

SEVENTH INSPECTION DISTRICT—1896.

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Secretary Bureau of Labor Statistics, Springfield, Ill.

DEAR SIR:—In compliance with section twelve of the Mining Law of the State, defining the duties of State Inspectors of Mines, I have the honor to submit to you the first report of the Seventh Inspection District, in the Thirteenth Annual Report of the Inspectors of Mines.

The following is a summary of the statements for all the counties in the district:

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| Total number of mines..... | 126 |
| Total number shipping mines..... | 61 |
| Total number of local mines..... | 65 |
| Greatest number of miners employed..... | 1,987 |
| Greatest number of others employed under ground..... | 1,319 |
| Number of boys under 16 years of age under ground..... | 44 |
| Total under ground..... | 3,350 |
| Greatest number employed above ground..... | 476 |
| Total number employed in and around the mines..... | 3,816 |
| Total tons all grades produced..... | 2,270,746 |
| Total tons of lump coal produced..... | 1,026,204 |
| Total tons other grades produced..... | 596,027 |
| Number of kegs of powder used in blasting coal..... | 55,957 |
| Average number of tons of all grades produced, per keg of powder..... | 40 |
| Number of fatal accidents..... | 10 |
| Number of non-fatal accidents..... | 59 |
| Number of men employed to each fatal accident..... | 382 |
| Number of tons of coal produced to each fatal accident..... | 270,746 |
| Number of tons of coal produced to each non-fatal accident..... | 38,487 |
| Average cost of powder per keg to miner..... | \$1 70 |
| Average cost of oil per gallon to miner..... | \$0 69.6 |
| Average cost of blacksmithing to miner, per month..... | \$0 59 |
| Average value per ton of total product..... | \$0 63.4 |
| Average price paid for hand mining—100 per cent. gross contents..... | \$0 31.1 |

New Mines.—The Williamson County Coal Co., at Johnson City, Williamson county, on the C., P. & M. R. R. R., and the George Breuggemann mine, at Nashville, Washington county, on the Centralia & Chester R. R., have been opened and put in operation this year. Both are in the shipping class.

Abandoned mines and mines not in operation during the year:

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| William Barnard's shaft..... | Perey, Randolph county..... |
| The Pope & Mifflin shaft..... | DuQuoin, Perry county..... |
| Davenport Coal Co. shaft..... | New Castle, Saline county..... |
| The Eldorado Coal Co. slope..... | Brooklyn, Saline county..... |

The Superior Coal Co.'s shaft at DuQuoin, Perry county, has not hoisted any coal during the year, but is in working order.

Improvements.—The B., M., C. & I. Co., Murphysboro, Jackson county, have put in an endless rope haulage plant in their No. 5 mine, to haul the coal from main entries of shaft No. 4 to shaft No. 5, where it will be hoisted, shaft No. 4 having been abandoned as a hoisting shaft. They have also established a pumping plant at old No. 1 shaft, to pump out the water, and use this shaft as an air shaft for their new No. 6 shaft, which will be opened up soon.

The Willis Coal and Mining Co., Willisville, Perry county, have put in a new Ingersoll-Sargent Compressor and four mining machines, at their Willisville mine.

The Coulterville Mining Co., Coulterville, Randolph county, have retimbered their hoisting and escapement shaft, and are making all necessary improvements in compliance with the law.

The Mt. Vernon Coal Co., Mt. Vernon, Jefferson county, have completed a new hoisting plant and put in a new 12 ft. fan, and now have one of the best equipped plants in the district.

The L., C., C. & S. Co., St. Johns, Perry county, have built a Campbell coal washer and are now washing and marketing all the slack and fine coal which formerly went to the dump pile.

Cunninghame & Co., of Chicago, have erected a large washer plant at the mine of B., M., C. & C. Co., DeSoto, Jackson county, and are now marketing all coal produced by this mine under 2½ in. They use the Luhrig system and market all coal above ½ in.

Ventilation.—A new 12 foot fan has displaced the furnace at Randolph No. 2, Rosboro, Randolph county.

The Marion Coal Co., Marion Williamson Co., and Brown & Barwell, of Cutler Perry Co., have also put in new 12 foot fans, and are making an effort to improve the ventilation of their mines.

Escapement Shafts.—A number of escapement shafts have been sunk during the year, and others are now being sunk which will be completed before spring.

Prospective Mines.—The B. M. C. & I. Co., Murphysboro, Jackson County, are now sinking a shaft at Herrins Prairie, Williamson county, on the O. & T. R. R., 9½x20 in clear to the No. 7 seam, which is 140 feet below the surface and 9 feet thick. The indications are this will be one of the largest plants in this district, with a capacity of 1,500 or 1,700 tons per day.

The Harrisburg Mining and Coal Co. are sinking a shaft 7 ft. 4 in.x19 ft. 4 in. in the clear at Harrisburg to the No. 5 and 7 seam. No. 7 seam is about 63 feet below surface, and No. 5 seam is about 200 feet, and 7 ft. 10 in. thick. They will open up both seams from the one shaft.

The Crab Orchard Coal Co., Spillertown, Williamson county, are now sinking a new shaft with a view of making a first-class mine in every respect.

William Barnard has abandoned his old mine at Perey, and will move machinery to Cutler, Perry county, where he will sink a new shaft.

Fatal Accidents—September 6, 1895, William Mitchell, miner, 48 years of age, married, wife and two children, employed in Big Muddy Coal and Coke