First Annual Report

of

Peter Cain,

Mine Inspector for

Alleghany and Garrett Counties,

Maryland,

December 30, 1876.

(Photographic copy made from the original report of Inspector Cain, on file in the State Library, Annapolis, Maryland. The original manuscript report, loaned to the Bureau of Mines, was returned to the State Library on June 26, 1915.)
To His Excellency
John E. Carroll
Governor of Maryland,
Annapolis, Md.

As required by Sec. 6 of the Act of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1773, on the 17th day of May, 1773, a report was laid before the General Assembly for the Counties of Allegany and Garrett in the State of Maryland.

After having qualified, I proceeded to take the required oath, and continuing in the discharge of my official duties in the State of Maryland.

Preparing to inspect the mines in the Counties above named, I delivered the several offices in charge of the same, as required by the Act of Assembly of 1773.
...proceeding to the appointment of a Wine Inspector, and under which I may be appointed—and also blank tabular statement, with a request that the same to follow up as therein suggested and returned to me within a reasonable time.

The purpose as to doing, 

we to acquaint all parties with whom I had necessarily to deal in the discharge of any official duties, with the requirements of the law and the duties imposed upon me thereby.

Naturally, several

the appointment of a Wine Inspector for Allegany and Carroll Counties, was joined with some little difficulty, as well as to the manner in which the duties of the Wine Inspector ought to be performed, as also the scope and effect of the authority conferred upon me by the Act of the Legislature creating that office.
As I view of this fact, it suggested itself to me that the best explanation that could be given to regard to these, would be a copy of the last work—and as it furnished to each mine a copy of above state.

Wherefore there had been as far as I can learn, no legislation in Maryland, in respect to the inspection of Coal Mines— the regulation of the mode of ventilating the same — and no restriction of any kind imposed upon those in charge thereof, greater than that practised by interest of owners themselves and the successful and profitable prosecution of mining Coal.

Of late years however, the great increase in the number of men employed in the Coal region here—the large and rapidly increasing intenstion growing out of this coal trade, have directed attention to a
More careful and uniform system of training, and have suggested the propriety and necessity for the treatment of laws, bearing as well to the protection of the health, safety and lives of the miners, as to the real interests represented by the coal trade of these countries.

The enactment of any law, however equitable and just, affecting the coal district and the management of the mines, cannot be looked upon with favor and to some extent, was regarded as an encroachment upon the rights of owners and producers of coal, and an improper interference with private rights and autonomies to the interests of the trade generally.

The passage therefore of the Act of 1876, 6 & 7, was regarded with but little favor at first, until it was seen and humane provisions came
to be cleared and understood, and the people and intent of the said law more fully comprehended.

The said power to be given to the Public Printer under the Act creating that office, gave rise to some unsatisfactory state of opinion respecting so strange a clause of the act of the Legislature of 1766, it might be truly said, that the act of 1766, Chapter 30, had few friends amongst the civil officers of Allegany and Van Wert Counties.

Knowing these facts, and being aware of the then existing state of opinion towards the law just passed, I suggested to the public, that it would be politic and proper to acquaint all parties in interest, with the purport of the laws, in advance of any altering radically the discharge of my official duties.
The Solid by virtue of the copier already men-

tioned, immediately there- 

after, I issued upon a tour 
of personal inspection of all 
the mines in Allegany County, 
commencing with the mines 
of the Consolidation Coal Com-
pany at瘿sfield, Hollister, 
and other points and ending 
with the Hampshire and 
Baltimore Companies' works. 

I then proceeded to Garrett 
County, the mines of which 
I also visited, concluding 
with the shaft mine located 
first up the west of Oakland. 

On visiting the mines, 
I first called upon the 
 Respectable Mining Men or other 
officer in charge of the 
mine and stated to those 
the object in visiting them, 
I then proceeded to mine, 
noting the condition of the 
main opening or heading 
and other headings of the
Mine—Whether properly ventilated and free from noxious gases—this observing the character of support to the roof of the openings and chambers, the drainage and such other matters as to make up, when properly cared for, a safe and healthy condition of mine, in which man could advantageously work.

