

southwest of the old shaft, which was abandoned in 1884 for lack of an escapement. The coal is three feet six inches in thickness, with a twenty-two inch coal vein nine feet further down, the depth to the first vein being 214 feet.

The Edwards Coal Co. have opened a new drift mine one and a half miles west of Kramm Station, Peoria county, on the C. B. & Q. R. R.

John E. Emmons has opened a new coal shaft two miles west of Farmington, Fulton county, on the Central Iowa Railway. The seam is three feet eight inches in thickness and is sixty feet below the surface.

France Bros. have sunk a coal shaft about a mile and a half east of Oakwood, Vermilion county. This is the same coal seam that the Consolidated Coal Co. of St. Louis is stripping near this point.

In Mason county, the Mason City Coal Company commenced to sink a coal shaft in May of this year. It has, at this writing, reached a depth of 70 feet. The company claim to have found three feet four inches of fine coal in their drill hole which was bored in 1886. They will have considerable quicksand and water to pass through in sinking.

The Saybrook Coal & Mining Co. commenced to sink a coal shaft some time in May last at Saybrook, McLean county. It is stated that the company have lately abandoned the work, having met too much water and quicksand to undertake to pass through. The vein, a part of which they claim is cannel coal, is 600 feet below the surface and seven feet in thickness.

Some of the leading citizens of Farmer City, DeWitt county, have lately been drilling with a view of sinking a coal shaft at that place, and should the prospects be favorable, they no doubt will go ahead and sink the shaft.

There have been 25 mines abandoned during the year, nine-tenths of which are small mines.

Output of Coal—As will be observed from the following tabular form of the counties in this district, there has been a decrease in the total output compared with last year, of 141,772 tons. All of this decrease has occurred in Peoria, Fulton, Logan and Cass counties. The other counties have more or less of an increase amounting in all to 70,842 tons. The mines, in the four counties mentioned, ship most of their coal to the northwestern markets. The depression in coal business during the last year was felt as early as December, and quite a number of the mines in these counties did not work more than one-third time from December to April. The following form also gives the amount of coal business done by each county compared with the previous year:

ILLINOIS.
COAL IN ILLINOIS.

COUNTIES.	Tons 1888.	Tons 1889.	Increase.	Decrease.
Vermilion.	499,076	537,411	38,335	
Peoria....	533,817	454,731		79,086
Fulton....	461,589	366,577		95,012
Menard...	181,075	181,621	546	
Woodford..	158,500	169,600	11,100	
Logan....	174,330	138,700		35,630
McLean...	117,110	129,322	12,212	
Tazewell..	59,324	67,973	8,649	
Cass.....	7,300	4,414		2,886
Totals.....	2,192,121	2,050,349	70,842	212,614
Total increase tons.....				70842

Net decrease, tons..... 141,772

The following statements show the total number of miners and other employes compared with last year, also the number of tons of coal mined and the number of employes for each fatal and non-fatal accident which has occurred in this district during the year:

Total number of miners employed in 1888.....	4420
Total number of miners employed in 1889.....	4074
Decrease.....	346
Total number of other employes about the mines in 1888.	830
Total number of other employes about the mines in 1889.	1043
Increase.....	213

The number of tons produced for every fatal accident this year, 341,725.

The number of tons produced for every non-fatal accident this year, 70,702.

Coal Crushing.—Isaac Wantling & Son have lately erected a coal crusher at their mine near Pottstown, Peoria county, which is constructed similarly to the breaker at the Bloomington coal mine. Since competition has become so keen in the coal business, the operators in Peoria county, and especially those on the C. B. & Q. and Central Iowa railroads, have been employing from two to four men in the railroad cars breaking up the coal, with heavy sledges, as soon as it is dumped into the car. The railroad companies complained of the hardness of the coal and the large amount of labor required to break it up for use, and were getting softer coal from other fields. However, since Wantling & Son erected their crusher they have had no difficulty whatever in selling coal to the railroad companies and others. This firm have contracted with some of the coal operators in the vicinity of their mine for their whole output, all of which is passed through the crusher. The mines in this vicinity, all being drifts, are very easily connected by rail for pit-cars.