

State inspector of coal mines reports

Section 47, Pages 1381 - 1410

These reports of the Kansas State Mine Inspector mostly concern coal mining, though by 1929 the scope of the reports broadens to include metal mines. The content of individual reports will vary. The reports address mining laws and mining districts; industry production and earnings; fatal and non-fatal accidents; accident investigations and transcripts of oral interviews; labor strikes; mine locations; mining companies and operators; and proceedings of mining conventions. The reports document the political, economic, social, and environmental impacts of more than seventy years of mining in southeastern Kansas.

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KANSAS
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Thickness.	Material.	Depth.
15	Shale with streaks of sand	793
6	Dark shale, with limestone bands	799
1-10	Coal	800-10
3-8	Soft shale	804-6
1-6	Limestone and shale	806
2	Limestone mixed with shale	808
2-6	Soft shale	810-6
8-6	Sand shale	819
4	Shale	823
0-6	Blue shale	823-6
4-6	Lime and shale	828
2	Soft shale	830
3-6	Sand shale	833-6
1	Black shale	834-6
1	Coal	835-6
1-6	Sand shale	837
3	Sand shale	840
3	Soft shale	843
8	Sand shale	851
9	Sandstone	860
5	Sand shale	865
1	Sandstone	866
4	Sand shale	870
8-5	Dark shale	878-5
0-9	Coal, the lower surface showing a fault through which water came up	879-2
2-10	Soft shale or fire-clay	882
4	Soft shale with lime nodules	886
3	Sand shale	889
3	Limestone	892
11	Sandstone	903
6	Sand shale	909
29	Sandstone	938
20	Sandstone with shale partings in places, and coal	958
17	Sandstone	975
15	Sandstone with lumps of shale	990
6	Sandstone	996
0-1	Coal	996-1
0-5	Shale and limestone	996-6
8-6	Sandstone	1,005
15	Sandstone	1,020
30	Sand shale	1,050
20	Sandstone, a coal parting at	1,070
1	Clay shale	1,071
3	Sand shale	1,074
0-2½	Coal	1,074-2½
1-9½	Dark sandstone	1,076
10	Sand shale	1,086
18	Shale with sandstone partings	1,104
15	Sandstone with shale partings	1,119
0-10	Black shale	1,119-10
0-1	Coal	1,119-11
3-1	Shaly sandstone	1,123
0-6	Sandstone and lime	1,123-6
3	Coal	1,126-6
3-6	Hard sandstone, with a very little lime	1,130
3-9	Dark blue shale	1,133-9
0-6	Coal	1,134-3
10-9	Sandstone with shale partings	1,145
7	Dark shale	1,152
0-4	Coal	1,152-4
3-8	Shale and limestone	1,156
10	Sandstone with shale partings	1,166
0-6	Black shale	1,166-6
0-2	Coal	1,166-8
3-4	Dark blue shale	1,170
5	Black slate	1,175
2	Dark slate, with lime in it	1,177
10-9	Black slate	1,187-9
2-4	Coal	1,190-1
0-11	Dark shale	1,191
6-6	Dark slate	1,197-6
1-3	Coal	1,198-9
*2-3	Dark slate	1,201
19	Dark shale	1,220
28	Dark sand shale	1,248
8-6	Dark, sticky shale	1,256-6
0-11	Coal	1,257-5
0-1	Sandstone	1,257-6
9-6	Sandstone with shale partings	1,267
20	Sandstone with dark partings in it	1,287
10	Sandstone with shale partings	1,297
2	Black slate, gas bubbles	1,299
8	White sandstone	1,307
8	Sandstone	1,315
2	Limestone	1,317
36	Limestone	1,353



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In the Atchison deep well no very hard material is encountered for the first 224 feet. Down to that depth the sandstones are thin-layered and shaly. At 224-226, two feet of hard, dark blue limestone is met with. The sandstones are all shaly until the depth of 990-996, six feet of clear, fairly firm sandstone.

243-244 is sandstone very loosely bound.

244-264 is somewhat dirty limestone.

283-291 is mostly rather firm limestone.

326-337 is more shaly in texture.

340-349 is hard blue limestone, with some flint seams in it.

363-368 is shaly, porous top and bottom layers; hard, dark blue, in middle.

439-454 is fairly firm limestone.

462-481 is fairly dense, but much seamed, and of suture-like, jointed structure.

485-501 is mostly dense limestone.

685-697 contains much very shaly limestone.

No quicksand is encountered in the well.

The first flow of water came in through a fault at 880 feet, just below a nine-inch vein of coal. The log shows the nature of the material. The flow through the open casing was, from a set of measurements, 170 cubic inches per minute. This flow was at one time choked off by mud settling in during Sunday. The flow of this salt water did not increase until a depth of about 1150 feet was reached, when it began to steadily increase, and at the maximum, about 1180 feet, measured 265 cubic inches per minute. In both cases the flow was not diminished by drawing up the drill rods, but kept up the output while filling their space. One hour and fifteen minutes time required to draw rods at greatest flow. Having no means of pumping, the water flow could not be tested in other ways.

The shales below 1150 were much fractured by slips, through which the water seemed to come in a greater or less quantity. The sandstone, 1299-1315, being penetrated, the flow almost ceased, a mere dripping, while at times this ceased.

A few gas bubbles were struck at a depth of 1298-1299, but the flow was not steady.



OTHER COAL-PRODUCING COUNTIES.

BOURBON COUNTY.

All coal mined in this county is taken from drift mines and strip pits in the vicinity of Fort Scott. The mines are worked principally in fall and winter, to supply local trade. I estimated the production at 28,000 tons, valued at \$56,000. About 110 men were employed.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY.

Elliott & Jones own and operate the only mine in this county. The mine is located near Leeds. The vein averages sixteen inches in thickness, and is a good quality of bituminous. During the year 1900, the mine employed an average of fourteen miners, who worked 160 days, and produced 1100 tons of coal, valued at \$2750.

CLOUD COUNTY.

The mines of this county are located about eight miles northeast of Concordia. The mines are all shaft openings, the average depth being seventy-five feet. The vein, which is a fair quality of lignite, averages twenty-four inches in thickness, and is worked on the long-wall system. The Inspector visited the mines in the month of November and found them in fair condition throughout.

The mines of the county employed an average of forty-nine men, and produced 7208 tons of coal, valued at \$18,020, working 154 days during the year.

COFFEY COUNTY.

This county produced 35,524 tons of coal during the year, valued at \$90,252, and employed 230 men and 50 teams an average of 160 days. The coal produced in this county is principally taken from strip pits in the vicinity of Lebo. G. H. Slead operates the only shaft in the county, which is located twenty-four miles east of Neosho Rapids, and is known as the "Troublesome Creek Coal Company." The vein in this mine averages twelve inches in thickness and is worked on the long-wall system. Depth of shaft, twenty feet; size of same, 5x12 feet. The price per ton paid for mining is \$1.87½, and the output sells readily at \$2.75 per ton. During the year 1900, the mine employed eight miners 250 days, and produced 1400 tons of coal, valued at \$3850.

Hendrickson Bros.' mine is a drift opening (known as the "Nickel Plate"), located three miles east of Neosho Rapids. This is

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a new mine, opened on January 1, 1900. It is ventilated by means of a furnace. The air-shaft is 6x6 feet in size and eighteen feet deep. The vein is the same as that of the Slead mine, and has a good black-slate roof. During the year this mine employed seven miners 305 days, and produced 2184 tons of coal, valued at \$6552. The post-office address of Messrs. Slead and Hendrickson Bros. is Neosho Rapids, Lyon county, but their mines are located in Coffey county.

The names and post-office addresses of the strip-pit operators, with the amount produced by each, follow:

T. R. Jones, Lebo }	12,000 tons.	Evan Roberts, Lebo.....	340 tons.
D. C. Jones, Lebo }		Monte Finney, Lebo.....	320 "
R. J. Stoper, Lebo.....	2,200 "	Wm. Morrows, Lebo.....	250 "
Watson Bros., Lebo.....	2,500 "	Richard Schneider, Lebo,	240 "
Wm. Drischen, Lebo.....	1,800 "	J. M. Fry, Neosho Rapids,	660 "
Rollin Rickabaugh, Lebo,	1,700 "	Hendrickson Bros.,	
Frank Gaddis, Lebo.....	1,300 "	Neosho Rapids, 2,184 "	
Farmer Bros., Lebo.....	1,050 "	G. H. Slead,	
Reese Lloyd, Lebo.....	850 "	Neosho Rapids, 1,400 "	
T. J. Bristowe, Lebo.....	700 "	Other strip mines	
Ben. Ransome, Lebo.....	680 "	(estimated), 4,000 "	
A. Ransome, Lebo.....	500 "	Total.....	35,524 tons.
Griff Williams, Lebo.....	480 "		
Bert Combs, Lebo.....	430 "		

Two hundred and thirty men and fifty teams were employed an average of 160 days during the year.

ELLSWORTH COUNTY.

There were only two small drift mines in operation in this county during the year. They gave employment to twelve men, and produced 2510 tons of coal, valued at \$8527.50, working 275 days.

The C. L. Dammer coal-mine was leased by Charles B. Anderson, and is located three miles south and west of Wilson. The Inspector visited the mine on November 19, 1900, and found it in fair condition. There were two openings, which furnished natural ventilation. The vein is a lignite, and averaged about ten inches in thickness. The miners are paid \$2.25 per ton for mining, and the output is sold at the mine for \$3.50 per ton. During the year the mine gave employment to seven miners 280 days, and produced 1480 tons of coal, valued at \$5180.

F. M. Lingo leased the Smith drift mine, located three miles south and half a mile west of Wilson. This mine employed five miners 270 days during the year, and produced 1030 tons of coal, valued at \$3347.50. The Inspector visited this mine on November 20, and found it in fair condition, everything considered. The vein at this mine averages fourteen inches in thickness, and, like the Dammer mine, is worked on the long-wall system. The miners are paid two dollars per ton for mining. The product is sold to supply local trade, the selling price at the mine being \$3.25 per ton.



OTHER KANSAS COAL-MINES.

Office No.	Name of operator or company.	Post-office address.	Name or number of mine.	Name of pit boss or underground foreman.	Location of mine.	Has mine railroad connection?	Name of railway.	Kind of opening....	Kind of power used..
Atchison County.									
1	W. T. F. Donald.....	Atchison.....	1	James Maynard.....	2½ miles south of Atchison.....	Yes.	Mo. Pac.....	Drift.	Horse.
Chautauqua County.									
1	Elliott & Jones.....	Leeds.....	1	— Elliott.....	Leeds.....	No.	.....	Drift.	Man.
Cloud County.									
1	Thomas Struthers.....	Concordia.....	4	Thomas Struthers ..	Minersville.....	No.	.....	Shaft.	Horse.
2	Richardson & Woodward ..	"	1	Alex. Richardson ..	"	"	.....	Slope.	"
3	John Marshall.....	"	1	John Marshall.....	"	"	.....	Shaft.	"
4	"	"	2	"	"	"	.....	"	"
5	Charles Linn.....	"	1	Charles Linn.....	"	"	.....	"	"
6	Vermite & Heer.....	"	1	— Vermite.....	"	"	.....	"	"
Ellsworth County.									
1	Charles B. Anderson.....	Wilson.....	1	Chas. B. Anderson....	4 miles southwest of Wilson....	No.	.....	Drift.	Man.
2	F. M. Lingo.....	"	1	F. M. Lingo.....	3 " " "	"	.....	"	"
Elk County.									
1	C. P. Jenks.....	Howard.....	1	C. P. Jenks.....	5 miles southwest of Howard ..	No.	.....	Slope.	Horse.
Franklin County.									
1	Ransom & Simms.....	Ransomville ..	1	— Simms.....	Ransomville ..	Yes.	Santa Fe.....	Shaft.	Horse.
2	John Morgan.....	"	1	John Morgan.....	1½ miles south of Ransomville..	No.	.....	Drift.	Man.
3	S. E. Richardson.....	Pomona.....	2	S. E. Richardson.....	Southwest of Pomona.....	"	.....	"	"
4	Henry Kirkman.....	"	1	H. Kirkman.....	Pomona.....	"	.....	"	"
5	Wm. Morris.....	Williamsburg ..	1	Wm. Morris.....	West of Ransomville ..	"	.....	"	"
6	Thomas Kearney.....	"	1	Thos. Kearney.....	Ransomville ..	"	.....	"	"
7	David Price.....	"	1	David Price.....	West of Williamsburg.....	"	.....	"	"
8	"	"	2	"	"	"	.....	"	"
9	George Caple.....	Ransomville ..	1	George Caple.....	Northwest of Ransomville ..	"	.....	"	"
10	Wm. Hackett.....	Ottawa.....	1	Wm. Hackett.....	8 miles northwest of Ottawa.....	"	Shaft.	Horse.
11	George Melcher.....	"	1	George Melcher.....	8 " " "	"	"	"

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INSPECTOR OF COAL-MINES.

Leavenworth County.									
1	Home-Riverside Coal Mining Company.....	Leavenworth ..	{ 1 } 2 3	John Paterson.....	Leavenworth ..	Yes.	*.....	Shaft.	Steam.
2	State of Kansas.....	Lansing.....		W. H. Bird.....	Lansing.....	"	*.....	"	"
Linn County.									
1	W. D. Burnett & Co.....	Pleasanton.....	Jewett	Geo. S. Brown.....	2 miles east of Pleasanton.....	Yes.	Mo. Pac.....	Shaft.	Steam.
2	Ford & Bell.....	"	1	— Ford.....	2½ " " "	"	.....	"	"
3	Ben Good.....	Orchard.....	1	J. S. Good.....	7½ miles east of La Cygne ..	"	.....	"	"
4	Amsterdam Coal Company ..	"	1	G. H. Gage.....	7½ " " "	"	.....	"	"
5	Manville & Blanchard.....	"	1	James Blanchard....	7½ " " "	"	.....	"	"
6	R. G. Pinkard.....	"	1	G. Pullman.....	7 " " "	"	.....	"	"
7	Arthur Vantyle.....	"	1	A. Vantyle.....	6½ " " "	No.	.....	Shaft.	Horse.
8	J. T. Martin.....	La Cygne.....	1	J. C. Martin.....	1½ " " "	"	.....	"	"
9	Strip pits.....	"		"	"	"	.....	"	"
Lincoln County.									
1	L. P. Nelson.....	Denmark.....	1	L. P. Nelson.....	6 miles north of Vesper.....	No.	.....	Shaft.	Horse.
Republic County.									
1	S. F. Curtis.....	Concordia.....	1	S. F. Curtis.....	Minersville.....	No.	.....	Shaft.	Horse.
Russell County.									
1	Nelson E. Warner.....	Bunker Hill.....	1	N. E. Warner.....	4½ mi. northeast of Bunker Hill,	No.	.....	Drift.	Man.
Shawnee County.									
1	W. A. Eaton.....	Topeka.....	1	W. A. Eaton.....	3½ miles west of Topeka.....	No.	Shaft.	Horse.

*All roads entering Leavenworth.

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OTHER KANSAS COAL-MINES - CONCLUDED.

Office No....	Tons of coal produced (2000 pounds to the ton).				Average number of employees...	Av. price paid per ton for mining.	Av. selling price per ton at mine.		Estimated value of output.	Casualties.		Average wages paid to men above ground..	Average wages paid to men below ground..	Number of days of powder used during year	Number of legs of powder used during year	Remarks.								
	Lump..	Mine run... Not and slack.	Total...	Number of days mine worked during year ...			Lump..	Mine run...		Killed..	Injured.													
Atchison County.																								
1	1,200		1,200	5	1	\$1 50		\$3 00	\$3,600 00			\$1 50												
Chautauqua County.																								
1		1,100	1,100	160	14				\$2 50	\$2,750 00														
Cloud County.																								
1	3,300		3,300	220	16	\$1 42½		\$3 50	\$8,250 00			\$2 00	\$2 00			Head'd in Apr. New mine.								
2	1,230		1,230	200	6	1 42½		30	3,075 00			1 50	1 50											
3	580		580	90	6	1 42½		30	1,450 00			1 50	1 50											
4	305		305	65	3	1 42½		50	512 50			1 50	1 50											
5	1,072		1,072	150	7	1 42½		50	2,680 00			1 50	1 50											
6	821		821	198	4	1 50		50	2,052 50			1 25	1 25											
			7,308	923	42				\$18,020 00															
Ellsworth County.																								
1		1,480	1,480	280	7	\$2 25		\$3 50	\$5,180 00															
2		1,030	1,030	270	5	2 00		2 25	3,347 50															
		2,510	2,510	550	12				\$8,527 50															
Franklin County.																								
1	2,500		2,500	350	9	\$1 50		\$2 50	\$6,250 00															
2	150		150	130	1	1 25		1 75	252 50															
3	2,320		2,320	220	10			2 00	4,640 00															
4	900		900	120	18	1 50		2 00	1,800 00															
5	480		480	156	4	1 75		2 25	960 00															
6	200		200	150	2	1 75		2 25	450 00															
7		800	800	180	5	1 75		2 25	1,800 00															
8																								
9		100	100	90	2			2 25	225 00															
10		500	500	160	4	1 75		2 25	1,125 00															
11		300	300	120	2	1 70		2 25	675 00															
	8,250	8,250	1,570	52					\$18,187 50															
Leavenworth County.																								
1	158,156	36,791	194,947	181	502	200		\$0 79	\$1 84	\$358,365 48						* (State mine. Convict labor.								
2	18,580	5,803	24,383	55,236	307	149			1 75	96,663 00														
	176,736	39,294	250,183	488	651	256				\$455,365 48														
Linn County.																								
1	24,000		24,000	189	40	\$0 85		\$1 25	\$1 00	\$30,000 00			\$2 00	\$1 50										
2	2,170		2,170	200	5	75		1 25		2,712 50			2 00	1 50										
3	1,400		1,400	190	3	75		1 25		1,740 00			1 50	1 00										
4	1,300		1,300	180	3	75		1 25		1,625 00			1 50	1 00		60								
5	900		900	150	2	75		1 25		1,125 00			1 50	1 00		50								
6	500		500	150	2	75		1 25		625 00			1 50	1 00		25								
7	550		550	190	2	75		1 25		687 50			1 50	1 00		27								
8	3,000		3,000	230	2	75		1 50		3,000 00			1 10	1 00		110								
9	3,500		3,500	130		75		1 25		4,375 00			1 10	1 25		110								
	36,320		36,320	1579	62					\$45,900 00						327								
Lincoln County.																								
1		400	400	100	4			\$2 00	\$3 00	\$1,200 00			\$1 50											
Republic County.																								
1		501	501	132	4			\$1 42½	\$2 50	\$1,252 50			\$1 50	\$1 25										
Russell County.																								
1	11		11	22	2			\$3 00		\$33 00														
Shawnee County.																								
1	592		592	300	11	\$1 87½		\$3 00	\$1,776 00															

* 900 pounds of dynamite.



ELK COUNTY.

There is only one small drift mine in this county, and it was not operated during the past year; consequently there was no coal produced in this county in 1900.

FRANKLIN COUNTY.

Franklin county mines employed fifty-two miners and four day men an average of 142 days during the year 1900, and produced 8250 tons of coal, valued at \$18,187.50.

The Ransom & Simms shaft mine, located at Ransomville, on a switch of the Burlington branch of the Santa Fe railway, is the principal mine in the county. It has two openings, eighty-eight feet in depth and 5x10 feet in size. This mine has been in operation fifteen years. The vein averages eighteen inches in thickness, and is worked on the long-wall system. The miners are paid \$1.50 per ton in winter, and \$1.35 per ton in summer. During the past year this mine gave employment to nine miners and two day hands, and produced 2500 tons of coal, valued at \$6250, working 250 days.

LABETTE COUNTY.

The coal production of this county is taken from strip pits in the vicinity of Chetopa and Oswego. The vein is a good quality of bituminous, and averages about fourteen inches in thickness. During the year there were 9670 tons of coal produced, valued at \$21,757.50. There were eighty men and twenty teams employed an average of 150 days.

The following are the names of the strip-pit operators, with locations, post-office addresses, and the amount of coal produced by each:

Name and post-office.	Tons.	Location.
John Lamb, Chetopa.....	500.....	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles south of Chetopa.
Isaac Butterworth, Chetopa.....	700.....	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " northwest of "
W. G. Parmlee, ".....	1300.....	3 " " "
C. W. Studley, ".....	150.....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " southwest of "
C. Y. Davis, ".....	400.....	5 " " "
H. C. Holderman, ".....	240.....	3 " " "
Gene Ross, ".....	175.....	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " "
Frank Asbell, ".....	250.....	4 " " "
R. T. Lonnecker, ".....	200.....	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " "
W. O. Dudgeon, Oswego.....	675.....	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " south of Oswego.
Stice & Clark, ".....	1600.....	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ " southwest of Oswego.
Geo. Stice, ".....	200.....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " "
G. L. Toms, ".....	310.....	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " "
A. Olmstead, ".....	600.....	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ " south " "
Mike Ruttgan, ".....	620.....	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " southeast " "
Gentry & Co., ".....	550.....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " northeast " "
Wm. Payne, ".....	200.....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " "
Other small strip pits, Oswego (est.), 1000		
Total.....	9670	



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LINN COUNTY.

This county shows an increase of 10,703 tons in production for the year 1900, compared with 1899. The mines of the county are principally shafts, located at Pleasanton and several miles east. There are also a number of strip pits that are worked in the fall and winter. The principal mine of the county is the Mine Creek Coal Company's mine, leased by W. D. Burnett & Co., located two miles east of Pleasanton, on a branch of the Missouri Pacific railway. There are two shaft openings ninety feet in depth, and ventilation is furnished by means of a fan eight feet in diameter. The vein is twenty-eight inches in thickness, and is a fair quality of bituminous. There were in all eight shaft mines in operation in this county during the year, and the total production of coal, including that produced at strip pits, was 35,320 tons, valued at \$45,900. The mines of this county gave employment to sixty-two miners and forty-four day hands an average of 177 days during the year.

LINCOLN COUNTY.

L. P. Nelson owns and operates the only coal-mine in this county. It is a shaft mine, forty feet in depth and 4x10 feet in size, and is commonly known as "East Little Timber" mine. It is located southwest of Denmark. The vein averages about sixteen inches in thickness, and is a very poor quality of lignite, but on account of the scarcity of coal in this neighborhood it sells readily for \$3 per ton. During the year the mine gave employment to four miners, and produced 400 tons of coal, working 100 days.

REPUBLIC COUNTY.

The S. F. Curtis mine, located at Minersville, on the north side of the section road that divides Republic and Cloud counties, was the only mine in operation in Republic county during the year 1900. The mine is a horse-power shaft opening, ninety feet deep, 4x8 feet in size. The vein is the same as that of Cloud county, and is also worked on the long-wall system. The Inspector visited the mine on November 14 and found the underground workings in good condition. The mine gave employment to four miners and two day men, and produced 501 tons of coal, valued at \$1252.50, working 132 days, during 1900. S. F. Curtis, owner and mine boss; address, Concordia.

RUSSELL COUNTY.

There is really no coal mined in this county, except when a farmer may undertake to run a small drift into the side of a bank and get out a few tons for home use. During the year 1900, Nelson E.



Warner took out eleven tons of coal from a small drift located about four and one-half miles northeast of Bunker Hill; value, \$33. His two sons worked twenty-two days.

SHAWNEE COUNTY.

This county produced 592 tons of coal during the year. The only mine in the county is located three and one-half miles west of Kansas avenue, Topeka, on Sixth street. All coal produced is hauled to Topeka and sold to supply local trade. The vein averages about twelve inches in thickness, and is of an inferior quality of bituminous coal. The mine gave employment to an average of six miners and one day man for 300 days during the year. The miners are paid \$1.75 per ton for mining in summer and two dollars per ton in winter. The selling price is three dollars per ton.



MINERS' EARNINGS IN THE FOUR PRINCIPAL COAL-PRODUCING COUNTIES.

In compiling the figures which show the miners' earnings, I have used great care, in order to present as near as possible a true statement of this important item. As in last year's report, I have selected the shaft mines of the four greatest coal-producing counties in the state, in which the miners are paid by the ton. The figures used in every case are those sent in to this office by the coal companies.

