

The following table gives the coal production by counties, showing a decrease or increase during the year:

Counties.	Total output of all grades of coal—in tons.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1899.	1900.		
Brown	2,630	2,992	362	.....
Calhoun.....	4,118	6,952	2,834	.....
Greene.....	14,370	14,020	.....	350
Jersey.....	4,050	2,800	.....	1,250
Macoupin.....	1,646,674	1,849,796	203,122	.....
Montgomery.....	354,201	389,822	35,621	.....
Morgan.....	4,800	4,010	.....	790
Sangamon.....	2,083,572	2,519,911	436,339	.....
Scott.....	20,617	26,149	5,532	.....
Total.....	4,135,032	4,816,452	683,810	2,390
Total net increase.....	.....	.....	681,420	.....

The following is a summary of the principal facts to be found in the various tables:

Number of mines.....	101
Number of shipping mines.....	44
Number of local mines.....	57
Total output in tons of 2,000 pounds.....	4,816,452
Tons of lump coal.....	2,744,191
Tons of mine run coal.....	906,887
Tons of egg coal.....	84,921
Tons of nut coal.....	240,937
Tons of screenings.....	590,247
Tons of slack coal.....	249,269
Tons loaded on cars for shipment.....	4,095,644
Tons supplied to locomotives at mines.....	169,895
Tons sold to local trade.....	376,666
Tons consumed and wasted at mines.....	174,247
Average number of days in operation.....	177
Tons mined by hand.....	3,065,690
Tons mined by machines.....	1,750,762
Number of mines using machines.....	13
Number of machines in use.....	130
Average value per ton of lump coal at the mine.....	\$0.952
Average value per ton of mine run coal at the mine.....	0.771
Average value per ton of egg coal at the mine.....	0.90
Average value per ton of nut coal at the mine.....	0.753
Average value per ton screenings (pea coal).....	0.41
Average value per ton of slack coal.....	205
Average price paid per ton for hand mining.....	0.4368
Average price paid per ton for machine mining.....	0.356
Aggregate value of total product.....	\$3,862,673
Number of kegs of powder used.....	114,972
Number of miners.....	4,133
Number of other employees underground.....	935
Boys working underground.....	239
Employees above ground.....	676
Total number of employees.....	5,983
Number of fatal accidents.....	22
Number of non-fatal accidents.....	89
Tons of coal mined to each fatal accident.....	218,930
Tons of coal mined to each non-fatal accident.....	53,050
Number of employees to each fatal accident.....	272
Number of employees to each non fatal accident.....	68

Escapement Shafts.—The Montgomery Coal Co., Paisley, Montgomery county, and the Citizens' Coal Co., at its "B" shaft, Springfield, Sangamon county, have completed escapement shafts during the year; the Sangamon Coal Co., of Springfield, has sunk a new escapement shaft during the year at its No. 2 mine.

Improvements.—The Black Diamond Coal & Tile Co., Springfield, has added to its plant a pair of first motion engines, 20x36 inches, which will largely increase the output of the mine. The Junction Mining Co., Iles Junction, has made several improvements at its mine during the year, erecting an improved tower and shaking screen and elevator; also adding a Phillips' box car loader. The Hillsboro Coal Co., Hillsboro, has retimbered the greater part of its hoisting shaft during the year. The Nilwood Carbon Coal Co., Nilwood, has retimbered a large portion of its escapement shaft and put up a larger fan. The Capitol Co-operative Coal Co., Springfield, has put up a brick engine and boiler house at its No. 2 mine.

New Mines.—The Madison Coal Co., of St. Louis, Mo., has put in operation during the year a new mine at Divernon, Sangamon county, which will be known as its No. 6 mine. This plant is intended for a large output; the buildings are very substantial and designed to be fire proof; the tower is built of steel; both the hoisting and escapement shafts were sunk at the same time and are very substantially timbered. Many new local mines are opened up and others abandoned in the district during the year.

Prospective Mines.—The Chicago, Wilmington and Vermilion Coal Co., of Streator, Ill., is sinking two shafts on the line of the Chicago and Alton Railroad, about two and one-half miles north of Virden, Macoupin county; both shafts are of large dimensions. Extreme care is being taken in the sinking of these shafts; a double curbing and puddle wall is being put in to keep all surface water out of the shafts; this plant is intended to be first-class in every particular. The boiler and engine house and all out-buildings, including the dynamo building, are to be built as near fire proof as they can be made. The company is building several houses and a town will be located at the mine.

The Virden Coal Company is sinking a new hoisting shaft on their royalty at Virden, Macoupin county. The shaft will be used for ventilation and an escapement shaft for their present mine.

A new shaft is being sunk near Camp Lincoln, Springfield, Sangamon county, by the Lincoln Park Coal Mining Company. It is intended as a local mine.

The Horse Creek Coal Company, of Pawnee, Sangamon county, has commenced a new hoisting shaft at its mine. When this hoisting shaft is down the machinery will be removed to it, and the present working mine will be used as an escapement and air shaft.

Fatal Accidents.—There have been twenty-two fatal accidents in the district during the year, eight of which were caused by premature blasts and the careless handling of powder. Seven of these accidents occurred in Sangamon county, where the coal is blasted off the solid. Three-fourths of the shots are let off at the noon hour, and the ventilation of the mine is then in a bad condition for the balance of the day. Sometimes as high as four shots are let off in the face of a working room at the noon hour, and it is impossible with any amount of air in circulation to cool a room off after these shots, so that it would be in a healthy condition for persons to work in the balance of the working day, which ends in the afternoon about three o'clock.