

State inspector of coal mines reports

Section 53, Pages 1561 - 1590

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.

Creator: Kansas. Inspector of Coal Mines

Date: Between 1884 and 1956

Callnumber: SP 622 K13

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 210191

Item Identifier: 210191

www.kansasmemory.org/item/210191

KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



Mine No. 8 of the J. R. Crowe Coal Company, located three miles southwest of Scammon, and connected to the Frisco railroad, has two openings, properly equipped, four separate currents of air, and is ventilated by a fan producing 27,540 cubic feet per minute. This mine is worked by the single-entry system, and is in rather poor condition, as it is a difficult mine to keep up, owing to its having very poor top and wet roads, and the vast amount of faults, etc. Fred Green, pit boss.

Mine No. 10 of the J. R. Crowe Coal Company, located two and one half miles southwest of Scammon, and connected to the Frisco railroad, has two openings, properly equipped, air split in four separate currents, worked by double-entry system, ventilated by a fan producing 24,712 cubic feet per minute, and for a time was poorly conducted, owing to no connections being made from one cross-entry to the next. At this mine I had considerable trouble with the company to get them to put up their fan and connect the air-course to the air-shaft. With persistent efforts and the assistance of the county attorney, they made the necessary improvements, and got the mine in fair condition regarding the difficulties from bad top and water. Jno. Dunn, pit boss.

Mine No. 11 of the Central Coal and Coke Company, located two and one-fourth miles southwest of Weir, is connected to the Frisco railroad. This mine was abandoned June, 1903. Wm. Murry, pit boss.

Mine No. 18, Central Coal and Coke Company, located one and one-half miles northwest of Weir and connected to the Frisco railroad, has two openings. It has three separate currents of air, worked by the double- and single-entry plan, ventilated by a fan producing 24,894 cubic feet per minute, and well conducted, as rooms are only turned off on one side of the entry, and connections well kept up; as it made considerable gas, in some instances men had to work with safety-lamps in the entries, and while widening out inside of a horse-back. This mine is very faulty and contains a very peculiar fault for this field, as the coal took a dip to the north of about 35 to 40 feet in a distance of 275 or 300 feet, and again went to the raise, and continued to rise until it reached the boundary line on the north. For this reason rooms were only turned on one side of the entry. Thos. Scott, pit boss.

Mine No. 7 of the Central Coal and Coke Company, located one mile north of Scammon and connected with the Frisco railroad, has three openings and three separate currents of air, is ventilated by a fan producing 32,977 cubic feet per minute, and fairly well conducted. The air is fairly pure, except in the fourth east on the north, which



State inspector of coal mines reports

12

INSPECTOR OF COAL-MINES.

is work that has been standing for several years—supposed to have been on a fault, which they have reopened this year and proved very good coal—and the black damp from the old workings inside the fourth east was thrown in on the men of the fourth east. I recommended that they make an air-crossing inside of the fourth to the north side of the main entry, to carry off the black damp and give the fourth men a fresh current, which they agreed to do, which will make the air fairly pure and good for all. John Barr, pit boss.

Mine No. 16 of the Central Coal and Coke Company, located one and one-half miles west of Scammon and connected with the Frisco railroad, has two openings and four separate currents of air, ventilated with a fan producing 28,751 cubic feet of air per minute, worked by the double-entry system, and the air well conducted. I have never needed to make but very few suggestions as to the betterment of this mine, as it occurs to me that the pit boss takes considerable pride in maintaining good ventilation. J. B. White, pit boss.

Mine No. 6 of the Southwestern Development Company is located at Mineral and connected with the M. K. & T. Rly. This mine has two openings, under the old law, and has two separate currents. Only one side of the mine is being worked. It is ventilated by a fan producing 22,410 cubic feet per minute, is worked by the double-entry system, and with but few exceptions the air is very good. They contemplate tapping some of their old works, which will give them a more direct air-course into the northwest entries. Wm. Graham, pit boss.

Mine No. 7 of the Southwestern Development Company, located one-half mile east of Mineral and connected with M. K. & T. Rly., has three separate currents of air, with only three-quarters of the mine working. It is worked by the double-entry system, and ventilated by a fan producing 23,846 cubic feet per minute. In the west entries off the second north the air was poor, and, rather than make a new air-course to them, they abandoned them, as the coal was very faulty and they deemed it unprofitable to lay out any expense on them in regard to air. In the other east entries the air was fairly good. In the west entries on the north the air was poor, owing to the air-course having fallen in and filled up with water, and by persistent urging I got them to reopen and clean out and make a new air-course, which will improve the air in this portion of the mine and put the mine in general in tolerably fair condition. Francis Ryan, pit boss.

Mine No. 8 of the Southwestern Development Company, located three-fourths of a mile south of West Mineral and connected with the M. K. & T. Rly., has two openings, and three separate currents of air, with only three-quarters of the mine working. It is worked by



the double-entry system and ventilated with a fan producing 22,912 cubic feet of air per minute. The air in the mine has generally been very good, as an effort is exerted on the part of the mine management to maintain good ventilation. Wm. Mallen, pit boss.

Mine No. 11 of the Southwestern Development Company, located three-fourths of a mile north of West Mineral and connected with M. K. & T. Rly., is a new mine, sunk some time about the middle of the year. It has two openings, is ventilated by a fan, and is in fair condition. Wm. Grisham, pit boss.

Hamilton Coal and Mercantile Company mine No. 5, located one and one-fourth miles south of East Mineral, is connected with the M. K. & T. Rly. This is a new mine, sunk this fall. An escape-shaft has been sunk, but connections have not yet been made to it. It is ventilated by a fan at the main shaft. This mine will be worked by the double-entry system. Jas. Ewart, pit boss.

Hamilton Coal Company mine No. 2 is located two miles northwest of Weir, and connected with the Frisco railroad. This mine has two openings, properly equipped, under the old law; is ventilated by a fan usually working as a blowing-fan, producing 27,543 cubic feet per minute. This mine is worked by the double-entry system, and the ventilation is fair, except on the southeast quarter, where the air-course has fallen and caved. They have put on a force of men to clean and retimber them up at once and to make new ones. Andrew Hamilton, pit boss.

Mine No. 3 of the Hamilton Coal Company, located three miles northwest of Weir, is connected with the Frisco railroad. This is also a very faulty mine, employing no great number of men. It has two openings, properly equipped, ventilated by a fan usually working as a blow-fan, producing 19,740 cubic feet per minute, worked by the single-entry system, and as a general thing the air was fair. Thomas Bainard, pit boss.

Mine No. 3 of the Columbus Coal Company, located at Stippville and connected with the Frisco railroad, has three openings, properly equipped, ventilated by a fan producing about 20,150 cubic feet per minute, and is worked by the single-entry system. Since the mine was drowned out, early in the spring, it has been in poor condition, owing to the stoppings being washed out, and no particular care being taken of the air. The superintendent has assured me that the necessary improvements would be made at once to put the mine in good shape. Geo. Henderson, pit boss.

Mine No. 4 of the Columbus Coal Company is located one mile



State inspector of coal mines reports

south of Stippville, on the Frisco railroad. It has two openings, but one is used for the hoisting-shaft and the other for an air-shaft. It is ventilated by a furnace. I have notified them to sink an escape-shaft at once, which they have agreed to do. This mine is worked by the single-entry system, and like most such systems, and especially where a furnace is used, the air on many occasions is very slack, owing to the furnace being neglected, accompanied with the inefficient system of single entry. John Newlands, pit boss.

Mine No. 4 of the Fleming Coal Company, located one mile west of Stippville and connected with the M. K. & T. railway, has two openings, properly equipped, and ventilated with a fan at the side of the main shaft. It is worked by the single-entry system, and is fairly well ventilated, as it is only a new mine, with but few men employed. Wm. Green, pit boss.

Mine No. 5 of the same company is located one and one-half miles northwest of Stippville and connected with the M. K. & T. railway. It has two openings, properly equipped, ventilated by a fan at the end of the main shaft, and is worked by the single-entry system. The air is very fair, owing to its being a new mine, with a small force of men employed. August Mason, pit boss.

