

FOURTH INSPECTION DISTRICT—1896.

MR. GEO. A. SCHILLING,

Secretary Bureau of Labor Statistics, Springfield, Ill.:

SIR:—In compliance with section twelve of the Mining Law, I herewith submit the thirteenth annual report of the State Inspector of Mines, being the first report for the Fourth District as now constituted, and for the year ending July 1, 1896.

The report gives tabulated statements showing the number of mines in operation, both shipping and local; the number of tons of coal mined; number of accidents, fatal and non-fatal; number of miners employed, and the number of all other employes in and about the mines, including boys under sixteen years of age; the number of kegs of powder used; estimated number of acres of coal worked out during the year; the number of tons of coal produced to each accident, fatal and non-fatal; fatal and non-fatal accidents per each one thousand employes and the aggregate value of all coal mined and the prices paid for mining.

The following summary is for the fiscal year ending June 1, 1896:

Total number of mines.....	98
Total shipping mines.....	40
Total number of local mines.....	58
Highest number of miners employed.....	2,984
Other employes.....	993
Machine mine employes.....	455
Boys under sixteen years of age.....	61
Total employes in and around the mines.....	4,493
Total tons of coal mined—all grades.....	2,802,942
Total tons of lump coal.....	1,555,783
Other grades.....	1,247,159
Average price of lump coal at mines.....	\$0.898
Aggregate value of total product.....	\$2,153,394.88
Average price paid for hand mining (screened coal)—winter.....	\$0.5983
.....summer.....	\$0.4819
Number of fatal accidents.....	14
Number of non-fatal accidents.....	69
Tons of coal produced to each fatal accident.....	200,210
Tons of coal produced to each non-fatal accident.....	40,622
Fatal accidents to each one thousand employes.....	3.12
Non-fatal accidents to each one thousand employes.....	15.35
Estimated number of acres worked out.....	433.53
Kegs of powder used during the year.....	65,230

New Mines—Kelly Coal Company has opened their new Number 3 mine at Westville, Vermilion county, during the year. This mine is fitted up in first class shape and is intended for one of the largest in the State. It will be a machine mine and run by electricity.

Catlin Coal Company has opened a new mine near Catlin, Vermilion county. The shaft is 168 feet deep and on the Grape Creek vein; the machinery and buildings are of a substantial character, but the seam of coal has not come up to expectations.

Harvey and Blake have opened a new mine at East Peoria, Tazewell county. It is a well fitted up mine of its class, it being intended for the local trade.

Evans and Rigle have opened a new shaft three miles west of Danville, Vermilion county, on the Big Four railroad; the machinery and buildings at this shaft are light and not intended for a large output.

Improvements.—Kelly Coal Company, of Westville, Vermilion county, has erected a 20 foot fan at their Number 3 mine, with a 10x20 engine coupled direct to the fan shaft. Fan house and buildings are of a substantial character.

Westville Coal Company, Westville, Vermilion county, has sunk an air and escape shaft at their new mine; the opening is 7x15, inside of timbers 7x9, being used for an air-way upon which they have erected a 20 foot fan, with engine and building of the first class.

Catlin Coal Company have sunk an air and escape shaft at their new mine near Catlin, Vermilion county, but the buildings and machinery are not yet erected on it.

France Bros. have sunk an air shaft at their mine west of Catlin, Vermilion county, which places this mine among the best of its class in the local trade.

O'Connell & Hume have sunk an air and escape shaft at their mine on Grape Creek, Vermilion county, which adds greatly to the quantity of air and safety to the miners.

Glenburn Coal Company, of Glenburn, Vermilion county, has put in an endless rope haulage system; also added another air compressor to their mining plant; it is of the Norwalk pattern, and has a capacity of running twenty-four Harrison machines.

Rusche Bros. have sunk an air shaft at their mine at East Peoria, Tazewell county, which adds largely to the quantity of air in the mine.

Prospective Mines.—Pawnee Coal Company has sunk a new shaft on their property near Westville, Vermilion county. It is about 166 feet deep and the largest opening in this district; the shaft will be 30x19 feet inside of timber, and will be equipped in accordance with the size of the shaft.

Hawley Coal Company, of Pekin, Tazewell county, has abandoned its old shaft and commenced sinking a new one about half a mile south of the old workings.

Eastern Illinois Coal Company has commenced opening two mines on the Grape Creek property, which has been leased for a term of years.

Fatal Accidents.—July 15, 1895, Isaac Weaver, aged 44 years, employed by Consolidated Coal Company, at their Number 4 mine, Danville, Vermilion county, to attend the railroad coal chutes, in running a car of coal from the shaft to the chute, the car jumped the track. It had been raining that morning and the tipple was wet. The deceased took a piece of timber to use as a lever to lift the car on the track; it suddenly slipped and he fell off the tipple, a distance of eighteen feet; when he was found, his back was broken. He