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xth Biennial Report

of the

State Inspector of Coal Mines

of the

State of Colorado

For the Years 1893 and 1894

Published by Authority



DENVER, COLORADO
THE SMITH-BROOKS PRINTING COMPANY, STATE PRINTERS
1895

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PRODUCT AND CHARACTER OF COLORADO COAL MINES IN 1893.



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Letter of Transmittal.

OFFICE OF
STATE INSPECTOR OF COAL MINES,
CAPITOL BUILDING,
DENVER, COLO., December 26, 1894.

To His Excellency,
DAVIS H. WAITE,
Governor of Colorado:

Sir—In compliance with a law relating to coal mines, I have the honor to hand you the sixth biennial report of this department. In view of the law restricting this report to twenty pages much valuable information regarding the great coal deposits of Colorado, as well as other useful matter, is necessarily crowded out.

The total product of coal in the state for the year 1894 was 2,994,028 short tons, showing a decrease of 953,028 tons as compared with last year. This temporary decrease was no doubt largely due to the miners' strike of last summer. As a coal producing state Colorado ranks fifth. Twenty-five per cent. of the coal produced this year found a ready market in the states of Texas, Kansas, Nebraska and Nevada and the territories of Utah and New Mexico. In the production of coke Colorado ranks third.

The general condition of the mines is reasonably good. There are a few mines, especially in Fremont county, that have been in operation for a number of years, being the first mines worked in the state. These mines are worked out to a great dis-

tance, and at a time, too, when little attention was paid to a proper system of working mines. We find such mines poorly ventilated, as the air finds its way through the old workings and returns without reaching the miners. Every possible effort has been made by this office to overcome this particular evil. Notwithstanding the unfavorable financial condition of the state during the year, noteworthy improvements and additions have been made to a large number of mining plants. The improvements in ventilation have been made quite generally throughout the state. The progress in the use of fans for ventilating mines is largely taking the place of all other modes. The coal miner, in performing his work, is exposed to more unforeseen and improbable danger than laborers of any other trade or occupation. Danger lurks around him on the right and on the left and overhead, in the insipid black damp, or the cavings overhead, or in the dreaded fire damp. During the past year there were nineteen fatal accidents, being one to every 318 men employed and one to every 157,580 tons of coal produced. It was found through investigation that the nature of the accidents that caused fifteen out of the nineteen to lose their lives was by fall of rock or coal.

The year 1894 has been prolific of strikes. A strike was inaugurated by the miners of Fremont, Huerfano, Las Animas, Garfield, Gunnison and La Plata counties last May, which lasted for three months. There were between four and five thousand miners and mine laborers engaged in this strike. While law and order was obeyed by the miners to the letter, yet it was hotly contested between miners and operators. As a general rule all parties connected with a strike, both labor and capital, come out second best; such was the result of the miners' strike of Colorado last summer. While this office bitterly condemns strikes as an un-American method used in settling differences between labor and capital,

yet we may expect a continuance of these disturbances until the cause is removed by legislation.

Investigation sustains the fact that a large per cent. of the accidents in coal mines are the results of the employment of inexperienced miners. Men who have little or no knowledge of the great and varied dangers incident to mining. For the safety of miners employed in mines that generate explosive gas, it is very necessary that none but experienced men should be employed. A large per cent. of the various mine explosions have been traced to the act of an inexperienced miner or mine boss. A law should be enacted to prohibit the working of inexperienced men in all mines, and mine bosses and superintendents be compelled to pass satisfactory examination in regard to qualification for such positions.

Complaints frequently come to this office from miners to the effect that they are not getting a just weight of the coal they produce and the operators refuse them a representative at the scales. It seems just that if the miners are willing to pay for a check weighman they should have one. We recommend the enactment of a law providing for a check weighman. That both weighman and check weighman subscribe to an oath before some notary public or justice of the peace for the honest performance of their duties, and further provide that said weighman and check weighman shall see that the scales are properly adjusted at all times.

There is a growing discontent among the miners occasioned by the irregular payment of wages. Some of the operators during the year fell behind in the payment of their miners two and three months. As an evidence of indebtedness, scrip was issued, good only in merchandise at company stores. An investigation of the cause of the miners' strike by this office proved conclusively that the irregular payment of miners, and the scrip system of payment, were the

mainsprings that precipitated the strike. A law should be enacted providing for the payment of coal miners in legal money every two weeks. We find such laws as suggested on the statute books of other states, and they are giving general satisfaction to the miners and also not imposing a hardship on the mine operators.

Such bills as we have suggested will be presented in proper form to the legislature for passage. We ask your excellency to recommend them for enactment, in your message to the legislature.

