

is of a very good quality and about six inches thicker than in the mines around Springfield.

A number of small mines have been put in operation during the year, and a number of others abandoned, and others have changed operators. The most important changes in the steam collieries are the Consolidated Coal Co. of St. Louis, which has sold its Carlinville shaft to a company of local citizens. The new company will be known as the Carlinville Coal Co. The Smithsboro colliery has been sold to a new firm which will be known from this on as the Enterprise Coal Co.

John Utt's heirs have sold the Virden colliery to a new firm. It will still retain the name of the Virden Coal Co.

The Sorento Coal Co. has sold its colliery to Taylor Williams & Co. They will still, however, retain the name of the Sorento Coal Co.

The Central Coal Co., Springfield, has been sold to a local company of Springfield, and will be known as the Woodside Coal Co.

Prospective Mines.—The New Douglas Coal & Mining Co. is sinking a shaft at New Douglas, Madison county. A company has been organized at Vandalia, Fayette county, and is about commencing operations to sink a shaft. A company has been organized at Ramsey, Fayette county, for the sinking of a shaft, as the coal has been previously proved by the diamond drill; it is supposed that sinking will soon be commenced. **A co-operative company has been formed at Springfield for the sinking of a shaft 5½ miles east of the city on the line of the I. C. R. R.: it is understood sinking will be commenced at once.**

Abandoned Mines.—The most important abandoned mines during the year are the mines of the Jacksonville Coal Co., and the Shipman Coal Co. The Jacksonville mine was abandoned April 18, 1891; the machinery, boilers, etc., have been sold and removed. The Shipman mine was abandoned May 1, 1891; the machinery, boilers, etc., have been sold and removed to Indiana.

Labor Difficulties During the Year.—On May 1, 1891, the operators of Sangamon county, with a few exceptions, posted a notice at the mines that mining from this time on would be on a basis of 50c per ton, the coal to pass over a 1½ inch screen. The miners refused to work, and at present are still out. Some compromises were tried by the operators, establishing the day system of labor, but so far have been unsuccessful.

Mining Machines.—There are now fifteen collieries in the district operated by coal cutting machines, viz.: Abbey No. 3 and Heintz Bluff, at Collinsville; Troy colliery, at Troy; No. 6 and No. 7 collieries, at Staunton; No. 8, No. 10 and Mount Olive Coal Co.'s colliery, at Mount Olive; Gillespie colliery, at Gillespie; St. Barnard colliery, at Clyde; Wolf Bros.' colliery, at Edwardsville; Madison Coal Co.'s colliery No. 1, at Glen Carbon; Wilmington and Springfield colliery, at Ridgely; Illinois Fuel Co.'s colliery, at Riverton; and Girard Coal Co.'s colliery, at Girard. The Peoria colliery has abandoned the use of machines during the year; the Peoria colliery, Edinburg colliery and Sangamon Coal Co. are expected to use the electric coal cutting machines.