

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE INSPECTORS OF MINES.

### FIRST INSPECTION DISTRICT—1915.

COUNTIES—GRUNDY, LASALLE, LIVINGSTON AND WILL. BEN D. ROBERTS,  
Inspector.

Hon. J. F. Morris, Chief Clerk, State Mining Board, Springfield.

SIR: Complying with section 5 of the General Mining Law of Illinois, I submit herewith the annual report of the coal producing counties of Grundy, LaSalle, Livingston and Will.

#### SUMMARY OF THE ITEMS IN THE REPORT.

Number of counties producing coal.....	4
Number of shipping mines.....	18
Number of local mines.....	30
Number of new or reopened mines.....	7
Number of closed or abandoned mines.....	7
Number of miners.....	3,015
Others underground, men.....	662
Boys underground.....	90
Boys above ground.....	3
Others above ground.....	384
Total number of employees.....	4,152
Total tons of coal produced.....	1,847,506
Days of active operation, all mines.....	181
Kegs of powder used for blasting coal.....	20,333
Tons of coal shipped.....	958,327
Tons supplied to locomotives.....	37,728
Tons sold to railroad companies.....	310,946
Tons sold to local trade.....	210,491
Tons consumed and wasted at mines.....	330,018
Number of fatal accidents.....	4
Number of nonfatal accidents.....	84
Number of employees to each fatal accident.....	1,041
Number of employees to each nonfatal accident.....	51
Tons of coal produced to each fatal accident.....	461,877
Tons of coal produced to each nonfatal accident.....	21,994
Ratio of fatal accidents per 1,000 employees.....	.56

The following table gives the tonnage, by counties, for the years 1914 and 1915, with increase or decrease:

County.	Total output—tons.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1914	1915		
Grundy.....	420,616	333,682		86,934
LaSalle.....	1,456,780	1,273,998		182,782
Livingston.....	77,282	112,339	35,057	
Will.....	135,752	127,487		8,265
Total.....	2,090,430	1,847,506	35,057	242,924
Net.....				242,924

The following mines are classed as new mines:  
*LaSalle County.*—John Petrotti, Kangley; Seroka & Flavel, and Robert Harrison, Streator; Fred Brooker, Utica.  
*Livingston County.*—Barr Clay Co., Evans Coal Co., McMillan & Wonders, Streator.

#### ABANDONED MINES.

The following is a list of the mines that have been permanently abandoned or temporarily closed:

*Grundy County.*—Chicago, Wilmington & Franklin No. 1, South Wilmington; Big Four Wilmington Coal Co., Coal City; John Heather, Morris.  
*LaSalle County.*—Mitchell Bros., Acme Coal Co. No. 1, Streator; R. H. Beguin, Ottawa.

#### CHANGE OF NAME.

D. W. Hill to Prairie Coal Co.; Massey Bros. to Pratt Coal Co.; Brooker Bros. to Smith Bros., and Cahill Coal Co. to Illinois Zinc Co. No. 3.

#### IMPROVEMENTS.

The LaSalle County Carbon Coal Company, at Union mine, Peru, has installed a modern electric hoist consisting of a 225-horsepower motor, 3 phase, 60 cycles, 2,200 volts, 450 revolutions per minute, and the speed of the hoist varies by cutting the resistance into or out of motor circuit. The over-wind switch operates and is so arranged that at a certain height the switch will open and cut off the circuit; and at the No. 1 mine, Jonesville, a coal crusher with a capacity of 150 tons per hour has been put in.

The Mathiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company, LaSalle, has installed an automatic car lift at the shaft bottom with a capacity from four to six cars per minute. This will cut out all manual labor in connection with handling empty cars. The company has added one more 6-ton electric locomotive of the latest type to their haulage system, which makes four electric haulage motors at this mine.

The Fairbury Coal Company, Fairbury, has built a fireproof engine house in place of the one destroyed by fire, March 14, 1914.

The Chicago, Wilmington & Franklin Coal Company, Mine No. 3, South Wilmington, has put in the south side a reinforced concrete overcast, crossing over three entries, covering a distance of 100 feet, which will give them six splits in that side of the mine.

The Oswald & Young Coal Company, Braidwood, has made a great improvement in the air and escape shafts, making the escape shaft as easy to travel as any in the State.

The Illinois Zinc Company, Peru, has retimbered the bottom of No. 3 mine with white oak timber and concreted the run around at the bottom of the shaft. A mile of return air course, which no one could travel, has been opened to a standard area of 36 feet, which makes this one of the best ventilated mines in the State, and gives great credit to the general superintendent, J. A. Edes.

