

section, which was found at a depth of 400 feet, and was a little over five feet thick and of a superior quality; but at that time there was no work done other than to remove a little coal at the bottom of the shaft. Through a misunderstanding of the different stockholders, the property became involved in litigation, causing a suspension of operations, which continued until about a year ago, when the present owners, Messrs. Ewing & Pitt, of Bloomington, secured the property and equipped it with first class hoisting machinery, in connection with a tower that is intended for a large output. It will undoubtedly be operated extensively in a short time. The mine is situated on the Kankakee and Bloomington division of the I. C. R. R., and the product will be shipped to Chicago and the northwest. About fifty men are employed at the present time.

A small shaft sunk in East Peoria by the Enterprise Coal Company, and was at first equipped with a gin arrangement to hoist the coal. Mr. William Cruickshanks & Sons have bought the mine, and have displaced the gin with a small geared hoisting engine, which makes it one of the best mines in that vicinity.

*Escape Shafts.*—The Himrod Coal Co., Danville, has completed its escape shaft, which is one of the largest in the State, and has equipped it with the necessary hoisting machinery to insure the safe and speedy removal of workmen in case of danger. It is 10x17 feet in the clear, over which a 20-foot fan has been placed for ventilation.

The Brookside Coal Co., Grape Creek, has sunk a new air shaft at its No. 1 mine, which greatly improves the ventilation.

King & Grosweiler, of Pekin, have completed sinking an escape shaft. Arthur Jones & Sons, of Catlin, have sunk a new escape shaft which will be connected as soon as possible with their old mine, and will be used for a hoisting shaft afterwards.

*New Fans.*—The Kelleyville Coal Co. Westville, has placed a 12-foot fan at its No. 2 mine; the mine is now ventilated by two fans that are both run at the same time, one of which is 16 feet in diameter and the other is 12 feet. The larger one is used to ventilate the east side and the smaller one to ventilate the west side. This method greatly improves the ventilation, as the mine had become too extensive, and employed too many miners for the one fan to force a sufficient amount of air through the workings.

John O. Connel, who operates a mine at Grape Creek, known as the Blue Bird mine, has thoroughly remodeled the top works, and has discarded the slow horse hoister and placed in its stead a pair of geared double hoisting engines for the speedy removal of the coal. He has also added a new 12-foot fan for better ventilation.

Alfred Blake, East Peoria, has improved the ventilation of his mine by discarding the use of the furnace as a ventilator, and erecting a six-foot fan in its stead.

King & Grosweiler, Pekin, have erected a new 8-foot fan of the Brazil type. Spangler & Miller, operating a small mine near Danville for local trade, now use an 8 foot fan.

*Fatal Accidents.*—George Sevillion, aged 35, single, was killed in room No. 12, fifth east entry, in the mine of the Consolidated Coal Company, at Fairmount, July 6, 1898. Deceased had fired several shots the night before, which had knocked out several props, and he was engaged in resetting them when the accident happened. He was of English descent, and lived in Rose-dale, Ind.

Charles Hughes, aged 24 years, single, was killed in the mine of the Athens Coal Co., Athens, July 22, 1898, by a fall of slate. Deceased, at the time of the accident was employed as a loader, and had gone into the entry to work, when he observed that the track was too far back from the working face. He had taken his tools to lay the track and had just commenced work when the roof fell on him, killing him instantly. The place had been marked "dangerous" by the mine examiner, but it was very apparent that deceased had made no examination of the place before beginning work.

Frank Daniels, aged 25, single, was killed in A. Bonnett's mine, eight miles northwest of Danville, August 22, 1898, by a fall of roof. Parties working in the next room to deceased had called his attention to the dangerous condition of the roof, just a short time prior to the accident, but he paid no attention to the friendly warning, with the result as above stated.

October 8, 1898, John M. Rennick, aged 53 years a stable boss in the employ of the Catlin Coal Company, Catlin, got on a cage which was standing at the lower landing, for the purpose of going down into the mine, but for some reason failed to give the engineer the proper signal; the engineer raised him up. He became excited and jumped off, falling back into the shaft, which is nearly 200 feet deep, killing him instantly. He leaves a widow and five children.

George Ballanted, aged 27 years, was killed in room No. 32, sixth northeast entry in mine No. 2 of the Kelleyville Coal Co., October 26, 1898, by a fall of roof. He had discovered a bad rock in the room, and was making preparations to secure the same for his own safety, when the rock suddenly fell, with the result as stated. He left a widow and three children in indigent circumstances.

Andrew Hasse, a miner, employed in the mine of the Citizen's Coal Co., Lincoln, met death on the evening of Nov. 23, 1898, by the inhalation of carbonic oxide gas. At the regular shooting time deceased had fired a shot that had not sufficient amount of powder to blast the coal loose, and in mining parlance had "whistled through the needle hole," giving off very little smoke but a considerable amount of gas. In his haste to leave the mine with the other men he did not wait for the gas to be removed with the air, but went in to recharge the same hole. The evidence plainly showed that he understood the danger he was in, as he had retreated to the the cross-cut for fresh air before he had completed his task of recharging. He hastened back once more and commenced to tamp the hole, when he felt his senses leaving him. He made a frantic effort to reach the cross-hole again when he got bewildered out of the right road, where he was found by the night boss at about 7 p. m. He left a widow and three children dependent.