

angle of inclination is $9^{\circ} 35'$. The slope was driven part of the way through coal, at a cost of \$364, but there were $28\frac{3}{4}$ yards of rock to cut, from nought up to eight feet, which cost \$283 33, and 77 yards driven through sandstone, which cost \$3,080. The whole cost for sinking the slope was only \$3,952 33. They have a pair of engines, 13-inch cylinder and 18-inch stroke; estimated horse power, 50; the size of their drum is six feet diameter, which has an approved brake attached to it. There is no second opening to the slope, but they are driving for one toward No. 1 drift, and expect to make a connection soon.

OTHER NEW OPENINGS AND CONNECTIONS.

The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad company have made connections between the Hampton shaft and the Oxford shaft, at Hyde Park, and between Tripp's slope and the Brisbin shaft, in the Third ward, Scranton. They have also sunk an air shaft, at Hyde Park, into the workings of the Oxford shaft, and connects also with the Hampton shaft workings. A fan is to be placed at this air shaft which will assist in ventilating both collieries named.

The Pennsylvania coal company have completed a new slope at No. 1 tunnel, in Pittston township, which is intended for hoisting coal. They have also made a second opening for No. 4 slope, in Jenkins township, which is to be used also for ventilation; and the workings of old No. 10 shaft in the 14-foot seam, have been connected with the new No. 10 shaft, in Pittston. No. 2 shaft, Dunmore, was sunk to the lower seam.

The Delaware and Hudson canal company have made a connection, in the 14-foot seam, between Marvine and Leggetts Creek shafts, Providence; and at No. 1 shaft, Carbondale, an air shaft has been sunk, and two more air shafts at No. 3 shaft, and still another at the Coal Brook colliery. These air shafts are only poor-make shafts, unless mechanical means are used to produce ventilation. There are too many of them in Carbondale. What is needed there is a system of air courses inside of the collieries.

At the Filer colliery, Winton, a drift has been driven from a ravine into the workings, for a traveling way for the men to go to and from their work. A new drift has been opened at the Greenwood colliery for mining coal, and the same company have made an additional opening for coal at the Sibly colliery, in Old Forge township. An opening has been made at the Green Ridge slope for ventilation. The above are all the openings and connections made in the district during the year, so far as I am informed.

IDLE AND ABANDONED COLLIERIES.

The Archbald shaft, Lackawanna township, and Oxford shaft, Hyde Park, owned by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad company, were idle all through the year; the last work done at the Hyde Park shaft was done in February, and the Scranton coal company's drifts at Bellevue were idle. Bellevue slope and shaft worked only $22\frac{1}{2}$ days.

No. 1 shaft, Pittston township, owned by Pennsylvania coal company, was idle; No. 2 and No. 3 shafts were abandoned as hoisting shafts, and are now used as pumping shafts.

The Marvine shaft, Providence; Powderly slope, Carbondale township, and Breaker, Forrest and Jefferson tunnels, Carbondale City, all owned by the Delaware and Hudson canal company, were idle.

The following collieries have also been idle: Rolling Mill colliery, Scranton, consisting of a slope, tunnel and drift; the Ontario colliery, Pleasant Valley, and the Heidelberg colliery, Pleasant Valley. Spring Brook No. 1

charged to the account of years in the past, long before Mr. Vandling assumed the control of the mines, and this fact should be credited to him. He has always been found ready to admit the necessity of improving the mines, and has shown a desire to do everything possible for the health and safety of the workmen.

The Pennsylvania Coal Company's collieries stand about as they did one year ago. No material improvement has been effected in any of their old collieries. The new No. 1 Barnum shaft, however, is provided with a fan which will produce ample ventilation for this new colliery, and another fan will be provided for the No. 2 shaft. I am very sorry that I cannot report all the collieries of this company in as good condition as could be wished. John B. Smith, Esquire, the general agent of the company, has always treated me with uniform kindness, and has always professed a desire to improve the condition of the mines under his charge; but the mine superintendents have not seemed so ready to do what is needed. My remarks on the condition of these collieries in my report for 1879, will apply to them still.

The collieries of the smaller companies and operators in the district are in excellent condition as to ventilation, excepting the following: Everhart colliery, Jenkins' township; Beaver colliery, Pittston borough; Columbia mines, Pittston township; Hillside colliery, Pleasant Valley borough; Greenwood colliery, Lackawanna township; Elk Hill colliery, Dickson City borough; Filer colliery, Winton borough; Jermyn's shaft and slope, Jermyn borough; Brennan colliery, Fell township; and Forest City colliery, Forest City. Some of these have been improved during the year, but none of them will ever have good ventilation until they are provided with a fan in place of the miserable furnaces now in use in them. The workings are so shallow in these collieries that furnaces cannot ventilate them. None of these can be classed as very bad, excepting the Jermyn shaft and slope and the Brennan colliery.

An air shaft has been sunk for the Hillside colliery, Pleasant Valley, and as soon as connection is made with the workings a fan will be placed on this shaft, which will remove all cause for complaint in this case.

A new fan has been erected by Messrs. Jones, Simpson & Co., at the Eaton colliery, Archbald borough, which was sorely needed. This improvement will place the Eaton colliery in the first class as soon as the air courses are put in proper shape inside.

The main roads and traveling ways have been improved in many of the collieries, but there is a great deal yet to be done before they are all satisfactory in this respect. The importance of having clean and unobstructed roads is not realized by many of the mine bosses, but I am more convinced of it every day, and I am positively certain that many accidents to drivers and runners would be averted if the roads were kept reasonably clear of obstructions. All places where drivers are obliged to hitch and unhitch their mules from cars in motion, such as passing branches, the approaches to the foot of shafts or slopes, and inside at the chambers, should be cleared