

May 29, 1897. the miners employed in the "Big Four," Wilmington Coal Co.'s mine, near Coal City, in Grundy county, came out on strike. The miners employed at this mine had ceased work on the first of May and when a settlement of prices was agreed upon about May 24 offered to resume work at either of the prices for screened coal, which were 67½ cents per ton over a 78-inch screen, or 75 cents per ton over a 1½-inch screen; but they were told that they could not get either of these conditions, as the company had remodeled the tower buildings and put in a shaking screen plant and would pay for gross weight only. The miners agreed to give the gross weight a trial, the result of which was that they found a difference of five cents per ton against them between the screened coal prices and the price paid for gross weight, 55 cents per ton; these prices including fifteen cents per ton for brushing. The miners held a meeting and resolved to ask an advance on the price paid for gross-weight coal per ton. The company would not concede an advance and the miners refused to work and were still idle when the general suspension took place, July 1.

*Financial Difficulties.*—The Prairie Creek Coal Company, of Streator, on January 8, made an assignment to John S. Bear, of Streator. This was formerly the Coal Run Coal Company. After a suspension of two weeks a number of the miners leased the mine and resumed operations pending a settlement of the company's affairs.

In the month of January, 1897, the Deer Park Coal Company became financially embarrassed and operations were suspended at its mine in Deer Park township, in LaSalle County, and the mine was closed for a period of three months, when operations were again resumed in the month of April by the owners of the coal, James Cain & Sons, of Deer Park.

*Fatal Casualties.*—August 25, 1896, Joseph Conderon, aged 33 years, married, wife and one child, employed as a miner in the Gardner & Wilmington Coal Co.'s No. 1 shaft at Gardner, was fatally injured by a fall of rock in the first right cross road, of the first left and last working place, long wall. He had just started to work that morning and was sitting down, along the face about ten feet from the road, talking with the men in the next place about their giving him more room on that side of his road. While thus talking a large rock of convex shape fell on the tack behind him, sliding over on to his shoulders and doubling him under it. When taken out it was found that he was seriously injured internally about the back and ribs. He died 12 hours after being taken home. The roof had given no indications of fracture at this point.

Sept. 2, 1896, Frank J. Miller, aged 57 years, employed as a miner by the Acme Coal Co., of Streator, was fatally injured by a fall of rock in the fourth left entry. The deceased and his son were working in the entry and had just cut through a roll or fault in the coal. This fault extended up through the roof overlying the coal. He was in the act of drilling a hole for the purpose of blasting the bottom coal; on the left rib or pillar and directly above him, was a mass of rock cut around by the fault, but which seemed fast on the side of the pillar. Under this rock he had set the drilling machine close to the pillar and as he tightened up the machine post it cut up into the rock