

owners of mines, where fire-damp is known to exist in the mines; the working faces are to be examined before the men begin work, with the date and month to be marked on the working face, and all old and abandoned works, and traveling ways to escapement shafts, are to be examined at least twice a week, and a more strict regulation in storing and handling of powder in the mines. The last legislature was petitioned by the corps of State Inspectors of mines, to amend the law in regard to having a code of rules established for the government of such mines, the rules to be made a part of the mining law. The legislature failed to do it. It is to be hoped, however, that future legislatures will see that the law is so amended, as all mining men of any experience know it is extremely dangerous to have large quantities of powder in mines that give off fire-damp, and where much coal dust exists.

*New Mines.*—The Madison Coal Co. has put in operation two new shafts during the year, which are known as Nos. 1 and 2. No. 1 is 90 feet deep, and is located at a point about one mile east of Peter station on the T., St. L. & K. C. R. R. and on the line of the J. S.-E.; coal can be shipped on both roads. The coal is 7 feet thick and is known as seam No. 6 of the general section. The mine at present is a machine mine, a Norwalk compressor is used for supplying the air to the machines. A pair of coupled engines 16x30 inches, first motion, Litchfield manufacture, have been put in for hoisting, with the Murray dumping cage; a Heine water tubular boiler has been put in for steam power; a 15-foot fan has been put in for ventilation; the escapement shaft was sunk as soon as the main shaft was down; the mine is well equipped. There has not been much coal hoisted as yet, as most of the work done during the year has largely been construction and experimenting. The Stanley heading machine has been used and various coal cutting machines, but it is the intention of this company to dispense with all coal cutting machines, to use air drills and blast the coal off the solid.

No. 2 shaft is located about one-half mile south of No. 1 and is reached by a spur from the J. S.-E. R. R. to the mine. The shaft is 110 feet deep, coal 7 feet thick; the escapement shaft was sunk as soon as the hoisting shaft was down; a pair of geared engines have been put in for hoisting; also a 15-foot fan for ventilation with suitable steam power. The coal is all blasted off the solid. Very little mining has been done as yet; mostly construction.

This company has located a new town and adopted the name of Glen Carbon, as the mines are situated in a valley. Forty-two new houses have been built, streets located, and shade trees planted on the line of the streets. A large boarding house or hotel has been built and another is in the course of construction. A large pressed brick plant has been erected in the town. The place seems well adapted for manufacturing purposes as water is plenty.

The Cantrall Coal Co. has put its new shaft in operation during the year. The mine is situated about one-half mile west of the village of Cantrall, Sangamon county, on the line of the J. S.-E. R. R. The coal