Mine No. 6 of the Fleming Coal Company is located one mile northwest of Turck and connected with the Frisco railroad. It is worked by the single-entry system and ventilated by a fan at the end of the main shaft. It has been on several occasions in very poor condition, for want of the proper connections, and has required numerous suggestions and visits to keep it in condition for the few employees to work therein. Ed. Witzle, pit boss.

Mine No. 1 of the Fidelity Land and Improvement Company, located at Stone City, connected with the M. K. & T. railway, has two openings, properly equipped, worked by the double-entry system, and ventilated by a fan producing 23,719 cubic feet per minute. As a general condition the air has been good, but some of these haulage roads were very dangerous, owing to the top being very poor; but they have cut some of them off and done some timbering, which has greatly improved the conditions for traveling. John Dorman, pit boss.

Mine No. 2 of the Fidelity Land and Improvement Company, located at Stone City, has two openings, properly equipped, and is ventilated by a fan usually working as a blow-fan. The mine is worked by the double-entry system, but on several occasions they have driven their entries considerably beyond the limit while in faulty work, in order to get a piece of coal in which to make the cross-cut. In some instances the miner was as much at fault as the com-



State inspector of coal mines reports

BIENNIAL REPORT.

15

pany, as he would rather suffer than make his cross-cut at the proper distance in the fault. Otherwise the ventilation has generally been very fair. Arthur Haney, pit boss.

Mine No. 5 of the Southern Coal and Mercantile Company is worked by the single-entry system, and is in very fair condition. Everything is very favorable to make this system more favorable than elsewhere, as the coal is a good height, with fair top, and no faults to speak of. It is ventilated by a fan producing 19,991 cubic feet per minute. This fan for some time was not producing the amount of air desired, and I suggested some improvements on it, which were made, and increased the volume of air about fifteen per cent. This mine is equipped with two openings, and is also connected to what is known as the old Rag mine. John Maxwell, pit boss.

Mine No. 9 of the Southern Coal and Mercantile Company is located at Scammon. This mine was sunk by J. H. Durkee, and soon after sold to the above company, which built a new tippie, widened out the shaft, remodeled the whole mine in general, and began hoisting coal in November. On my last visit to this mine some agitation as to having no escape-shaft was raised, and owing to the change in equipment I did not exactly know what to do in the matter. I at once acquainted the state inspector of this case, along with others having no escape-shaft, and requested instructions as to what to do. He at once requested the names of all the companies which were violating the escape-shaft law, stating that he would look into those matters himself, which I did. Geo. Jenkins, pit boss.

Mine No. 1 of the Cherokee Coal and Mining Company is located one-half mile south of Cherokee, and connected with the Frisco railroad. This is a very faulty mine, with a very poor roof, worked by the double-entry system, and ventilated by a fan producing 14,360 cubic feet per minute. As a general condition the air was fair, as but very few men were employed, but in several places the roof was very dangerous, which they agreed to make safe at once. Geo. Stephens, pit boss.

Gin mine of the Cherokee Coal and Mining Company, located one-half mile south of Cherokee and connected with the Frisco railroad, is a small mine, working the upper vein, which is about twenty-two to twenty-four inches. It is worked by the single-entry system, employs from ten to fifteen men, and is ventilated by a furnace. On my last visit the air was very poor, and I at once notified the management and owners of the mine to improve the ventilation of their mine at once, which they agreed to do.

The Cherokee Coal and Mining Company has sunk another mine



to the upper vein on the same property, south of Cherokee, and at my last visit had not reached the coal.

Hamilton & Grant Coal Company's slope is located two miles northeast of Weir, and about seven men are employed. It had two openings, and the air was very good for the number employed, but the top in the place to which the air-shaft was connected was quite bad, and I ordered them to have the same timbered at once, in order to save the air-shaft. Wm. Morton, pit boss.

Mine No. 8 of J. H. Jenkins Coal Company, located one and one-half miles northeast of Weir, is connected with the Frisco railroad. This is a slope mine, going in on the crop and following it down to the basin. This mine is ventilated by a furnace and worked by the single-entry system, and the air on many occasions is not what it should be, owing to the furnace being neglected frequently. Oscar Manley, pit boss.

John Jenking is sinking a new slope at the present time near No. 8.

J. H. Bennett mine is a new one, only being sunk late this fall, and just opening up around the bottom. This mine is located two and one-half miles northwest of Weir, and will be connected with the Frisco railroad.

Humble Coal Company mine is located three miles west of Weir and connected with the Frisco railroad. This mine was sunk about two years ago, but has been closed down until this fall, when they began to open up with a few men. On my last visit to it the air was very poor, as there was no forced ventilation at this time, and the men were suffering for want of air. I suggested that he put in a fan, which he did as soon as he could get it up. This mine has only one opening as yet, and, owing to him not desiring to sink an escape-shaft at present, he agreed to work only ten men, as required by law. Joe Humble, pit boss.

Mine No. 1 of the Eureka Deep-vein Coal Company is located two and one-half miles southwest of Cherokee and connected with the Frisco railroad. This mine has two openings, properly equipped, ventilated with a fan. This mine is worked by the single- and double-entry systems, and is fairly well ventilated, notwithstanding the fact that it is an old, abandoned mine reopened and was in a very poor condition when this company assumed charge. From the appearance of the mine at present it is likely to be a success. Wm. Ray, pit boss.

W. H. Barrett Coal Company's mine is a small gin mine, located near the old Weir smelter site. This is a new mine, just being opened up around the bottom, with about five men.



BIENNIAL REPORT.

17

W. H. Barrett is also sinking a new mine four miles southwest of Weir, which will be connected with the Missouri Pacific railway.

Mine No. 3 of the Norton Coal Company, located three-fourths of a mile west of Scammon and connected with the Frisco railroad, has two openings, properly equipped, is working the double-entry system, and is ventilated by a fan, which was not producing the amount of air necessary, owing to the engine being too light to drive the machinery attached to it and the complication of belts and pulleys with which it was connected. I advised that they run it at a greater speed, in order to increase the volume some, and, in order to do so, they had to put in a larger engine, which made a vast improvement. Andrew Braidwood, pit boss.

Mine No. 1 of the Roseland Coal and Mercantile Company, located three-fourths of a mile northwest of Roseland, is connected with the Missouri Pacific railway. This mine was sunk early in the spring, and employed eight to ten men during the summer, but closed down early in the winter to erect their head frame, and has recently resumed operations. M. L. Walters, pit boss.

Mine A of the Mackie Fuel Company, located two and one-half miles northwest of Scammon, and connected with the Missouri Pacific railway, has two openings, properly equipped; is worked by the double-entry system, and ventilated by a fan producing 27,314 cubic feet. This mine has generally been in very good condition, with the exception of my second last visit, when there were four entries in poor condition. I suggested that a couple of doors and other slight necessary repairs be made, which was done, and improved things greatly, and, in the near future, will be still better, as they will soon make connections to one of these entries, which will make a new air-course and shorten the travel for the air. John Morton, pit boss.

Mine No. 1 of the Elkhorn Coal Company is located three-fourths of a mile west of Roseland. This mine has been sunk for some time, and closed down when the present company took charge of it. About five or six men have been employed prospecting it, and endeavoring to get through the fault, which, apparently, is a very bad one. Recently they abandoned the above mine, and began sinking a new one 500 feet east of the first, which they think is out of the range of the fault. Joe Davidson, pit boss.

Mine No. 12 of the Western Coal and Mining Company is located at Folsom and connected with the Missouri Pacific railway. This is a new mine, which is at present under way of sinking.

Silver Bud mine, owned by L. J. Hisle, is a small gin mine located



State inspector of coal mines reports

in Scammon, with no railroad connections. It is worked by the single-entry system and ventilated by furnace, and on several occasions I have found it in poor condition, owing to neglected curtains and the furnace left practically to look after itself. When I would advise the necessary improvements they would be made, but again left till much in the same condition, until I would visit it and urge the necessary improvements. John Jenkins, pit boss.

Markham Coal Company mine, known as the "Frog," located one mile south of Scammon, having five openings and proper escapement, is worked by the single-entry system and ventilated by a fan. This was at times in very poor condition; but with persistent efforts and suggestions, and the willingness of the new management, the mine is becoming in very fair condition, as but few men are employed at present. Ed Kelly, pit boss.

