

county. These mines are located on a new railroad built by the Frisco and Big Four railroads. It is the intention of the company to make this mine a large producer; a number of houses have been built and a tract of land has been laid out in lots, so that miners desiring to do so may build their own houses.

The St. Louis & O'Fallon Coal company, Belleville, St. Clair county, is sinking a new shaft two miles east of its No. 1 mine, and four miles east of French Village, St. Clair county. The Western Anthracite Coal company has bought this property. This company own their own railroad, the St. Louis & O'Fallon, from the mines to East St. Louis.

A new shaft is being sunk by the Prairie Coal company, Belleville, St. Clair county, located on the East St. Louis & Suburban Electric railroad, four miles west of O'Fallon in St. Clair county.

The old Alma mine, formerly owned by the Consolidated Coal company, of St. Louis, located on the B. & O. S-E. railroad, near O'Fallon, has been sold to Yock Bros., of Belleville. They have reopened the mine, rebuilt the tippie, engine and boiler rooms and retimbered both shafts; the intention is to put in electric motors for haulage under ground.

The coal property known as the Buxton Coal company, Buxton, Clinton county, has been sold to the Breese Coal company, Breese, Clinton county. After this company ascertained the conditions of the property a main shaft was sunk and a tippie built and the company is now ready to hoist coal, being fully equipped with direct hoisting engine and two boilers.

The Breese Coal company has also sunk a new shaft at Trenton, Clinton county, and will commence to hoist coal about the beginning of the next fiscal year.

The Borders Coal company, Marissa, St. Clair county, has sunk its No. 2 shaft two miles northeast of Marissa, located on the Illinois Central railroad.

A company organized as the Little Oak Coal company has sunk a new shaft, located on the Southern railway, six miles east of Belleville, and will commence to hoist coal the beginning of the fiscal year.

The Abbey Coal & Mining company, Collinsville, Madison county, has sunk a shaft at that place to supply local trade.

#### IMPROVEMENTS.

The Donk Bros. Coal & Coke company, Troy, Madison county, has put in two additional electric motors of ten tons each at its Troy mine; also two additional motors at its No. 1 mine near Collinsville.

The Mt. Olive & Staunton Coal company has placed two more electric motors in its No. 1 mine at Staunton, Macoupin county.

The Madison Coal company has sunk a new air shaft at its No. 2 mine, Glen Carbon. This makes three separate openings, which has increased the ventilation to a great extent.

The Glendale Coal Co., Belleville, St. Clair county, has put an electric motor in its No. 1 mine.

The Muren Coal & Ice Co., Belleville, St. Clair county, has installed two electric motors in its mine, New Baden, Clinton county.

The Dutch Hollow Coal Co., Freeburg, St. Clair county, has rebuilt the tippie at its mine, making it more convenient to handle a large output.

#### ABANDONED MINES.

The mine operated by the Clover Coal & Mining Co., New Douglas, Madison county, has abandoned its mine at that place, owing to the condition of the coal seam. It is not profitable to operate this mine.

The Millstadt Coal Co., Millstadt, St. Clair county, has abandoned its mine at that place, the coal being worked out.

The Donk Bros. Coal & Coke Co., has abandoned its mine at Belleville; the greater part of the coal seam was cut by a fault in the strata, the rock over the coal being completely washed out on account of erosion and having a clay roof, making it so that the coal could not be mined.

The Lenz Coal & Mining Co., Belleville, St. Clair county, has closed its mine at that place on account of a fire in the workings. An effort was made to put out the fire by building walls so as to surround it, but this could not be done satisfactorily, preventing the air from getting to the fire. I recommended that the mine be closed down, and the shaft hermetically sealed. After the mine had been closed for six months it was reopened, and coal was mined again for about two months, when it was found that the fire had started anew, and the shaft had to again be sealed up, and remains so at the present time.

#### FATAL ACCIDENTS.

July 8, 1903, Joseph Brown, miner, aged 24 years, single, employed in the Mt. Olive and Staunton Coal Co.'s mine No. 1, Staunton, Macoupin county, was killed by falling coal at the face of his room.

July 20, 1903, Peter Grosart, driver, aged 30 years, single, was killed in Donk Bros. Coal & Coke Co.'s mine No. 2 at Maryville, Madison county. He stumbled and fell in front of trip of loaded cars, and was crushed.

July 28, 1903, John Rockman, miner, aged 28 years, married, was killed by falling slate at the face of his room in the Henrietta Coal Co.'s mine No. 1, Edwardsville, Madison county. He leaves a widow and two children.

July 28, 1903, John Toroski, miner, aged 32 years, married, was killed by falling slate in the Henrietta Coal Co.'s mine No. 1, Edwardsville, Madison county. Deceased and John Rockman were killed by the same fall of slate. Troski leaves a widow.

August 7, 1903, Henry Herpine, aged 37 years, married, was killed instantly in the Kolb Coal Co.'s mine No. 1, Mascoutah, St. Clair county. He was in the act of charging a hole, and was pushing the powder back with a scraper, in doing so the scraper struck a sulphur causing sparks which ignited the powder; an explosion occurred with the result as stated. He leaves a widow and four children.

August 29, 1903, Fred Wiesner, miner, aged 66 years, married, employed in No. 2 mine of the Hippard Coal Co., Belleville, St. Clair county, was fatally injured by a fall of slate, and died while being conveyed to his home. He leaves a widow and four children, none of whom are dependent.

September 3, 1903, Lou Boden, miner, aged 53 years, married, employed by the Royal Coal Co., Belleville, St. Clair County, to retimber a part of the escapement shaft. The fan house and part of the timber in the shaft was burned out by a fire. To retimber part of the shaft that was burned, twoscaffolds were built down in the shaft; while at work on the top, one of the upper parts of the shaft, which was not secured, gave away, breaking down the scaffolds, while Boden and his partner were at work. Deceased fell to the bottom of the shaft, killing him instantly. His partner, Tom Davis, was badly injured. The depth of the shaft is 180 feet. He leaves a widow and five children.

September 14, 1903, Alfred Rurey, miner, aged 36 years, married, employed in the Royal Coal Co.'s mine, Belleville, St. Clair county, while mining a standing shot the slate overhead fell, killing him instantly. He leaves a widow and five children.

October 6, 1903, John Rohe, machinist, aged 21 years, single, employed as machine helper in the Staunton Coal Co.'s mine No. 1, Staunton, Macoupin county, was killed by falling coal at the face of a room.

October 10, 1903, Chas. Nierman, miner, aged 30 years, married, employed in the Centralia Mining & Manufacturing Co.'s mine No. 2, Centralia, Marion county. Deceased with others was engaged in putting out a fire that had occurred in the mine; the heat from the fire made the roof dangerous, part of it gave way, injuring Nierman seriously, from the effects of which he died the following day. He leaves a widow and three children.

October 13, 1903, George Faust, miner, aged 19 years, single, employed in the Ruby Coal Co.'s mine, Caseyville, St. Clair county, was killed by flying coal from a shot which he had fired. He was standing behind a pillar for safety, the shot blew through the pillar.