

The Citizens' Coal Mining Company, of Springfield, has opened what is called their "B" shaft. This shaft is 205 feet deep to coal seam No. 5, which is 5 feet 6 inches thick. The engine and boiler house is built of brick, with suitable engine and steam power; a fan 10 feet in diameter is put in for ventilation; the fan house is so built that a larger fan can be put in at any time. For cleaning the coal a shaking screen 60 feet long is erected. Coal, as it passes through the various meshes of the screen, falls direct into the railroad cars, dispensing with elevators and storage bins. The shaft is located three miles west of Springfield on the St. Louis, Chicago & St. Paul Railroad.

The Montgomery Coal Company has opened a new mine for business during the year at Paisley. A tower and out buildings have been put up, with suitable side tracks, and a new 12-foot fan put in. This mine is located one mile west of the village of Witt, in Montgomery county; a new town site is laid out and a number of houses have been built. The name of the new town is Paisley. The coal seam of the mine is No. 5, and it is about 8 feet thick; the shaft is 534 feet deep; the roof above the coal is very good and the coal will be easily mined.

Three small coal drifts have been opened near Chesterfield, in Macoupin county; one small shaft 3 miles south of Murrayville, in Morgan county; one small drift one mile west of Delphi, in Jersey county, and a new shaft near Roodhouse, in Greene county.

Abandoned Mines.—Two small drifts have been abandoned—one at Exeter and one near Winchester, in Scott county, and four small drifts are abandoned in Shelby county.

Escapement Shafts—The Litchfield Mining and Power Company is sinking an escape shaft. **The Edinburg Coal Company is sinking a new escapement shaft in place of the one that caved in some two years ago.** The Montgomery Coal Company, of Paisley, is sinking an escapement shaft. The Junction Mining Company and the Black Diamond Coal Mining and Tile Company, both of Springfield, are driving entries from each side with a view to making underground connection between the two mines for additional escape-ways.

Fatal Accidents.—John French, a machine helper, aged 31 years, was killed July 9, 1897, in the Hornsby mine. The machine runner was cutting in the corner of a room; a piece of coal had been left up from the last shot; the coal fell. French, it appears, had a pick in his hand; he had jumped back when the coal fell, but falling beneath it, the pick stuck in his forehead and killed him.

William Schulze, a driver, aged 20 years, was killed October 22, 1897, in the Sangamon Coal Co.'s mine. He was going in with an empty trip; there were some iron rails on top of the cars. It appears that the front ends of the rails had projected beyond the side of the front car, the one he was riding on. The ends of the rails caught some props on the side of the entry and knocked them out. Slate fell and caught him.

Geo. Moore, a miner, aged 20 years, was killed January 6, 1898, in the Carlinville Coal Co.'s mine. He was working at the face of a room. The roof of the room being of a treacherous nature, soft and full of slips, a piece of clod fell and caught him.