

OFFICE OF PANCOAST COAL COMPANY,
THROOP, LACKAWANNA Co., PA., *March 14, 1891.*

PATRICK BLEWITT, Esq., *Mine Inspector, Scranton, Pa.:*

DEAR SIR: Replying to your inquiries in regard to the electric pumps, about the first of November last we struck a dip in the mine which made more water than twenty men could bale, and we were drowned out. We were about putting in steam pipe when Mr. Poccock came along with one of the Thomson Van Pepoele Electric Pumps, which, with our assistance, we put in place in thirty hours and it kept the water all out with ease. As the dip was over 3,500' feet from the shaft the expense of placing and running this pump for four months was less than the cost of the steam pipe at the head of the shaft. We don't hesitate to recommend these pumps as indispensable in all such places in the mines when it is difficult or expensive to carry steam.

Very truly yours,

C. M. SANDERSON, *President.*

THE RIVERSIDE COAL COMPANY,
SCRANTON, PENNA., *January 19, 1891.*

PATRICK BLEWITT, Esq.:

DEAR SIR: The following improvements to date of January 1, 1891, have been made at the works of the Riverside Coal Company, located in the borough of Archbald, Lackawanna county, on lands of the Howell estate, and Jones, Simpson & Co., comprising about 270 acres. Ground was broken in July, 1890, and by November first the following, one pair of 18"x30" geared engines with 9' drum, erected upon a substantial foundation of masonry were in readiness to sink the main shaft, one 16"x30" engine erected upon a timber foundation was also in place to do like duty at the second opening, six cylinder boilers 34" diameter by 50' long, made of five-sixteenth shell steel, fitted with McClare blowers and 4' diameter by 40' wrought iron stack for burning culm, were also put in place to supply the steam.

Carpenter and blacksmith shops, wash-house, oil and powder houses are also completed, and whenever it will be necessary to use heat, steam pipes have been carried into this building to supply it. Culm is exclusively used for generating steam and the daily consumption is about twelve tons. All masonry such as breaker foundations, fan engines and fan foundations, cistern for the water supply, breaker engine bed and foundation for barn were also completed before frost set in. On the first of November sinking commenced at both shafts; the main shaft, size 11x20, with two hoisting ways and pump way is now down to a depth of 100', having passed through two veins of good coal, 2' and 3' respectively. Ninety feet lower, we expect to find another vein about 4' 6" thick, and ninety still lower is the Archbald vein from six to eight feet

in thickness, which we hope to reach by the first of May. The air shaft, 10'x12', is also down to 100' in depth, over which, when finished, we will erect a 20' diameter fan, 6' face driven direct by a 16"x30" engine for the purpose of ventilation. A breaker which is also under way will be erected 200' from the main shaft to which it will be connected by a substantial trestle work of white pine timber, with gravitating tracks to convey the cars back and forth. The breaker will be heated by steam, and supplied with modern machinery and appliances for cleaning and separating the coal, with a capacity of six to eight hundred tons per day. The product of the colliery will be carried to market by the New York, Ontario and Western railroad. July first, next, we expect this place will be completed and ready to commence operations among the many others of this already busy coal mining valley.

Very truly yours,

JOHN REESE, *Superintendent.*

Two new tunnels have been driven at Coal Brook, one from the top vein to the surface, a distance of one hundred and sixty feet, and one from the third vein to the surface, a distance of one hundred and seventy-five feet.

At Clinton two new slopes have been driven; one is 3,100 feet long, the other 700 feet. The first has an average grade of 8 feet in 100, the other 6 feet in 100.

Richmond No. 3 shaft has been sunk from the Clark to Dunmore Nos. 1 and 2 veins, a distance of 132 feet. Its size is 10x22 feet.

At Richmond No. 4 a new plane 800 feet long has been made.

At Mt. Jessup a tunnel 464 feet long has been completed from the Clark to the No. 3 Dunmore vein.

Near their No. 1 colliery the Pennsylvania Coal Company has erected six Babcock and Wilcox water tube boilers of 900 horse power. The pressure carried per square inch is 110 pounds.