By referring to the tables, it will be seen that not only the miners' earnings, expenses, etc., at the different mines scheduled are shown, but an average is shown at the foot of each table which represents the number of days worked, the gross and net earnings of the year, the amount deducted for expenses during the year, the daily earnings for the days the mines worked, for 312 days, and for 365 days. A short analysis of the tables as presented is herewith given :

CRAWFORD COUNTY.

The figures on which the table is based are taken from returns sent to this office by the different mine operators. The powder used at each mine in the table is divided equally among the miners, and the amount is deducted from the gross earnings. Seven per cent. additional is deducted for other expenses, such as blacksmithing, squibs, oil, paper, soap, and repairing tools. The remainder represents the net earnings of each miner. There are a number of other shaft mines in operation in this county besides those found in the table, but they pay their miners by the box. The price paid per box makes it very uncertain as to the amount paid per ton; therefore they are omitted from the table. The strip-pit production is also omitted, as that work is all done by the day. The price paid for piece-work, yardage, cutting faults, etc., is about the same as a year ago, and I have added the same amount, nine cents per ton, for that work. At all of the mines in the county the miners were paid on a mine-run basis, except at the Kansas & Texas Coal Company's mines. The miners at these particular mines were paid for screen coal only, the price ranging from ninety-five cents to \$1.10 per ton. Returns sent to this office by the Kansas & Texas company indicate that the total output at their mines Nos. 54 and 64 averaged about fifty-one per cent. of lump coal. This, at the rate of one dollar per ton for lump coal, would be fifty-one cents per ton for all coal mined. This, with nine cents additional added for dead-work, makes sixty cents per ton. I have given this company credit for paying this price at all of their



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mines, which is really more than their figures show, especially at their mine No. 37, the returns for this mine not showing forty per cent. of lump coal.

For the 2846 miners whose earnings are shown by this table, the average annual gross earnings are \$431.37; the average deduction for powder, blacksmithing, oil and other expenses is \$105.15; which leaves an average net earning of \$326.22 for the year. As the average number of days worked was 205½, this would show an average earning per day for the time worked of \$1.58; for the 312 working-days in the year, \$1.04; for the 365 days in the year, eighty-nine cents.

CHEROKEE COUNTY.

The remarks on the Crawford county miners' earnings apply as well to Cherokee county. The majority of the mines worked about ten months of the year. Taking the average of six months at sixty cents per ton and four months at sixty-five cents per ton, we have sixty-two cents per ton as the average price paid to the miner for all coal mined in this and Crawford counties during the year. To this I have added nine cents per ton for yardage.

For the 1461 miners whose earnings are shown by the table, the average annual gross earnings are \$389.71; the average deduction for powder, blacksmithing, oil and other expenses is \$100.58; which leaves an average net earning of \$289.13 for the year. As the average number of days worked was 217, this would show an average earning per day for the time worked of \$1.33; for the 312 working-days in the year, ninety-two cents; for the 365 days in the year, seventy-nine cents.

LEAVENWORTH COUNTY.

The table of the miners' earnings of this county, printed on page 37, is based on the production of the Home-Riverside Coal Mining Company's mines, Nos. 1, 2, and 3. There is a very marked increase in the average earnings of the miners in this county, which is easily accounted for when we consider the increase in the price paid per ton for mining. The miners were paid an average of sixty-eight cents per ton for all coal mined during 1899, while in 1900 the average price paid per ton was seventy-nine cents. Six cents per ton was added to the price paid for mining for yardage, etc. Four per cent. is deducted from the gross earnings for expenses that have to be incurred by every miner, such as blacksmithing, oil, repair of tools, picks, wedges, etc. The remainder is the net earnings for the year.

For the 502 miners whose earnings are shown in the table on page 37, the average annual gross earnings are \$330.08; the average deduction for powder, blacksmithing, oil and other expenses is \$13.20;



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leaving an average net earning of \$316.88 for the year. As the average number of days worked was 181, this would show an average earning per day for the time worked of \$1.75; for the 312 working-days in the year, \$1.01; for the 365 days in the year, eighty-six cents.

OSAGE COUNTY.

All the shaft mines in this county from which returns were received are represented in the table found on page 40. The drift and strip-pit openings located at Rosemont, Arvonnia, Quenemo and Carbondale are omitted from the table on account of the uncertain figures furnished by the operators of these small mines. Two and one-half cents is added in every case, such as turning rooms. This, I believe, will more than pay the miner for the extra work done. Four per cent. is deducted from the gross earnings for expenses, such as blacksmithing, oil, wedges, etc. Reference to the table will show the number of tons produced at each mine during the year. The average number of miners employed, number of days worked, average price paid for mining, the gross earnings of each miner for the year, the net earnings after the expenses are deducted, the average earnings of each miner per day for the days they worked, also for 312 working-days in the year, and for 365 days, or every day in the year. It will also be seen by the table that the averages for the whole county, when summed up, are as follows: Number of miners employed, 798; average number of days worked, 165; average gross earnings of each miner per annum, \$250.58; average amount deducted for expenses, \$9.96; average net earnings of each miner, \$240.62; average daily earnings for days mine worked (165 days), \$1.45; average daily earnings for 312 working-days in the year, seventy-seven cents; average daily earnings for 365 days, sixty-five cents.

TABLE OF MINERS' EARNINGS, HOME-RIVERSIDE COAL MINING COMPANY'S MINES, Nos. 1, 2, AND 3, IN LEAVENWORTH COUNTY.

Product, in tons of 2000 pounds	19,947
Average price paid per ton for mining, including yardage, etc.	\$0 85
Average number of miners employed	502
Number of days mine worked during the year	181
Gross earnings of each miner for the year	\$330 08
Amount deducted for expenses, including oil, blacksmithing, etc.	13 20
Net earnings of each miner for the year	316 88
Average daily earnings for days mine worked	1 75
Average daily earnings for 312 days	1 01
Average daily earnings for 365 days	86

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FATAL ACCIDENTS.

No. 1. Fatal accident to Samuel Guy, miner, colored, at the Central Coal and Coke Company's mine No. 15, at Ashley, Crawford county, January 8, 1900. I was notified of this accident on the day that it occurred and went to the mine at once. I examined the room in which Mr. Guy was killed and found that a large slab of draw slate, eleven feet long by eight feet wide and four and one-half inches thick, had fallen at the face of the room. It seems, from what I could learn, that Mr. Guy had been in the act of mining off a shot of coal when the slate came away and caught him, killing him instantly. The coroner was called, and after investigating the accident decided it was unnecessary to hold an inquest. I took the sworn statements of Frank Clark, J. C. Sandifer, and James Reed, the men who went to the assistance of Mr. Guy and who raised the rock off of him.

STATEMENT: My name is J. C. Sandifer, and I was slightly acquainted with Sam. Guy. I work in the room next to the one he was killed in. At about 1:30 p. m., January 8, I heard a fall of rock; I shouted to Mr. Guy three times but received no answer. I then ran up into his place and found that a large rock had fallen on him. I heard a gurgling sound and tried to pull the rock aside, but was unable to do so. I then ran for help; James Reed, John Dunn and others then came and helped me to raise the rock. When we pulled Mr. Guy out life was extinct. In my opinion, Mr. Guy's death was purely accidental and the blame for same rests on no one.—J. C. SANDIFER.

Messrs. Clark and Reed corroborated the statement made by Mr. Sandifer. Deceased was fifty years old, and left a large family.

No. 2. Fatal accident to Charles Johnson, miner, at the Central Coal and Coke Company's mine No. 7, at Scammon, Cherokee county, January 10, 1900. In response to a telegram from the above-named company, I went to mine No. 7, and entered the second room north, off the east entry, on east parallel to main north entry, where the accident occurred. On examining the place, I found that a large piece of draw slate had fallen at the face of the room. The slate measured seven feet long by four feet wide and four inches thick. The room was driven in about 140 feet from the entry and was twenty-two feet wide at the face. There were a number of props lying in the place, but none had been set up where the slate fell. I took the sworn statement of miners who worked close to Mr. Johnson.