#### MINE FIRES.

June 10, 1915, about 3:00 p. m., at the Mathiessen & Hegeler Zinc Company's mine, LaSalle, smoke was discovered issuing from the escape shaft, which is at the down cast of this mine. On investigation it was found that the timbering in the shaft had taken fire and was burning freely. David McCrindle, the mine manager, notified the men by telephone to come out at once; the fan which was forcing the smoke into the mine was stopped and the Rescue Station was called for helmet men to come to his assistance. As soon as the fan was stopped he connected two half-inch hose to the city and factory hydrant and had the shaft timber drenched with water in a short time, thereby reducing the danger of the fire creeping up the shaft. Upon closer investigation it was found that the fire had started in the No. 7



seam, which had been abandoned over twenty years. From appearance, it must have been burning for some time, but now, under the present construction, in my judgment, it will never happen again. The company cut out 20 feet of timber and dug out sufficient room to put in an 18-inch brick wall laid in cement, commencing 4 feet below and extending 10 feet above the seam, with a concrete finish of 8 inches. The road connecting the two shafts has been dug into the solid on each side between 8 and 10 feet, and 18 inches of concrete wall to the height of 2 feet above the coal has been put in, so it will be impossible for any leakage to take place.

FATAL ACCIDENTS.

July 30, 1914, John Tanka, driver, age 31 years, married, was killed by pit cars in Oglesby Coal Company's mine, Oglesby, LaSalle County. Deceased was driving a trip and got off to force his team, and, in trying to get on again, slipped and fell in front of his car which ran over him. He was taken to the hospital at LaSalle, where he died two hours later. He leaves a widow and three children.

August 14, 1914, Carolo Peagno, timberman, age 38 years, married, employed in the Chicago, Wilmington & Franklin Coal Company's mine, South Wilmington, Grundy County, was killed by a fall of rock. Deceased was kneeling down under a loose rock brushing the side of an entry when the rock fell, crushing him. He leaves a widow and five children.

August 25, 1914, Ludwig Janks, age 23 years, single, and Alexander Mikatewicz, age 48 years, married, miners, were killed in the LaSalle County Carbon Coal Company's LaSalle mine by an explosion of powder. Janks went to where Mikatewicz was working to borrow some powder, and noticing loose grains on a keg, put his lighted lamp to them and thus caused the explosion of two kegs. Mikatewicz leaves a widow and four children.

Respectfully submitted,

BEN D. ROBERTS,  
State Inspector, First District, Streator, Ill.

FATAL CASUALTIES, FIRST DISTRICT, JUNE 30, 1915.

Date.	Name.	Age.	Occupation.	Residence.	Married.	Single.	Widow.	Children.	Dependents.	Cause of death.
1914										
July 30	John Tanka	31	Driver	Oglesby	1	1	3	4		Pit car.
Aug. 14	Carolo Peagno	38	Timberman	S. Wilmington	1	1	5	6		Falling rock.
25	Ludwig Janks	23	Miner	LaSalle	1	1				Powder explosion.
25	Alex Mikatewicz	48	do.	do.	1	1	4	5		Powder explosion.
	Total				3	1	3	12	15	

RECAPITULATION OF FATAL ACCIDENTS, FIRST DISTRICT, JUNE 30, 1915.

Residence.	No.	Occupation.	No.	Cause of death.	No.	Colliery.	No.
LaSalle	2	Driver	1	Falling rock	1	Chi., Wil. & F. C. Co.	1
Oglesby	1	Miners	2	Pit cars	1	LaSalle County C. C. Co.	1
S. Wilmington	1	Timberman	1	Powder explosion	2	Oglesby Coal Co.	2
Total	4		4		4		4

NONFATAL CASUALTIES, FIRST DISTRICT, JUNE 30, 1915.

