

ROBERTS, ALBRIGHTON & Co.'s MINE.

Chauncey mine.—This colliery is located west of and adjoining the Avondale workings. It is a tunnel opening, but has a slope from the far end to reach the coal in the Red Ash vein.

Condition.—This is an old mine which has been worked, like many others in times past, without any regard to system or economy of mining. The vein is from 20 to 25 feet in thickness. It has some bad roof but does not generate fire-damp.

Ventilation is produced by connecting their air current to a fan in the adjoining colliery west of them. It has not been satisfactory up to this time, and I am not able to see any great improvement likely to be made in the near future. In the past many good promises have been made in regard to improvements and but few of them fulfilled. Amount of air at inlet, 17,000 cubic feet; amount at face of mine, 4,800 cubic feet per minute; number of persons employed inside, 100. John Albrighton, mining boss.

SUSQUEHANNA COAL COMPANY'S MINES.

These mines are located at East and West Nanticoke, and consist of three drifts and two slopes at East Nanticoke and one slope and one tunnel at West Nanticoke.

East Nanticoke.—Nos. 1 and 2 drifts are being worked loose to each other, and are ventilated by the same furnace. This mine is considered tolerably safe; has good roof and does not generate explosive gas.

Ventilation.—This has always been at a low figure in this mine and was not much different when I last visited it, although a promise had been made for some improvements. Amount of air at face of mine, 8,000 cubic feet; amount at outlet, 18,500 cubic feet per minute.

Joseph Stickney, general superintendent; O. Richards, mining superintendent; George T. Morgan, assistant mining superintendent; David Evans, mining boss.

Slope No. 1.—This slope is adjoining the No. 1 drift below water level and on the same vein.

Condition.—The roof is generally very good, and no explosive gasses being generated, the mine is considered a safe one.

Ventilation is produced by a fan 15 feet in diameter, which ventilates the whole mine tolerably good since last winter, when the return air-ways were enlarged, which increased the aggregate quantity of air from 13,000 to 35,000 cubic feet per minute. There are two lifts being worked, each being ventilated separately. Tim. Downing, mining boss.

Honey Pot drift.—This drift is located a little south of No. 2 drift; has about 30 places working. Ventilated by a furnace. Amount of air at outlet, 8,000 cubic feet. S. Wilson, mining boss.

No. 2 slope.—This mine is located a short distance west of the town of Nanticoke. The vein which the slope is sunk upon is claimed by some to be one of the divided beds of the Baltimore vein. There is a tunnel from foot of slope southward to the overlying vein, which they also work through this tunnel and slope. The top vein generates a small quantity of fire-damp. Both the veins are being ventilated by a fan 15 feet in diameter; the two currents being connected at fan. The vanes of this fan are different in shape to those used in other fans in this district of a similar make, such as the Avondale fan, &c. The difference is this: the vane is contracted at the point. It is claimed by some that such fans are superior to others, but I have not seen any data either for or against this argument.

Condition.—The roof is rather of a dangerous character. It is of a melting nature, hence very treacherous, in both veins; the top vein also generates a small quantity of fire-damp.

Ventilation is tolerably good in both veins. Amount of air at face of mine, 45,500 cubic feet; amount at outlet, 82,800 cubic feet per minute.

Geo. F. Faulkmyer, mining boss.

West Nanticoke.—These mines comprise what was formerly known as the Harvey and the Grand Tunnel mines. The Harvey mine has been almost entirely abandoned, and a slope has been sunk which has three lifts, and two of them are connected with the old workings of the M'Farland shaft. The head of

section of Pine Ridge colliery. Wyoming colliery has two fans, one fifteen feet diameter and one twenty-five feet diameter; the former is, ordinarily, being used in exhausting dust from the coal-breaker, but may, at any time, be used in an emergency to substitute the other fan. There are two fans at No. 5, Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, Plymouth, one sixteen feet diameter and one twenty feet diameter. Nottingham and Washington collieries have three fans between them, one fifteen feet diameter and two twenty-four feet diameter each. At Avondale colliery there are two fans, each twelve feet diameter. Also, there are two fans at No. 2 slope, Nanticoke, each twenty feet diameter; and at the Kingston Coal Company's Nos. 1 and 2, they have three fans, one twelve feet, one twenty-one feet, and one twenty-five feet diameter. There is but one colliery in the district not having one or more fans, which is the Waddell or Ellenwold drifts, operated at present by Honorable Thomas Waddell and F. T. Walters & Co., except the Chauncey old mine, which is about being abandoned.

