

GARTSIDE COAL Co.'s MINE.

This mine is situated on the Cairo and St. Louis Narrow Gauge Railroad, the office of the company being in St. Louis. It is a double-entry mine, employing 100 men inside, and is ventilated with steam, the volume of air in circulation being 7,518 cubic feet. The company has enlarged and retimbered with heavy timber one of their hoisting shafts, so as to enable them to raise one-ton cars. It is now ready for extensive operations.

Mr. Daniels, Superintendent.

THE CARBONDALE COAL AND COKE Co.

Harrison Shaft.

This is a double-entry mine, in good condition, employing 117 men and boys and 8 mules underground. It is ventilated by waterfall in the escapement shaft, and steam in the hoisting shaft, which is the up-cast. The air in the passages measured 10,703 cubic feet. This place is distinguished for the harmony existing between the company and the men. This is owing largely, in the first place, to an annual adjustment of prices. The company weighs and pays the miner for all the coal in his car, upon the stipulated scale, and then screens and assort it to suit the market. The management also provides for a board of arbitration or adjustment, composed of five miners, two designated by the company, two by the miners, and the fifth chosen by them. The duties of this board consist of the investigation of all complaints or misunderstandings which may arise as to prices for work, or grievances of any nature. They also inspect and adjust the scales, and otherwise administer upon affairs affecting the interests of miners or proprietors. Only in case of disagreement among the members of the board are difficulties of any kind referred to the General Manager, who visits the mine and hears the case within ten days after notice from the committee. This plan has been in successful operation for six years, to the mutual advantage of both parties, and has secured most amicable relations between them. Mention of this matter is made here in the hope that the experiment may be tried elsewhere.

A. C. Bryden, General Manager, St. Louis.

THE BIG MUDDY COAL Co., MURPHYSBORO.

This company's shaft is located at De Soto, on the Illinois Central Railroad. It is a single-entry mine employing 20 men underground. The proprietors do not secure as much trade as they ought with the quality of coal they have, and the facilities for getting it out, and the mine is consequently not run steady.

WASHINGTON COUNTY.

DUBOIS COAL Co.'s MINE.

This is a single-entry mine affording employment to about 50 men in all. There was found 6,937 cubic feet of air in circulation, but a large portion of it was lost before reaching the working faces. The ladders in the escapement shaft were burned out in July, but have since been replaced. The erection of a fan was contemplated, and recommended by me, but the present pit-boss determined upon a furnace, though in my opinion it involves more expense and does not secure as good results.

G. W. Brown, President.

NASHVILLE COAL Co.

Hartman & Yock.

This mine is employing about 40 men and had a volume of air measuring 8,370 cubic feet per minute, divided into two splits, affording good ventilation. Mr. Hartman acted promptly on all suggestions of the inspector,—promised to get a fan, and the contract for escapement shaft was let, the work to be finished in August.

William Anderson, Pit-boss.

MARION COUNTY.

CENTRALIA MINING AND MANUFACTURING Co.

This company's mine is a well-planned, well equipped and extensive colliery, with double entries, and operated for a large business. There are about 100 men employed, and there was over 15,000 cubic feet of air in circulation. For this a fan is in use, but a larger one will replace it upon the completion of a new shaft now in process of construction. There is a pair of powerful direct-acting engines, of the Litchfield manufacture, for hoisting purposes, and a smaller one for operating a revolving screen and elevating the slack. Everything is done in a thorough and substantial manner.

John Forsythe, Superintendent.

SANDOVAL COAL AND MINING Co.

This is another important mine of the double-entry class, employing about 75 men. The workings are systematically laid out, and arrangements are being perfected to split the air current, thus largely increasing the efficiency. Owing to litigation, involving the title to the company's land, there has been some delay in sinking an escapement, but that is now under way. A large body of water bearing sand has, however, been encountered, which is causing delay and unusual expense. The plan of the work contemplates a first-class escapement shaft when completed.

J. S. Middleton, Superintendent.