

Number of children left fatherless.....	37
Number of employes to each fatal accident.....	373
Number of tons of coal to each fatal accident.....	319,946
Ratio of fatal accidents per 1,000 persons employed.....	2.7
Number of employes to each non-fatal accident.....	69
Number of tons of coal to each non-fatal accident.....	59,450

NEW MINES.

The Burnwell Coal Company has completed the sinking of its No. 22 mine at Witt, Montgomery county. A description of the plant at this mine was given in the last annual report.

PROSPECTIVE MINES.

Ground has been broken for a new mine at Farmersville, Montgomery county.

Very slow progress is being made in sinking the mine at Lovington, Moultrie county, on account of the great quantity of sand and water. This is the second trial and has been abandoned for the present. The company is now drilling in search of a more favorable place.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The Prairie State Coal Company, Nilwood, Macoupin county, has built a new tower, sixty-four feet high, and installed a steel hopper, a Fairbanks & Morse scales and a pair of first motion hoisting engines; also built a new brick engine house and put in one flue boiler, 150 horse power, and two cylinder boilers, 100 horse power each.

The Hillsboro Coal Company, Hillsboro, Montgomery county, have replaced its old twelve-foot fan with a new twenty-foot one, greatly improving the ventilation.

Three large coal washeries have been built in this district: One by the Pana Coal Company at its No. 1 mine, Pana, Christian county; one by the Superior Coal Company near Gillespie, Macoupin county. This washery is so situated that the coal from all three of the company's mines can easily be brought to it. Another by the Shoal Creek Coal Company, at its No. 1 mine, Panama, Montgomery county. This company is also installing electric haulage.

The Consolidated Coal Company has rebuilt the washery recently burned down at its No. 15 mine, Mt. Olive, Macoupin county.

COAL WASHING PLANT OF THE SUPERIOR COAL COMPANY NEAR GILLESPIE.

The coal washing plant of the Superior Coal Company is located on the main line of the Macoupin County Railway, about three miles north of Benld and within a few hundred yards of the crossing of the C., C. & St. L. R. R. This washery was designed and built by the American Coal Washer Company of Alton, Ill. Its capacity is 250 tons of coal an hour. The coal is brought to the washery in gondola cars of 80,000 pounds capacity from the three mines of the company.

The coal passes at the mines through a bar screen one and a quarter inches apart. The loaded cars are left standing in front of the washery on a double track having a down grade towards the washery. This down grade of the tracks continues through the washery and beyond the track scales, so that the cars are handled solely by gravity. The washery is built in two symmetrical halves, each independent of the other, but arranged so that in case of break down one side can feed coal to the other side. The coal is taken out of the cars by two car unloaders, one over each of the two tracks. Each of these unloaders has a capacity of four cars an hour. The unloaders clean the cars perfectly, requiring very little hand shoveling. Five men can operate one unloader and handle the cars easily. The cars are pulled against the unloader by a double paper friction winch. Each unloader delivers the coal into the boot of an elevator, which conveys it into a double bin situated above and to the right of the washing jigs. The bottom of