

At Grant Bros. mine, Pekin, Tazewell county, the only means heretofore of egress from this mine was by climbing the buntons in the air-shaft; this has been improved by replacing the buntons with a stairway. They have also reset their steam boilers, enclosing them with a new brick wall.

Bolander Bros., Pekin, Tazewell county, have replaced the old guides in their shaft with new ones, and covered the hoisting cage for the better protection of the men.

The Tallula Coal Company, Tallula, Menard county, has secured an increase in the quantity of air passing through its mine by changing the spiral casing around the ventilating fan.

The Wabash Coal Company, Athens, Menard county, is cleaning out the return air-way in its shaft, and expects thereby to secure a sufficient quantity of air. If this should fail the company will put in a new fan.

The Junction Co-operative Coal Company's shaft at Petersburg, Menard county, is now being operated by the Valley Coal Company. This company is retimbering the hoisting shaft, and placing a stairway in the escapement shaft.

Destruction of Mine Property by Wind and Rain Storms.—During the terrific wind and rain storm of May 2, 1902, in the vicinity of Farmington, Fulton county, huge volumes of water poured over the ground under which Newsam Bros. mine at that place is located. The water flowed down the shaft, washing away about twelve feet of the surface, carrying the cage and dirt to the bottom of the shaft, closing it in. Forty-two miners were at work in the mine at the time of the storm, but they were all able to leave the mine by way of the escapement shaft.

Another storm occurred June 10, 1902, at Norris, Fulton county, which destroyed all the top works of the Norris Coal & Mining Company's plant near that place, including the head gear, dumps and engine and boiler house. The company is now reconstructing the tower, which is a frame work, also rebuilding the engine and boiler house, erecting a shaker screen and railroad chutes. The damage to this plant is estimated to be \$8,000. The same storm destroyed the chutes and smoke stack, also twisting the head frame out of place, at the Ed Little mine at Wesley City, Tazewell county. It required ten days to make the repairs. The damage was estimated to be \$400. This storm also destroyed the dump and weigh house at James Walker's slope mine, located at Mapleton, Peoria county. At Newsam Bros. mine, Kingston, Peoria county, the same storm made a complete wreck of their mine. The tramways, dumps, engine and boiler houses and blacksmith shop were all blown away and destroyed. Ten thousand dollars was the estimated damage.

Fires.—At midnight, January 14, 1902, the tower, shaker screen and buildings at the Maplewood Coal Company's mine, located at Farmington, were destroyed by fire, estimated loss \$12,000. The property was partly insured. The miners at this mine had been out on strike 27 days on account of there not being doors on all the mine cars. The miners had returned to work the day of the fire.