

Adam Sholl, of Peoria, has opened a new shaft a quarter of a mile north of his old mine. The machinery of this mine, which is first-class, was brought from over the river, from his mine at East Peoria, which was opened out two years ago and abandoned six months ago, they having struck a washout of the coal seam.

A new coal company has been formed at Astoria, named the Astoria Coal Co. This company has been operating a small drift bank for local trade during the last eight months, but they have completed the sinking of a coal shaft three-quarters of a mile north of town on the line of the C, B. & Q. Railroad. They contemplated having their machinery and plant in position ready for railroad business by Sept. 15, 1890. They claim to have at least sixty acres of this valuable coal seam to work out.

Louis Grant & Son, Pekin, have just completed the sinking of a shaft three-quarters of a mile southwest of their old mine. This mine is simply for the Pekin local trade, being located one mile from town and close to one of the principal roads leading into the city. The equipment of the mine is good.

The Wabash Coal Co., of Dawson, has commenced to sink a new coal shaft one-half mile west of the town of Athens; it contemplates fitting up a very extensive mine so as to enable it to do a large business. The White Breast Fuel Co., of Iowa, has lately bought out the Emmerson & Skinner Coal Mine, located at Dunfermline. It is expected that this company will be in position to do a large amount of business, as the coal field is very extensive and the mine equipment is able to at least handle one thousand tons per day.

*Output of Coal.*—The production of coal in this district last year attained its highest record since the Mine Inspection Service was inaugurated. The total output of 1890, when compared with 1888 and 1889, shows an increase of 183,849 tons over the former and 325,588 tons more than the latter year. Vermilion county alone shows an increase of 167,098 tons compared with the output for the same county in 1889. All the counties in this district give more or less of an increase this year except Woodford, yet the coal business in this and other States has been greatly depressed this year owing to the extremely mild weather of last winter. The cause for the increase in output in this district is mainly due to the extra demand for coal last summer in helping to supply the trade of the northern coal-field during the time of the strike, which lasted from May up to September, 1889, and in some mines until October. Quite a number of the striking miners from Streator, LaSalle and Spring Valley worked in the mines of this district during the strike at those places.

The following tabular form shows the output of coal for each county compared with the previous year: