

C air course putting in a permanent stopping by the first cross cut. Mr. Wilson, superintendent, Mr. Core, mine manager, Mr. Powell, mine examiner, were on C entry going south. They had found considerable explosive gas and could only go about fifteen feet at one time, their object being to get inside of third west south and place a stopping at that point to seal off south side of mine permanent while exploring the north side. When within about sixty feet of the first west south, they both heard and saw an explosion, which in their judgment had occurred beyond a large fall located inside of the third west south entry. They immediately said, "Run for your lives!" and they had only gone about 40 feet back in C entry when the wind and pressure from the explosion overtook them and they dropped to the bottom clutching the rail. After the explosion had passed back over them, they started to run again, went about 60 or 100 feet when a second explosion, more violent than the first occurred; they lay down again and after this had passed back over them, they groped their way back in the dark towards the main shaft and from that time on it was more of a dream to them as they were almost unconscious. The men stationed on the bottom of shaft saw the flame coming out of B entry south side of shaft. Their statement agreeing with that of the men in C entry is good evidence that the explosion occurred on south side of air shaft and from gas that was driven over top of a fire which had generated after admitting air into the mine. Three men lost their lives in this explosion. All three of them were on the bottom of the main shaft. There has been considerable water pumped into this mine used in fighting the fires, and putting it on falls where they thought fire was located. There was about a foot of water on bottom of main shaft, and none of the thirteen men that got safely out were burned. Two men that were brought out had been knocked into water and drowned. One man is still in the mine. The air shaft had been lately equipped with 120 sq. ft. of explosion doors. At the time of the explosion these doors were released and the black smoke boiled out of the air shaft this being the upcast, the main shaft being the downcast. The explosion was so terrific that the smoke even came up the downcast against the air current. Immediately after the explosion they speeded the fan up to 70 revolutions per minute, and the smoke hovered over the main shaft for a minute before the power could produce ventilation again. The men being so close to the bottom of the main shaft and the restoring of ventilation so soon after accident caused their lives to be saved. If they had been farther back in the working probably all lives would have been lost. The main shafts are at the present time sealed and my advice to the company was to keep the shafts sealed until we are sure that the fires are extinguished.

On the night of February 16, 1909, there was an explosion in the Dering Coal Company's No. 18 mine, West Frankfort, Franklin county. This explosion occurred about 5 p. m. while four shot firers were in the mine, immediately after they had begun to fire shots. They had fired eight or ten shots when the explosion occurred. From the appearance of the explosion, as observed from the top of the shaft, and from information received from parties that were at the mine, it appeared to be an explosion from windy shot igniting carbon monoxide gas. The explosion ignited fires in the mine and the burning of fires formed an explosive mixture, causing this mixture, at intervals of about every two hours, to explode, making rescue work impossible. Also the flames in the first two hours had reached the main shaft and were coming up it. The main shaft being the upcast, by 9 p. m. the fire had gained such headway that the flames were shooting 150 feet in the air from the ground landing, melting glass windows in the top of the steel tippie. The company sealed up the air shaft immediately; after sealing of the air shaft the sealing of the main shaft began by using 35 pound steel rails, boards and sand, afterwards placing a concrete cap over the temporary seal. While sealing the shafts they had several small ex-

plosions and not until the shafts were completely sealed did they cease. The shafts were kept sealed for a period of 120 days, when Mr. R. Y. Williams, with the Dreager helmets from the Urbana rescuing station, made a trip down the air shaft in a sinking bucket; he found no evidence of fire and the mine was perfectly cool; but he found the water had accumulated until it was within about two feet of the roof. Then they made an air lock at the main shaft, cut the concrete covering, closed the opening and were preparing to descend. In making these openings it appears that it had admitted enough air to form an explosive mixture and this body of gas coming in contact with a fire that was still burning in the mine, caused an explosion. Not being sure in regard to this, on the following day they allowed air to pass down the escapement and up the main shaft, and in the course of fifteen minutes the volume coming out of main shaft became black and by the odor it was easy to determine that there was a fire in the mine. The shafts then were resealed and the company immediately started to flood the mine until it was filled to a height of 80 feet in shafts. This is the situation on July 1, 1909.

FATAL ACCIDENTS.

August 4, 1908, Tom Kachan, miner, aged 37, married, working in the Zeigler Coal Company's mine, Zeigler, Franklin county, was killed instantly. He had just begun loading a car when in some manner the chuck was evidently knocked from under the wheel and Kachan followed the car trying to get it stopped until he came to a place where there was no clearance between the car and rib and in this manner he was crushed.

August 5, 1908, James Scott, top laborer, aged 23 years, married, employed at the Paradise Coal and Coke Company's mine when he was caught between two railroad cars and instantly killed. He leaves a widow and one child.

August 7, 1908, Frank Gossyuski, miner, aged 32, married, working in the Hart-Williams Coal Company's mine, Benton, Franklin county, was instantly killed by falling coal in his room. He was firing off a shot when part of the coal fell on him. He leaves a wife and six children, in Poland.

August 11, 1908, Emil Schrag, driver, aged 26 years, single, working in the Southern Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 9, New Baden, Clinton county, was coming out of room No. 17 on the first north entry when on the switch a large fall of slate caught him and killed him instantly. His home was in Trenton, Ill.

August 25, 1908, Green Cowsart, miner, aged 55 years, widower, working in the O'Gara Coal Company's mine No. 4, Harrisburg, Saline county, was loading car of coal in his room when rock fell on him, causing his death almost instantly. The slab of rock being 8 feet long, 5 feet wide and 4 inches thick crushed him about the head and shoulders. The mine examiner's danger marks and date was on said piece of rock. He leaves two children.

August 31, 1908, Mike Veger, miner, aged 26, married, was working in the Wasson Coal Company's mine No. 1, Harrisburg, Saline county, at his working face when a piece of slate 9 feet long, 5 feet wide and $\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick fell on him and he was killed instantly. He leaves a wife and two children.

September 9, 1908, Otto E. Wilkerson, track layer, aged 34 years, employed in the Willis Coal and Mining Company's mine at Willisville, Perry county, was sitting in an empty car on parting, waiting for quitting time when a piece of slate fell upon him injuring his spine and he died two days later. He leaves a widow and two children.

September 9, 1908, Ben Sarutis, miner, aged 27 years, single, while on his way from his working place to the shaft bottom, for some unknown reason stopped in an old cross cut through which electric wires were laid, and