

reported is 26 less than last year; but it must be taken into consideration that only those that had lost thirty days or more are mentioned in this report. Last year the report included all losing one week or more time.

*Improvements*—The Centralia Mining & Manufacturing company has put in a new fan twenty feet in diameter, replacing one twelve feet in diameter. The company has also put in a second electric motor weighing ten tons, the other being of eight tons weight. Mining machines have been taken out of this mine and a return made to the old system of shooting off the solid.

*New Mines*—There are ten new mines reported as producing coal this year. Seven of these are shipping mines, the others are for local trade.

The Donk Bros., Coal & Coke Co. has sunk two more shafts in Madison county, one at Troy, the other at Maryville, three miles northeast of Collinsville. The equipment of these shafts is to be the same as No. 1 at Collinsville. Last year's report gives a description of the plant at the latter mine.

The Kerens & Donniewald Coal Co., at Worden, Madison county, has commenced producing coal, and are now at work on the escapement shaft. The equipment is first-class, Litchfield engines, self-dumping cages, and shaker screens, the latter made by the Duncan Foundry Co. of Alton, have been put in.

The Beck-Walker Coal Co., operating what is known as the "Royal Mine," near Belleville, and located on the L. & N. railway, commenced producing coal early in the fiscal year. A description of this plant may be found in last year's report.

The Valley Coal & Mining Co., near Birkner, St. Clair Co., also located on the L. & N. railway, commenced producing coal this year. The first shaft put down by this company was intended for a hoisting shaft, but owing to the unfavorableness of the different strata, additional timber was required to make it secure, thus making it too small for a hoisting shaft, but sufficiently large for an escapement shaft, for which purpose it is now used.

In last year's report mention was made of a new shaft sunk at Marissa. The name of the company at that time was the Superior Coal Co.; the name of this company has been changed, owing to another company of the same name being located on the same railroad, which is now known as the Borders Coal Co. Both shafts are down at this mine, and are fully equipped.

The Vinegar Hill Coal Co., located between New Athens and Lenzburg, St. Clair county, commenced producing coal during the latter part of the year. The escapement shaft is down, and the fan, a "Steine" is now in place. This makes two of these fans in this district; the other is at the Eureka mine, Marissa.

The Lumaghi Coal Co. has put down a new shaft and is at work on the escapement shaft; the mine is located near Collinsville on the Terre Haute & Indianapolis railroad. No coal was taken out during last year, the first coal raised was in August, 1900.

*Escapement Shafts*—Some trouble has been experienced in requiring the local operators in Madison county to sink escapement shafts. After notifying them several times, they still persisted in refusing to comply with my notice,