Date.	Name.	Age.	Residence.	Married.	Single.	Children.	Dependents.	Character of injury and cause of accident.	Time lost—days.
1914									
July 3	Lewis T. Jones	64	Streator	1		1	1	Leg broken, falling rock	80
10	Frank Smith	58	Peru	1		3	4	Foot broken, falling rock	44
17	Joe Shutnek	50	Oglesby	1				Foot injured, falling rock	87
25	Joe Kilts	40	do.	1		3	4	Body injured, fell down	32
28	Martin Baker	40	do.	1		2	3	Leg broken, pit cars	69
Aug. 8	V. Bernardini	42	S. Wilmington	1		4	4	Knee injured, falling coal	42
13	B. Bartero	39	Jonesville	1		1		Finger injured, scratch	63
13	W. Leopold	42	do.	1		4	5	Arm broken, falling slate	57
17	Peter Krantz	30	Oglesby	1			1	Knee injured, falling rock	52
19	John Baldawski	35	do.	1		1		Foot broken, falling rock	154
19	S. Gardner	40	LaSalle	1		4	5	Back injured, switch engine	39
Sept. 2	Jno. Turk	21	S. Wilmington	1			1	Finger broken, falling coal	35
11	Peter Gurk	50	do.	1				Ear cut off, falling coal	49
12	Paq Massa	32	do.	1		3	4	Hip injured, falling coal	42
14	Dan Bendole	37	Oglesby	1		1	2	Body injured, fell down	30
18	Jno. Zupancic	35	do.	1		1		Leg broken, falling rock	195
26	Wm. Williams	60	Fairbury	1		2		Back injured, falling rock	89
Oct. 1	Henry Barsdorf	33	Coal City	1		1		Leg injured, falling rock	89
3	Mike Andrews	52	Streator	1		5	3	Leg broken, falling rock	240
7	W. Dyabasa	25	Jonesville	1				Body injured, falling coal	105
8	Jack Shedio	26	Cedar Point	1		1	2	Finger injured, falling rock	31
14	Stini Smith	26	do.	1		1		Fingers injured, falling rock	48
17	Louis Datre	54	Oglesby	1		2	3	Shoulder injured, falling rock	43
19	Bat Boggetta	40	Torino	1		1		Hand injured, falling rock	30
20	Emil Gonvinenr	45	Deer Park	1		1	2	Finger injured, car door	32
22	Agista Ulive	41	Coal City	1				Leg broken, falling rock	119
29	Joe James	35	Pontiac	1		3	4	Leg broken, falling rock	123
29	E. Sandrilina	42	Cedar Point	1		4	5	Foot injured, falling coal	47
Nov. 2	Chas. Kerpisti	40	Deer Park	1		3	4	Finger cut off, falling coal	49
7	H. Kellner	21	LaSalle	1				Leg injured, tail chain	97
13	A. Pichone	30	do.	1		1	2	Arm broken, falling prop	79
13	Robt. W. Miller	44	Coal City	1			1	Foot injured, falling rock	61
19	Mike Hanks	36	Streator	1		5	6	Back injured, falling rock	58
24	Joe Nuk	46	LaSalle	1		6	7	Hand injured, pit car	47
28	Jesse Brown	61	Braceville	1		1	2	Leg injured, falling rock	35
Dec. 1	Tony Pray	28	Oglesby	1		2	3	Hand broken, kicked by mule	145
2	F. Columbus	64	S. Wilmington	1		3	2	Back injured, falling rock	42
3	Andrew Budnovich	58	Kangley	1		1	1	Leg broken, falling rock	30
10	James Lissy, sr	42	Godfrey	1		8	9	Arm injured, falling rock	30
21	Anton DeCecco	41	Coal City	1			1	Back injured, falling rock	155
29	M. Fabjon	43	LaSalle	1		4	5	Foot injured, falling rock	36
1915									
Jan. 9	Carlo Calletto	26	Oglesby	1				Arm injured, falling rock	30
13	Mike Popovich	50	Kangley	1		2	1	Back injured, falling rock	35
13	John Popovich	18	do.	1				Back injured, falling rock	35
13	Andrew Bakalar	59	Streator	1		8	6	Leg broken, falling rock	100
13	L. Henderson	54	Cedar Point	1		2	3	Fingers injured, caught by rope	60
13	T. Russell	36	LaSalle	1				Shoulder injured, pit car	53
16	J. Vita	38	do.	1		2	3	Hand injured, falling rock	52
16	M. Carmick	40	do.	1		3	4	Leg broken, falling rock	*
21	Henry Ranger	48	Streator	1				Finger broken, pit car	44
27	John Ryan	59	do.	1		9	3	Leg injured, falling rock	100
27	M. Kozloski	40	Peru	1		4	5	Leg injured, falling coal	41
Feb. 2	Geo. Allen	25	LaSalle	1				Head injured, flying coal	41
4	Peter Bianco	26	S. Wilmington	1				Leg injured, falling coal	35
9	Andrew Washko	57	Streator	1		7	4	Body injured, falling rock	60
13	Enoch Lettsome	49	Marselles	1		7	6	Rib broken, falling clod	31
15	Prino Bartolucci	43	Oglesby	1				Hand injured, falling coal	30
16	Cleto Castello	35	S. Wilmington	1				Leg injured, falling coal	35
17	Anton Velitski	45	Oglesby	1		1	2	Rib broken, falling coal	60
18	Jno. Gudenas	37	S. Wilmington	1		4	5	Finger broken, falling rock	84
24	Claus Olsen	49	Oglesby	1				Hip injured, falling coal	32
25	Thos. Burns	44	Braidwood	1				Arm broken, falling rock	125
Mar. 7	J. A. Walker	56	Fairbury	1		5	6	Body injured, falling rock	100
8	Emile Margaukin	65	Marselles	1		3	2	Leg broken, falling clod	*
13	T. Greglione	33	S. Wilmington	1		2	3	Foot injured, falling rock	63
16	Cleto Castella	35	do.	1		4	5	Finger injured, falling clod	35
20	Frank Roebuck	40	Oglesby	1		2	3	Shoulder injured, falling coal	43
24	Jno. Brokan	40	LaSalle	1		2	3	Hand injured, falling coal	61
29	J. Maucino	36	Cedar Point	1				Foot injured, falling coal	*
Apr. 5	Tom Jones	58	Pontiac	1				Eye injured, fire	40
7	O. Picchioni	31	S. Wilmington	1				Knee injured, struck object	42