

*Prospective Mines*.—In Macoupin county a shaft is being sunk on a large tract of land one and a half miles south of Girard, on the Chicago & Alton railroad. The company that will operate it has not been organized. It is stated the persons who are interested are large coal shippers and that they will also open another mine on the same property.

One mile northwest of Litchfield, borings with the diamond drill proved a seam of coal 7 feet 9 inches thick at 535 feet below the surface, and another seam 4 feet 4 inches thick at a depth of 599 feet. The Carbon Coal and Manufacturing Company has been organized and is sinking a shaft to these seams.

*Escapement Shafts*.—The Madison Coal Company has sunk an escapement shaft at its No. 4 mine at Glen Carbon. In Sangamon county the Clear Lake Co-operative Coal Company has sunk an escapement shaft at its mine.

*Fires*.—A fire occurred during the night of November 15, 1893, by which the top works at No. 1 mine of the Madison Coal Company were completely destroyed. They have since been rebuilt. A shaking screen has been added to the plant, and platform cages substituted for self-dumping cages.

The tower, tippie-house and scales at the escapement shaft of the Taylorville Coal Company were burned during the night of November 20, 1893. The fire was communicated to the platform frame of the scales by burning slack that had been used for making an embankment.

An underground fire, caused by leaving a lighted lamp hanging on the timbers near the bottom of the shaft, after quitting work, occurred during the night of February 23, 1894, at the mine operated by the Springfield Junction Coal Company. The timbers that supported the roof for about 300 feet were burned out. The roof fell to the height of about thirty-five feet. The fire was extinguished by closing the shafts.

*Abandoned Enterprises*.—The shaft commenced at Taylorville by the Christian County Coal Company was abandoned when a depth of 65 feet had been reached in the quicksand. At Strasburg, Shelby county, a shaft was sunk 210 feet to a seam of coal 20 inches thick and then abandoned. At Smithboro, Bond county, a company organized to reopen the mine at that place. It was abandoned before taking out all of the water. The mine of the Chesterfield Coal Company was drained, a small amount of coal taken out and again allowed to fill with water.

*Developments*.—The Moweaqua Mining and Manufacturing Company bored a hole at the bottom of the hoisting shaft to prospect for a workable coal seam. At a depth of 38 feet below the seam then being worked the drill entered a seam 5 feet 6 inches thick. The company abandoned working the old seam and are now opening the new seam, which resembles No. 5 as it appears at Springfield. The Assumption Coal and Mining Company, Christian county, is developing a seam which is about 15 feet above the one that it has been working. Both seams will be worked and both have the same general thickness and appearance.

*Improvements*.—The Sorento Prospecting and Mining Company, Bond county, has put in a 15-foot fan. The Springside Coal Mining Company, Christian county, has put in a system of endless rope haulage and a Bond box car loader. The Taylorville Coal Company has added a shaking screen to its plant. The Madison Coal Company has erected a new tower, tippie-house and shaking screen at its No. 3 mine, Edwardsville.

The Chicago and Virden Coal Company has erected a 15-foot fan. The Carlinville Coal Company has improved its hauling roads by taking down the clod for a distance of 1,500 feet. The Wabash Coal Company has erected a 12-foot fan at its mine at Dawson, Sangamon county.

*Mining Machines*.—During the year, 191 under-cutting machines have been in use at seventeen different mines. A Stanley entry driving machine was used for eight months in opening No. 4 mine of the Madison Coal Company. No coal was mined with machines by the Wilmington and Springfield Coal Company nor by the Edinburg Coal Company. Owing to a scarcity of water for steam purposes the machines owned by the Sorento Prospect and Mining Company were not operated after December 7, 1893.

*Accidents*.—During the year there were 130 accidents, resulting fatally to nineteen persons. One hundred and eleven suffered injuries so that they lost twelve or more working days; two of the fatal accidents were attended with injuries to one person each besides the one who was killed; two of the persons killed had met with previous accidents during the year. The following is a statement in detail of each fatal accident:

July 25, 1893—Henry Shulz, aged 34 years, timberman, married, employed at the No. 8 mine of the Consolidated Coal Company, Mount Olive, Macoupin county, was killed by a fall of roof. The deceased and others were taking down rock when a mass of it fell and caught him. He left a widow and three children.

August 5, 1893—John Kadlubek, a single man, aged 24 years, miner, at the No. 2 mine of the Pana Coal Company, Pana, Christian county, was killed by falling off the cage. A cage load of men were coming up the shaft; when about 50 feet from the bottom the deceased stooped to pick something up; his head caught in the side timbers and he was crushed between the side and cage, falling to the bottom of the shaft. It was supposed that he dropped the lid of his dinner bucket and was stooping to pick it up.

October 6, 1893—W. H. Gerlock, fireman, aged 25, a single man, employed at night at No. 6 mine of the Consolidated Coal Company, Stanton, Macoupin county, was killed by the explosion of a boiler. On inspection it was found that a sag had formed on the boiler over the furnace. The day fireman when cleaning the fire at 5:30 p. m. had not noticed any sag in the plate. The furnace doors are so low that he could not see this plate unless he stooped lower than usual when firing. A sag forming quickly would likely escape detection. The boiler had a thin incrustation of scale, and had been cleaned eleven days before the explosion. It was inspected July 30, 1893.

October 20, 1893—G. S. Ketchem, driver, aged 24, married, met with a fatal accident at mine No. 2 of the Pana Coal Company, Pana, Christian county, and died the next day at noon. On inspection it was found that the duties of the deceased were to feed the mules and haul the coal from the entries that were being driven at night. In an entry where it was customary to haul two and three cars at a trip, he had hauled five empty cars in the front and back entries until he had five loaded cars, which he commenced to haul at one trip. The entry which the trip was on was down grade from the face. The cars have wheels sixteen inches in diameter and hold about two tons of coal. After the