Steam is supplied for No. 1 colliery breaker and shaft, to Gypsy Grove colliery breaker and its two shafts, and have supplanted the 27 cylindrical boilers 36x30 feet formerly used at these places.

The Lackawanna Coal Company has sunk an air shaft, having a sectional area of 120 feet and a dept of 55 feet.

A new air shaft was sunk from the surface to the Dunmore vein by the Johnson Coal Company. Its depth is 310 feet and has 120 feet area.

A tunnel 7x14 feet and 1,300 feet long has been driven from the big vein to the Dunmore.

At Pancoast a new slope 800 feet long has been sunk in Clark vein and another is being sunk in No. 3 vein.

The Dolph Coal Company has sunk two new slopes, one 350 and the other 650 feet deep. One is 6x16 and the other 6x12. They have also made a new plane 500 feet long, and sunk two new air shafts each 62 feet deep.

The **Riverside Coal Company** has made a new slope 900 feet long.

Many other small air shafts, tunnels, slopes and planes have been made during the year for the purpose of properly ventilating the workings and to keep up the output of coal, but they are not reported.

A FEW REMARKS ON THE STATISTICS FOR FIVE YEARS.

By a retrospective glance at the mining statistics of this district for the five years ending December 31, 1896, we find that there were 30,702,284 tons of coal produced and 29,367,733 tons shipped; 79,645 persons were employed for 939 days, during which time 1,056,055 kegs of powder of 25 pounds each, were consumed.

Of the total number employed 243, or a small fraction more than three-tenths of one per cent. were killed. Of the 243 killed, 154 lost

second opening, which had been but recently completed. As the only other way of escape was cut off by the fire at the head of the main shaft.

The **Riverside Coal Company's** breaker of 1,000 tons a day capacity was destroyed by fire on May 11, since which time a new one has been erected on the site of the old one.

The Delaware and Hudson Canal Company has built a new breaker of 2,000 tons a day capacity at Olyphant. A new coal washery has also been erected by the same company, and a new air shaft has been sunk for the Morvine and Dickown shafts, and a 20-ton air locomotive has been installed at Leggett's creek.

Compressed air coal drills have been introduced by the Elk Hill Coal and Iron Company at Richmond No. 3.

The tail rope system of haulage has been adopted by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company at Storrs No. 1 with good results.

Many other improvements have been made by other companies for facilitating and increasing the output of coal.

The ventilating facilities are ample throughout the district, and on the whole the air currents are well conducted to the faces of all working places.

Culm is being successfully flushed into the old workings of Grassy Island and Eddy Creek by the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company. Also by the Mt. Jessup Coal Company into their slope workings.

Considerable "pillar robbing" has been done during the year by several companies, but the number of accidents attending this critical work has been remarkably few.

The Russel B., formerly the Old Buffalo mine, was abandoned in August.

The general condition of the collieries is good, and I am pleased to say that the provisions of the mine law are being very generally observed by those in charge of the mines.

The report contains the usual statistical tables, together with a brief description of each accident, but in view of the fact that a monthly narrative report of the daily performance of my duties has been made to the Chief of the Bureau of Mines, containing suggestions and recommendations from time to time as the circumstances required, the report is not as lengthy as heretofore.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD RODERICK,

Inspector First Anthracite District.

The annual examination of applicants for mine foreman and assistant mine foreman certificates of qualification, was held at Carbondale on July 12 and 13 by the Board of Examiners, consisting of

Condition of Collieries

The mines in this district are in a safe condition. As to ventilation and drainage, I report the following:

Scranton Coal Company

Johnson No. 1.—Dunmore vein gives off some gas, and for this reason the ventilation is good. Diamond vein is practically a non-gaseous seam; the ventilation is fair, but was being improved on my last inspection.

Johnson No. 2.—This is a non-gaseous mine. A large portion of it is dependent upon natural ventilation, and for this reason the ventilation is bad for a few days at a time, particularly when the weather changes. The officials have done everything in their power to improve this condition. By placing doors on all chambers they have greatly improved the conditions.