STATEMENT: My name is Leonard White, and I have been acquainted with Mr. Johnson for some time. We both worked in the same room. On January 10, at about ten o'clock a. m., while we were working in the room, a large piece of draw slate fell from the roof on Mr. Johnson and killed him instantly. I had warned him several times that morning that the roof was bad, and liable to fall,

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but he insisted on working without taking it down or putting up props, saying that he would have plenty of time to secure it after we finished loading out our coal. These are the last words he said, as he then stepped under the rock to shovel some coal and it fell on him. There were plenty of props lying in the place to make it secure, had he used them. In my opinion, his death was the result of his own carelessness in not propping the place.—LEONARD WHITE.

The statement of Leonard White was corroborated by J. M. Elgin and J. W. Elgin, miners, who worked near Mr. Johnson, and who went to his rescue. Deceased was married, and resided at Scammon. No inquest was held.

No. 3. Fatal accident to Baptiste Donna, miner, at Midway Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 5, at Midway, Crawford county, January 29, 1900. On the date mentioned, Baptiste Donna had his back broken by a fall of slate in room No. 15 on first south entry on the west side of mine. He died from his injuries three days later. The rock or slate was nine feet long by six feet wide, and averaged six inches in thickness. The room was driven in seventy-four feet from the entry. I took the sworn statement of the miners who went to Donna's assistance.

STATEMENT: My name is A. E. Tipton. I was working in the room next to Donna at about eight o'clock A. M. on January 29. I heard a fall of rock, and then I heard some one calling for help. I ran to Donna's place and found him caught under a large amount of draw slate. With the assistance of other men who came into the place, we succeeded in getting the rock off of him. I think his back was broken. The draw slate nearly always comes down in this part of the mine. I never try to work under it, as I know it is not safe to do so. I always pull it down. In my opinion, the accident was due to Mr. Donna's own carelessness.—A. E. TIPTON.

No. 4. Fatal accident to J. G. Williamson, at the Fidelity Mining and Improvement Company's mine No. 1 at Stone City, Cherokee county, February 2, 1900. This accident occurred while I was in Topeka attending the second annual convention of the State Association of Miners, and I wired my brother to make the examination. Mr. Williamson was mine foreman at this mine, and on above date, at about nine o'clock A. M., while he was being hoisted up the shaft in a cage, an empty car fell down the shaft and struck him. He was wedged in between the cage and buntons or guides and his back was broken. He was taken to his home, where he lingered for a few days, and died from the effects of his injuries. Mr. Williamson had been married only a short time before he met with the accident that cost him his life. The following statement, taken shortly after the accident occurred, shows the cause of same:

STATEMENT: My name is James Dunn. Mr. Williamson is my brother-in-law. I was working in this mine as timberman at the time of the accident. At

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about nine o'clock A. M. of February 2, Mine-boss Williamson got on the cage and was hoisted up the shaft to within about thirty feet from the top. An empty car fell down the shaft and struck Mr. Williamson and knocked him between the buntons and guides and broke his back. The topman had been switching a pit car at the top landing and in some manner let it get away from him and fall down the shaft at the time Mr. Williamson was coming up, with the result stated.—
JAMES P. DUNN.

No. 5. Fatal accident to Fred. Ramskill, miner, at the Central Coal and Mining Company's mine at Burlingame, Osage county, on February 28, 1900. In response to a telegram, I proceeded to Burlingame at once, and reached there the day after the accident took place. On investigating, I found that deceased had been killed instantly by a fall of soapstone, in the first room off the second south entry off first west entry, on the south side of the above-named mine. Arthur Ramskill, brother of deceased, working in the next room, on being questioned, stated that

"at about two P. M. on February 28, I heard a call for help, and hastened to my brother's room. When I got there I found that a stone had fallen on him and he appeared to be dead. My brother was not a practical miner. I generally did the propping for him. The company furnished props whenever called for."

All appearances indicated that the occurrence was purely accidental.

Nos. 6 and 7. Fatal accidents to William Law and Thomas Oliver, shot-firers, at the Pittsburg & Midway Coal Mining Company's mine No. 6, at Midway, on March 7, 1900. The particulars are as follows: On the evening of the above date, William Law and Thomas Oliver went into mine No. 6 of the above-named company to fire the shots in said mine. About nine o'clock that night the night-watchman became alarmed when the shot-firers did not come up, as it was then beyond the time they usually finished their work and came up. He blew the whistle, and a rescuing party quickly responded, and went into the mine. The party consisted of Wm. Morgan, Thomas Jones, John McClain, and others. They found the two men lying near each other in room No. 2, in the back north entry off main east. According to the statements of the men who found the bodies, for they were dead when found, William Law was lying on his right side, as though he had turned away from the face of the room and in trying to escape from the room fell forward partly on his face. He had two slight scratches on his face, one on the right temple and one on his cheekbone, which were evidently caused by his fall on the floor. This could not be considered sufficient to cause him to lose consciousness. It is more likely to suppose that he was unconscious before he fell. Thomas Oliver was found lying face downward on his knees and

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elbows, as though in the act of crawling out of the room when he became unconscious. He did not have even a scratch on him.

In response to a call from the officials of the company, I went to the mine on the forenoon of the 8th of March, being the day after the accident occurred. I went into the room where the bodies were found and made a careful examination of it. The room was driven in about seventy feet from the entry, and a branch room had been turned off of it about forty feet from the face. There had been two shots in each of these rooms, and three of them had been fired, and one shot was standing not fired in the face of the straight room. It was quite evident that the men had gone back into this room to fire the shot that had missed, and had been overcome with powder smoke and noxious gases from the shots that had been previously fired, and died before assistance reached them. I was not surprised at what had taken place, after I had made the examination of the rooms mentioned. It was at least eleven hours after the accident occurred that I made the examination, and even at that time the rooms were pregnant with after-damp and other noxious and dangerous gases. This is due to the fact that so many shots had been fired in the room, and more so to the fact that there was no break-through in either of them to carry off the smoke of the exploded shots. William Law was twenty-four years old, and lived in Midway. Thomas Oliver's home was in Frontenac; he leaves a wife and two children. The coroner was called, but decided it was not necessary to hold an inquest.

No. 8. Fatal accident to Albert Cooley, shot-firer, at the mine of the Southwestern Coal and Improvement Company No. 6, at Mineral, Cherokee county, March 19, 1900. An inquest was held on this case March 20, before a justice of the peace at Mineral, in Ross township, the coroner being absent. Dr. R. S. Mahan testified that he had examined the body of the deceased, and believed death resulted from "a fall, concussion, and internal injuries." Thomas Hardy, John Ryan, and John McFarland, miners, and Alfred Williams, a shot-firer, were examined. No one of them saw the accident, but each found him dead. The jury's verdict was that death resulted "by reason of the firing of a shot."

No. 9. Fatal accident to Ed. Johnson, shot-firer, at the Wear Coal Company's mine No. 7, in Crawford county, on April 2, 1900. On the night of April 2, 1900, Ed. Johnson, employed as shot-firer, was killed by the explosion of a shot in room No. 11, in first east entry on the south side of the mine. I made a careful examination of the place the following day and found that there had been two shots put in this room. One of these shots had been fired and the other was

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standing, with several squibs in the needle hole. These squibs had not been lighted. I also found particles of burned fuse lying close to the shot that had been fired. The strangest part about the occurrence was that the shot that went off and killed Johnson had been left by the miner who worked in the room for the shot-firer to tamp, and a fuse was attached to the cartridge. The room had just been started off the entry and was only in about seven feet, and besides the air current at this particular point was strong and clear, and yet it was quite evident that this was the shot that had killed Johnson, but just how he was caught by it will always be a mystery. It certainly was very plain to me, and I dare say to any one who could have seen it, that under the conditions a person could light this fuse shot and get away in plenty of time before the shot would go off. I took the statement of the mine foreman, who was among the first to reach Johnson after the accident took place.