Our relations with the coal operators during the year have been very pleasant. They have manifested a disposition at all times to comply with all the provisions of the mining law.

In conclusion, we express sincere thanks to Messrs. Chas. T. Philip and David L. Melvin, clerks, and Mr. James Lewis, deputy mine inspector, for assistance in the production of this report.

Very respectfully,

D. J. REED,
State Coal Mine Inspector.

SUMMARY OF COAL PRODUCTION

OF THE STATE FROM 1873 TO 1894 INCLUSIVE.

YEARS	TONS
1873.....	69,977
1874.....	87,372
1875.....	98,838
1876.....	117,666
1877.....	160,000
1878.....	200,630
1879.....	322,732
1880.....	375,000
1881.....	706,744
1882.....	1,061,479
1883.....	1,220,593
1884.....	1,130,024
1885.....	1,398,796
1886.....	1,436,211
1887.....	1,791,735
1888.....	2,185,477
1889.....	1,400,629
1890.....	3,075,781
1891.....	3,512,632
1892.....	3,771,234
1893.....	3,947,056
1894.....	2,994,028
Total tons.....	32,064,734

PRODUCTION BY COUNTIES

FOR 1893 AND 1894, SHOWING INCREASE AND DECREASE.

COUNTIES	1893	1894	INCREASE	DECREASE
Arapahoe	633	604	-----	29
Boulder	610,583	335,807	-----	274,776
Dolores	1,250	Not reported	-----	-----
El Paso	29,318	64,588	35,270	-----
Fremont	468,334	275,033	-----	194,301
Gunnison	240,749	193,650	-----	47,099
Garfield	195,367	82,226	-----	113,141
Huerfano	503,912	414,884	-----	89,028
Jefferson	12,348	39,359	27,011	-----
Las Animas	1,543,410	1,181,005	-----	362,405
La Plata	109,336	92,822	-----	16,514
Mesa	20,000	35,990	15,990	-----
Montezuma	1,600	Not reported	-----	-----
Park	99,908	97,118	-----	2,790
Pitkin	25,500	43,486	17,986	-----
Weld	82,433	39,456	-----	42,977
Small mines	3,625	125,000	-----	-----
Totals	3,947,056	2,994,028	-----	953,028

COKE PRODUCTION BY COUNTIES

FOR 1893 AND 1894, SHOWING INCREASE AND DECREASE.

COUNTIES	1893	1894	INCREASE	DECREASE
Gunnison	47,955	37,570	.....	10,385
Las Animas.....	232,090	191,762	.....	30,328
La Plata.....	8,000	5,000	.....	3,000
Mesa	100	400	300	.....
Pitkin.....	56,184	49,213	.....	6,971
Totals.....	344,329	283,945	.....	60,384

Recapitulation of Statistics.

For the year 1893 returns to this office show a total production of 3,947,056 tons (2,000 pounds). Of this amount 1,018,479 tons were shipped out of the state to points in Kansas, Texas, Nebraska, Nevada, Utah and New Mexico. The average market value of the coal is estimated at \$1.63 per ton at the mine, amounting to \$6,433,701.28.

There were 344,339 tons of coke made. The average price paid the miner was seventy-one cents per ton of 2,400 pounds.

During the year 1893 there were 7,892 miners and mine laborers employed in the mines.

During the year there occurred forty-six fatal accidents, including the twenty-four in the disaster of January 3, 1894, at the King mine.

There were 130 non-fatal accidents reported to this office. Most of them were caused by fall of rock or coal.

For the year of 1894 (December estimated) the production of coal in tons (2,000 pounds) was 2,994,028. Of this amount 671,868 tons were shipped to Texas, Kansas, Nebraska and New Mexico. The coke production was 283,945 tons.

The market value of coal at the mines is estimated at \$1.60 per ton. The average price paid for mining was sixty-nine cents per ton of 2,400 pounds.

During the year there were employed 6,046 miners and mine laborers in the mines.

There occurred during the year nineteen fatal and 160 non-fatal accidents. A large proportion of the non-fatal accidents was so slight as to hardly deserve mention.

List of Fatal Accidents.

1893.

January 10—Robert Blyth, John Tall, Peter Rossi, Chas. De Rock, Angelo Dominico, Peter Noldean, Mike Antonetti, Antoni Jacolina, Joseph Schida, Joseph Dana, Donatto Frangil, Stephen Conti, Andrew Anderson, Joseph James, Frank Pomeroli, Angele Juliam, Louis Maleringo Antoni Antonelli, Charles Antonelli, Antoni Prestti, Celeste Carroggole, Thomas K. Rossi, Mike Rich, Anglino Marino, at King mine, Park county, Union Pacific Coal Company. (Note—See John McNeil's report to the governor.)

