

been free from a general strike, or a strike called by the officers of the U. M. W. of A.; there have been a few local strikes of minor importance, which did not interfere with the general welfare of the district.

The present year has been a prosperous one for both employer and employes; taking the average number of days of actual operation for 1900, we have 215 against 196 in 1899; taking the number of employes for the same years, it is shown that the number employed was 5,885 for 1900, against 5,008 for the year 1899, an increase of 877 for this year. The indications at present are, that this healthy growth will continue for some time, as is evidenced by the improvements that are being made throughout the district.

The following is a summary, as taken from the statistical tables, for the fiscal year 1900:

Number of counties in which coal is produced.....	5
Total number of mines	102
Shipping mines	73
Local mines.....	29
New mines	1
Abandoned mines	3
Total tonnage.....	5,235,152
Tons of lump coal	2,882,363
Tons of other grades	2,352,789
Tons shipped	4,422,983
Tons supplied to locomotives at the mines.....	216,198
Tons sold to local trade	284,541
Tons consumed and wasted at the mines	311,430
Average value of lump coal per ton at the mine	80,863
Aggregate value of total product.....	\$3,845,853
Number of miners.....	4,249
Number of other employes	1,636
Total number of employes	5,885
Average number of days of active operation for all mines.....	208
Number of kegs of powder used	89,122
Number of mines using machines	32
Number of machines in use	177
Total tons cut by machines	2,523,536
Total tons mined by hand	2,711,622
Fatal accidents	11
Non-fatal accidents	94
Number of widows	7
Number of orphans	17
Number of tons produced to each fatal accident	475,923
Number of tons produced to each non-fatal accident.....	55,693
Number of persons employed to each fatal accident.....	535
Number of persons employed to each non-fatal accident.....	63

In the report of 1899, mention was made that, under present conditions, mining machines would become almost general. In that year there was an increase of 105 per cent more coal cut by machines than in 1898, instead of 20 per cent, as printed in the report; for the year 1900 the increase is 16.3 per cent over that of 1899; and an increase of 138 per cent the present year over 1898.

The number of mines using machines have almost doubled during the last two years, and the tendency is to put more of them in use. Wherever new mines are being opened in this district, mining machines are being put in. There is a decided advantage in the use of machines. In mines where the roof is dangerous, by using the punching machine timbers can be placed closer to the face of rooms, and there is less danger of their being knocked out by the shooting, as the charge of powder required is not so great as when shooting off the solid. An inspection of the mines will disclose the fact that the amount of salable coal is increased; with the exception of a few mines, there is no slack being dumped, and there is no longer the large quantity of slack around the mines that could be seen in former years. This is partially due to the general introduction of mining machines, and the operators being

required to pay for gross weight, are desirous of obtaining a larger per cent of salable coal. Another advantage, and one which I consider especially beneficial to the miner, is the fact that the quantity of powder required is not so great as when shooting off the solid. Owing to the quantity of powder required for solid shooting, it brings about conditions that make it dangerous, not only to the persons using it, but to others who may be in close proximity to them. Explosions from the use of powder have been frequent in the past, and has caused much litigation owing to accidents caused thereby. I am glad to be able to say that there has not been an accident from that source during the last year.

Improvements.—There has been a general overhauling of the mining plants throughout the district, during the year, in retimbering main and escapement shafts, and in some cases rebuilding the entire top works, and in putting in shaker screens, also additional boiler power. Mention is made of a few of the more important and extensive improvements:

The O'Fallon Coal and Mining Company, near O'Fallon, has retimbered its main shaft; owing to changes being made by the B. & O. S. W. Railway in their track, which goes directly over the escapement shaft, the railroad company has sunk a new escapement shaft, and intend to fill up the old one as soon as arrangements can be made in making new airways in the new shaft. This coal company has also put in an additional boiler.

The Oakland Coal Company, of Belleville, has rebuilt the top works, and put in a shaker screen at its mine; the company has also relaid the pipe line, and are putting in larger pipes. This is the most successful coöperative mine in the district.

The Lenz Coal and Manufacturing Company's mine, Belleville, formerly owned by the Crown Coal & Tow Co., now leased by Mr. J. Maule, has equipped the mine by putting in electric mining machines, and a motor for the fan. This is the first of this kind in the district, and is working very successfully. The power is furnished by the Belleville and East St. Louis Electric Street Car Company.

The Murren Coal & Ice Company, at New Baden, Clinton county, has just finished its new hoisting shaft, which is 9x18 feet in the clear, and are now building the top works. The company has placed in position four boilers in batteries of two, also Litchfield engines. The capacity of the pit-cars is three and one-half tons. It is the intention to put in self-dumping cages; a shaker screen and air compressor are on the ground for mining machines.

The Pittenger & Davis Mining and Manufacturing Company, of Centralia, has equipped its escapement shaft and made it a hoisting shaft; owing to the small number of men employed there, and the clerical force required being the same, the work of the two mines is kept in the same books, so that it was found to be a difficult matter to separate the items, consequently the returns for both mines are given under one head and credited to the No. 3 mine.

New Mines.—A new mine is being sunk between Lenzburg and New Athens, St. Clair county, by the Kolb Coal Co., of Mascoutah. It is located on the Illinois Central railroad. The company expects to be ready to hoist coal next November.

A new mine has been sunk at Marissa, St. Clair county, and is now fully equipped; the capacity intended is about 500 tons per day. This mine is operated by a stock company made up of the citizens of Marissa, and is organized as the Superior Coal Co.