

The miners of the Wabash Coal Co.'s mine at Dawson, suspended work June 1, 1897, owing to a reduction in the price of mining. The mine is not working at this time, July 1, 1897.

*Summary.*—The following summary, as taken from the statistical tables, is given for the fiscal year 1897:

Number of counties in which coal is produced.....	8
Total number of mines.....	79
Shipping mines.....	50
Local mines.....	29
New mines.....	4
Abandoned mines.....	9
Mines using mining machines.....	11
Total tonnage.....	5,009,102
Tons of lump coal.....	3,353,377
Tons of other grades.....	1,655,225
Average value of screened coal at the mines.....	30.70
Aggregate value of total product.....	\$2,868,360
Number of miners.....	4,090
Number of other employes.....	1,522
Total employes.....	5,672
Average number of days in active operation for all mines.....	177.4
Number of kegs of powder used.....	104,415
Fatal accidents.....	19
Non-fatal accidents.....	54
Number of widows.....	14
Number of orphans.....	51
Number of coal cutting machines used.....	118
Tons of coal cut by machines.....	1,581,778
Number of tons of coal produced to each fatal accident.....	263,637
Number of tons of coal produced to each non-fatal accident.....	92,761
Number of persons employed to each fatal accident.....	239
Number of persons employed to each non-fatal accident.....	105

*Contemplated Mines.*—A coal company has been organized at Raymond, Montgomery county, which is now sinking a shaft at that point, on the east side of the Wabash railroad, about one half mile northeast of the village.

The Citizens Coal and Mining Company, of Springfield, is sinking a new shaft about one mile southeast of their present mine, on the east side of St. L., C. & St. P. R. R.

*Improvements.*—The Moweaqua Coal Mining and Manufacturing Company, of Moweaqua, Shelby county, and the Green Ridge Coal Company, Green Ridge, Macoupin county, have completed escapement shafts during the year.

*Mine Fires.*—In the report of 1896 a report is given of the fire that occurred at the Taylorville Coal Co's mine No. 1, at Taylorville, on June 12, 1896; a full description is given showing how the fire occurred, and what damage was done. This mine is now in first-class condition. In the early part of October, 1896 coal was again hoisted. To put this mine in a condition again for work was a very dangerous undertaking, and reflects great credit on the management, in combatting the fire, and again putting the shaft in order without an accident of any kind.

In the first place No. 1 shaft, where the fire occurred, had to be filled up for a certain distance to stop the currents of air passing over the fire to No. 2 shaft, as the fire was raging around the bottom of No. 1 shaft, so that the fire could be put out and the shaft examined. It was found that the curbing was burnt out for a long distance, and all the curbing was more or less damaged and the centre buntons burnt out. The shaft was successfully relined and made secure. After the bottom of the shaft had been cleaned out, it was found the coal had been on fire and all the heavy timbers supporting the