

order, get a proper escapement shaft, and get it sufficiently ventilated. This they promised to do, but on going back two months after I found it in the same fix as at first. I then notified them to appear in court and started for Joliet to file the necessary information against the company, but was called away to Braceville by the death of William Bedington. I then empowered the County Inspector to proceed to Joliet and enter information. This he did, but the prosecuting attorney would not proceed until I went personally. I went, and one of the directors of the company asked fourteen days to sink their escapement and build the fan and have it running. I thought this better than I could get in the court, so I granted it. When I went there in July I found that they had put up a fan that was nearly useless. I know of no means now but to prosecute. They put down their escapement, and, consistent throughout, let the road close leading to it, although it is now open.

CO-OPERATIVE MINE.

The Co-operative mine is all right; good air, and roads fairly safe.

YOUNG AND WILSON.

This mine is now all right, but the air was very bad before the escapement was sunk.

KANKAKEE COUNTY.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS COAL COMPANY No. 1.

Here there was no escapement nor fence around the shaft, and no safety gates on top. Everything appeared to be run without regard to either health or safety. The air was simply deplorable, the mine was nearly closed all round so that there was no way for the mine to be ventilated. I had the shaft fenced and safety gates put on; then the escapement shaft was sunk and a fan put up. I have not been there since the fan was started, but I know that the ventilation must be good as the fan has now a good chance.

No. 2. The same may be said of No. 2, they being alike in nearly every particular except that the air was a little better in this mine. They have got their escapement and fan so that I judge they are in good shape.

KANKAKEE COAL MINING COMPANY—CLARK CITY.

This mine was in fair condition for air, but it has been idle all summer with little prospect of starting in the near future unless some other company undertakes to run it. In that case the new proprietors will have an escapement shaft to sink.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY.

PORTER, WAGER AND Co.

This mine on my first visit was in very poor condition. My own light and that of the pit boss died out for want of air before we got to the face of the room on the first of the current. I tried to go back to the return air-course, but it was an utter failure. There was no room to either walk or creep, so that part of the mine was abandoned and the air turned on another section that had a better airway, though poorer coal. On my last visit the ventilation was fair but there was only about ten men working in the place.

WALTON BROTHERS

This mine is in fairly good condition, the roads are well looked after and the air is good. Here the miners blast the coal without undermining it, but regulate their blasting so that it only takes place at noon and at quitting time. It would be well if the miners adopted this system wherever a large quantity of powder is used.

W. H. LEVERS.

This shaft is shut at present, and I have notified Mr. Levers that if he attempts to open it before sinking an escapement shaft he will be prosecuted.

COAL RUN COAL COMPANY.

Reading shaft abandoned.

CHICAGO, WILMINGTON AND VERMILION COAL COMPANY.

No. 3 shaft nearly abandoned. The company is preparing to start their new mine which has been opened to the coal the last two years.

STAR COAL COMPANY.

This mine is in fair condition, but there has been considerable carelessness in conducting the air. They seldom put in a close stopping so that the air is allowed to escape before reaching its destination. This is gross negligence. The machinery at this mine is in very poor condition, but they are stopping to fix it. This is another company that it is hard to get to do anything. I have to continually urge them on. They have put in new guides and safety catches on the cages.

Of the gin shafts in this county, Fairbairn and White stands first in ventilation; James Carr, second; then Jacob Moon, Thomas Edwards, Thos. Walford, John Williams, Alexander Helm and Richard Evans in the order named. Marshall & Co. abandoned their old mine and they have a new one down to the coal.