

ABANDONED MINES.

Four mines were not operated this year and are permanently abandoned or temporarily closed:

Bond County.—Northern Coal & Supply Company, Sorento.

Clinton County.—Consolidated Coal Company, West Mine, Breese.

Madison County.—Mt. Olive & Staunton Coal Company, No. 1 mine, and DeCamp Mining Company, No. 1 mine, Staunton.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The Henrietta Mine of Edwardsville, now owned by Cowan & Ottearen, which has not been in operation since March, 1913, is being improved and operations will be resumed about September 1. So far, only surface buildings are being repaired; smoke stacks, which had been blown down, are placed in position, air shaft retimbered, and tippie erected to hoist the debris that had fallen down the air shaft.

The Breese-Trenton Coal Company has installed at the East mine, Breese, a coal crushing plant of 125 tons per hour capacity, driven by a 40-horsepower engine; a coal conveyor, capacity 160 tons per hour, driven by a 14-horsepower engine; a shaker screen, driven by a 14-horsepower engine, and two automatic self-dumping cages. One of the old cages is kept ready to be used in case of emergency. An automatic caging device has been installed at the bottom of the shaft to cage all coal from one side, which requires but one man to operate instead of four men as formerly. The empty car tracks were extended at the bottom of the shaft and will now hold seventy cars, twice the number formerly accommodated. The company has also built and equipped a machine shop where all the repair work is done for its two mines. Two new 150-horsepower boilers have been installed and, in addition to the six boilers already in use, makes a modern and up-to-date boiler room. At the Buxton mine, Beckemeyer, a new 100-ton track scales, so arranged that they weigh the coal loaded on both the slack and nut coal tracks, has been installed, and a 150 K. W. dynamo direct connected to a Corliss engine, put in, making a total of 250 K. W. at this mine. The mine is wired on both sides to convey the current to the seven machines recently installed. The motor lines in several entries were also extended. Two additional engines for hauling the loads and empty railroad cars were installed. These additions and improvements have increased the output of the mines from 1,200 to 1,600 tons per day. The company has contracts which give them nearly full time work.

The Southern Coal, Coke and Mining Company has installed at the No. 9 mine, New Baden, a 200 K. W. generator which will furnish sufficient electric power to materially increase the output of this mine. The bottom has been retimbered with steel I-beams, 6 by 14 by 18 being used on the south side, and 6 by 14 by 22 on the north side of shaft. The laggings stand on concrete foundation and have ankle pieces bolted to I-beams, the whole reinforced with iron rods and wooden braces between the beams. Much credit is due the mine manager, Mr. Philips, for his efficient work.

The New Staunton Coal Company, Livingston, has put in operation a new double type 13-ton mine locomotive equipped with two 90-horsepower motors, thereby increasing the output of this mine. A new fan engine, which increases the efficiency of the fan 20 per cent, has been installed.

Donk Bros. Coal & Coke Company at No. 2 mine, Maryville, has installed a new engine and dynamo. Thirteen breast and three short wall mining machines have replaced thirty compressed air punchers. An accident which happened May 5, 1915, completely demolished the old engine and a new one was bought and placed on a reenforced concrete foundation.

MINE FIRE.

The roof of the boiler, engine and pump room at the No. 2 mine of the Madison Coal Corporation, Glen Carbon, was destroyed by fire November 6, 1914. The building was repaired and work resumed November 25, 1914.

DAMAGE BY STORM.

On June 13, 1915, a severe windstorm struck the smokestacks at the New Livingston Coal Company's mine, Livingston, Madison County, blowing them upon and demolishing a part of the boiler house. Men were put to work building a fireproof brick structure in the demolished part, and the mine resumed operation July 2, 1915.

FATAL ACCIDENTS.

July 29, 1914, Charles W. Nelson, weighman, age 58 years, married, was fatally injured by jumping off a railroad car while employed at mine No. 2 of the Chicago-Sandoval Coal Company, Sandoval, Marion County. He leaves a widow.

August 26, 1914, M. McMannis, miner, age 27 years, married, was killed by falling slate in Donk Bros. Coal & Coke Company's mine No. 3, Troy, Madison County. He leaves a widow.

November 2, 1914, Mike Krisman, miner, age 34 years, married, was killed by a fall of coal in New Staunton Coal Company's mine No. 1, Livingston, Madison County. He leaves a widow and one child.

November 6, 1914, Fred Wallheimer, miner, age 40 years, married, was killed by the explosion of a premature shot in the Southern Coal, Coke and Mining Company's No. 9 mine, New Baden, Clinton County. He leaves a widow and one child.

January 2, 1915, Roman Wazneak, machine helper, age 28 years, married, was fatally injured by falling coal from face while shoveling slack away from the machine in mine No. 1, Marion County Coal Company, Junction City, Marion County, and died four hours later. He leaves a widow and one child.

January 23, 1915, Fred Heller, driver, age 24 years, single, was run over by two loaded pit cars and instantly killed in Mt. Olive & Staunton Coal Company's No. 2 mine, Williamson, Madison County.

February 5, 1915, Henry Bitterberg, miner, age 43 years, married, employed in the North Breese Coal and Mining Company's mine, Breese, Clinton County, was killed by falling coal. Deceased was loading a car when a large piece of coal fell upon him, crushing his chest and breaking his neck. He leaves a widow and three children.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN KANEY,

State Mine Inspector, Eighth District, Centralia, Ill.

FATAL CASUALTIES, EIGHTH DISTRICT, JUNE 30, 1915.

Date.	Name.	Age.	Occupation.	Residence.	Married.	Single.	Widow.	Children.	Dependents.	Cause of death.
1914										
July 29	Charles W. Nelson	58	Weighman	Sandoval	1	1	1	1	1	Railroad cars.
Aug. 26	M. McMannis	27	Miner	Troy	1	1	1	1	1	Falling slate.
Nov. 2	Mike Krisman	34	do.	Livingston	1	1	1	2	2	Falling coal.
6	Fred Wallheimer	40	do.	Trenton	1	1	1	2	2	Premature shot.
1915										
Jan. 2	Roman Wazneak	28	Machine helper	Central City	1	1	1	2	2	Falling coal.
23	Fred Heller	24	Driver	Staunton	1	1	1	1	1	Pit cars.
Feb. 5	Henry Bitterberg	43	Miner	Breese	1	1	3	4	4	Falling coal.
	Total				6	1	6	6	12	