

NIANTIC COAL COMPANY.

This shaft is located within the village of Niantic, and on the line of the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific Railroad. The shaft is 370 feet deep, the coal averaging $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet in thickness. The coal is worked by pillar and room and double-entry. The mine is ventilated by a 7-foot fan. The company employs on an average 50 miners during the year. Small quantities of fire-damp are found at the face of the entries. The company is sinking an escapement shaft. The coal is hoisted by double engines, on the first motion; engines, 12x20; hoisting drum, $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter; hoisting ropes, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter.

Manager, J. M. Graham; Underground Manager, M. A. Leonard.

ILLIANA COAL COMPANY. EDGAR CO.

This shaft is located within the limits of the town of Illiana and adjoining the State line between Illinois and Indiana and on the line of the Indianapolis, Bloomington and Western Railroad. The shaft is 160 feet deep, the coal averaging 4 feet in thickness. The coal is worked by long-wall. The mine is ventilated by a 4-foot Murphy fan. The company works on an average 50 miners. The coal does not seem to work well long-wall, owing to sticking at the top. At present it is all blasted off the solid. The coal has never had a chance yet to show how it will work, as I have visited the mine twice and have never found the face of the coal standing in a position for suitable long-wall working. In fitting up the shaft the boilers and smoke-stack were located too close to the head-gear. I found no escapement shaft, but the manager, J. V. McNeil, of Indianapolis, seemed to be very willing to comply with the law. He has reset the boilers and placed the smoke-stack far enough away from the hoisting shaft, and is at present sinking an escapement shaft. Some of the return air courses were closed and he has had them all cleaned out.

Manager, J. V. McNeil; Underground Manager, Robert Barr.

WM. H. BATES & COMPANY. SCOTT CO.

This shaft is located one mile north of the corporate limits of the village of Winchester, and on the line of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. The shaft is 100 feet deep, the coal being $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in thickness. The mine is worked on the double-entry plan, and has been worked very successfully, considering the smallness of the seam. The seam is not very well adapted for long-wall work, owing to the coal sticking to the roof, and the bottom being soft. The manager has always been afraid to open up long-wall, owing to beds of quicksand and water lying above the roof metals. The present works are extended about 1,400 feet from the bottom of the shaft. The main entries and laterals are driven perfectly straight and at true right angles. This mine is ventilated by a furnace at the foot of escapement shaft. The ventilation is very good. The coal is hoisted by a 12x24 single engine; boiler, 2 inches by 20 feet; hoisting drum, 5 feet; ropes, 1 inch. 10 to 12 bushels of coal are hoisted at a time. The manager has invented

a safety catch for his cages which is very effective. This is a very good coal. Southeast of Winchester there are several drifts, which are operated for local trade. This is quite an old coal field for Illinois, having been worked 25 years ago by Charles Frost and others of Winchester.

Manager of Winchester shaft, Wm. H. Bates.

MATTOON MINING COMPANY. COLES CO

This shaft is located within the corporate limits of the city of Mattoon and on the line of the Peoria, Decatur and Evansville Railroad. The shaft is 90± feet deep, the coal having an average thickness of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet. The coal is worked on the long-wall system, and the seam is very suitable for this kind of working, having a shale top, not too hard, and the bottom being fire clay, not too hard, and dry. The company employs on an average 70 miners daily during the year. As the coal is undermined, the weight of the roof breaks it down. This is the deepest shaft in the State, but having been sunk by different parties the shaft is not well constructed. For 60 feet next to the top the shaft timbers had taken a swing in sinking, and the last time I was there, in July, I gave strict orders to have the top 60 feet retimbered—that is, lined inside. The underground works were not in a good condition, owing to the pump having been broken, and water having got into the workings. The company promised to have everything put in good shape. Notice has been served on the company to sink an escapement shaft within the time specified by law. The coal is hoisted by double engines, on the second motion; engines, 16x30; 3 boilers, each 40 inches by 22 feet; hoisting drum, 8 feet in diameter; ropes, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter.

Manager, Col. Weaver.