

Four counties, Madison, St. Clair, Clinton and Bond, show an increase of 572,922 tons, while Marion county shows a decrease of 11,488 tons, making an increase for the district of 561,434 tons.

There seems to be an impression among some of the operators that they are not required to give the returns as requested by the inspector, one operator in Madison county returned the schedule showing the total output of the mine to be 60,000 tons; carefully examining the returns it was found that some of the figures were incorrect. A request was made for an accurate report; another was furnished, increasing the output to 80,000 tons, which may or may not be correct, as the number of men employed and actual days worked would indicate that the output should be over 100,000 tons. This case is cited to show that some operators are inclined to make incorrect returns.

The following is a summary taken from the statistical tables for the fiscal year 1901:

Number of counties in which coal is produced.....	5
Number of mines.....	119
Shipping mines.....	77
Local mines.....	42
New mines.....	19
Abandoned mines.....	2
Total tonnage.....	5,796,586
Tons of lump coal.....	3,114,941
Tons of other grades.....	2,682,545
Tons shipped.....	4,940,727
Tons supplied to locomotives.....	274,259
Tons sold to local trade.....	285,059
Tons consumed and wasted at the mines.....	326,502
Average value of lump coal per ton at the mine.....	80.74
Aggregate value of total product.....	\$4,553,967
Number of miners.....	4,879
Number of other employes.....	1,998
Total number of employes.....	6,871
Average number of days of active operation for all mines.....	218
Number of kegs of powder used.....	98,341
Number of steam boilers in use at mines.....	238
Number of mines using machines.....	30
Number of machines in use.....	218
Total tons cut by machines.....	2,780,574
Total tons mined by hand.....	3,015,992
Fatal accidents.....	22
Non-fatal accidents.....	68
Number of wives made widows.....	14
Number of children left fatherless.....	59
Number of tons produced to each fatal accident.....	263,481
Number of tons produced to each non-fatal accident.....	86,515
Number of persons employed to each fatal accident.....	312
Number of persons employed to each non-fatal accident.....	102

Comparing the work that has been done during this year with the year 1900, it will be seen from the above statement that the former has been much better. The average number of actual working days this year is 218, against 208 last year; the total number of employes is 6,871, against 5,885 last year, showing an increase of 986.

A sad feature presented in this year's report is the increased number of fatal accidents. Twenty-two persons have lost their lives in and around the mines; 77.27 per cent of these accidents happened at the working face, by falling slate, coal or clod. The principal source of all accidents in this district, both fatal and non-fatal, is due to falling clod, it being of a very brittle nature, gives way without warning. The number of non-fatal accidents as

reported is 26 less than last year; but it must be taken into consideration that only those that had lost thirty days or more are mentioned in this report. Last year the report included all losing one week or more time.

Improvements—The Centralia Mining & Manufacturing company has put in a new fan twenty feet in diameter, replacing one twelve feet in diameter. The company has also put in a second electric motor weighing ten tons, the other being of eight tons weight. Mining machines have been taken out of this mine and a return made to the old system of shooting off the solid.

New Mines—There are ten new mines reported as producing coal this year. Seven of these are shipping mines, the others are for local trade.

The Donk Bros., Coal & Coke Co. has sunk two more shafts in Madison county, one at Troy, the other at Maryville, three miles northeast of Collinsville. The equipment of these shafts is to be the same as No. 1 at Collinsville. Last year's report gives a description of the plant at the latter mine.

The Kerens & Donniewald Coal Co., at Worden, Madison county, has commenced producing coal, and are now at work on the escapement shaft. The equipment is first-class, Litchfield engines, self-dumping cages, and shaker screens, the latter made by the Duncan Foundry Co. of Alton, have been put in.

The Beck-Walker Coal Co., operating what is known as the "Royal Mine," near Belleville, and located on the L. & N. railway, commenced producing coal early in the fiscal year. A description of this plant may be found in last year's report.

The Valley Coal & Mining Co., near Birkner, St. Clair Co., also located on the L. & N. railway, commenced producing coal this year. The first shaft put down by this company was intended for a hoisting shaft, but owing to the unfavorableness of the different strata, additional timber was required to make it secure, thus making it too small for a hoisting shaft, but sufficiently large for an escapement shaft, for which purpose it is now used.

In last year's report mention was made of a new shaft sunk at Marissa. The name of the company at that time was the Superior Coal Co.; the name of this company has been changed, owing to another company of the same name being located on the same railroad, which is now known as the Borders Coal Co. Both shafts are down at this mine, and are fully equipped.

The Vinegar Hill Coal Co., located between New Athens and Lenzburg, St. Clair county, commenced producing coal during the latter part of the year. The escapement shaft is down, and the fan, a "Steine" is now in place. This makes two of these fans in this district; the other is at the Eureka mine, Marissa.

The Lumaghi Coal Co. has put down a new shaft and is at work on the escapement shaft; the mine is located near Collinsville on the Terre Haute & Indianapolis railroad. No coal was taken out during last year, the first coal mined was in August, 1900.

Escapement Shafts—Some trouble has been experienced in requiring the local operators in Madison county to sink escapement shafts. After notifying them several times, they still persisted in refusing to comply with my notice.