

The coal production, by counties, in the Fifth District, with increase or decrease of output in each, for the years ending June 30, 1898, and 1899, is shown as follows:

Counties.	Total Output of all Grades of Coal in Tons.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1898.	1899.		
Calhoun.....	4,893	4,118		
Christian.....	495,616	572,459		775
Greene.....	8,520	14,370	76,843	
Jersey.....	1,680	4,050	5,85	
Macoupin.....	1,264,926	1,646,674	2,370	
Montgomery.....	294,667	354,201	381,748	
Morgan.....	1,800	4,800	59,534	
Sangamon.....	1,763,863	2,083,572	3,000	
Scott.....	21,337	20,617	319,707	
Shelby.....	63,388	105,765		720
Total.....	3,925,690	4,810,626	886,431	1,495
Increase.....				886,431
Decrease.....				1,495
Net increase.....				884,936

The following summary is given as a recapitulation of the principal facts to be found in the schedules of the various counties:

Number of mines.....	87
Number of shipping mines.....	51
Number of local mines.....	36
Number of new mines.....	10
Number of abandoned mines.....	2
Total output in tons of 2,000 pounds.....	4,810,626
Tons of lump coal.....	3,480,311
Tons of other grades.....	1,330,315
Tons shipped by railroads.....	4,095,235
Average value per ton of lump coal at the mine.....	\$0.8215
Average value per ton of other grades at the mine.....	\$0.3456
Aggregate value of total product.....	\$3,318,120
Number of miners.....	4,421
Number of other employes.....	1,980
Total number of employes.....	6,401
Average number of days worked during the year.....	190
Total amount paid out in wages.....	\$2,665,965
Number of kegs of powder used.....	100,756
Number of horses and mules in and around the mines.....	621
Number of coal cutting machines used.....	144
Total number of tons cut by machines.....	2,892,040
Number of fatal accidents.....	14
Number of non-fatal accidents.....	68
Number of tons of coal produced to each fatal accident.....	343,616
Number of tons of coal produced to each non-fatal accident.....	70,745
Number of persons employed to each fatal accident.....	457
Number of persons employed to each non-fatal accident.....	94
Number of mines using compressed air coal cutting machines.....	11
Number of mines using electric coal cutting machines.....	2
Number of mines using cable haulage.....	4
Number of mines using electric haulage.....	1
Number of ventilating fans in the district.....	56
Number of shaking or mechanical screens at the mines.....	20

The output of coal for 1899 shows an increase of 884,936 tons or 22.5 per cent over 1898. The district is still about 750,000 tons short of its normal output. In Macoupin county the mines on the C. & A. R. R. did not work much over one-half time. The Consolidated Coal Co.'s mines No. 10 Mount Olive,

and the Hornsby mine at Hornsby, only worked one-half time, owing to repairs being made at these mines. The Carlinville Coal Co.'s mine only worked 130 days, owing to the outer works at the mine being burned down; the loss in the county is about 350,000 tons for the year. The mines in Christian county, except the mine of the Taylorville Coal Co., only worked about one-half time, entailing a loss to the county of about 50,000 tons. Montgomery sustained a loss of about 50,000 tons, Sangamon county about 25,000 tons. Most of this loss of tonnage was caused by the coal companies at Pana and the companies on the C. & A. R. R. refusing to pay the scale price, of 40 cents per ton gross for mining.

Mine Fires.—At the Carlinville Coal Co.'s mine at Carlinville, on January 2, 1899, a fire broke out on the upper landing. The tower, screens, elevator bins and housing around the tower were all destroyed. The mine was working at the time. The men were safely taken out of the mine at the escape-ment shaft. A new plant has been erected on more modern principles very much superior to the old one.

At the Girard Coal Co.'s mine at Girard the machine and blacksmith and carpenter shops were destroyed by fire June 1, 1899. They have not been rebuilt at this time.

Escapement Shafts.—The Litchfield Mining & Power Co., of Litchfield, and the Edingburg Coal Co., of Edinburg, have finished their escapement shafts during the year. The Montgomery Coal Co., of Paisley, and the Citizens' Coal Co., at their "B" shaft in Springfield, will finish their escapement shafts in the near future. **The Junction Mining Co., of Springfield, has made a through connection into the Black Diamond Coal & Tile Co.'s mine, which makes a second escapement for both of these mines.** The Madison Coal Co., at its No. 5 mine at Mt. Olive, has made a through connection to the Consolidated Coal Co.'s No. 10 mine, which also makes a second escapement for both of these mines.

Improvements.—The Montgomery Coal Co., at Paisley, has put in a pair of first motion engines, also two boilers, with new engines and boiler houses. The engines and boilers were manufactured by the Litchfield Car & Machine Co., of Litchfield.

The Consolidated Coal Co., of St. Louis, Mo., have installed an electric haulage plant at their No. 10 mine at Mt. Olive during the year. A generator of 100-kilowatt power, with suitable engine power to run it, has been erected on the surface. The locomotive in the mine weighs 10 tons, and is 80 horse power, a four-wheel, straight geared for 26-inch gauge, with a draw bar pull of 3,750 pounds, at a normal speed of 8 miles per hour. It is fitted with arc lights and auxiliary kerosene lights. They have also introduced fifty 16-current pressure incandescent protected lamps into the mine. In introducing the plant, 6,400 feet of new track was laid of 30 and 35-pound rail. The plant was installed by the Link-Belt Co., of Chicago, Ill.

Electric Mining Locomotives.—The Duncan Foundry & Machine Works, Alton, Ill., have just shipped the Western Coal & Mining Co., for use in one