Raymond.—The mining at this colliery consists principally in taking down what is called "top coal" in abandoned chambers, and while it would be impracticable to establish a systematic arrangement of air currents on account of the openness of the workings, the men are well provided with pure air. This is due to the unusual thickness of the vein at this locality, and the arranging of small groups of men at different places throughout the mine.

The haulage and drainage at this colliery are in excellent condition. Much attention is paid to maintaining room along tracks, and keeping the roads surfaced with ashes.

Ontario.—The veins at this colliery are very thin. The ventilation is good. The connecting of Jermyn No. 6 and Klondyke workings, has improved the ventilation, haulage and drainage considerably.

On account of the thinness and irregularity of these veins, it requires tact and good judgment to successfully mine them, and their condition is the best endorsement of the management.

Richmond No. 3.—This colliery has seen a complete reformation during the year. The ventilation has been very much improved, the roads cleaned, with ample room for the handling of cars, and the colliery throughout is in a very satisfactory condition.

Riverside.—Mining in the lower vein at this colliery is not very extensive, but one of the upper veins is being developed.

Richmond No. 4.—Operations at this colliery are not in any way extensive, but the ventilation is good.

Delaware and Hudson Company

Coal Brook Colliery.—On December 1, a mine fire was discovered under the culm bank in the workings of the Coal Brook tunnel that had been abandoned some forty years ago.

7 feet x 12 feet in area, was driven from Bottom to Third vein and equipped with a 65 H. P. electric hoist. A rock plane, 150 feet in length and 7x12 feet in area, was driven from Top to Grassy vein to improve ventilation. A drift, 7 feet x 12 feet in area and 200 feet in length, was driven from the surface to Third vein, and a 10-foot diameter fan installed driven by electricity.

Powderly Colliery.—At No. 1 tunnel a fan 10 feet in diameter, driven by a 35 H. P. electric engine, was installed for ventilating Third vein. A tunnel, 7 feet x 12 feet in area and 150 feet in length, was driven through a fault in the Top vein. The haulage 1,200 feet in length was converted into an electric motor road. A fan 10 feet in diameter, driven by electricity, was installed to ventilate No. 1 Slope. A 21-ton electric motor transports the coal from No. 1 Carbondale to Powderly breaker. 3,500 feet of rope haulage operated by a 12x15 double drum engine installed for Eastside coal.

Jermyn Colliery.—Norwalk air compressor transferred from Coal Brook. Rock plane, 500 feet in length and 7 feet x 12 feet in area, driven from Bottom to Top Split Grassy vein. Rock slope from surface to Clark vein 7x12 feet in area and 180 feet in length.

White Oak Colliery.—Foundations for new breaker completed. Brick boiler house 88 feet x 50 feet, containing 4 Sterling 300 H. P. boilers, was finished. Built blacksmith shop 36 feet by 24 feet; car shop 48 feet x 30 feet; and supply house 20 feet x 40 feet. No. 6 engine plane extended 500 feet, operated by 14-inch x 20-inch engine. Drove manway for No. 3 Slope 200 feet and concreted top, bottom and sides.

HILLSIDE COAL AND IRON COMPANY

Erie Colliery.—A new culm scraper line has been installed between Erie washery and the old Keystone culm bank, for the purpose of conveying the same to the washery for preparation.

A new concrete building has been erected for storing lime, cement, feed and hay.

Two air compressors have been installed within a corrugated iron building, adjoining the fire room, the compressed air to be used for drilling the rock in New County vein.

A new concrete mule barn of twenty stalls, feed room, etc., has been constructed near the foot of Erie shaft, replacing the outside barn on West Side.

A Sullivan undercutting coal machine has been installed in the New County vein, East Side. Several new counter headings have been completed in this section, doing away with less satisfactory haulage roads.

Considerable culm has been slushed into the Clark vein workings underneath the Lackawanna River.

SCRANTON COAL COMPANY

Riverside Colliery.—Two large locomotive type boilers were installed, displacing nine old cylinder boilers.

Raymond Colliery.—Breaker burned down January 22, 1911, and replaced by a modern breaker of 1,000 tons capacity. The new breaker, which resumed operations December 4, is equipped with the latest improved machinery for the preparation of coal, and has an annex where all the smaller sizes down to No. 3 buck is prepared.