

The Nilwood Carbon Coal Co., Nilwood, Macoupin county, has put in a new engine at its escapement shaft. The Junction Mining Co., Springfield, Sangamon county, has put in two more boilers. The Clear Lake Coöperative Coal Co., Bissell, Sangamon county, has retimbered a large portion of its escapement shaft. The Jones & Adams Coal Co., Springfield, Sangamon county, has put in a pair of new hoisting engines 24x36 inches; these engines were manufactured at the Danville Machine & Foundry Co., Danville, Vermillion county. The company has also put in a pair of the Duncan dump cages. The Riverton Coal Co., Riverton, Sangamon county, has also put in the Duncan dump cage at its No. 2 shaft. The Victor Coal Co., Pawnee, Sangamon county, is putting in a very substantial plant at the new shaft recently sunk at that point; this plant will embrace all the latest improvements known to our coal mines; the present hoisting shaft will be used as an escapement when the plant at the new shaft is finished.

The Capitol Coöperative Coal Co., Springfield, Sangamon county, will abandon its No. 1 shaft as a hoisting shaft; it will be used only as an escapement and ventilating shaft; a new fan has been put up and new ladders put in.

The Chicago-Virden Coal Co. has put in two new boilers at its No. 3 mine at Chatham, Sangamon county; the company has also built a new boiler house, retimbered the escapement shaft, put in new ladders and put up a larger fan. The Black Diamond Coal Co., Springfield, Sangamon county, has improved the hoisting tower at its mine and put in Duncan dump cages.

*Electric Haulage*—There are now three mines using electric haulage in this district, the Consolidated Coal Co. at its No. 10 mine, Mount Olive, Macoupin county, the Jones & Adams Coal Co., Springfield, Sangamon county, and the Chicago, Wilmington Coal Co., Thayer, Macoupin county. The Chicago-Virden Coal Co., Virden, Macoupin county, will have electric haulage in its No. 1 mine, at Virden, at an early date.

*Rope Haulage*—There are four mines in the district using rope haulage: The Hillsboro Coal Co., Hillsboro, Montgomery county, and the Riverton Coal Co. No. 1, Riverton, Sangamon county, use the tail-rope haulage. The Consolidated Coal Co. No. 6, Staunton, Macoupin county, and the Capitol Coöperative Coal Co. No. 2, Springfield, Sangamon county, use the endless rope haulage. Tail-rope haulage will be put in the Republic Iron Co.'s mine at Ridgley, Sangamon county, in a very short time.

*Changes of Ownership*—The Springfield & Pleasant Plains Coal Co., Pleasant Plains, Sangamon county, has sold its mine at that place to Joseph Trutter, of Springfield. Mr. Trutter has sunk a new hoisting shaft, and is now putting up the tower and placing the engines and boilers; the present hoisting shaft will be dismantled as a hoisting shaft, and ladders put in so that it can be used as an escapement shaft. A portion of the shaft will be used for ventilation.

The Coffeen Coal & Coöperative Co., Coffeen, Montgomery county, has sold its mine to the Mitchell Coal & Coke Co., of the same place. The new company will operate the mine in the future.

The Horse Creek Coal Co., Pawnee, Sangamon county, has sold its property, both the Pawnee Railroad and the mine, to a corporation known as the Victor Coal Co., which will operate this mine, and it will be known by the new name in the future. This company expects to do a large coal business; it is building a number of houses and making great improvements both in and around the mine.

*Scales*—A large number of scales have been tested and adjusted during the year, also a large quantity of oil; fully one-third of the oil does not come up to the standard, and has been condemned. I cheerfully give credit to George Morgan and George Strebel, county mine inspectors of Sangamon and Macoupin counties, respectively, who have ably assisted me during the year.

*Fatal Casualties*.—There have been seventeen fatal accidents in the district during the year, seven of which were caused by premature blasts; six of these accidents occurred in Sangamon county, where coal is blasted off the solid. The following is a detailed statement of those who lost their lives during the year:

August 13, 1900, S. P. Baker, mine examiner, aged 37 years, married, received fatal injuries in the escapement shaft of the Consolidated Coal Co.'s mine at Gillespie, Macoupin county. The company was building a new tower at the hoisting shaft; Baker had gone down the escapement shaft to examine the mine; a six-inch air pipe extends along the side of the ladders in the escapement shaft; the air-compressor was running at the time; just as Baker was about to come up the ladder the air pipe burst, the ladders and platforms were knocked out for some distance, the timber falling on Baker, causing his death.

September 12, 1900, Angelo Alexander, miner, aged 38 years, married, was killed by a fall of slate in the Wabash Coal Co.'s mine, Dawson, Sangamon county.

October 2, 1900, Albert L. Eckman, driver, aged 19 years, single, was killed in the Consolidated Coal Co.'s mine at Hornsby, Macoupin county. It was supposed he was struck by a cross timber falling on him in the roadway.

October 24, 1900, John Casey, mine manager, aged 25 years, single, was killed by being caught by mine cars while engaged in breaking in an untrained mule, in the Williamsville Coal Co.'s mine at Selbytown, Sangamon county.

October 24, 1900, Jesse Boswell, miner, aged 22 years, single, was killed in the Greenridge Mining Co.'s mine, Greenridge, Macoupin county, by a fall of clod at the working face of his room.

November 14, 1900, Joseph Thomas, cartman, aged 22 years, married, was killed at the Consolidated Coal Co.'s No. 8 mine, Mt. Olive, Macoupin county. He was crossing the railroad track in his cart, when he fell out and received injuries which caused his death.

December 6, 1900, John Benedict, miner, aged 62 years, married, was killed by a premature blast in the Riverton Coal Co.'s mine at Riverton, Sangamon county.