STATEMENT: At about seven o'clock in the evening of April 2, 1900, Rube Morris came to the bottom of the shaft and told the mine engineer, through the speaking-tube, that a man was killed. I was on top at the time and went down into the mine at once. Morris and I then took an empty car into the first east on the south side of the mine. Johnson was still alive when we got to him. We put him in the car and took him out and up on top. We had him in the engine-room at ten minutes after seven. Then I notified our people at Pittsburg to send out a doctor at once. I found Johnson lying straight with the empty track at the mouth of No. 11 room, off the first east. Gus Lumberg, a brother-in-law, was with him when I got there. In my opinion, Mr. Johnson was tamping the shot at the time it went off; either that, or he was overcome in some manner and remained in the room long enough to allow the shot to catch him.—ED. ROBERTS.

James Carlin, a miner who also went to the rescue of Mr. Johnson, gives it as his opinion that Mr. Johnson met his death in the manner stated by Mr. Roberts. Johnson died on the way to the hospital. He was married, and resided in Pittsburg.

No. 10. Fatal accident to Leslie Main, miner, at the Cherokee Coal and Coke Company's mine at Cherokee, Crawford county, on April 13, 1900. The particulars are as follows: On the evening of April 13, 1900, Wilson Toll and Leslie Main had gone to work a night shift in the second south entry off the main west in the above company's mine. At about 7:25 that evening, while Leslie Main was in the act of shoveling coal into a pit car, a large slab of rock, twenty-two feet long by four feet wide, fell from the roof and caught him, inflicting injuries from which he died thirty minutes later. I went to the mine as soon as notified, which was two days after the accident took place. On examining the place, I found that the entry had only been driven about twenty-five feet from the main entry. A "horseback" ran along the rib the full length of the entry, and the coal had all



been cleaned off, and yet no props had been set up to secure the roof. I learned that the place was double-shifted; Jacob Nicewarner and Joseph Russell working together on one shift, and Wilson Toll and the unfortunate Leslie Main on the other. I took the sworn statement of Wilson Toll, who was at work with Main when the accident occurred.

STATEMENT: My name is Wilson Toll. I worked with Mr. Main in this mine on the night of the accident. He had only started to work here two days before. His home is in Thayer, Kan. He did not understand coal-mining very well. He had very little experience, to my knowledge. I had just run an empty car around the switch, and Leslie Main started to load it. I came into the place and was standing beside him, when a small piece of rock fell from the roof. He looked around at me and asked: "What makes that rock fall?" I did not have time to answer him, and had to jump back to avoid being struck by the rock, when it fell on him and smashed him to the pavement. The rock hit him on the head and shoulders. I called for assistance, and we got him out. He only lived about thirty minutes. We did not have any props set up under this rock. Props are sent to me whenever I ask for them. In my opinion, the accident is due to the carelessness of Jacob Nicewarner, Joseph Russell, myself, and the unfortunate. We all worked in this place, and knew it was dangerous, and we did not put props up to secure it.—WILSON TOLL.

No. 11. Fatal accident to Joseph Wilson, mine foreman, at the Mount Carmel Coal Company's mine at Frontenac, Crawford county, on April 16, 1900. The coroner was called, and decided it was not necessary to hold an inquest. On being notified, I went to the mine and made an examination. This mine had just been sunk to the coal, and had been opened out on the bottom about twelve feet. The work was double-shifted, and Mr. Wilson had charge of one shift. It seems that a hole had been drilled in the roof and charged, and was ready to be set off. There were two props standing up under the roof to make it secure while the miners were at work. When the shot was ready to be fired, Mr. Wilson decided to go under the roof to knock out the props, in order to give the shot a better chance to do its work. The miners tried to persuade him not to attempt it, but to stand on the outside and try to knock them out with a tamping-bar. He did not take their advice, but took a large sledge-hammer, and, sitting in the left-hand corner, where he deemed he would be safe, he proceeded to knock out the props. The instant the props were knocked out the rock fell, and struck Mr. Wilson on the back of the head, killing him instantly. Deceased was married, leaving a widow and a number of full-grown children. He resided with his family in Frontenac, and was highly respected by all who knew him.

No. 12. Fatal accident to Frank Best, at George Roeser's mine, west of Turek, in Cherokee county, July 24, 1900. I was notified of this accident the day following and went to the mine at once, arriving



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there about six o'clock in the evening. On investigating, I learned that the boy, Frank Best, was not employed in the mine, but that on the morning of the 24th, at about ten o'clock, he had climbed down the buntons to the bottom of the shaft, a distance of twenty-one feet, and had gone into his brother's place, which was only about forty feet from the bottom. He stayed in his brother's place a short time, and then went through the cross-cut to where George Roeser, his uncle, was at work. He stayed there about five minutes, and then came back through the cross cut and started toward the bottom, saying he was going out. Just then the rock fell on him. He was taken on top to his home, where he lingered until 3:25 o'clock the next morning, when he died. Bert Boyer, who worked in the entry where the boy was injured, stated that he did not think the roof was dangerous, but that he intended to put cross-timbers up. He also stated that the boy had been in the habit of coming down into the mine, and that he had warned him many times not to come down. Mr. Roeser also stated that he had repeatedly warned the boy not to come down into the mine. Edward Best, father of the boy who was injured, made the following statement:

I am employed by Geo. Roeser to work on top at his mine, and about nine o'clock on the morning of July 24 I was hoisting water out of the shaft, but stopped on account of it raining. I then started to work in the blacksmith shop. I saw my boy at the top of the shaft, and told him not to go down the shaft. He went back home then, but he must have come back and climbed down the shaft when I was not looking. At about ten o'clock I heard some one shouting at the bottom of the shaft, and I went down into the mine, and found that a rock had fallen on my boy. I helped to raise the rock off of him and we took him home; he died about three o'clock the next morning, from the injuries he received. He was not hired to work in the mine. He was only eleven years of age. I do not hold any one responsible for his death.—EDWARD BEST.

No. 13. Fatal accident to Peter Bonassi, miner, at the Wear Coal Company's mine No. 9, Crawford county, August 17, 1900. The Inspector visited the scene of the above accident on the day it occurred, and found that a large rock had fallen at the face of the room in which Bonassi had been working. There was a slip in the roof, which caused the rock to fall without warning. The rock struck Bonassi on the head and back, and must have crushed his life out instantly. The room was only about eight feet wide at the face. No props had been set up under the rock. The deceased probably considered himself secure in such a narrow place, and he no doubt was unaware of the slip which ran along the rib, and to which the accident was due. No inquest was held.

No. 14. Fatal accident to Jerry Ecker, miner, at the Hamilton & Grant mine, south of Fleming, Crawford county, August 23, 1900. I



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was inspecting the Schwab mine, near the Hamilton mine, at the time this accident took place, and on being notified I went to the scene of the accident, arriving there immediately after the body had been removed. I found that, while deceased had been in the act of mining off some coal at the face of his room, a large slab of rock, ten feet long by nine feet wide and from six to ten inches thick, fell from the roof on him and killed him instantly. His boy, sixteen years of age, was working in the room with him at the time. The room was driven in about twelve yards from the entry. There were a number of props lying in the room. I took the sworn statements of the miners who helped to take the rock off of him.

STATEMENT: My name is E. Curtis. I mine coal in this mine. I have known Mr. Ecker about two years. I know him to be a good practical miner. At about two o'clock to-day, while I was at work in the first room on the left of this entry, I heard a fall, and not hearing any outcry, I did not pay any attention to it. Just afterwards the Ecker boy came running to my switch and shouted for help. I ran to Ecker's room and found that a large rock had fallen, and it completely covered Ecker. Some other miners came, and we tried to lift the rock, but could not. We sent for help, and Mr. Hamilton and others came, and we raised the rock and drew Mr. Ecker out. He was dead when we took the rock off him. I think he was killed instantly. In my opinion, if this room had been propped, the accident would not have been likely to have occurred. I cannot say whether Mr. Ecker ordered props before to-day or not, but I do know that he ordered props from the driver to-day and got them.—E. CURTIS.

Henry Krafel's statement verifies that made by E. Curtis, with the exception that he was not very well acquainted with Mr. Ecker. Arthur Charles's sworn statement is as follows:

STATEMENT: I was in Ecker's room yesterday, August 22, and warned him that the roof was bad, and ordered him to prop. I am pit boss at this mine, and consider it my duty to warn the miners in any case where I think there is danger.—ARTHUR CHARLES.

