

THIRD DISTRICT---1890.

MR. JOHN S. LORD,

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

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

This report embraces the following subjects in the order given: The number of new openings, with a brief mention of the most important of them; a tabular statement showing the output of coal for each county compared with last year, also showing the amount of coal raised and the number of employes for every fatal and non-fatal accident; labor difficulties between operators and miners; machine-mining; legislative recommendations; a report of fatal and non-fatal accidents, etc.

New Openings.—There are forty-six new openings reported for this year. Deducting the nineteen mines abandoned, leaves 273 mines to report for this year. This great increase in the number of mines is mainly due to the discovery of quite a number of very small openings located along the bluffs of the Illinois river and its tributaries, extending from near Monterey to Summum, in Fulton county, and visited lately for the first time; their distance from railroad connection varying from five to twelve miles. During my visit in this section of the county, three miles east of Summum, I came across a seam of the finest bituminous coal I have yet seen in Illinois; the coal is entirely free from sulphur and other impurities commonly found in the coal seams of this State; is twenty-eight inches high, and the roof and floor are very favorable for mining, especially for the long-wall system.

One of the most important new openings is that of the Athens Coal Company, Athens, where they have lately completed sinking and equipping a new mine. The mine is located one-half mile east of the old shaft. At a depth of 185 feet they struck the same seam of coal they had been operating in the old mine, but under a more favorable roof. The new mine has been fitted up with a pair of engines, each 16x30 inches, direct acting, manufactured by the Litchfield Manufacturing Co., and two boilers, each 42 inches by 26 feet. The walls of the engine and boiler house are built of brick, and the mine when completed may be classed among the best equipped in the district. Its hoisting capacity, should necessity demand it, would be equal to 1,200 tons of lump coal per day.