

NEW AND REOPENED MINES.

Greene County.—Whitehead Bros., Bert Smith, Roodhouse; Greenfield Mining Company, Greenfield.

Macoupin County.—Montour Coal Co., No. 402, Virden; Ridge Coal Mining Co., Greenridge; J. J. Harbaugh, Chesterfield.

Montgomery County.—C. & E. I. Coal Property, No. 12, Witt, and No. 15, Taylor Springs.

CLOSED AND ABANDONED MINES.

Greene County.—Kincaid & Mitchell; A. E. Axley.

PROSPECTIVE MINE.

The Superior Coal Company in sinking a new mine to be known as No. 4, about seven miles southwest of Gillespie, Macoupin County. It is expected that this mine will be the largest producer in the State. The main shaft will be 11 feet by 21 feet inside of the concrete and will have three compartments. The air shaft will be 11 feet by 17 feet inside measurement with a concrete stairway. The equipment of the plant will be up-to-date in every respect and the work is being rushed with all possible speed.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The Montour Coal Company at Girard, Macoupin County, has extended motor roads and laid them with heavy rails a distance of 2,000 feet; built 40 stoppings of concrete blocks along the main airways and reduced to a minimum the amount of leakage in that section; doubled the size of the wash house and installed a soft water system with shower baths. Other improvements have been made, such as the replacing of an old boiler with a new one, track scales repaired, etc. At Virden mine this company resumed operations last December after being idle since January 20, 1915. A new concrete engine house was built; the hoisting engine was replaced by a much larger one and the old type generators were replaced by two 150-kilowatt machines of modern design; the boiler house was rebuilt and made fireproof; three new 150-horsepower boilers were installed; the mine haulage roads and air courses cleaned up and placed in good condition; the old slack bins torn down and the tipples remodeled and made much stronger.

Shoal Creek Coal Company, Panama, Montgomery County, extended motor track about 3,000 feet on three different territories; built a new track for loads, storage for empties, and expect to cage the coal from the reverse side; changing pit cars to roller bearings; built a new pump house at Shoal Creek and installed an electric driven pump and a new Cameron pump; built an extension to carpenter shop to facilitate the work there; have bought a 13-ton motor and three more mining machines to be installed as soon as possible; installed 5,000 feet of 400,000 circular mills cable, which is well insulated, to improve the positive wire lines below.

C. & E. I. Coal Properties, No. 12, Witt, Montgomery County, was closed down two years and eleven months, and reopened on or about November 20, 1916. This mine was in bad condition and had to be cleaned up; began hoisting coal November 29, at a very small tonnage per day and have gradually increased up to 1,500 tons per day; the air courses and haulage roads are in good condition; other improvements are two haulage locomotives, five mining machines, one new boiler complete and one old boiler replaced with a new one, one generator which produces the power for the mining machines and locomotives in the mine.

The Superior Coal Company, Gillespie, Macoupin County, beside making extensions on the haulage roads of their three mines, has laid much heavy iron in preparation of future extensions and roller bearing wheels are being substituted for the old type wheels in the mine cars at mine 1 and 2, and a large number of the new type cars purchased for all three mines. The most important improvement during the year was made at mine No. 1, where all the compressed air mining machinery was taken out and in its place were added to the electrical equipment one 200-kilowatt generator