No. 15. Fatal accident to Ham Johnson, colored miner, at the state penitentiary mine, Lansing, Leavenworth county, September 13, 1900. In room No. 15 off the thirteenth entry running west off the main north, in the above-named mine, a convict miner, Ham Johnson, was caught under a fall of sulphur rock and killed instantly. The rock measured fifteen feet long by three feet wide, and was a uniform thickness of about eleven inches, except at the edges, where it turned up. Warden Tomlinson notified me by telegram of this accident, and I got to Lansing on the 15th of September, two days later. I examined the room where the accident occurred and found that nothing had been changed. On the right side of Johnson's room there was a sulphur-rock roof, and on the left side a slate roof. I was shown the place that Johnson had been taken out of. It was about ten feet from the side of the roadway, on the right-hand side of his place. He had



mined his coal to a depth of two feet or more, a distance of over fourteen feet along that side, and must have laid back to rest himself, with his elbow on the pavement and his head resting on his hand, when the whole face of coal which he had mined came down, followed by the sulphur rock, and caught him in that position, crushing his skull, and must have killed him instantly, as the rock would weigh several tons. After taking the testimony of those who came to the rescue of Johnson, I requested the warden to have an inquest held. This the warden readily agreed to, but when the matter was referred to the coroner, he decided that an inquest was unnecessary, as the cause of death was too apparent to require one, and, from what he had learned, no foul play was used and every precaution had been taken to prevent such accidents. He considered that no blame attached to any one, and that the expense of an inquest was unnecessary.

No. 16. Fatal accident to Wm. Turner, miner, at the Central Coal and Coke Company's mine No. 16, west of Scammon, Cherokee county, September 22, 1900. I chanced to be in this vicinity on the day the accident took place and drove to the mine about an hour afterwards. On investigating, I learned that the deceased, while riding up on the cage with five others, had lost his balance, and in some unaccountable manner fell between the buntons and the cage, when about nineteen feet from the bottom of the shaft, and was pulled up the shaft with the cage for a distance of at least thirty feet, when the body was worked around under the cage and fell lifeless to the bottom of the shaft. On examining the shaft, I found that buntons were placed about one foot apart. There were traces of white clay, and in some places small particles of hair, sticking to the buntons, as if ground into them, beginning nineteen feet from the bottom and ending fifty feet from the bottom. The cages were strong, and in good working order, and had covers. The space between the cage irons and the buntons was only three and three-fourths inches. On the bottom, at the center of the west cage seat, I found a pool of blood, which indicated the spot where deceased had fallen. It seems, from what I could learn from the parties who rode up on the cage with the deceased, that he was standing on the cage with a dinner-bucket in one hand and an oil-can in the other, and that, when the cage was on its way upward, he reached for a handhold on the cage iron, and, missing the iron, his head and shoulders went through the cage and buntons, and his life was crushed out in about the same manner as though he had been pressed between a set of rollers. The accident was the most inexplicable I have ever known, as it was, to say the least, very strange how the deceased got into the

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position above stated. An inquest was held, but I did not receive a copy of same.

No. 17. Fatal accident to James Cinotti, shot-firer, at the Pittsburg & Midway Coal Mining Company's mine No. 4, at Midway, Crawford county, October 25, 1900. On the evening of the above date James Cinotti was found dead by two other shot-firers at the face of the second east entry off the first north, on the west side of mine No. 4. The day following the accident I examined the place where the body was found, and found that two shots had been fired in the entry, and two shots were standing in the room next to the face of the entry, with squibs in the needle hole, ready to light. I saw the body at his home, and noticed that his face was scratched and his breast bruised a little. The injuries did not appear to be serious enough to cause death. The following is the statement of Dominick Cinotti, one of the men who found deceased:

STATEMENT: I am employed as shot-firer at this mine. On the evening of October 25, Dominick Ginardi, myself and deceased came down into the mine, and we went in the first north to the first east, where we separated. The deceased went into the first east to fire the shots in that entry. Dominick Ginardi went to the sixth east, and I went to the seventh east. After I had finished firing the shots in the seventh east, I went to the fifth east, where I met Dominick Ginardi, and we fired that entry together. We then fired the north entry, and went to the seventh west and fired the shots in it. From there we went to the sixth west, and started to fire the shots in it. While we were in the sixth west, we became a little alarmed because we heard no more shots and found no smoke coming from the third and fourth west entries, where our partner, James Cinotti, should have been firing. We started to try and find him, and went through the fifth, fourth and third west, and from there into the second east entry. We traveled about an hour, I guess. We went into the face of the second east entry and found the deceased lying close to the break-through that was being made near the face of the entry. He was dead when we found him. In my judgment, the injuries he received from being struck with the coal did not cause his death. I think he was knocked insensible with the coal from the exploded shots in the entry, and was suffocated while lying there. The shot-firers on this side of the mine always separate in the manner I have described. In my opinion, the squib or squibs used in the shots in the entry were defective, as everything showed that deceased could have got away in safety after lighting the shots, if the squibs had not been defective. I do not think the smoke from the shots we fired in the other entries would do any one who might be in this entry any harm.—DOMINICK CINOTTI.

Dominick Ginardi verified the statement made by Dominick Cinotti, except that he did not agree with him in saying that the smoke from the shots they had fired was harmless to any one who might be in the second east. David Castleman stated that he had helped to take the body of deceased out of the mine, and gave it as his opinion that Cinotti met with the accident when in the act of

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going back to fire the shot he supposed had missed, as his injuries were all on his face and hands, which would show he was facing the shot when it went off. The coroner was called, but deemed it unnecessary to hold an inquest.

No. 18. Fatal accident to W. C. Scott, colored miner, at the Central Coal and Coke Company's mine No. 9, at Nelson, Crawford county, November 13, 1900. An inquest was held, and the verdict of the jury was: "We, the jury, find the Central Coal and Coke Company exempt from any blame whatever in the cause of the death of the late W. C. Scott, colored."

No. 19. Fatal accident to Patrick Price, shot-firer, at the Southwestern Coal and Improvement Company's mine No. 6, at Mineral, Cherokee county, November 19, 1900. In response to a telegram from the above-named company, my assistant, who was in Leavenworth, hastened to the scene of the accident. Arriving there two days afterward, he made an investigation, and found that the deceased had been injured by the premature explosion of a shot in the face of the third west entry on the north side of the mine. A shot had been fired in the face of the entry, and a shot back on the rib of same entry was standing with squibs in the needle hole. These squibs had not been lighted. Mr. Price's cap was lying on the floor of the entry about fifteen feet from the face, at a point where I am told he was found lying bruised and bleeding, in a semi-conscious condition. All the appearances seemed to indicate that the shot went off as soon as lighted, which was due either to gas in the hole or to a defective squib, and the opinion of many seemed to favor the latter theory. Mr. Price's death was a severe blow to all who had the good fortune to know him. He was loved and respected by every one for his kindly disposition. He was the sole support of his widowed mother, and sister, with whom he lived. The following are the sworn statements of those who went to the assistance of Mr. Price when he met with the accident which caused his death.

STATEMENT: My name is Thomas Dunnigan. I have known Mr. Price for seventeen years. I was employed as a shot-firer at this mine where the accident occurred. Mr. Price and I went to work together on the evening of November 19. We separated in the mine and fired singly. I know he was a practical and experienced shot-firer. It was an hour, at least, from the time I heard a shot that I supposed he fired until I found him in third west entry on north side of mine, about fifteen feet from the face. I tried to carry him out but I hurt him too much; so I went for help. He was alive when I found him. Others came to my assistance, and we got him out to the top, but he died before we got him home. Yes, I complained to the officials of the company about the quality of squibs we had to use. I considered the squibs furnished us lately, and on this particular



night of the accident, to be of a good quality. Yet, in my opinion, the accident was due to a defective squib going off as soon as lighted.—THOMAS DUNNIGAN.

