

less expense than if done by hand-labor or the horse-power system. The immensity of this great enterprise, in taking advantage of nature's works, will be the more readily seen, when it is considered that one thousand acres of this coal, which is five and one-half feet in thickness, will produce nearly 7,000,000 tons, after allowing nearly 10 per cent. for impurities, etc. Supposing 1,000 tons to be hoisted per day, allowing three hundred days per year, it would take twenty-three years to work out this coal field. The method to be adopted in working out this coal, resembles some systems of long-wall workings, in having a long breastwork of a coal face, the roads running parallel and at right angles to the face. Between the roadways is where the covering will be dumped thus resembling very much a long-wall mine minus the roof.

A syndicate of eastern capitalists have formed a company, with headquarters at Peoria, and are doing business under the name of the Illinois Coal & Coke Company. This company was formed in June of this year; it has bought out the mines at Wolcott, Mapleton, Orchard Mines and Hanna City, Peoria county, also claims to have bought over 6,000 acres of coal land in that vicinity, and intend opening up branch offices in St. Paul, Omaha and other north-western cities so as to enable them to handle their own coal and deal directly with the consumer both wholesale and retail. At present the company are testing the coking qualities of the coal, and should it prove satisfactory, even for domestic purposes, the erecting of a large number of coke ovens is contemplated at Wolcott, where fifty dwelling houses for the workmen of the company are now being erected.

In McLean county, the Chenoa Coal & Mining Company have sunk a shaft at Chenoa one-half mile east of the town. They struck a seam of coal four feet two inches in thickness at a depth of 278 feet. The coal is of a fine quality with a favorable soapstone roof. This is the same seam that is mined at Colfax, although at the latter place the seam is 16 inches thicker.

The Kingston & Claire Coal Co. have sunk a shaft at Claire, Peoria county, to the No. 5 coal seam, which is three feet four inches in thickness and 105 feet from the surface. J. D. Kerr & Co. have also completed the sinking of a shaft at Claire. The coal is three feet four inches in thickness and is located at a depth of 130 feet from the surface.

Carter & Little have sunk and equipped a fine coal mine near Wesley City in Tazewell county. The coal is four feet in thickness and 90 feet from the surface.

In Menard county, the Tallula Coal Co, at Tallula, have sunk and equipped a shaft one-fourth of a mile north of the town. The coal is No. 5 seam and is five and one-half feet in thickness. This is the same seam that has been worked near Petersburg for many years.

The Sowerby Bros. have lately completed sinking a coal shaft at Virginia, Cass county. This shaft is about three hundred feet