

compressed air, are used in drilling the holes in the sinking shaft. This shaft is located on the Illinois Central Railroad, about one-quarter of a mile south of the Union Depot at Pana.

The Coffeen Coal Co. is sinking a new shaft at Coffeen, Montgomery county, on the St. Louis, Kansas City and Toledo Railroad; the company expects to get the Hillsboro coal at a depth of 500 feet.

The Assumption Coal Co. is sinking a new shaft at Assumption, Christian county, on the Illinois Central Railroad; the shaft is now down about 250 feet; the company expects to get the Pana coal.

A new shaft has been sunk at Charleston, Coles county. By borings made some years ago, it was said a paying seam of coal would be found at a depth of 450 feet; the shaft was sunk by James P. Cummings to that point, but coal in paying quantity has not been found. The sinking is now stopped, and the sinking plant for sale.

The relations between operators and miners have generally been very pleasant, during the year. A stoppage of about two months' duration occurred at the beginning of the fiscal year, as regards the district price, but was finally settled by the officers of the Miners' Protective Association in Sangamon county.

The output shows a gain of 286,249 tons over the year 1887. The coal trade was very brisk in the district during the winter months, and the selling price very satisfactory to the operators. Since the organization of the Consolidated Coal Company of St. Louis, a paying selling price has been better maintained and kept uniform during both the summer and winter months in the St. Louis market.

Macoupin county shows a gain of 90,036 tons over last year,—getting back, more nearly, to her usual standard, the output being 1,016,624 tons. Madison county has a slight falling off from last year, and it seems she is not likely to get back to her old time standard, as five of her largest mines, owned by the Consolidated Coal Company, have not been operated during the year, viz: the Collinsville, Lumaghi, Canteen, Worden No. 11, and McDonald shaft at Worden. Macon county shows a large gain—162,622 tons,—mainly in the City Coal Co.'s shaft at Niantic. Sangamon county maintains her usual standard, giving 764,970 tons for the year. The outlook is for a larger output in the three large mining counties of the district—Madison, Macoupin and Sangamon—as new mines have been opened in Sangamon, and improved machinery and facilities for handling the coal, in the other counties, will improve their output. The older mines are being abandoned, and the newer ones worked in a more thorough and systematic manner,—everything being done with a better system of mining, with a view of a larger output, the coal-mining plant being more centralized, so that larger quantities can be hoisted out of one shaft.

Respectfully Submitted,

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