

shaft-pillars, all the coal is removed from around the bottom of the shaft, and a continual "pinching" and "squeezing" is taking place in consequence. By this squeezing, the rock became loose and fell. Had the customary precautions been taken, and the entry been securely timbered, this accident would not have occurred.

NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS.

Of the nineteen accidents of this class, fourteen of them have been caused by falls of coal or roof, and have occurred in the rooms of the men injured. Two have been caused by the victims being caught with pit-cars, one by machinery, and two by a premature blast of powder. These accidents generally may be termed slight, as all the men injured have resumed work, with the exception of William McGill, who was very seriously burned by a premature blast. He is at present in a hospital in Davenport. Fears are entertained that he may lose his eye-sight, but the chances are favorable for his coming out all right.

While it may be safely assumed there will be accidents as long as we continue to have coal mines, it is also true that the number of accidents may be greatly curtailed by greater caution being used by the men who are most liable to injury, namely, the miners themselves.

Of the six fatal and nineteen non-fatal accidents, three of the former and fourteen of the latter may be directly traced to a daring disregard of danger on the part of the men killed and injured.

With the greatest possible caution used on the part of the miners, and a strict enforcement of the mining law, accidents will be reduced to a minimum.

BUREAU COUNTY.

The most important mine in this county is known as Locey's mine, located at Loceyville on the C. R. I. & P. R. R., about six miles north from Peru. The shaft is 300 feet in depth, the seam is No. 2, of good quality and three feet thick, and the coal is mined on the long-wall system. The machinery, engine house and boiler sheds are old and worn, but it is likely that a new engine house will be built of brick and double engines put in soon. The shaft is too small for the capacity of the mine. The workings are ventilated by fan of the Guibal pattern, but the up-cast or air chamber is far too small for the capacity of the fan. An escapement has been sunk and ladders put in during the year. The fan will be moved and placed over the escape shaft, when the ventilation will be good. Covers have been put on the cages and a brake on the drum; safety catches have been tried but failed to work satisfactorily owing to the size and construction of the cages.

To make this a mine of the first class it will be necessary to enlarge the shaft from top to bottom, build new engine and boiler rooms and put in new machinery. The mine is under the management of Edward Lewis.

SHEFFIELD.

The principal mine at this point is operated by the Sheffield Mining Company. The entire product of the mine is used to coal locomotives on the C. R. I. & P. R. R. The seam worked is No. 6. The mine is ventilated by a furnace, and the condition of the mine generally is good. A. W. Boydon, Superintendent; Robert Jones, Pit-boss.

There are five or six other shafts and slopes in and around Sheffield, and two at Mineral, all supplying local custom. All the coal mined is from seam No. 6.

The five mines at Coal Hollow, five miles north of Princeton, one at Nigger Creek or Hollowayville, and one at Spring Creek, are local shafts and in fair condition.

Four escapements have been completed in this county during the year, namely: Locey's, at Loceyville; Lloyd and Higby's, at Sheffield; John Hill's, at Coal Hollow, and W. H. Forrest's, at Mineral; and four others are at present being constructed, namely: by Seaton Bros., Nigger Creek; Fletcher Bros., Coal Hollow; Heathcock, Coal Hollow, and Weissenburger, Spring Creek.

The coal produced at Spring Creek is from seam No. 5, that at Nigger Creek from seam No. 2; the latter is mined on the long-wall system.

Bureau is coming to the front as a coal producing county, and will at no distant date rival her big neighbor LaSalle. The Spring Valley Coal Company, with a capital stock of \$1,500,000, control 9,000 acres of coal land in Bureau county. It is the intention of the company to sink eight shafts, with a capacity of about 800 tons per day each. Shaft No. 1 will reach coal about August 1, and mining will be commenced September 1, 1884. The other seven shafts will be pushed forward as rapidly as possible until all are completed.

The shafts will be 17 feet long by 8½ feet wide, with one-third partitioned off for upcast, which will give an area of about 50 square feet. The shafts will be sunk one mile apart, with an escapement between, half a mile from each. The machinery will be of the most approved kind, double engines, with cylinders 14x24. Steel ropes 1¼ inches in diameter. The mines will be ventilated with the "Champion" fan. The average depth of the shafts will be about 425 feet. The whole will be under the management of Charles J. Devlin, of Peru. The officers of the company are:

E. N. Saunders, President.
Chas. J. Devlin, Vice-President and General Manager.
E. V. Holcomb, Secretary.
M. H. Taylor, Treasurer.

General offices in Chicago.

Shaft No. 1 is located about four miles north of Peru. A switch has been laid from the C. R. I. & P. R. R. to the mine. A town has been located near the mines and will be known in the future by the name of Devlin City. The coal mined will be from seam No. 2, which at this point is of good quality and over three feet thick. The mining will be on the long-wall principle.