In view of the great change suggested in the above as having taken place in our mining operations, it is highly necessary that our mine officers, from the lowest to the highest, improve in their administrative, as well as executive, abilities. To cope successfully with the difficulties and dangers of our present mining, it requires considerable more skill, tact, and general knowledge than it formerly did, and this cannot be had without some practice and theory blended together. No one person is supposed to know everything about mining more than it would be in any other branch of business. Hence, we should study out what others have done, and how it was done. This may be learned in various ways, which I need not here refer to. I will here insert an abstract of the mining law adopted, in England, in 1872, relating to management of mines.

I am fully convinced that such an enactment by legislation is much needed here, and, further, am just as confident that it must be had in this or some other form, within a short period, and I should say the sooner the better for all parties interested. The law is titled "the coal mines regulation act, 1872," being the act regulating mines of coal, stratified iron-stone, shale, and fireclay.

Certificated Managers.

"SECTION 26. Every mine to which this act applies shall be under the control and daily supervision of a manager, and the owner and agent of every such mine shall nominate himself or some other person (not being a contractor for getting the mineral in such mine, or a person in the employ of such contractor) to be the manager of such mine, and shall send written notice to the inspector of the district of the name and address of such manager.

"A person shall not be qualified to be a manager of a mine to which this act applies, unless he is, for the time being, registered as the holder of a certificate under this act.

William H. Sayre, second vice president, South Bethlehem, Pa.

John R. Fanshawe, secretary, Philadelphia.

John B. Garrett, treasurer, Philadelphia.

Israel W. Morris, general land agent, Philadelphia.

W. A. Lathrop, general superintendent, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Directors, Robert H. Sayre, George H. Myers, Joseph Wharton, Thomas McKean, Beauv eau Borie, John B. Garrett, Wm. L. Conyng- ham, James I. Blakslee, C. O. Skeer, Charles Hartshorne, W. A. Ing- ham, John R. Fell.

Collieries of the Miscellaneous Coal Companies.

Beside the collieries commented on in the foregoing articles, there were twelve collieries operated by smaller companies in the Fourth district. These together produced 1,296,722 tons of coal and shipped to market 1,192,806 tons, in an average of 129.76 days of work. They employed 3,890 persons and mined 185,246 tons of coal per life lost. Three of the seven fatal accidents took place in the Hillman vein colliery, two in the West End, and one each in the Alden and Dod- son collieries. The Nos. 1 and 2 collieries of the Red Ash Coal Com- pany, the Parrish and Buttonwood, of the Parrish Coal Company, and the Maffet, Warrior Run, Lee and **Chauncey**, did not have one fatal accident.

These mines are all in safe condition and efficiently ventilated. More or less firedamp is emitted in each, but not in such quantities as we find in the deeper mines. They are working closer to the out- crops where the roof is generally better than in the deeper portions of the basin.

The names of the collieries and of the officers are as follows:

Nos. 1 and 2 Red Ash Coal Company.

M. B. Williams, general superintendent, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

P. H. Ganahan, assistant general superintendent, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Daniel J. James, mine foreman No. 1 Red Ash.

Joseph Hopie, outside foreman No. 1 Red Ash.

Timothy Theopilus, mine foreman No. 2 Red Ash.

John Herriotts, outside foreman No. 2 Red Ash.

Officers of the Parrish Coal Company.

H. H. Ashley, general superintendent, Plymouth, Pa.

Thomas R. Evans, general mine foreman, Plymouth, Pa.

Parrish colliery, Henry G. Willilams, inside foreman, Plymouth, Pa.

Parrish colliery, Thaddeus Eddy, outside foreman, Plymouth, Pa.

Buttonwood colliery, Wm. T. Pritchard, inside foreman.

Buttonwood colliery, Merrit Frederick, outside foreman.

part of these old workings, the force of the air from said fall burst the brick walls about the shaft, allowing this confined gas to escape up through the shaft. During the winter of 1866 and 1867 I was sent again to Buttonwood by J. T. Griffith to take out the pumps, column pipes and pump rods. This was accomplished without any loss of life and but a slight injury to one person. All this work was done without even the aid of a safety lamp—all by sense of feeling and knowing the place perfectly well.