Larson Bros.' mine is located two and one-half miles southwest of Weir. This is a small gin mine, with two openings and connection to the Hayden Coal Company mine. It is ventilated by a furnace, and has generally been in very good condition, as but a very few men have been employed. Alfred Larson, pit boss.

A. L. Hayden Coal Company mine is also a small gin mine, located two and one-half miles southwest of Weir, with no railroad connections; employs ten to twelve men, and has connection to Larson Bros.' mine as escapement; is worked by the single-entry system and is in very poor condition, as it has changed hands so often that it has been difficult to have anything done with it in the way of improvements. John McCabe, pit boss.

Gross & Miller mine No. 1, located one mile southwest of Weir, is connected with the Frisco railroad, and has three openings, with proper escapement. This mine was, for a long time, worked by the single-entry system, and was in very poor condition, until they got hold of a new piece of coal, when they decided to change their system to the double entry, which has made a vast improvement in it. It is ventilated by a fan producing 18,312 cubic feet of air per minute. They also overhauled some of their air-courses, as well as changing the system of work. Dan Miller, pit boss.

Mine No. 1 of the Jno. Robinson Coal Company, located one mile south of Weir, with no railroad connections, has two openings, with proper escapement. It is worked by the single-entry system and ventilated with a fan, and has usually been in fair condition, as but few men were employed and it required no great amount of air. Jas. Duffy, pit boss.

Mine No. 1 of B. S. Abbott Coal Company is located one-half



mile north of Weir, with no railroad connections. This mine was sunk early in the summer, is being worked by the single-entry system and ventilated by a furnace. Six weeks ago I ordered them to make an escapement, which at the present time has not been completed. Henry Helm, pit boss.

The May Queen Coal Company has just completed a new slope mine one and one-half miles southwest of Scammon, and connected with the Frisco railroad. A. Humble, pit boss.

Cherokee Crescent Coal Company, No. 1, located at West Mineral, is a new mine sunk this summer, and is being worked by the double-entry system, and is looked forward to as a large producer. On my last visit I noticed the workings were very dry and dusty, and ordered the pit boss to keep all places well watered, as such a condition was likely to result in an explosion unless strict caution was used, which he agreed to do. Dan Ryan, pit boss.

Turck Coal Company, No. 1, located at Turck, and connected with the Frisco railroad, has two openings, worked by the single-entry system, and has been in very poor condition, and Mr. Cummings has advised me that he would put in a fan immediately. R. Cummings, pit boss.

Earl & McGregor Coal Company's mine, located one and one-half miles southwest of Stippville, has no railroad connections. It has two openings, is worked by the single-entry system, and ventilated by a furnace, and, as but few men are employed, the air is sufficient. Wm. Earl, pit boss.

Nevius Coal Company, No. 3, located one and three-fourths miles southwest of Stippville. This mine went down on a large fault, and they have only been able to employ a small force of men endeavoring to get through the fault, but have not succeeded so far. This mine is connected with the Frisco railroad, and, so far, has been a disappointment. Vincent Gladis, pit boss.

Pullen & Sons' mine is a gin mine, connected with the Frisco railroad, employs from five to ten men, has three openings, and is ventilated by a device which directs the surface winds into the mine, which at any time I have visited the mine has given fair satisfaction for the number of men employed, but in sultry weather would be very inefficient. J. J. Pullen, pit boss.

John Welsh has sunk a new shaft on his property three and one-half miles southwest of Scammon, but has not yet begun to develop it.

Reuben Dival is also sinking a new mine, located at Jaques Junction, but has not yet reached the coal.



Sunflower Coal Company has sunk a new mine three-fourths of a mile north of Scammon, and is only opening up around the bottom as yet. Ed Kenney, pit boss.

Scammon Coal Company has sunk a new mine one-fourth mile east of Skidmore, which is only being opened up around the bottom as yet, and worked by the single-entry system, employing ten to twelve men. Jno. Jenkins, pit boss.

Robinson Bros.' Coal Company is a small custom mine, employing two to five men, and ventilated by a furnace. Wm. Robinson, manager.

Eastern Coal and Coke, located at Cokedale, is worked by the double-entry system, employing from eight to ten men. The air was very feeble, and I ordered them to put in a fan, which they did, and since then the air has been very good. This mine head frame and building burned down in September, and as yet has not been rebuilt. Bert Francis, pit boss.

JAMES A. ORR,

Deputy Mine Inspector, Cherokee County.

Condition of mines and improvements made in Cherokee county from January 1 to June 30, 1904:

Mine No. 7, Central Coal and Coke Company, is located one mile north of Scammon. They have begun work on an undercast at the fourth east on the north, in order to make a separate current for this entry, of which it has been in much need for some time. This will relieve the bad condition which exists at present. John Barr, pit boss.

Mine No. 18 of the Central Coal and Coke Company is located two miles northwest of Weir. The north side of this mine will soon be finished, and, as they have about got through the faults on the south, all the work will be on the south side of the mine, which will be worked by the double-entry system, and the ventilation then will be much better and more easily handled. Thos. Scott, pit boss.

Mine No. 16 of the Central Coal and Coke Company is located one and three-fourths miles west of Scammon. Have had no complaints from this mine, and up to this time have been unable to visit it. J. B. White, pit boss.

Mine No. 2 of the Hamilton Coal and Mercantile Company is located one and one-half miles northwest of Weir. Considerable trouble has been caused at this mine owing to the company not having the fan run from Saturday night till Monday morning. On several occasions men have had to leave the mine on account of not being able to get into their places of work because of the foul air, and in some instances men were overcome by it. I visited the mine, and insisted



that they see to it that the fan was run on nights and Sundays as well as when the mine was in operation, which they agreed to do, and since that time not much complaint has been made. They closed down in the early part of the year, with the exception of a few of the entries and some places which were to be driven for air-courses, at about which time a creep came upon the north side of the mine from the third cross-entry and traveled to the fifths, on both sides of the main entry. Wm. Craddock, pit boss.

Mine No. 3 of the Hamilton Coal and Mercantile Company is located one-half mile west of Weir Junction. Considerable of the work on the north side of this mine has been abandoned, as it is about worked out, being so faulty, and there is considerable of a gouge system adopted, in order to get little patches of coal wherever they find them. Some new work has been opened up on the south side, and is in poor shape, and the boss assured me that he would have it in good condition very soon, as it had previously been prospect work and he thought they would perhaps get some work opened up now and put it in good condition. Thos. Bainard, pit boss.

Mine No. 5 of the Hamilton Coal and Mercantile Company, located one mile south of East Mineral, is a new mine. This mine in some parts was in poor condition, owing to their being very slow in getting connected to the air-shaft and things being put up temporarily. I urged them to remedy these affairs as soon as possible, which did not seem to have the desired effect. I finally had to threaten them with injunction proceedings, which stirred them up a little and got things put into a little better condition. This mine has the appearance of being a very good producer. John McGill, pit boss.

Mine No. 3 of the J. R. Crowe Coal Company, located two and one-half miles west of Weir, is worked by the single-entry system, and has been very troublesome to keep in any practical condition. They have assured me that they are calculating to make some changes, which will be a considerable improvement to the mine and a boon to those at work in it. R. Luke, pit boss.

Mine No. 8 of the J. R. Crowe Coal Company is located three miles south of Scammon. This mine was in a fair condition, with the exception of the first south on west side, which was ordered stopped on account of being too far ahead of the air. Fred Green, pit boss.

Mine No. 7 of the J. R. Crowe Coal Company, located three miles northwest of Weir, was in a poor condition on account of poor ventilation, and when the superintendent was acquainted of the facts he assured me that it would be put in good condition at once. Jno. Mallams, pit boss.



State inspector of coal mines reports

Mine No. 10 of the J. R. Crowe Coal Company is located two and one-half miles southwest of Scammon. The air in this mine was somewhat impaired for the want of doors, which had been neglected, and when acquainted of the fact they began at once to put them up and make a general overhauling. Jas. Reed, pit boss.

