

LOGAN COUNTY.

There are three shafts in this county working seam No. 5, which averages four feet ten inches in thickness. It is somewhat impaired by clay seams and "horse-backs," and reached at a depth of from 265 to 360 feet. There have been 172,500 tons of coal produced in the last year in this county.

THE LINCOLN COAL MINING Co.

This is a shaft 280 feet deep, located at Lincoln, at the junction of the C. & A. and Wabash railroads. When first visited, this mine was in a deplorable condition, showing very poor management. The roadways were badly timbered and narrow. There were 7,920 cubic feet of air per minute passing for 114 men and 12 mules, and this was highly charged with carbonic acid gas and carbonic oxide, which, in the afternoon after firing, was almost unbearable. Subsequent visits found the mine much improved by the erection of a Brazil fan ten feet in diameter, located at the bottom of the air chamber of the shaft, producing 21,000 cubic feet of air, being 13,000 cubic feet more than was found at first visit. The roadways had been retimbered and the area enlarged, and an effort had been made to turn air around working places by the use of screens on entries. Section 16 of the mining law was being violated, but its requirements are now filled. The frame work around the top of the shaft was burned down April 16, at two o'clock in the morning. Eight men in the mine at the time were safely hoisted out at the escapement shaft, one mile distant from the main shaft. The pit-head frame was rebuilt and in operation two weeks from the date of the fire, the cause of which is unknown.

Frank Frorer, Superintendent.

James Daily, Mine Manager.

THE CITIZENS' COAL MINING Co.

This shaft is 265 feet deep, located one mile east of Lincoln, at the junction of the P., D. & E. and Wabash railroads. It has been in operation since September, 1883. The equipment of this mine is first-class throughout, and it is abundantly ventilated by an eight-foot fan of their own construction. The top buildings at this mine are covered with corrugated iron, and the proprietors are now engaged in sinking an escapement shaft 200 feet from hoisting shaft, which will in all probability be completed some time in October, the sand bed having been passed in safety.

Henry Ahrens, Superintendent; John Jones, Mine Manager.

THE MT. PULASKI COAL Co.

This is a shaft 360 feet deep, located within the corporate limits of Mt. Pulaski, on a branch of the Illinois Central R. R. This mine is very difficult to work, owing to the coal being streaked with dirt seams. The mode of working has been changed from pillar and room

to long-wall, which is now being carried on successfully. The ventilation in this mine is good, produced by a fan of their own make, after the Guibal pattern. An escapement shaft is being sunk, which would have been completed in September, but will be delayed by the caving in of the shaft near the top where the material is soft, the curbing being too light to resist the pressure.

H. C. Suttle, Superintendent.

James Small, Mine Manager.

CASS COUNTY.

This county has fallen off in the last year, only one shaft now being worked instead of two, as during the previous year. The seams reached are probably Nos. 5 and 2, both being two feet six inches in thickness. Coal produced this year, 2,225 tons.

THE VIRGINIA COAL AND WATER Co.

This company is composed of several of the merchants of Virginia, who at a cost of \$12,000 sunk a shaft to a depth of 205 feet, at the junction of the Ohio & Mississippi and Wabash railroads. The seam being only about two feet and a half thick, and opened with single entries, and worked by the pillar and room system, it was found impracticable to compete successfully with the thicker coal of Springfield and other collieries in the vicinity, which was shipped to this point and sold for less than it cost to produce the coal at this mine. The company on being required to sink an escapement shaft and timber the hoisting shaft more securely, and to make other improvements, having realized nothing from the investment, concluded not to sink any more money in it, and shut down December 11, 1884. The Athens Coal Co., at Athens, two months later, had the water taken out of this mine with a view of working it on the long-wall system, but on examining it concluded not to attempt it. The coal is of a fine quality, resembling No. 2 seam, the stratum overlying the coal being soapstone of considerable thickness, with fire-clay underneath the coal.

THE CASS COUNTY COAL Co.

This is a shaft 205 feet deep, located at Ashland, on the C. & A. R. R., the property of a cooperative company of six miners. The seam averages two feet and a half in thickness, with two feet of black slate overlying, which resembles that of No. 5 seam. The method of working has been changed from pillar and room to long-wall, but it has not been worked sufficiently to tell whether it can be carried on profitably or not. The sales are confined to local supply as yet, but the company is endeavoring to get a switch from the C. & A. R. R., calculating to ship coal, as the local sales do not afford business enough. They are sinking an escapement shaft, and intend putting in a furnace or fan to give ventilation when they start up early in the fall.

J. J. McGovern, Superintendent and Mine Manager.