

The law increasing the number of mine inspection districts of the State from seven to ten, which went into effect July 1, 1905, made this one of the additional or new districts. Of the coal producing counties now composing the ninth district Clinton and Marion were formerly in the sixth district, while the counties of Franklin, Jefferson, Perry, Randolph, Washington and White were transferred from the seventh district.

The following table shows the coal production of the counties forming the ninth district with the increase or decrease for the years 1905 and 1906:

COUNTIES.	TOTAL PRODUCT OF ALL GRADES OF COAL—IN TONS.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1905.	1906.		
Clinton.....	904,826	770,689		134,137
Franklin.....	136,788	387,230	250,442	
Jefferson.....	30,236	20,292		9,944
Marion.....	1,086,350	826,280		260,070
Perry.....	1,268,718	1,453,766	185,048	
Randolph.....	506,547	572,001	65,454	
Washington.....	78,315	95,796	17,481	
White.....	1,000	6,585	5,585	
Totals.....	4,012,780	4,132,639	524,010	404,151
Net increase.....		119,859		

The counties of Clinton, Jefferson and Marion show a decrease in tonnage from last year, aggregating 404,151 tons, that of Marion county being over a quarter of a million of tons. Notwithstanding this large decrease it is over come by the increase in tonnage of Franklin, Perry and Randolph counties. Franklin county shows an increase of 250,442 tons, or over 183 per cent.

NEW MINES.

Many new mines are being put down in this district, which will be in operation next year. The location of the new mines and the name of the companies are: The Franklin County Construction Co., located six and one-half miles northwest of Benton; W. P. Rend, Chicago, is president of this company. The Franklin County Colliery Co., located ten miles north of Christopher; the United Colliery Co., and the Zeigler District Colliery Co. are located at Christopher; the Big Muddy and Carterville Coal Co., located three miles southwest of Zeigler, and the Hart-Williams Coal Co., near Benton, all in Franklin county; and the Coöperative Coal & Manufacturing Co. located at Breeze, Clinton county.

FATAL ACCIDENTS.

July 17, 1905. J. E. Cardwell, mine examiner, aged 25 years, married, was killed by falling down the air shaft of the Zeigler Coal Co.'s mine at Zeigler, a distance of 417 feet. He leaves a widow and one child.

August 18, 1905. Adge Howell, laborer, aged 28 years, married, employed underground at the Forester Coal and Coke Co.'s mine, Duquoin, Perry county, was killed by falling slate. He leaves a widow and two children.

August 26, 1905. S. P. Wilson, miner, aged 47 years, married, employed at the New Moon mine, Duquoin, Perry county, was killed by falling slate at the working face. He leaves a widow and six dependent children.

September 13, 1905. John Rice, shot firer, aged 25 years, married, employed as a shot firer at the Gallatin Coal Co.'s mine, Nashville, Washington county, in going back to fire a shot in a room, was killed by falling slate. He leaves a widow and three children.