Mine No. 4 of the Fleming Coal Company, one mile west of Turck, is in fair condition, but has only one current of air, as only one side of the mine was working. I ordered them to make two separate currents at once, which they began to do, but had a long air-course to make to do so, and it will take some time to complete it. On April 21, 1904, there was an explosion at this mine, in which two shot-firers lost their lives. The condition of the mine was such that those most familiar with it had no thought of any such accident. The roads were all wet, and there seemed to be no dust to speak of anywhere in the mine. There never had been any trace of explosive gases anywhere in the mine, nor had ever been a horseback discovered, behind which gas is most generally found in this section of the country. The coal next the roof is of a very hard, curly nature and sticks very hard to the top, and is considered a very hard coal to shoot, requiring more powder to shoot it than in other mines. From the evidence taken at the investigation, the shot-firers fired the shots very rapidly, splitting the fuse in all the shots before they began to fire, and lighting them as fast as they could travel; and, owing to it being a single-entry mine, and the room for expansion limited, the gas thrown off from the rapid combustion became so intense that when it reached the point at which it explodes, the flame from some of the shots ignited it, and seemed to gather more force along its travel by igniting powder along its path, etc. In my opinion, this must have been the cause of the cause of this explosion. Wm. Williams, pit boss.

Mine No. 5 of the Fleming Coal Company is located one mile west of Turck. This is also a single-entry mine, and had but two currents of air, as it was practically a new mine. I ordered them at once to make an air-crossing, and make the required number of splits of air, which on my last visit was about completed. This mine has generally been in good condition, with one or two exceptions, when the fan would be left standing over the week end and not started again until late the morning when the mine would be expected to work, and some men were overcome by the foul air. I ordered the company to have the fan started at least four hours before the men were supposed to go into the mine, or earlier if necessary to clear the mine of any foul air. Since that time I have had no complaints as to the condition of the mine. Aug. Mason, pit boss.

Mine No. 6 of the Fleming Coal Company, located one mile north



State inspector of coal mines reports

BIENNIAL REPORT.

23

of Turck, is at present in fair condition, as only a few men are employed. Jas. Bulleck, pit boss.

Mine No. 6 of the Southwestern Development Company, located at Mineral, has been put in fairly good condition, cutting off some of the old works and making new air-courses, and putting the mine in good shape. Wm. Graham, pit boss.

Mine No. 7 of the Southwestern Development Company is located one-half mile east of Mineral. The air on the north and south entries of the three west on the south was in very poor condition, but the pit boss promised me that he would go through the air-course and have it fixed up, and replace doors where curtains are, which will put that part of the mine in fairly good condition. The travel on the north side air is being cut off quite often, which gives it an improvement each time. Frank Ryan, pit boss.

Mine No. 8 of the Southwestern Development Company, located one-fourth mile south of West Mineral, is in very good condition as regards ventilation, and an endeavor is being made to maintain it so, as, at the head of all the entries, when being driven to the line, an air-course is turned at the face and driven across to the next entry and brushed, and where this is practiced there should be no difficulty in maintaining good ventilation. Wm. Mallen, pit boss.

Mine No. 11 of the Southwestern Development Company is located one mile north of West Mineral. This is a new mine, and has been very faulty, and at present very few men are employed. Wm. Grisham, pit boss.

Mine No. 3 of the Columbus Coal Company, located one mile southwest of Turck, is worked by the single-entry system, and at present is in very poor condition, but the superintendent has assured me that he will see that it is put in proper condition as soon as possible. Geo. Henderson, pit boss.

Mine No. 4 of the Columbus Coal Company is located one and one-fourth miles south of Turck. There was no escape-shaft to this mine, and, some time in the latter part of 1903, I ordered an escape-shaft sunk, which was completed early this year; but the ventilation was not to my liking and I ordered them to put in a larger furnace, which they agreed to do. Jno. Newlands, pit boss.

Mine No. 1 of the Fidelity Land and Improvement Company is located at Stone City. The air in this mine has generally been good, with the exception of the west entry, which is the last of the air, and, in some instances, the air has been very feeble. Early in the spring an air-course caved, which shut off the air from all those in-



side of it, and they had to skip an air-course up between the rib and the cave, as it was the only air-course they had at that time. Jno. Dorman, pit boss.

Mine No. 2 of the Fidelity Land and Improvement Company, located at Stone City, is a very faulty mine, and employs but a few men. In some instances the air is poor—where they drive too far ahead of the air; but, as a general condition, a good volume of air is traveling the air-courses. Mike Wagonor, pit boss.

Mine No. 5 of the Southern Coal and Mercantile Company, located one-half mile south of Scammon, is worked by the single-entry system, and is generally in a fair condition, considering the system. John Maxwell, pit boss.

Mine No. 9 of the Southern Coal and Mercantile Company is located one-half mile southwest of Scammon. This mine ran a short time this spring, and was in poor condition at that time. J. W. Jenkins, pit boss.

Mine A of the Mackie Fuel Company, located two and one-half miles northwest of Scammon, is worked by the double-entry system, and is in fair shape, but expect to be through to east off the south off the third west from the main south, which will make a large cut-off for the air, and put this part of the mine in good shape. Jno. Morton, pit boss.

Gross & Miller mine No. 1, located one mile southwest of Weir, is supposed to be finished this winter, as all the entries have been driven to the line, and there is nothing but the rooms being worked. It is in fair condition. T. H. Miller, pit boss.

Mine No. 1 of the Mayer Coal Company, located three-quarters of a mile south of Mineral, had a new overcast made early this spring, giving the air better ingress to the mine and increasing the volume over fifty per cent., which has improved the condition of the air greatly. John Humble, pit boss.

Mine No. 3 of the Norton Coal Company, located one mile west of Scammon, has usually been in good condition since the new fan engine has been set in. On the last visit the deputy made there were quite serious complaints made about the air, which was discovered to be caused by drivers leaving doors standing open while they gather their trips, etc., making the air in some portions of the mine very poor. Andrew Braidwood, pit boss.

Mine No. 1 of the Cherokee Crescent Coal Company is located at West Mineral. This is a new mine, sunk last summer, and up to this spring had no air-split, as required by law, and the general condition



BIENNIAL REPORT.

25

of the mine was dry, but fair as regarded ventilation. I ordered the mine to be kept well sprinkled, to keep the dust down, and to get in their overcast as early as possible. Dan Ryan, pit boss.

Mine No. 1 of the J. H. Bennett Coal Company is located one and one-half miles northwest of Weir. This is a new mine, and is in very poor condition for a new one. It is being opened up on the single-entry system and is very faulty. The necessary expense and work to make the mine practicable, profitable and safe have not been expended on it. I have given them notice that the mine must be put in the proper condition at once, or it will be closed until such time as it is healthy and safe for men to work in. James Evans, pit boss.

Mine No. 2 of the Weir Junction Coal Company, located two miles southeast of Cherokee, is a single-entry mine and somewhat faulty. This mine on several occasions has been in poor condition, owing to the system and the temporary manner of conducting the ventilation. I have ordered them to put the mine in proper condition and conduct it on a more permanent system than heretofore, which they have agreed to do. E. Shaw, pit boss.

Mine No. 1 of the Eureka Deep-vein Coal Company is located two miles southwest of Cherokee. This mine is in fairly good condition as regards ventilation. While doing some prospecting work they undertook to fire twice a day, while men were in the mine, which I stopped as soon as I knew that such was being done. Wm. Ray, pit boss.

Mine No. 1 of the B. S. Abbott Coal Company, located one-half mile north of Weir, is worked by the single-entry system, and was ventilated by a furnace which gave poor satisfaction. I ordered Mr. Abbott to put in a fan at once, which he has done. H. Helm, pit boss.

Mine No. 1 of the Robinson Coal Company is located one mile south of Weir, and worked by the single-entry system. In some instances men were allowed to work in very poor air, owing to connection not being up properly, and I ordered them to keep up the connection required and to make other repairs on the air-chamber, which was agreed to. James Duffy, pit boss.

