

shaft, and they have a boy for the weighmaster, but he understands his business and gives entire satisfaction to all parties.

The escapement shaft is in fair condition. One of the sons is pit-boss.

#### THE MASCOUTAH MINE.

This place was condemned for want of escapement shaft, and as the proprietors of the mine and the proprietors of the land could not agree as to who should sustain the cost of sinking it, the mine was abandoned. It was operated solely to supply a local demand.

#### CONRAD REINECKE, MINE No. 1.

This mine is at Birkner Station. It is a machine mine, having eight Harrison machines in operation, and giving employment to 50 men underground, who are all paid by the day. The machine men are paid 4 cents per lineal foot on the face of the coal, the cut being 4 feet deep, and they average \$2.80 a day. Shovelers and loaders receive \$1.75 per day—the day's work being 24 cars, containing 18 bushels each. Blasters receive \$2.25 a day, the powder being furnished by the company. The air is split into two currents, showing 3,560 and 3,165 cubic feet per minute, respectively. A fan has been erected to supersede the furnace so as to permit of ladders in the air shaft for the escape of the men.

#### THE WELCH MINING Co.

Mr. E. W. Harris, of St. Louis, has the management of two mines of the above company located at Birkner—the Victor and Excelsior. The former has been idle for some time, and will only be reopened upon a revival of trade. There were about 20 miners employed at the Excelsior at the time of my visit. There was no current of air at the time, but a new air course was being pushed forward with a view to securing a shorter and better passage. Mr. Harris also contemplated introducing 4 of the Yock mining machines. He makes the statement that he can produce coal cheaper by hand-labor, but owing to the nature of the coal, the machine mining turns it out in better shape for the market. It is the custom with miners to blast it "off the solid" without undermining, which breaks it up too much. He has already had two machines in his place and states that the cost of operating the compressor is greater than the usual estimates.

#### KNECHT & SON.

This is a St. Louis firm operating a mine at Birkner, with five Harrison machines, when working up to their capacity. With four machines they employ a force of 38 men as follows: Four machine men at \$2.80 per day, 4 shovelers at \$1.75, 6 blasters at \$2.25, and 24 loaders at \$1.75. The day's work is measured by the number of boxes or pit cars filled, which at this place must be 24, containing an average of 20 bushels each. The average daily product is 266 tons. The mine is in good condition, and connection is made with mine adjoining to furnish facilities for escape. The air is distributed in two splits, with a total volume of 3,412 cubic feet.

This firm is distinguished as the only one in the district which offered any discourtesy to the inspector, and that emanated from their office in St. Louis, not from the gentlemen at the mines.

Harry Lester, Superintendent.

#### THE DUTCH HOLLOW MINE.

This and the Birkner Coal Co.'s mine are owned and worked by coal miners for their own benefit. They are both single-entry mines, like most of the mines about here. The Dutch Hollow Mine gives employment to 24 miners, and is connected underground with the Knecht shaft. Their air ways are large enough, but the volume of air was deficient.

The Birkner shaft is connected underground with the Pollock mine adjoining. There are about 15 miners at work, and the amount of air in circulation measures twice as much as that in the former place.

Edward Avery, President.

#### THE POLLOCK MINE.

This is another Birkner mine, employing about 10 miners, and connected with two adjoining mines underground. The works were closed at the time of the inspector's visit, and had been for several days.

#### MILLSTADT COAL Co., AND OTHERS,

At Millstadt, on the Cairo and St. Louis Narrow Gauge Railroad, there are several mines, that of the above company and of the Millstadt Union Co. being entirely new. The shafts of both have just been completed and the engines and machinery are being put in position preparatory to hoisting.

In addition to the foregoing there are four small mines operated, for local sales of coal, by John Behomann, John Crossman, Furham & Co., and the High Prairie Coal Co. These employ from 3 to 8 miners each for a part of the year only. At the two latter places the men were ordered out of their rooms until proper air courses were established, and steps were taken to secure second places of egress.

#### S. A. WISENBORN, HARMONY.

This station is on the Illinois and St. Louis Railroad, and the mine is a single-entry mine, employing about 50 men inside.

There was found an abundance of air, divided into three splits, and kept in circulation by furnace. I am not advised as to what they have done in regard to escapement shaft.

Samuel Daniels, Pit-boss.