STATEMENT: My name is Joseph Angerei. I am employed as a miner at mine No. 8 by the Southwestern Coal and Improvement Company. I have known Mr. Price for four years. I have fired shots with him and know that he was a practical and experienced shot-firer. On the evening of November 19, I heard of the accident to Mr. Price and went down into the mine with others to help get him out. When I got to the third west entry, where we found Mr. Price, I heard him say the entry shot had gone off on him. I saw that cutting shot in the entry face had been fired and a shot on right-hand rib was standing with squibs in the hole. I found two shots in the left-hand room with squibs in the hole. In my judgment, Mr. Price used jumpers in the barrel, and in putting those jumpers in the barrel he was either stooping over or kneeling down and ignited the gas, which in turn lit the jumpers, and the shot exploded and caught him. I am led to this opinion from the fact that the wounds were in his head, and his face was burned, and because, I think, if it had been on account of a defective squib, he could have turned around before he was hit.—JOSEPH ANGEREI.

STATEMENT: My name is Mike Wagner. I have known Mr. Price over three years. I have fired shots with him and know him to be a good shot-firer. I have heard the statements made by Mr. Dunnigan and Mr. Angerei, and agree with them in everything they said except the opinion of Mr. Angerei in regard to what caused the accident. In my opinion, the accident was caused by a defective squib, and I know that Mr. Price never used his lamp near a barrel during the time I fired shots with him, and I don't think he did so in this instance.—MIKE WAGNER.

John Lebecq agreed with the statements made by Thomas Dunnigan and Mike Wagner. The statement of John Ryan, mine foreman at mine No. 6, is as follows:

I have known Mr. Price for twelve years. I employed him to fire shots in this mine. I have fired shots along with Mr. Price at different times, and know he was an extra-careful shot-firer. I never knew him to use jumpers with a barrel where there was gas. I know there was gas in the place where he met with the accident which caused his death. I think I was the first of the rescuing party to reach Mr. Price. He spoke to me, and I understood him to say he was done. He did not speak after that. I firmly believe that Mr. Price intended to light this shot alone, and then come back and light the others. I am led to this belief from the fact that it was well-nigh impossible to light all the shots he had squibbed and get away in safety. In my opinion, the squib used in the entry shot was defective, and it went off as soon as he lit it.—JOHN RYAN.

No. 20. Fatal accident to Evan Davis, miner, at the Coughlin Coal Company's mine, at Peterton, Osage county, December 7, 1900. I was in Osage City when the above accident took place, and, being notified, went to the mine at once. On investigating, I learned that the deceased, who had been working with his father in a room in the above-named mine, was in the act of handing props to his father with which to prop the roof. His father noticed the roof moving, and called out to the boy to follow him. The boy, instead of following



his father, crawled out backwards in the opposite direction, towards the roadway, and had almost got clear into the roadway when the soapstone fell, the end of it striking him on the head and neck. His father says the boy called for help when the stone first fell on him, and he saw his feet move as though he was struggling to pull his head from under the stone. Then, he says, the stone appeared to settle down further and the boy became still. The father believed his boy was dead then, as he never moved afterward. The boy was about fifteen minutes under the stone before he was taken out. All the witnesses agreed that the boy was dead when they went to his assistance. His neck appeared to be broken, and there was a deep depression over his heart, either of which may have caused his immediate death. On examining the place, I found that there was a slip in the roof at the road head, and it was from this slip that the stone fell. The father and son had been mining under this stone all morning, without a thought of danger, and they had finished mining this side of their place, and were preparing to prop it at about one o'clock in the afternoon, when the roof fell, with the above results. The stone measured twelve feet long by two feet wide, and averaged twelve inches in thickness, and would weigh about a ton. From all I could gather, the accident was caused by one of those unforeseen dangers that confront the miner from the time he goes into a mine till he arrives on top again. The deceased was between sixteen and seventeen years of age, and lived with his father, who is a widower. The neighbors all spoke well of the boy and said he was an exceptionally good boy and a steady worker.



NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS.

No. 1. January 10, 1900. J. R. Crowe Coal Company's mine No. 3, Cherokee county. Albert Jamont; miner; Weir City; seriously burned by powder explosion.

It seems from the evidence obtainable that Jamont had filled a cartridge with powder and was in the act of filling his lamp with oil, when a spark flew from the lamp into the cartridge. This exploded the powder in the cartridge, and it in turn set fire to and exploded the powder in a powder-can which was near at hand, making in all about ten pounds of powder which exploded. Jamont's hands, face and body were badly burned, and it was a long time before he recovered.

No. 2. January 15, 1900. Kansas Commercial Coal Company's mine No. 1, Crawford county. Charles Eley; miner; employed at mining; fall of slate; back injured.

I received the following notice of the accident, but was unable at the time, on account of other business, to go to the mine and make any investigation:

FULLER, KAN., January 16, 1900. *Edward Keegan, Esq.*: DEAR SIR—This is to inform you of an accident in mine No. 1, belonging to the Kansas Commercial Coal Company, at 12:30 on the 15th day of January. Mr. Charles Eley got hurt by a fall of slate; he was hurt in the back; the stone was about four feet long and about the same wide, and about three inches thick. I do not think he is seriously hurt; there are no bones broken, but of course the back is a dangerous place; so I thought it best to inform you. This was in his room, while in the act of mining off a shot.—C. NEWLANDS, *Superintendent*.

I afterwards learned that Mr. Eley's injuries proved to be very slight, and that he resumed work in about one week after the accident.

No. 3. January 20, 1900. Central Coal and Coke Company's mine No. 11, Cherokee county. C. Oliver, colored, night engineer, while filling powder at powder house, was seriously burned by powder explosion, which he claimed was caused by his putting the keg opener too close to the edge of keg, which caused it to strike fire and start the explosion, with the above results.

No. 4. January 22, 1900. F. De Mars's mine, two miles southwest of Pittsburg, Crawford county. John Hessin; miner; employed at mine; fall of rock; back injured severely.

I visited the scene of the accident on the day it occurred, and learned that Mr. Hessin was caught by a large pot-shaped rock, while in the act of mining off a shot. The shaft had just been sunk, and a few shots taken out of the coal at the time of the accident. Mr. Hessin was removed to his home, where the doctors examined his injury and stated that his back was broken. I have heard since that he died from his injuries, after six months' suffering.

No. 5. January 28, 1900. Pittsburg & Midway Coal Mining Company's mine No. 5, Crawford county. John Brown; miner; Mid-

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way; while sounding coal in break-through, shoulder knocked out by fall of slate.

It seems, from information I gathered from miners who worked near Mr. Brown, that he had gone into Baptiste Donna's room at eight o'clock on the morning of the 28th of January to sound through the rib to some one in his own place, to find out how thick was the pillar between his place and Donna's. While he was there, a large slab of draw slate fell from the roof, and the corner of it struck him and knocked his shoulder out of place. This same fall of slate caught Donna, and inflicted injuries from which he died a few days afterward. (See Fatal Accidents.)

No. 6. February 6, 1900. At Thomas Noble & Son's mine No. 1, Scranton, Osage county. W. Longdon; miner; aged 42 years; was caught by a fall of stone in his room and received injuries which laid him off work for fifty days.

No. 7. March 16, 1900. Wear Coal Company's mine No. 5, Crawford county. Harry Tennant; miner; Pittsburg; employed at mining; while in the act of mining off a shot of coal it came away and caught him and broke his shoulder-blade.

No. 8. March 22, 1900. Western Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 5, Crawford county. Charles Conley; shot-firer; Yale; struck with flying coal from shot and slightly injured.

No. 9. April 4, 1900. Central Coal and Coke Company's mine No. 15, Crawford county. Ralph Phelps; miner; Weir City; employed at mining; fall of slate; hip thrown out of place.

I visited the mine the next day, and found that a large slab of draw slate had fallen in room No. 9 off the first north, on the east side of the mine. A loaded car had been standing near the face, and the slate falling partly on the loaded car was the means of saving Mr. Phelps's life. As it was, part of the slate struck him and knocked his hip out of place and otherwise bruised him. He was laid up with the injuries received for some time.

No. 10. April 4, 1900. Pittsburg & Midway Coal Mining Company's mine No. 6, Crawford county. Thomas Dickinson; miner; Midway; had his ankle crushed by a fall of coal while mining off a shot.

No. 11. April 5, 1900. At the same mine, Evan Evans, miner, Midway, was slightly injured by a fall of slate in room No. 1 off the second north, on the east side of the mine.

No. 12. April 20, 1900. At the same mine, August Dormedo, miner, Midway, employed at mining, had his leg fractured by a fall of coal in room No. 6 off the first south, on west side of mine.