

Creek Coal Co., operating the shaft at Chatham, has increased the size of the cage-ways in the shaft by taking out the upcast air-chamber and making the escapement shaft the upcast; larger mine-cars have been put in, and the haulage roads improved with a view of a larger output.

Escapement Shafts.—The Cantrall Coal Co., in Sangamon county, has completed its escapement shaft during the year, putting in good and substantial ladders from bottom to top. The Coffeen Coal Co., in Montgomery county, has just finished its escapement shaft, which has been a long and expensive job. An engine, with wire rope guides, and a light cage will be used for taking men out of the escapement. The fan will be removed to the escapement in the near future, which will greatly assist the ventilation.

New Mines.—The Clear Lake Coöperative Coal Co. has put their new shaft in operation during the year. The shaft is located on the Springfield branch of the Illinois Central Railroad, about 5½ miles from Springfield. The plant is put up in very good shape. The hoisting engines are 12x24 inches, double, second motion, geared about 5 to 1 to a drum 10 feet in diameter. A 12-foot fan is put in for ventilation, manufactured by Coles, of Washington, Indiana.

Prospective Mines.—The Moawequa Coal Co., of Shelby county, on the Illinois Central Railroad, has got their shaft nearly down to the coal seam. The Vandalia Coal Co. is sinking a new shaft at Vandalia, in Fayette county.

Abandoned Mines.—The New Douglass Coal Co. finished sinking their shaft down to the coal seam, as was reported by the prospector; it was found, however, that the seam was faulty and could not be successfully operated. The shaft has now been abandoned.

Mining Machines.—There are now 17 collieries in this district operated by coal-cutting machines, viz.: Abbey No. 3 and Heintz Bluff collieries, at Collinsville; Troy colliery, at Troy; Nos. 6 and 7 collieries, at Staunton; Nos. 8 and 10 and Mount Olive Coal Co. collieries, at Mount Olive; Gillespie colliery, at Gillespie; St. Barnard colliery, at Clyde; Nos. 1 and 2 collieries, at Glen Carbon; No. 3 colliery, at Edwardsville, owned by the Madison Coal Co.; Wilmington and Springfield colliery, at Ridgely; Girard colliery, at Girard; Taylorville Coal Co., at Taylorville, and the Edinburg Coal Co., at Edinburg. The Illinois Fuel Co. has not operated the coal-cutting machines during the year. The plant and machines are, however, all yet in place. The Springside Coal Co. and the Sangamon Coal Co. have experimented during the year with the Thomson-Vandepoole electric coal-cutting machine. As no coal is reported as cut by the machines, it is not known if the plant will be permanent.

The Product.—The district shows a large gain during the year on lump coal. The gain is 558,688 tons, and the gain including other grades than lump is 689,491 tons. The principal gain has been in the counties of Macoupin and Madison. A decided gain has also been produced in the counties of Bond, Christian, Macon, Montgomery and Sangamon. Christian county would have shown a larger gain but owing to a fire in the

No. 2 colliery of the Pana Coal Co.; the mine has not worked for six months. The following table is given to show the gain and loss between the years 1891 and 1892 in the gross tonnage:

COUNTIES.	1891.	1892.	Loss.	Gain.
Bond.....	102,535	121,812	.....	19,277
Calhoun.....	2,773	4,637	.....	1,864
Christian.....	718,326	767,354	.....	49,028
Green.....	16,442	19,870	.....	3,428
Jersey.....	4,252	3,378	874	.....
Macon.....	207,286	227,020	.....	19,734
Macoupin.....	1,461,344	1,823,136	.....	361,792
Madison.....	719,308	873,770	.....	154,462
Montgomery.....	107,190	147,870	.....	40,680
Morgan.....	7,610	4,266	3,344	.....
Sangamon.....	1,051,604	1,091,014	.....	39,410
Scott.....	14,755	17,506	.....	2,751
Shelby.....	14,197	15,665	.....	1,468
Effingham, Jasper, Richland and Pike.....	487	302	185	.....
	4,428,109	5,117,600	4,403	693,894

Fatal Casualties.—Henry Meyer, laborer, aged 47 years, married, wife and seven children, was injured August 8, 1891, at No. 6 colliery, Consolidated Coal Co., Staunton, by falling slate; right hip dislocated, and otherwise injured. Died August 16, 1891.

Samuel Probst, loader, aged 44 years; single man; killed September 5, 1891, at No. 2 colliery, Madison Coal Co., Glen Carbon, by falling slate and top coal.

Conrad Newbauer, night watchman, aged 22 years; a single man; killed September 25, 1891, at Girard Coal Co.'s shaft, Girard, by falling off the upper landing.

Wm. Landgraff, loader, aged 58 years, married; wife and no children; killed October 17, 1891, at No. 8 colliery, Consolidated Coal Co., Mount Olive, by falling slate.

Thomas Roach, machine helper, aged 22 years; a single man; killed December 5, 1891, at Mount Olive Coal Co.'s colliery, Mount Olive, by the explosion of a boiler.

Otto Schenke, machine miner, aged 21 years; a single man; killed December 5, 1891, at Mount Olive Coal Co.'s colliery, Mount Olive, by the explosion of a boiler.

Phillip Swartz, machine helper, at Girard Coal Co.'s shaft, Girard, aged 31 years; a single man; injured by mine-cars at the bottom of the shaft. He died December 10, 1891.

Michael Hopock, loader, at No. 8 colliery, Consolidated Coal Co., Mount Olive, aged 37 years; married; leaves a widow and four children; killed December 14, 1891, by falling coal.

August Koschinski, driver, at No. 1 colliery, Decatur Coal Co., Decatur, aged 25 years; married, leaves a widow and two children; killed January 8, 1892, by a mine-car falling off the cage.

Joseph Bolloch, timberman, at No. 8 colliery, Consolidated Coal Co., Mount Olive, aged 44 years; married; wife and three children; killed January 12, 1892, by falling coal.