Of the men with me doing this work, I can think of only two, the late John Lewis, Newtown, now Rolling Mine Hill, Wilkes-Barre, and the late William Richard, of Warrior Run, then of Wilkes-Barre.

I think the shaft was sunk in 1859 and 1860.

Very truly,

JAS. E. RODERICK.

The Revival of the **Chauncey** Colliery.

The name of this colliery reappears this year among the list of producing collieries. It was abandoned at the close of 1886, the old breaker rotted down, and from appearances, it was permanently abandoned. The Reynolds and Moyer Coal Company, Limited, leased the culm bank and erected a separator. Subsequently a lease on the coal remaining in the old mine was obtained and a small breaker was erected, which started to ship coal at the end of the year 1894. The chief part of the coal production reported this year came from the culm bank, but the old tunnel is being reopened and also the workings of the Ross seam. A small fan was erected to produce ventilation, and the mine will soon be in shape to furnish coal.

The Maxwell Colliery No. 20.

This is a new colliery being opened by the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company. The sinking of the shaft was started in 1892. Its size is 54x12 feet. In 1893 the sinking was suspended, but it was resumed after a few months. At the end of 1894 the shaft had passed the Baltimore seam and was at a depth of 820 feet. The depth to the Baltimore seam is 648 feet. From this point to the Red Ash seam the size of the shaft is reduced to 37x12 feet. Connections are already made to the Baltimore seam workings, from which tunnels have been driven to work the upper lifts of the Ross and Red Ash seams.

A slope has also been sunk from the surface to a depth of 635 feet on the Hillman seam.

The immensely large breaker is completed and fully equipped with machinery ready to prepare and ship coal as soon as the shaft is completed.

Sugar Notch No. 9 Colliery.—Completed extension of No. 31 tunnel from Hillman to Kidney vein; extension of No. 32 tunnel from Hillman to Kidney vein; and extension of No. 9 tunnel from Ross to Red Ash vein. No. 37 tunnel was driven from outside tunnel east, Top Red Ash to Bottom Red Ash vein; No. 38 tunnel from outside tunnel west, Top Red Ash to Bottom Red Ash vein; and tunnel through fault, Stanton to Stanton, No. 15 tunnel west.

Buttonwood No. 22 Colliery.—Installed 18 by 30-inch hoisting engines and houses at Red Ash shaft and Inman No. 21 shaft.

LEHIGH VALLEY COAL COMPANY

Franklin Colliery.—Completed No. 17 rock plane, Top Red Ash to Bottom Red Ash vein, in rock slope workings; No. 39 tunnel, Long slope workings, from Bottom Five Foot to Hillman vein; No. 40 tunnel, Long slope workings, from Bottom Five Foot to Top Five Foot vein; and No. 18 rock plane and second opening in the drift workings, from Sump vein to Bottom Five Foot vein. Installed electric dynamo, and placed lights at foot of rock slope and in mule barn.

Warrior Run Colliery.—Completed fireproof foreman's office on No. 1 lift, New slope.

GEORGE F. LEE COAL COMPANY

Chauncey Colliery.—A new breaker has been erected to replace the old one. Completed rock plane from Red Ash to Ross vein, and installed electric power to operate all machinery inside and outside of mines.

WEST NANTICOKE COAL COMPANY

West Nanticoke Colliery.—Completed rock slope from surface to Ross vein. Preparations are being made to erect a new breaker.

MINE FOREMEN'S EXAMINATIONS

The annual examination of applicants for certificates of qualification as mine foremen and assistant mine foremen was held in the Lehigh Valley Coal Company's Office Building, Wilkes-Barre, April 23 and 24. The Board of Examiners was composed of Frank Kettle, Mine Inspector; Sheldon Jones, Superintendent, Wilkes-Barre; George W. Raub, Miner, Plymouth; Patrick McGrane, Miner, Sugar Notch.

The following persons passed a satisfactory examination and were granted certificates:

MINE FOREMEN

Raymond A. Gottshall, Askam; Joseph R. Jenkins, Ashley.

ASSISTANT MINE FOREMEN

Percy F. Bray, Millard Kressler, Idris Morgan, John Mainwaring, Nanticoke; Edward Collett, Charles Carey, Wilkes-Barre; Daniel Evans, Buttonwood; Thomas F. Mooney, Plymouth; William Roachford, Askam; David Richards, Edwardsville; Thomas Williams, Lee Park, Wilkes-Barre.