Mine No. 1 of the Roseland Coal Company, located one and one-half miles northeast of Folsom, was without an escape-shaft, which I ordered sunk at once, which they seemed to think was imposing upon them somewhat, as they were a small company and wished more time. I had to order them to reduce their force of men to the ten limit, which they agreed to do, and began sinking the escape-shaft. J. A. Frere, pit boss.

JAMES A. ORR, *Mine Inspector.*



State inspector of coal mines reports

26

INSPECTOR OF COAL-MINES.

CRAWFORD COUNTY.

I herewith submit my report on conditions of mines visited by me in Crawford county during a period of four months, beginning March 3, 1904, and ending June 30, 1904.

Mount Carmel Coal Company's mine No. 8, Chicopee, double-entry system. Examined 28th day of March, and found in first-class condition, except a few rooms, in which they had failed to make necessary cross-cuts.

Mine No. 9, same company, Frontenac, double-entry system. Examined May 3. At this time No. 9, being a new mine, was ventilated by means of a furnace, and, although the air connections were good, some parts of the mine were very poorly aired. I also learned that the air was worse in the beginning of the day. The reason of this was, no doubt, on account of the furnace being allowed to die out in the evening, while shot-lighters were at work, and not being started early enough in the morning to have places clear before miners went to work. Superintendent Fletcher and myself decided on using a steam jet in air-shaft at night to clear the mine of powder smoke. This method, while it helped materially, did not give entire satisfaction. The company had already erected a fan and machinery, and I was informed by Mr. Fletcher that the fan-house would be completed as soon as the material, which had been delayed on account of floods and washouts, arrived. I returned to No. 9 May 19, and found fan-house nearly completed; therefore, there is no reason why this mine should not be well ventilated at the present time.

Mine No. 5, same company, Chicopee, double-entry system. Examined May 4. Found northwest section poorly ventilated at working-faces, caused by defective curtains, and in a few cases to neglect on part of miners in making necessary break-throughs. I found balance of mine in good condition.

Mine No. 6, same company, Frontenac, double-entry system. Examined northeast section May 24. Found air weak in eleventh and twelfth east, also in northeast diagonal; balance of this section in fair condition.

Central Coal and Coke Company's mine No. 17, Nelson, double-entry system. Examined March 4, and found in good condition, well ventilated, roads and entries well kept.

Mine No. 27, same company, Cambria, single-entry system. Examined April 8. Found first north on east side fairly well ventilated, air coming from room on east entry, which had caved in to the surface; enough of the slate which had fallen being removed to form a



BIENNIAL REPORT.

27

rude manway, and allow a good current of pure air to enter the mine close up to working-face. The roads in the east entries were in poor condition, being very muddy, with considerable water lying in different places along the road. Second south and east entry were well ventilated, air coming from air-shaft sunk near face of second south entry. This air-shaft has a stairway, and serves for an escapement as well as air-shaft. Roads in second south in very bad condition, on account of large body of standing water between parting and first west entry. West entries off second south were poorly ventilated; roads also in bad condition with water and mud. April 19 I examined the west side of mine No. 27, and found this entire side very poorly ventilated, air-courses in bad condition, and considerable water standing along main entries. The miners on this side, having no escapement nearer than the bottom, unless lucky enough to catch a ride with the driver, were compelled to travel through this water and mud to and from their work. As the company were making a change in foreman at that time, I informed the new foreman of improvements I desired him to make. Among others, I advised the sinking of an air-shaft in the southwest section, which would supply the men of that section with pure air, and, also, afford means of escape in case of emergency. Later, I advised Superintendent Reed of my suggestion, and was told by him that he intended to sink a pump-shaft in this section, which could also be used for an escapement and air-shaft, and that he would give it immediate attention. I wish to say in behalf of the mine foreman who was leaving when I made the examination, I was informed by a number of the miners that there had been a great improvement on roads and conditions in general during the two months previous to my visit.

Mine No. 38, Fuller (new mine), will be double-entry system. Examined May 14. Found in good condition.

Western Coal and Mining Company mine No. 11, Yale, single-entry system; new mine. Examined March 10, and found well ventilated, entries and roads in good condition.

Mine No. 7, same company, Fleming, single-entry system. Examined west side May 11. Found several entries and rooms working too far ahead of cross-cuts. I stopped those places, and instructed the men to make cross-cuts at once. Balance of west side I found in fair condition.

Mine No. 5, same company, Yale, single-entry system. Examined May 27. Found second and third west off sixth south very poorly ventilated, and considerable black damp in several places. I advised these men to go home, which they did. The air in balance of east

State inspector of coal mines reports

28

INSPECTOR OF COAL-MINES.

side was very poor, and air-courses were in very bad condition. On May 31 Mr. Orr and I examined west side. As the time given by Mr. Orr for improving condition has only just expired, I have not yet made a second visit, and do not know whether improvements have been made or not.

Sheridan Coal Company's mine No. 1, Fuller, single-entry system. Examined March 5. Found very poorly ventilated. New shaft being ventilated with fan at old mine caused a large decrease in the quantity of air entering and circulating in old mine. New mine was in good condition. I returned to old mine March 18. There had been a small improvement, but was still in poor condition. I advised the superintendent to sink an air-shaft and erect a fan at new mine at once, in order to allow the old mine to receive the full benefit of what air was drawn by present fan. This recommendation the company promised to carry out immediately.

R. Wilson Coal Company's gin shaft, Pittsburg. Examined March 4 and found in good condition.

J. R. Crowe Coal Company mine No. 11, southwest of Ashley. Examined March 15. Found very poorly ventilated. Roads in bad condition from water and mud. Poor roof in entire mine. Air-shaft had been sunk, and new fan was being erected. As connections were good, the mine should be well ventilated at present.

Mohawk Coal Company's mine, Pittsburg. Examined March 16. Ventilation poor, caused by defective doors and lack of stoppings in unused cross-cuts. Mine foreman promised to remedy this neglect at once.

Clemens & Son mine No. 3, Pittsburg. Examined March 21. Ventilation fair. Air-shaft and escapement sunk, but not completed.

Chambers Coal Company mine No. 1, Chambersburg, single-entry system. Examined March 22. Found in very bad condition. Return to overcast had been caved in for years, and mine was ventilated with single current, a curtain being hung across main entry to force air into fifth and sixth south entries. Current was weak in every entry which was working, caused by poor stoppings, doors, and curtains. Escapement shaft had been sunk, but had no steps. I made numerous recommendations, and returned April 9. The mine being idle on that day, I found, by making inquiries among the miners, that there had been no improvement. The superintendent gave as an excuse that it had been impossible for him to get men to do the necessary work. I left him with the understanding that if necessary he would lay the mine idle until it had been put into condition.



BIENNIAL REPORT.

29

Southeastern Coal Company mine No. 1, west of Ashley. Visited April 7. Hoisting with one cage, using other side of shaft for air-shaft. This mine had no escapement. I instructed mine foreman to cut force of men to number allowed by law until escape-shaft had been sunk. A day or two later this mine was shut down for the purpose of sinking an air-shaft and making other improvements. Subsequently this mine passed into the hands of the Nevius Coal Company.

Baxter & Dana Coal Company's gin shaft, northwest of Pittsburg, single-entry system. Ventilated with furnace. As there were only a small number of men working there, it was fairly well ventilated, except one entry, which I stopped for working too far ahead of the air.

Hamilton & Grant Coal Company's mine, south of Fleming. Examined May 10. Found in fair condition, except two entries which were working too far ahead of air, and were stopped until connections could be made.

Bolen-Darnall Coal Company's mine, Cornell. Examined north side May 20. Found this side very well ventilated; roads and entries in good condition.

Beck-Tucker Coal Company's gin shaft, west of Pittsburg. Examined June 8. Found this mine to be ventilated with furnace at bottom of shaft. Superintendent was instructed to have air-shaft sunk immediately.

Hartman Coal Company's gin shaft, northwest of Pittsburg, single entry. Mine examined June 2. Ventilation poor. Air-shaft was being sunk to relieve trouble.

Wear Coal Company's mine No. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, northwest of Pittsburg. Examined north side June 21. Found in good condition, well ventilated, except second east, where current was found weak.

Chapman Coal Company's mine, south of Fuller. Examined June 23. Air generally weak. Roads in bad condition on account of water and mud.

