

compartment 8x8 feet for the down-cast. They will sink an escapement within the time required by law. These improvements have been made out of the profits of the business, and it is said Mt. Carbon mines have not been successfully operated before in many years.

RANDOLPH COUNTY.

Last year there were 9 mines in this county, 4 of which had escapements. This year 10 mines are reported, 7 having escapement shafts in use, and 2 in process of construction. Three of the mines are hoisting with steam, and another is preparing for it, the engine having been purchased some time since. There has been one fan erected in the county at Coulterville.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY.

The situation in this county remains about the same as when last reported. The Carbondale Coal and Coke Co.'s mines passed into the hands of a receiver last October, and the slope has since been operated only to supply local trade. The decrease in the product for this county has been over 50,000 tons. There were some small openings made for local purposes, during the winter, and since abandoned, which may be opened again next winter. There is also some prospect of other mines being opened in the county.

SALINE COUNTY.

With Bald Knob and Donahue's mines there are nine mines, all of which now have escapements. At New Castle the company have sunk their shaft to the seam below the one heretofore worked, and they are erecting an engine for hoisting purposes.

The Eldorado Coal Co. has a slope in this county, on the Louisville and Nashville railroad. They have an escapement, but it needs to be enlarged. There has been an increase of three escapements in the county during the year.

The Equality Coal Co. has erected a fan at their mine in Gallatin county, which makes 26 fans in operation in the district, and they are also sinking an escapement shaft.

WASHINGTON COUNTY.

There are three mines in this county producing coal, and a new shaft has been sunk to the coal at Ashley. This will be completed and equipped as soon as the necessary funds can be obtained. The Dubois company and the Nashville Coal Co. have both had their escapements furnished with ladders, and the Nashville shaft has

also a fan. The Dubois mine has had a large amount of work put on it, and needs as much more. The present manager is doing well. Mr. Brown, the superintendent, tells me that he has spent all the mine has made on the improvements required, and will continue to do so until he gets the mine in good condition.

The shaft at Okawville is supplying the local trade, a number of working men having leased it, and put it in working order. Here the only steel boiler in the district is in use.

CLINTON COUNTY.

Affairs in this county remain about the same as when last reported. The only two mines in it are in operation. The Breese Coal Co. requested me not to serve an injunction against them, as they would sink an escapement shaft as soon as possible, and sent me word they were contracting for the lumber for it. Mr. Hanke, of the other mine, has arranged with a St. Louis company to have a fan erected.

MARION COUNTY.

There are only two mines in this county, the Centralia and the Sandoval. The Centralia company is now working its new shaft, the buildings at the old one having burned down. They are repairing the machinery and framing of the old shaft to use as an escapement, all the coal being taken out at the new shaft.

At the Sandoval mine the work is progressing very well on the new shaft, which is intended to serve both as an escapement and as a hoisting shaft. It is designed on correct principles having a separate compartment for the air, to be used either as an up-cast or a down-cast. Both these mines are ventilated by fans.

REMARKS.

There have been two injunctions served against operators in the district during the year for not having escapements. Both cases were at small mines, but it has settled the disputed question as to whether the State had a right to compel operators to have properly equipped exits for use in emergencies.

I also had a man tried for failing to report an accident. He was fined twenty dollars and costs. This case was widely reported, and to this is due many subsequent reports of slight accidents.

New shafts are being sunk in various places throughout the district. There is one in St. Clair county, at O'Fallon, and three in Marion county, one at Kinmundy, one at Salem, and one at Odin.

I have been ably assisted by Mr. Frank Kirchner, county inspector for St. Clair county, and by Mr. Stewart Morris, county inspector for Jackson county.