

the No. 7 colliery the air-courses have been enlarged, and several thousand feet of double track have been put in; the system of working the coal has been changed; the rooms and entries are now worked by the *cleat*, which is a great improvement, as regards safety, and producing larger lump coal; two new boilers have been put in; in the No. 8 colliery at Mt. Olive the air-courses have been enlarged and a double track extended; a new stable has been erected, with 30 stalls, each 6 feet wide and 9 feet high, with water connections taken from the surface by pipes; in the No. 10 colliery the air-courses have been enlarged and a double track extended, increasing the volume of air very largely; at the No. 9 shaft, or the fan shaft for Nos. 8 and 10 collieries, a pair of engines have been put in for working the fan; the cylinders are each 18x36 inches; a double-ply belt 30 inches wide is used to work the 30-foot fan; the fan running 62 revolutions per minute shows a water gauge of 2.2-10 inches, with a volume of 163,000 cubic feet of air passing each minute, this air is used to ventilate Nos. 8 and 10 collieries.

At the Carlinville Coal Co.'s colliery a new elevator has been erected, with proper conveyors for taking the small coal to the revolving screen from both main and local chutes; the air-courses have been improved in the under-ground works so as to materially increase the ventilation; the Girard Coal Co. has put in 3 new boilers, increased the double haulage track in the mine; new air-courses have been made, which has increased the ventilation.

The Virden Coal Co. has put in a new elevator during the year; also 2 new boilers.

In Madison county the Consolidated Coal Co. has put in two new boilers at its No. 3 mine, Collinsville; also extended the double track in the mine; the air-courses have been enlarged, which has given increased ventilation; at the Heintz Bluff colliery two new boilers have been put in; 2,100 feet of double track have also been put in, and the air-courses improved; at this colliery the north side of the shaft is ventilated by an auxiliary fan, which, up to this time, has always been in the mine, at the foot of the upcast; the fan has been removed to the surface and put up in an improved manner, which has increased the ventilation.

The Madison Coal Co. has erected a new fan at its No. 3 colliery, Edwardsville; the fan is 15 feet in diameter; engine geared direct; the air-courses have been greatly enlarged; the air is split at suitable points, which has doubled the ventilation; double track has been put in on both main entries leading from the main shaft.

In Sangamon county the Springfield Coöperative Coal Co. has erected a new 14-foot fan; the Barclay Coal Co. has put in a new 15-foot fan; the Black Diamond Coal Co. has put in a new 15-foot fan; new elevators have been put in by the Sangamon Coal Co., Starnes Coal Co. and the Woodside Coal Co.

Escapement Shafts.—The Penwell colliery and the Springside colliery at Pana have completed the opening between the two shafts for escapement

for both shafts; the Taylorville Coal Co. has also completed an opening between its Nos. 1 and 2 shafts, for escapement.

New Mines.—The Moweaqua Coal Co., Moweaqua, Shelby county, has put its new shaft in operation during the year; the mine is located adjoining the south line of the village of Moweaqua, and on the line of the Illinois Central Railroad; the seam of coal is No. 5 of the geological section, and has an average of 5 feet 6 inches in thickness; the plant erected is first-class in every particular and intended for a large output; a pair of Litchfield engines, 20' x 36'', for hoisting, ample boiler power and everything well arranged on the surface for handling coal cheaply. The Chicago-Virden Coal Co., Macoupin county, has put its new shaft in operation during the year; this shaft was sunk by the late Wm. Beard, of Springfield, Ill.; the Chicago-Virden Coal Co. bought the property of the heirs; the coal seam will average 7½ feet in thickness; the company is putting in a good plant; Litchfield engines, 20' x 36'', double, and the Russell-Parsons self-dumping cage; the shaft is located near the northern limits of the village of Virden. The Sugar Creek Coal Co. has finished sinking its new shaft near Auburn, Sangamon county; the seam is 8 feet in thickness, and of good quality; in putting up the plant, all of the latest improvements will be adopted; Litchfield engines, 18' x 36'', ample boiler power, substantial tower and out-housing, with over one-half mile of side tracks for handling the coal. The Citizens' Coal and Mining Co., of Springfield, has just finished sinking its new shaft; this shaft is located near the west limits of West Springfield, and on the line of the Chicago, St. Louis & St. Paul Railroad; the Springfield seam No. 5 was found at a distance of 201 feet, and of the usual thickness, 5 feet 6 inches.

The Chesterfield Coal Co. is opening out its shaft again; the mine has been stopped for a number of years, owing to not having an escapement shaft; a new company has been organized, and are now at work taking out the water with a view of working the mine; the shaft is located on the Chicago, St. Louis & St. Paul Railroad, adjoining the village of Chesterfield, Macoupin county. The Enterprise Coal Co., of Smithboro, Bond county, abandoned its shaft one year ago; a new company has been formed and are now taking out the water with a view of opening out the mine, and sinking to a lower seam of coal, which is known to be at a certain depth by the prospecting drill when the coal-field was first prospected.

The Madison Coal Co. has finished sinking its new No. 4 mine; this mine is located about one mile east of the village of Glen Carbon, in Madison county, on the line of the St. Louis & Eastern Railroad; the coal seam has an average of 7½ feet, with a strong limestone roof; the seam of coal is well situated for machine-mining; a modern plant is now being erected with a view of a large output.

The six new mines, as shown by the county schedules, two are in Macoupin county, The Chicago-Virden Coal Co., and a small local mine at Chesterfield; one new mine in Sangamon county, the Williamsville Coal Co., and three small mines, one in Jasper county, one in Richland and one in Cumberland.