As the above is in nearly every case the report of my first visit, and as it is impossible for me to state the improvements which have been made at the mines I have only visited once, this report, only covering a period of four months, is not exactly satisfactory to myself, nor do I hope it to be to every one who is directly interested. Some of the mines I report in what I consider bad condition I have since learned from miners working there have been improved to such an extent as to place them among those which I consider in good condition; so, not having time to make a second visit, I can only report actual condition of the different mines as I found them at time of inspection.



State inspector of coal mines reports

30

INSPECTOR OF COAL-MINES.

May 11 I was informed that one Richard Moore had entered mine No. 7, Western, on an idle day, and had prepared and fired a shot in his room. As he was not a shot-lighter, and had not been authorized to fire shots, this was a direct violation of our mining law. However, it was impossible to secure enough evidence to justify me in bringing action against Moore. While engaged in investigating this case, it was reported to me that a miner by the name of Romaen Battaeux, working in this same mine, had, on the 10th day of May, shortly after 3:30 P. M., while the miners were still in the mine, fired a shot in his entry. On investigation of this case found the report true, and also made it apparent to me that it was becoming a common occurrence for some of the miners of this mine to disregard the state mining law. So I made out a complaint against Battaeux, and he was fined fifty dollars and costs, amounting in all to nearly seventy dollars, which, I hope, will be a lesson not to Battaeux alone, but to all others who may in future be tempted to violate one of the best laws enacted in the state of Kansas for the benefit and protection of the lives of the miners.

I have been informed recently that some miners, in certain mines, have been in the habit of carrying whole kegs of powder into the mine. I desire to state that this practice cannot, and will not, be allowed to continue, and as there is a very severe penalty attached to any violation of the act prohibiting this custom, I advise all who may be violating this law at present to cease immediately. I assure you it is no pleasure for me to be compelled to make an example of any more in order to have our mining law enforced, but I will surely do so, if necessary to compel miner or mine owner to respect the mining law of the state of Kansas, which my duty requires me to enforce and have obeyed. Another law which is being unheeded by some is that which requires all parties working in the mine to burn pure lard oil. Complaints have come to me from different mines where drivers have been in the habit of burning coal-oil, and in some cases black oil and coal-oil mixed. It is a satisfaction for me to know that all drivers whom I have up to the present admonished against this practice are now using lard oil.

The following scales were tested by me during the past four months:

MOUNT CARMEL COMPANY.

Mine No. 8. Hopper scales. Found absolutely correct.

Mine No. 5. Platform scales. Weighing ten pounds in company's favor, caused in my opinion by bearings being worn. New bearings were put in at once.

Mine No. 9. Hopper scales. Weighing company's favor, two pounds in 500 pounds. Corrected immediately.



BIENNIAL REPORT.

31

CENTRAL COMPANY.

Mine No. 15. Hopper scales. Found correct.

Mine No. 17. Hopper scales. Found correct.

WEAR COMPANY.

Mine No. 5. Hopper scales. Found correct.

Mine No. 12½. Hopper scales. Found scales weighing in company's favor on account of hopper pressing against side of chute, causing good deal of friction. After sheet iron had been removed from side of chute, allowing scales to swing perfectly free, scales were found to weigh absolutely correct.

WESTERN COAL COMPANY.

Mine No. 5. Hopper scales. Found correct.

Mine No. 11. Hopper scales. Found correct.

PITTSBURG & MIDWAY COAL COMPANY.

Mine No. 4. Hopper scales. Found correct.

Mine No. 5. Hopper scales. Found correct.

CLEMENS & SON.

Hopper scales. Found correct.

FATAL ACCIDENTS IN CRAWFORD COUNTY.

Frank Doria, miner, instantly killed while attempting to mount trip of cars while in motion. Mine No. 5, Mount Carmel, March 31, 1904.

Arthur Shirard, shot-lighter, fatally burned by explosion, Devlin-Miller mine, April 19, 1904. Shirard lived a few days after accident, but finally died from effects of his injuries.

Lute Hoskins, miner, driving entry-shift work, instantly killed by premature explosion of shot, thought to have been caused by defective squib. Pittsburg & Midway Coal Company mine No. 5, April 23, 1904.

Owen McQuade, driver, fatally injured. Crushed beneath loaded car of coal. Mine No. 5, Mount Carmel, May 17, 1904. McQuade lived until next morning, when he died without having regained consciousness.

Victor Barber, miner, instantly killed by fall of rock. Mine No. 5, Mount Carmel, June 24, 1904.

OTHER ACCIDENTS.

Wm. Parkins, injured at Johnson's mine, March 31, 1904.

Jno. Wittman, injured, Nevius, No. 3, April 12, 1904.

Refie Bart, injured, mine No. 8, Mount Carmel, May 31, 1904.

Geo. Ridley, injured, mine No. 10, Western, May 26, 1904.

Joe Maincetti, injured, mine No. 6, Mount Carmel, June 1, 1904.

Emery Parks, injured, mine No. 15, Central, June 8, 1904.

J. B. Wade, injured, mine No. 12½, Wear, June 16, 1904.

James Mackie, injured, mine No. 8, Mount Carmel, June 21, 1904.

V. Kirklicher, injured, mine No. 7, Western, June 21, 1904.



State inspector of coal mines reports

32

INSPECTOR OF COAL-MINES.

Cyrus Cline, injured, mine No. 27, Central, June 23, 1904.

G. Cornelli, injured, mine No. 6, Mount Carmel, June 24, 1904.

Bert McKee, injured, mine No. 7, Wear, June 24, 1904.

Thos. Lewis, injured, mine No. 8, Mount Carmel, June 25, 1904.

Arthur Cassario, injured, mine No. 2, Nevius, June 29, 1904.

Making in all nineteen accidents which were reported to me. I have no doubt but what there were a great many minor accidents throughout the county which were not reported.

GEO. MURPHY, *Deputy Mine Inspector.*

LEAVENWORTH COUNTY.

Leavenworth county general report, from 1902 to June 30, 1904:

There are only four mines in this county outside of the State Penitentiary, and all are worked on the long-wall system. These mines make considerable gas, but the companies use every precaution and have fire-bosses to examine the mines, who report to the miners before they go to their rooms every morning.

The Home-Riverside Coal Mining Company is in the hands of A. P. King and E. W. Snyder, receivers.

Mine No. 1 is located in the city limits, and has two railroad connections—Union Pacific and Kansas City, Wyandotte & Northwestern. This mine is ventilated by a fan. The air-courses have been cleaned out and the overcast had been repaired, putting the air in good condition. On the west side of the mine there is only one entry working, namely, the first north. This mine has a tunnel to No. 2 mine, which is used for escapement purposes. The distance of this tunnel is 225 feet. In another year from now the tunnel will be a thing of the past, as the blue-print shows that the third south in No. 1 mine and the fourth north in No. 2 are only 200 feet apart. When these two entries meet this will be used for escapement purposes. There are blacksmith and carpenter shops, which build new cars and do all repairs. A double-shaker screen has been put in, such as is used in southern Kansas.

Mine No. 2 of the same company is in the southeastern part of the city, one mile north of the Soldiers' Home. It has switch connections with the Union Pacific. This shaft has a pair of Lichfield engines, twelve-foot drum. The ropes are in fair condition, but the cages need repairing, which has already been promised me. This mine is ventilated by a fan. The air in this mine is in fair condition. This mine is connected by tunnel with mine No. 1 for escapement purposes in case of accidents. Since the last biennial report there have been the following improvements made: Boiler-house has been



State inspector of coal mines reports

BIENNIAL REPORT.

33

repaired, new smoke-stacks, and a new shaker screen, the same as No. 1 mine.

Mine No. 3 of the same company is located just outside of the city limits, northeast of Leavenworth. It has connections with the Missouri Pacific railroad. This mine has been running for over thirty years. It is ventilated by a fan, producing about 15,000 feet of air per minute. It has twice the amount of air-courses as mines Nos. 1 and 2, which makes the mine rather warm for those who are getting the last of the air. Since the 1902 report there has been much work done, such as cleaning air-courses, but still there remains much to be done before it will be in as good condition as it should be. The following repairs have been done, such as putting in timber in the main shaft and new ropes and chains. This mine has an escapement shaft. It has a blacksmith, carpenter and machine shop which does any kind of repairs.

