mine, so the suit was withdrawn.

#### CHICAGO, WILMINGTON AND VERMILION COAL Co., No. 3 SHAFT.

This is a new mine, and appears for the first time in a report of the district. Its plan of ventilation is good. The air, after supplying each pair of entries, is taken to the upcast shaft, which is ventilated by a fan of an entirely new pattern. This is driven by a powerful engine, with a 12x16 inch cylinder.

#### REMARKS.

The mines not mentioned here remain in about the same condition as last reported, except the Rutland mine, which was standing for a while, but was found to be in operation this summer, employing two men and a boy. On visiting it I found it to have no escapement shaft, and at once filed information for an injunction, but nothing has been done about it yet.