January 30—John C. Keating, at Prentiss mine, Fremont county, Mining Machinery Company, fall of rock.

February 6—Fortunatte Pedre, at King mine, Park county, Union Pacific Coal Company, fall of rock.

February 7—George Panian, Crested Butte mine, Gunnison county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, fall of rock.

February 11—Wm. Scheuman, at Pictou mine, Huerfano county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, scalded by steam from bursted pipe.

February 21—Lucas Eustin, at Rouse mine, Huerfano county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, fall of rock.

March 18—Daniel Hefron, at Crested Butte mine, Gunnison county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, fall of rock.

March 22—John Nary (a boy), at Sopris mine, Las Animas county, run over by loaded cars.

April 20—James Costillano, at Victor mine, Las Animas county, Victor Coal and Coke Company, fall of rock.

June 14—Maxwell Park, at Crested Butte mine, Gunnison County, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, fall of rock.

July 5—Thomas Brannan, at Anthracite mine, Gunnison county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, caused by a trip of loaded cars.

August 24—John Jones, at Rouse mine, Huerfano county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, caused by fall of rock.

October 3—Turin Bodhaine, at Hecla mine, Boulder county, Citizens' Coal Company, caused by fall of coal.

October 21—A. L. Dement, at Pictou mine, Huerfano county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, caused by fall of rock.

October 24—John Turner, at Robinson mine, Huerfano county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, caused by heel of shot catching him.

October 31—Antonio Susio, at Hesperus, Ute mine, Ute Coal Mining Company, La Plata county, caused by fall of rock.

November 3—John Joseph, at Chandler Creek mine, Fremont county, Book Coal Company, caused by cage knocking him down shaft.

November 10—Thos. Barnes, at Dugan mine, Durango, La Plata county, James Dugan, operator, caused by fall of slate.

November 13—Sensuio Munez, at No. 1 Victor mine, Las Animas county, Victor Coal and Coke Company, caused by cars running over him.

December 5—John Koliser, at Peerless mine, Huerfano county, United Coal Company, caused by fall of rock.

December 12—James W. Thorley, at No. 10 Coal Creek mine, Fremont county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, caused by fall of slate.

December 15—John Valentz, at Sopris mine, Las Animas county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, caused by fall of coal.

December 16—Joseph Lalla, at Hecla No. 1 mine, Boulder county, Citizens' Coal Company, caused by fall of coal.

List of Fatal Accidents.

1894.

January 31—Frank Bockhouse, at Otis mine, Boulder county, Smokeless Coal Company; caused by fall of coal.

February 5—George Papes, at Walsen mine, Huerfano county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company; caused by fall of rock.

February 21—Mike Stok, at Acme mine, Boulder county, United Coal Company; caused by fall of slate.

February 26—Charles Mc Niel, at Solar mine, Huerfano county, United Coal Company; caused by gas explosion throwing him against car, inflicting flesh wounds causing blood poison.

March 31—John Dunlap, at Anthracite mine, Gunnison county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company; struck by coal car on incline leading to the breaker.

April 2—Frank Goyn, at Marshal mine, Boulder county, Marshal Coal Company; caused by fall of rock.

April 28—Wm. B. Guthrie, at Vulcan mine, Garfield county, Vulcan Fuel Company; struck on head by ventilating fan.

April 28—J. W. Sechrist, at Tindal mine, Jefferson county, Denver Coal Company, limited; caused by falling down shaft from the second level, 160 feet.

May 15—Frederick Trujillo, at Sopris mine, Las Animas county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company; caused by fall of coal and slate.

July 13—Hanario Cruz, at Sopris mine, Las Animas county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company; caused by fall of rock.

July 18—Joseph Bell (colored), at Pictou mine, Huerfano county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company; caused by fall of rock.

July 23—M. Ortego, at Rouse mine, Las Animas county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company; caused by fall of rock.

July 31—Jacob Koerper, at Rallston Creek mine, Jefferson county, Denver Coal Company, limited; caused by falling rock and coal.

August 14—Anton Gizas, at Pictou mine, Huerfano county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company; caused by fall of rock.

October 16—Mathias Martinez, at Berwind mine, Las Animas county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company; caught between cars and rib of entry.

October 19—J. Arguello, at No. 2, Engle mine, Las Animas county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company; caused by falling rock.

November 10—George Anderson, at No. 1, Rockvale mine, Fremont county, Canon City Coal Company; caused by fall of coal and rock.

November 8—Wm. Brownlee, at Chandler mine, Fremont county, Book Coal Mining Company, Chandler, Colorado; caused by fall of coal.

December 6—George Churchill, at New Castle, Garfield county, Colorado Fuel and Iron Company; caused by cap explosion.



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