The scales in Leavenworth county have all been tested three times, and I found all O. K., with the exception of the Carr mine, as the beam was rubbing on a timber. This was adjusted as soon as it was discovered.

The state mine is located at Lansing, two miles south of the Soldiers' Home, on the U. P., K. C. W. & N. W., A. T. & S. F. and Kansas City-Leavenworth railroads. It is a steam shaft, 715 feet deep, and has a 500-horse-power engine on the main shaft and a 250-horse-power engine on the air-shaft. It is ventilated by a twenty-foot fan, four-foot blades, run at an average of sixty-five revolutions per minute, producing an average of 25,000 feet of air per minute, which keeps the air in good condition in this mine. All of the west side of this mine has been abandoned. In the summer of 1903 the state opened up the Green coal right and is working it. New cross-cuts have been made in the new works, putting the state mine in good condition for getting coal this winter. Eighty feet from the bottom of the shaft a road was made and built with brick, which is 7 feet high and 100 feet long, the walls of which are eighteen inches thick, and good timbers were put on the same, making a good roadway to pull coal from the new works.

Some repairs have been made to the screens, and also the top-house. I condemned the ropes on the main shaft. The cages on the air-shaft need overhauling.

The Carr Mining and Manufacturing Company mine No. 1 is located at Richardson, about one mile south of the Soldiers' Home. It has two railroad connections, the A. T. & S. F. and K. C. W. & N. W. It is a steam shaft, 720 feet deep, has a 500-horse-power double en-



State inspector of coal mines reports

34

INSPECTOR OF COAL-MINES.

gine, three-flue boilers, and a twelve-foot fan running forty revolutions per minute, producing 10,000 cubic feet of air.

This company has made a number of improvements, among which are an overthrow, which makes the air split in four currents; a temporary manway around the bottom of the shaft (this makes it much safer for the miners to go from one side of the mine to another); a new shive wheel; one new rope and two new cages, making the hoisting machinery in good condition; and new mule stables. In 1903 the company put in an electric plant, which was intended to run mining-machines, which were operated for about a year, but at present they are not running any machines. The air-courses are in normal condition. The bottom of the shaft has been retimbered. The fan-house has been lined with iron sheeting, as a protection against fire.

In concluding my report, I recommend that a better escapement law be passed by the next legislature, whereby the miners of the state of Kansas may have more protection for life and limb.

The Carr mine has been working for three and one-half years, and at this time no efforts are being made to sink an escapement shaft. The only answer I have been able to get is that the Carr Coal Company intends to keep within the bounds of the present law.

The only law that will meet the requirements of all the mines in the state of Kansas is one that will require them to commence on the escapement shaft as soon as they break away from the bottom of the main shaft, and work continually until completed, or, in other words, three shifts every twenty-four hours.

ABRAHAM WALKER,
Deputy Mine Inspector.

OSAGE COUNTY.

Report of the deputy mine inspector of Osage county from January, 1903, to February 29, 1904:

In Osage county there are about 45 openings, which gave employment to 1077 miners and 143 day men, which includes all men working in and around the mines in the month of February. The mines in this county are all worked on the long-wall system, the coal ranging from 12 to 20 inches in thickness, and lies from 25 to 125 feet in depth. The power that they hoist with is mostly horse power, there being only four shafts having steam power in the county. These mines are all ventilated with a furnace ventilation, which does not prove very satisfactory in a large mine, as the fire is permitted to die down in a good many cases and then the men are suffering for air. There were eight accidents in the mines in Osage county in the last year. Two were fatal and six were non-fatal. They were about as follows.



BIENNIAL REPORT.

35

At Thos. Whitcomb's, while sinking a new mine, F. A. Griffin was overcome by foul air and fell out of the tub while being hoisted out of the mine, and was instantly killed. In Neal Hotchkiss mine No. 1, Anthony Foster was killed by a fall of stone, there being about 1600 pounds of the rock, he being under the rock about twenty to thirty minutes. Both were married men.

The non-fatal accidents were as follows:

In Grahnstrom mine No. 5 Evan Anderson was slightly hurt by fall of rock.

In Granstrom mine No. 5 Chas. White was hurt by fall of rock.

In Mount Carmel mine No. 28 Bazine Parr was slightly hurt by fall of rock.

In Knight & Weston mine No. 1 Lue Allsworth's leg was broken by fall of rock.

In Harry Isaacs mine No. 2 Joe Furreth had an arm broken while setting timber.

In Robert Bunton mine No. 1 Collon Brown had an arm broken while setting timber.

All of those non-fatally injured were married men except one, Bazine Parr.

The locations of the mines are about as follows:

The Mount Carmel Company is one of the largest mine owners in the county. They have three mines in the county, two of which are located at Osage City and one at Scranton, which give employment to 224 in and around the mine. The mines are situated as follows:

Mine No. 28 is located one mile north of Osage City, has a switch off the A. T. & S. F. Rly., and gave employment to ninety-one miners and thirteen day men. This mine has its air split into four different currents, giving each quarter section of the mine a separate current of air. The air in this mine is not as good as the deputy inspector would like to see it, as the mine needs several new doors, which have been ordered put in, but, owing to the company having trouble in keeping a boss, the doors have not been put in.

Mine No. 29 is located just half a mile north of No. 28 mine, and is owned and controlled by the same company, giving employment to seventy-four miners and seventeen day men; has a switch connected with the A. T. & S. F. Rly. The air is split into four separate currents, giving each quarter section of the mine a separate current of air. The ventilation in this mine is fair when there is sufficient fire kept on.

Mine No. 14 is owned and controlled by the same company, and is located a mile and a half south and a mile and a half west of Scranton. This is practically a new mine and has got its air split into



State inspector of coal mines reports

36

INSPECTOR OF COAL-MINES.

four different currents. This mine gave employment to twenty-six miners and three day men. They sunk an escapement shaft, but have not got it finished as required by law, owing to the fact that in order to get it 300 feet from the main shaft they sunk on the solid coal.

Western Fuel Company No. 4 is located one mile east of Osage City and has a switch connected with the Missouri Pacific railway. It gave employment to thirty-two miners and four day men. This mine is as well ventilated as any in the county, it having only two currents in the mine. It has an escapement sunk, but it is not finished yet, owing to the company being dilatory in obeying the law.

Mine No. 5 is owned by the Western Fuel Company and controlled by several lessees, who are working in the mine. It gives employment to six miners and one day man.

John Johnson No. 1 is located about a quarter of a mile north of the Missouri Pacific depot. It has no railroad connection and all the coal has to be hauled by wagon; gave employment to twelve miners and two day men; has an escapement through into John Johnson mine No. 2. This mine is also leased to the men who are working in it.

John Johnson mine No. 2 is located about 1000 yards east of mine No. 1 and a little bit south; has no railroad connection and all the coal has to be hauled by wagon. It gave employment to forty miners and six day men. For escapement purpose this mine has a narrow entry cut through into mine No. 1, which has been done in the last year.

The Labor Exchange Coal Company was organized in this county about six years ago. They are all miners, who are organized, and sunk these shafts to better their own conditions, which they have done. They first sunk shaft No. 1, which is located a half-mile north and a half-mile west of Osage City. This shaft has no railroad connection and all the coal has to be hauled by wagon. This shaft gives employment to thirty-five miners and six day men. This mine has complied with the escapement-shaft law by sinking another hole and putting stairs in it, as required by law. This mine is ventilated with two currents of air.

Mine No. 2 of the same company is located about one-half mile north of Osage City. It has no railroad connections and all the coal has to be hauled by wagon. It gave employment to thirty-six miners and eight day men. This mine is comparatively a new mine. It has two currents of air and the ventilation is good. They have driven a narrow entry for escapement purposes through into John Johnson mine No. 1, which is not finished yet.



BIENNIAL REPORT.

37

Sam Carlson mine No. 5 is located just a few hundred feet south of the Missouri Pacific depot. It has a switch connected with the Missouri Pacific railway. It gives employment to forty-one miners and four day men. Its air is split into two different currents and it is well ventilated. This company has sunk an escapement but has put no stairs in it yet.

