

STREATOR AND WILMINGTON STAR COAL CO.

This company now have their mines in good running order. They have built a fan during the year, and are preparing to sink another shaft this fall.

SUFFERN BROS., COAL BRANCH JUNCTION.

The air in this mine has been split into four distinct currents, which has greatly improved the ventilation.

WILMINGTON AND SPRINGFIELD COAL CO.

The air in this mine has been improved by splitting the current, and the roadways have been cleaned and repaired.

The Gooldridge Coal Company at Morris have abandoned their mine at that place.

All the small mines around Morris are supplied with escapements and fences around their hoisting shafts. One of the operators refused to comply with the law, and I was forced to threaten him with an injunction before he would make the required improvements.

KANKAKEE COUNTY.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS COAL CO.

The two mines of this company, situated on a branch of the Illinois Central railroad, have been abandoned. On my last visit there I notified the superintendent as to the condition of the roadways, and remonstrated with him about allowing the rooms to cave in and destroy the air current. He promised to make the necessary repairs, but a few days later the mine was abandoned. The company claims to have expended \$70,000 on it without any adequate return, and probably did not feel warranted in putting any more expense on it.

CLARK CITY MINE.

This mine, now owned by Taylor Williams, was formerly the property of the Kankakee Coal Mining Co. There has been an escapement sunk and a fan erected, so that the mine is in a very good condition. It is located on a branch of the Illinois Central, and of the Wabash and Pacific railroads.

WILL COUNTY.

CHICAGO, WILMINGTON AND VERMILION COAL CO.

This company has sunk a new shaft this summer at Braidwood. They had their escapement down and the fan erected before beginning to mine coal. This was very commendable and speaks well for

the officials, as showing their readiness to comply with the law. The mine will be operated according to the best methods. The men will be moved from the "H" shaft to the new one as fast as room can be made for them, as the "H" shaft had become too extended for the volume of air.

The "I" shaft was abandoned last spring. The company posted notices warning the men not to enter the mine in the event of the prairie becoming flooded with water from the melting snow of the winter. They afterward decided to close the mine and take out all the valuable material they had in it.

ALBRIGHT AND WILMINGTON COAL CO.

"A" shaft. A fifty foot chimney has been built to enlarge the ventilating capacity of this mine, and this with the improvements made in the airways has kept the air in very good condition. The company is building a fan, which will be running very soon.

"B" shaft has been abandoned.

LASALLE COUNTY.

CHICAGO, WILMINGTON AND VERMILION COAL CO.

There has been an additional fan erected during the year at No. 2 shaft of this company, making two now in operation at this mine, with two upcast shafts.

There are also two fans and two upcast shafts at No. 1 mine, and both mines are in good condition.

COAL RUN CO.'S MINES.

No. 2. This mine has been abandoned because it could not be made to pay. This is the mine that gave off so much fire-damp. This gas escaped so freely that it could be found in cavities where fragments of the roof had fallen out, with the air traveling at a velocity of 600 feet per minute immediately below it.

No. 3. The fan at this place is now run at a very high rate of speed, and another air shaft is being sunk, which will cut off half of their air-way, giving the air only half the distance to travel, besides bringing it to the men direct from the surface, instead of going past the old workings before it reaches them.

RIVER BANK COAL CO.

This company has erected a fan for ventilating purposes, but on going to the mines on two separate occasions, I found the fan standing still and the men in the mine. I made a protest to the officials both times, but no attention was paid to it. I then filed information with the State's attorney to prosecute them. They were summoned before the grand jury at the spring term, but the miners