

STREATOR AND WILMINGTON STAR COAL CO.

This company now have their mines in good running order. They have built a fan during the year, and are preparing to sink another shaft this fall.

SUFFERN BROS., COAL BRANCH JUNCTION.

The air in this mine has been split into four distinct currents, which has greatly improved the ventilation.

WILMINGTON AND SPRINGFIELD COAL CO.

The air in this mine has been improved by splitting the current, and the roadways have been cleaned and repaired.

The Gooldridge Coal Company at Morris have abandoned their mine at that place.

All the small mines around Morris are supplied with escapements and fences around their hoisting shafts. One of the operators refused to comply with the law, and I was forced to threaten him with an injunction before he would make the required improvements.

KANKAKEE COUNTY.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS COAL CO.

The two mines of this company, situated on a branch of the Illinois Central railroad, have been abandoned. On my last visit there I notified the superintendent as to the condition of the roadways, and remonstrated with him about allowing the rooms to cave in and destroy the air current. He promised to make the necessary repairs, but a few days later the mine was abandoned. The company claims to have expended \$70,000 on it without any adequate return, and probably did not feel warranted in putting any more expense on it.

CLARK CITY MINE.

This mine, now owned by Taylor Williams, was formerly the property of the Kankakee Coal Mining Co. There has been an escapement sunk and a fan erected, so that the mine is in a very good condition. It is located on a branch of the Illinois Central, and of the Wabash and Pacific railroads.

WILL COUNTY.

CHICAGO, WILMINGTON AND VERMILION COAL CO.

This company has sunk a new shaft this summer at Braidwood. They had their escapement down and the fan erected before beginning to mine coal. This was very commendable and speaks well for

the officials, as showing their readiness to comply with the law. The mine will be operated according to the best methods. The men will be moved from the "H" shaft to the new one as fast as room can be made for them, as the "H" shaft had become too extended for the volume of air.

The "I" shaft was abandoned last spring. The company posted notices warning the men not to enter the mine in the event of the prairie becoming flooded with water from the melting snow of the winter. They afterward decided to close the mine and take out all the valuable material they had in it.

ALBRIGHT AND WILMINGTON COAL CO.

"A" shaft. A fifty foot chimney has been built to enlarge the ventilating capacity of this mine, and this with the improvements made in the airways has kept the air in very good condition. The company is building a fan, which will be running very soon.

"B" shaft has been abandoned.

LASALLE COUNTY.

CHICAGO, WILMINGTON AND VERMILION COAL CO.

There has been an additional fan erected during the year at No. 2 shaft of this company, making two now in operation at this mine, with two upcast shafts.

There are also two fans and two upcast shafts at No. 1 mine, and both mines are in good condition.

COAL RUN CO.'S MINES.

No. 2. This mine has been abandoned because it could not be made to pay. This is the mine that gave off so much fire-damp. This gas escaped so freely that it could be found in cavities where fragments of the roof had fallen out, with the air traveling at a velocity of 600 feet per minute immediately below it.

No. 3. The fan at this place is now run at a very high rate of speed, and another air shaft is being sunk, which will cut off half of their air-way, giving the air only half the distance to travel, besides bringing it to the men direct from the surface, instead of going past the old workings before it reaches them.

RIVER BANK COAL CO.

This company has erected a fan for ventilating purposes, but on going to the mines on two separate occasions, I found the fan standing still and the men in the mine. I made a protest to the officials both times, but no attention was paid to it. I then filed information with the State's attorney to prosecute them. They were summoned before the grand jury at the spring term, but the miners

were unwilling witnesses and shielded the company as much as possible. The consequence was the case was dismissed, but the fan was afterward kept running.

STREATOR COAL Co.'s MINES.

Shaft No. 1 of this company has been abandoned.

At No. 2, now Luther & Tyler's mine, a new fan has been built. This is a small mine, and will soon be worked out. It is now within 34 feet of the workings of an old mine which are filled with water, but bore-holes are kept in advance of the workings approaching it.

All the mines from which coal is shipped, in the vicinity of Streator, are located so as to have easy access to the following railroads, and more or less business is done with all of them: The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, Chicago, Alton and St. Louis, Chicago, St. Louis and Western, Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific, and Indiana, Illinois and Iowa.

ROCKWELL SHAFT.

This mine has had a new fan erected of the Champion pattern, and the air is now good and the roadways safe.

OGLESBY COAL Co.

This mine has had the air split into two currents during the past year, which has increased the volume, and I have the superintendent's promise to build a new fan, and put a more powerful engine on it.

JAMES CAHILL'S MINE.

This mine has had a fan of the Champion pattern put on in place of the old one.

UNION COAL Co.

This company has put a tension wheel on the fan belt, and also a governor on the engine. The valve is now opened next to the boilers, so that the engine keeps up a uniform speed. The air is also split in the No. 2 seam.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY.

H. E. HAMILTON'S MINE, FAIRBURY.

This mine, formerly Porter, Wager & Co.'s, has been abandoned.

FAIRBURY COAL MINING Co.

This is the result of a combination effected between Mr. Hamilton and the Walton Brothers; whereby the old shaft of the former is closed and the entire business of the place transferred to the Walton Brothers' shaft, the capacity of which is correspondingly enlarged.

W. H. LEVERS' MINE.

This mine, located at Pontiac, was found running last fall, but the operators had abandoned seam No. 5 and commenced developing seam No. 2. They asked for time to sink an escapement, claiming that the new works should be construed to be a new mine, as the miners were working close to the bottom of the shaft. They put on new cages and covered them with boiler iron. The present shaft is in rather poor condition. The proprietors have been trying to organize a company to operate it, but have not succeeded as yet. The prospect is not a very promising one, the shaft being down on a fault, and an escapement being necessary. It would require quite an outlay of money with not much prospect of an adequate return. On all my visits to the place, except one in the fall, I have found it closed, and have failed to discover any one who was interested in it. I could not get any account of the production, which is small, not exceeding a few hundred tons, so I have dropped it from the list.

STAR COAL Co.

The mine owned by this company has had the circuit of the air course reduced nearly one-half by getting a connection with an abandoned mine. This brings the air direct to the miners, which is a very great improvement.

ALEXANDER HELON'S MINE.

I was obliged to file information against the owners of this mine for refusing to make good roadways to the escapement shaft. It was nearly filled with water, so that the miners could with difficulty get through it, and it also reduced the air current by lessening the area of the air-way. He afterward built a roadway through an abandoned mine, so the suit was withdrawn.

CHICAGO, WILMINGTON AND VERMILION COAL Co., No. 3 SHAFT.

This is a new mine, and appears for the first time in a report of the district. Its plan of ventilation is good. The air, after supplying each pair of entries, is taken to the upcast shaft, which is ventilated by a fan of an entirely new pattern. This is driven by a powerful engine, with a 12x16 inch cylinder.

REMARKS.

The mines not mentioned here remain in about the same condition as last reported, except the Rutland mine, which was standing for a while, but was found to be in operation this summer, employing two men and a boy. On visiting it I found it to have no escapement shaft, and at once filed information for an injunction, but nothing has been done about it yet.