The A. W. Granstrom Coal Company shaft No. 5 is located about one mile west of Osage City and is owned and controlled by A. W. Granstrom, and has a switch connected with the Missouri Pacific railway. It gives employment to thirty-seven miners and four day men. Its air is split into two separate currents, and it has an escapement through into an old, abandoned mine on the south, which is known as the Granstrom old shaft.

The M. Nettleblad mine No. 1 is located about one mile west of the Missouri Pacific depot and has a switch connected with the Missouri Pacific railway. It is run by Geo. Skidmore and Chas. Stonequest as lessees. This is comparatively a new mine; its air is split into two separate currents and it has an escapement through into Granstrom mine No. 5.

The Kansas Coal Company of Kansas mine No. 1 is located about one and one-half miles west of the Missouri Pacific depot and has a switch connected with the Missouri Pacific railway. It gives employment to twenty miners and four day men. Its air is split into four separate currents. They have complied with the escapement-shaft law by sinking a shaft and putting in stairs, as required by law.

The Sunflower shaft is operated by John Seaman. It is situated one mile east of Osage City. It has no railroad connections and most of the coal is sold for a local trade. If they have any surplus it is loaded on the car on the switch at shaft No. 4 of the Western Fuel Company. This mine gives employment to eight miners and one day man. Its air is split into two separate currents.

Cliff & Son's mine No. 1 is located one mile south of Osage City. It has no railroad connections and all the coal is hauled by wagon to the A. T. & S. F. yards and loaded on cars. This mine gives employment to seventeen miners and three day men. Its air is split into two separate currents and it has no escapement, on account of it not being in 300 feet yet.

Peter Alburg mine No. 1 is situated a quarter of a mile east of Cliff shaft, and is just a little country bank. It gives employment to four miners and one day man, and most all the coal is being used for running the electric-light plant at Osage City.



State inspector of coal mines reports

Reese Bryant's drift is located two miles south and one mile east of Osage City; gives employment to seven men, and the coal is sold to the farmers.

Joe Bower's mine No. 1 is located seven miles south and one mile east of Osage City. It gives employment to five miners, and the coal is sold purely for local trade.

Hugh Davis mine No. 1 is located seven miles south of Osage City, and is run by James Wage. It employs five men, and the coal is sold for local purposes.

Glutche's drift is located half a mile south and a mile east of Osage City. It gives employment to four men, and most of the coal is hauled and sold at Lyndon for domestic purposes.

James Martin drift is located two miles north and two miles east of Osage City. It gives employment to five men, and the coal is sold for local trade.

John Coughlin mine No. 1 is located a mile east of Peterton and has a switch connected with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway. It gives employment to twenty miners and three day men. This shaft is a very old one, and the operator has to contend with a good deal of water. I understand he is going to shut it down this spring.

Thos. Harvey mine No. 1 is located just a quarter of a mile east of Coughlin's. They have no switch to the shaft, but load their coal on a car at Coughlin switch by means of a tramway. It gives employment to twenty miners and three day men. Its air is split into two currents, and it has an escapement-shaft sunk, with stairs in it.

Isaiah Jones mine No. 1 is located at the south end of the city, on Fifth street. It has no railroad connections, and all the coal has to be hauled by wagon down to the Santa Fe yards. It employs seven miners and three day men. This is an old shaft, and I understand it will be shut down in the spring.

Italy mine No. 2 is located three miles south of Burlingame and is run by Robert Simpson. It has a switch off the Santa Fe railway, and gives employment to seventeen miners and three day men. This shaft was sunk last summer on the old workings of the old shaft, and it is not opened in good shape yet, there being only nineteen places in the shaft opened up.

John D. Jack mine No. 1 is located just inside of the south limits of Burlingame. It has a switch connected with the A. T. & S. F. railway, and gives employment to twenty-six miners and four day men. This mine has no separate air-shaft, but has an air-chamber



BIENNIAL REPORT.

39

alongside of the main shaft, which is strictly in violation of the law. The deputy mine inspector brought an action against John D. Jack to compel him to put in an air-shaft, and the case being thrown out of court on account of the papers not being drawn out right and properly served, the action was renewed. John D. Jack then started to sink his air-shaft, but, owing to the bad weather, could not get men to work in it. He agrees to sink it as soon as the winter breaks up. The shaft is down twenty feet now. This shaft has for escapement purposes a road through into No. 3 mine of William Urie.

Strunk & Son run the mine known as the Old Red Jacket mine, which is located about one-half mile south of the A. T. & S. F. depot at Burlingame. It has a switch connected with the A. T. & S. F. railway. This mine gives employment to fourteen miners and two day men. It has only one current of air in the shaft, the other side being shut down.

William Urie runs mine No. 3, known as the Old Sand-bank mine. It is located about one-quarter of a mile south of the A. T. & S. F. depot at Burlingame, and has a switch connected with the A. T. & S. F. railway. It gives employment to eighteen miners and five day men. This mine has but one current of air in it, one side being shut down for escapement purposes. They have an entry through into the John D. Jack mine.

Slaughter & Taylor mine No. 1 is located about half a mile west and half a mile south of Burlingame, and has a switch connected with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway. This is a new mine, having been sunk last summer. It has a steam-hoist, a boiler with a capacity of thirty horse-power, and a sixteen-horse-power engine. It employs six miners and two day men. It has no second opening yet, and, as the law gives them eight months from the time they hit the coal, it will be two months yet before they are compelled to put down the second opening; nevertheless, they have an air-shaft, and an escapement started and sunk within forty feet of the coal, which they expect to finish right away.

James Washington mine No. 1 is located a quarter of a mile west of Slaughter & Taylor mine and has a switch connected with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway. In the last two weeks the top was burned off the shaft, but the fire occurring at three o'clock in the morning, there was no one present in the shaft, as near as I could understand. This mine employed fourteen miners and two day men.

O. K. Knight mine is located quarter of a mile west of Washington's mine, has a switch connected with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway, and gives employment to twenty-one miners and four



State inspector of coal mines reports

40

INSPECTOR OF COAL-MINES.

day men. The air in this mine is split into two separate currents, and it has no escapement. The inspector has ordered him to put the escapement in, and they have agreed to do it as soon as the weather will permit it.

Hugh McFarland mine No. 1 is located just a little east of the A. T. & S. F. depot at Burlingame and has no railroad connection; all the coal has to be hauled to the railroad by wagon. It gives employment to seventeen miners and three day men. Its air is split into two separate currents and it has an escapement through into the Old Central shaft. This is one of the oldest shafts in the county.

Neal Hotchkiss mine No. 1, known as the Old Central mine, is located a few hundred yards east of the fair-grounds at Burlingame. It has no railroad connection and the coal has to be hauled to the railroad by wagon. This mine had been shut down for some time and was reopened about a year ago by Hotchkiss. It gives employment to fifteen miners and three day men.

The old T. C. Kelley mine is located about half a mile east of the fair-grounds at Burlingame, and has been shut down all the time until just a few months ago, when a few men started in to dig a little coal for local trade.

The new mine of Thos. Whitcombe, which is owned and controlled by the Elliott Coal Company, is a very new mine, sunk last summer, and has not yet been opened up. Owing to the trouble in getting a switch, Mr. Whitcombe sold it out to the Elliott Coal Company. This mine is located about a mile and a half east of Burlingame and gives employment to six miners and one day man, and gives promise of being a good mine, but they will not be able to do much with it until they can get a switch into it.

The Elliott mine No. 2 is located at Fosterville. It is the first mine on the switch running to the north off of the A. T. & S. F. track. This mine is one of the oldest in the county and the rigging is pretty well worn out. It gives employment to thirty-six miners and six day men. The air from this mine is pulled from the old No. 1 mine of the Elliott Coal Company by a furnace ventilation and has an escapement through into mine No. 1.

The Elliott Coal Company mine No. 1 is shut down, and has been for some time, on account of not having sufficient number of men to work both mines, and owing to the fact that it has no railroad connection.

The Chappell Coal Company has three mines in this county, as follows.