

shovel and weighed before it is screened, we find it is not out of line with prices paid elsewhere in the district for the same seam. I think 25 cents per ton is not far from the average for screened coal in this district.

NEW MINES.

Clinton County.—The Trenton Coal Light & Power Co. has sunk a shaft at Trenton 330 feet deep to No. 7 seam. The coal is of an excellent quality, and well adapted to domestic purposes. This shaft is equipped with a pair of 16x32in. first-motion Danville engines.

The shaft is located half a mile south of Trenton on the B. O. & S. W. R. R. St. Louis is the principal market for the product.

Madison County.—A shaft has been sunk one mile south of Staunton on the C., P. & St. L. R. R. to No. 6 seam by Henry Voge. It was commenced in the latter part of September, 1896 and coal was reached January 16, 1897. The shaft is 8x16ft. and 292 feet deep. It is fitted up in first-class shape. The engines are a pair of 18x32in., Litchfield; three boilers, each 52 inches in diameter, and a shaker screen complete the equipment. St. Louis is the principal market for the coal.

John McNally has sunk a small gin shaft for local trade near North Alton; the seam is only about 2 feet 6 inches thick. He employs three or four men.

St. Clair County.—Muren Brothers sunk a shaft about one mile east of Bellville to No. 6 seam. The shaft is 7x14ft. and 180 feet deep. It is equipped with a single geared engine, two cylindrical boilers 42 inches in diameter and a shaker screen. St. Louis is the principal market for the coal.

James and Henry Taylor have sunk a small shaft just south of the corporation line of Belleville, on the Centerville road. It is only 35 feet deep and is equipped with a gin and is operated for local trade. Just opened, no output in this year.

PROSPECTIVE MINES.

A company of miners are sinking a shaft a mile and a half west of Lebanon on the B. O. & W. R. R. It is down about 64 feet and considerable difficulty is being met with, as there are nearly 30 feet of gravel at a depth of about 35 feet from the surface, and it is making a liberal quantity of water. The shaft is badly swung and will need a good deal of straightening if they are successful in getting the shaft down.

A new shaft is being sunk by Nesbit Bros., of Bunker Hill. It is situated in Madison county several miles south of Bunker Hill. It will be in the neighborhood of 180 or 190 feet deep to the coal, and will be operated for the local trade. They expect to find a good thick seam of coal.

ABANDONED MINES.

In St. Clair county, The National Mine, formerly owned by the Maule Coal Co., now owned by Donk Bros., has been abandoned.

At this mine the pillars had been robbed to such an extent that a general squeeze was induced, resulting in a cave-in under a small creek, which, during the high water and heavy rains last January, allowed the flood to enter

e mine carrying with it a very large quantity of surface clay which lodged the mine workings, practically ruining the mine. The workings of this aft having communication with the workings of the slope (an adjacent mine longing to the same company) which lay to the dip, it was also flooded til only one entry remained workable. Although no more water is allowed enter the mine and the pump has been kept running steadily, ever since e water broke into the mine, they have not been able to get it out, but they e lowering it slowly and steadily.

Crown Mine No. 1, belonging to the Crown, Coal & Tow Company has not en worked during the year. The top works of this mine were made a comete wreck by the cyclone of May 27, 1896, and have not been rebuilt since. l that was left of the top works was the engine and boilers.

The Ruby Mine has not been operated for several months and is at present andoned. It was operated last by the Adams Coal and Tow Company, of . Louis. This mine is located near Caseyville, on the B. O. & S. W, R. R. St. Clair county.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The Odin Coal Co., at Odin, Ill., is putting in a mining machine plant consisting of one 100 K.-W. Independent mine type dynamo, one Imperial gine 160 H. P., at 250 revolutions per minute, manufactured by the Wes-n Engine Co.; two improved Independent cutting machines, having a ven-foot undercut. The power house is to be equipped with the latest etrical equipment for measuring pressure, current, etc. There are two ilers 66 inches in diameter and 22 feet long with twenty-four 6-inch flues.

At the Glendale Mine, Belleville, a new 12-foot fan is being erected in ace of the 8-foot fan now in use. It should make quite an improvement in e ventilation of the mine.

The Oak Hill Coal Co., has put in a new boiler 42 inches in diameter, and s built a new brick smoke stack.

At the Sandoval mine the company has put in a new shaker screen and has ded some new bins to their outfit.

The Madison Coal Company has improved the casing of their fan at No. 2 ine by making it eccentric with expanding chimney, and has changed from lt to cog-wheel gearing. The improvement has greatly increased the iency of the fan, the quantity of air passing having increased from 72,000 93,000 cubic feet per minute.

The Lumaghi Coal Co., at Collinsville, is preparing to retimber and equip air escapement shaft, which will improve the ventilating capacity of the ine by enlarging it and removing obstructions.

ESCAPEMENTS.

The Kolb Coal Co., of Mascoutah, after a tough experience in getting rough the sand, nas succeeded in getting down with their escapement. It not yet equipped so as to make it available as a good escapement, but it is greatly improved the quantity and quality of the air.