

NEW MINES.

The Mission Mining Company has opened a new mine adjoining the strip pit. This mine is known as No. 2, is a drift, and the coal is handled over the tippie of the No. 1 mine. The company has also sunk another slope, known as No. 3. This mine is fireproof, having concrete walls on side of entry, 6 in. x 12 in. steel beams, placed four feet apart, and between beams, concrete. This includes the slope and cage room. They have an electric hoist, pulling one car up the incline and dumping into Shaker screen where the coal is graded as follows: Six inch lump, two inch lump, from six to two inch egg, two inch and one inch screenings, two and one inch nut. The electric power is furnished by the Danville Electric Light Company.

In addition to the above one shipping and eleven locals are reported this year as new mines.

ABANDONED MINES.

The Tilton Coal Company, Tilton, Vermillion County, abandoned its Star mine. The Oakwood Coal Company, Oakwood, has abandoned its No. 1 mine for the present time. This mine may be reopened in the future. Two other shipping and six local mines have been abandoned, or not operated during the year.

IMPROVEMENTS IN MINES.

The Assumption Coal Mining Company, Assumption, Christian Co., has made some good and permanent improvements.

The bottom of the main or hoisting shaft has been timbered with steel I-beams 6x15 inches, from 14 to 18 feet in length, twenty feet on each side of shaft, doing away with any timbers or center props, leaving a clear way on each side of shaft eighteen feet.

There has been installed a new Deming Triplex electric driven pump for raising water to the surface, a distance of 1,000 feet. The motor driving the pump is a continuous generator, compound wound, with a speed of 800 revolutions per minute.

The escape shaft is equipped with a pair of Litchfield hoisting engines, twin connected, cylinder 18 inches bore, 24 inches stroke and two drives 4 feet in diameter, 2 feet by 4 inches face, with flanges 7 inches high to hoist 1,000 feet, with three layers of $\frac{3}{4}$ wire rope. One drive keyed to shaft and the other loose on the shaft being engaged by a toothed clutch so as to be thrown out of gear when desired for changing the effective length of rope for hoisting to or from different levels. Each drive has a break housing turned smooth in boring mill. The shifting arrangement for the toothed clutch consists of a hand lever similar to the reversing lever, acting on a notched quadrant. Everything connected with these engines are first-class in every particular.

The engine room at escape is fireproof except the roof. The escape shaft has been retimbered with 6x8 timbers for a distance of 25 feet from top. Surface arrangements have been remodeled along the line of safety and convenience, making it possible to hoist men if necessary without interfering with the ventilation while hoisting them. This we think is very important in a gaseous mine.

There have been quite a lot of improvements made on the bottom of the escape shaft. Thus we think this mine is the best equipped at the escape shaft for getting men to the surface of any mine in Christian county, and, perhaps, in the State.

The Christian County Coal Company has made considerable improvements. The most important among them is a new Sirocca fan. The fan is 7 feet long and has 64 blades 70 inches long. It is run by a new Ridgway engine, cylinder 13 inches, length of stroke 14 inches. Under good conditions at 225 revolutions it will produce 125,000 cubic feet of air per minute.