

In Bond county the escapement shaft has been completed by the Smithboro company, at Smithboro, during the year; it was an expensive undertaking, owing to the large body of water with which the workmen had to contend. A small light cage and guides will be used with a small coupled engine for the purpose of taking men out at the escapement shaft. A new twelve-foot fan has been erected at the Sorrento shaft; the engine is so arranged that it can be disconnected from the fan and used as hoisting engine in the escapement shaft.

The Chouteau mining machines have been put in at Wolf Bros.' coal mine at Edwardsville, Madison county, and at the Mount Olive Coal Co.'s mine, Mount Olive, with increased boiler power at both places. A new fan, twelve feet in diameter, has also been put in at the Mount Olive Coal Co.'s shaft.

In Christain county the connection between Collieries No. 1 and 2 of the Pana Coal Co. has been made during the year, making an escapement shaft for both shafts.

The Edinburg Coal Co. has finished its escapement shaft; a new hoisting shaft has been sunk, connecting both shafts. A pair of direct engines, 16x30, Litchfield make, have been put in, with a fan twelve feet in diameter; the plant is put up in good shape, and is intended for a large output.

A new twelve foot fan has been put in at the mine of the Hillsboro Coal Co., at Hillsboro, Montgomery county.

New Mines.—The Penwell Coal Co., of Pana, has commenced operations during the year. Its new shaft is located on the Illinois Central railroad, about one quarter of a mile south of the union depot, at Pana; the shaft is well sunk, and very substantially timbered; the engine and boiler houses are built of brick; the tower and outside buildings covered with galvanized corrugated iron; the engines are 24x36, direct acting; the drum is ten feet in diameter, and sheave-wheels 8 feet in diameter, with wrought iron spokes. The plant is in every way first class, and intended for a large output. A twelve foot fan is also used for ventilation.

The new shaft of the Taylorville Coal Co. has been put in operation during the year; this plant is in every way first class; the engine and boiler houses are built of brick with the tower and top works covered with corrugated iron. The water from the city water works is used for fire protection. The engines are 18x32, direct acting, with a seven foot drum; the sheave-wheels are 6 feet in diameter, with wrought iron spokes. A twelve foot fan is used for ventilation; the shaft is well sunk and well timbered.

The new shaft of the Coffeen Coal Co., of Coffeen, Montgomery county, has been put in operation during the year. The coal is about seven feet thick, and of good quality. The shaft is located on the Toledo, St. Louis and Kansas City railroad, about 14 miles