Having such inspection, wherever it was apparent that a change ought to be made in any particular in the mine, either of placing proper changing water course or adjusting any apparatus connected with the mine, the officers in charge acted promptly upon my suggestion and act about making the objectionable or making its correction suggested.

These requests are made, very, very, with the conditions thoroughly.
complied with.

In regard, however, to obtaining informa-
tion as to the health, condition, and worked reform, I found that the miners were some-
what timid and disinclined to speak giving to the Mine
Superintendent information of
irregularities or defects in
working, through fear of
being discharged from
employment. It repeatedly
repeatedly requested them
to report to me any matter
occurring or existing in the
mines, affecting their health,
their interest, and the safe-
morning of coal or

Nothing
new in the mode of ventilation
hitherto used in the mines
of Allegheny and northwestern
countries, has been used or
adopted,—the system at
present in use now and for
years past, in found to ne...
Secures proper ventilation.

At the Ocean W. S. Mine of the Consolidation Coal Company, to increase ventilation, the company has added many feet to the length of its air shafts, thereby providing improved ventilation for that mine.

In most of the mines in the region, shafts are headings that run vertically through the mountains, entering on one side and emerging on the other side, so to speak, to daylight on the outer edge. In some mines no air shafts are needed, while headings affording an ample current of fresh air, sufficient for thorough ventilation.

Therefore, however, some mines in the region, that require air shafts and furnaces, it seems proper ventilation, but the number is small comparatively.

It affords me pleasure to say here that I was cordially received by the officials
In charge of the various mines, and aided in every way I could, I endeavored, in the discharge of these duties, to do so that the Company should be as pleased as possible. The ability with which the Company carried their mines and furnished their personnel and information when applied to by me, satisfied me that, so far from being adverse to the inspection provided for in the Act creating the office, I fully supplied satisfaction that would require no more to be done and willing to remove every obstacle that might, in any way, impede me in the discharge of my official duties. In every instance I was so far forth as withable, with able, praiseworthy and such officers as I suggested, would be desirable for me to have with me, in order to a thorough inspection of the working and safe condition of each mine.
The great coal basin of Alleghany and Laurel Counties, is traversed by the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad — the Potomac Railroad, and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad — which roads furnish the transportation for the coal mined throughout the region.

Entering the coal field at Mt. Savage, nine miles west of Cumberland, the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad, after it bridges the coal region to Westport, a point on the North Branch of the Potomac River, a distance of about twenty miles by way of the Savage Creek Valley, the route of this latter road, from Mt. Savage to its terminus, is an almost continuous village of comfortable dwellings occupied by the miners, with many beautiful and substantial residences.
created for the officers of the various companies and their employees.

The hill sides of this valley are honeycombed with the numerous openings of the different Companies' Mines, and the mountainsides girdled with the rusty thralls, down which the coal is conveyed to the Dumps where located on the Railroad — where the Coal heaped in cars are placed to receive their contents.

These plans are worked by an endless series of cars that pass over a drum at the top of the plane, the loaded lecture cars descending by their own weight and dragging a car to close, the empty lines cars to the top of the plane, where they are taken into the house re-filled and sent down the plane again to the Dumps at Lead House, as already stated.
In this lovely valley of Farnshead and the adjoining mines, there is an air of thrift and industry. The population here partakes of the hardy character of the mountains around: they are a healthy and industrious people. Not far walking will not be found and the Vale is almost entirely free from the presence of streams.

The comfort of the miners and others has not been lost sight of by the Coal Company and in more ways, in addition to comfortable homes provided for them, libraries and reading-rooms, well filled at the proper time, from the best authors, have throughout the length of the Coal fields, and where of abundant supplies, at reasonable cost, are to be met with on all sides.

A survey not to be uninteresting to your Excellency, to give he-
In this report, a description of the mine, leading to the mining of coal in the region, and for this purpose I have made use of such information and practical knowledge as

The headings of the mine, or what are technically called the headings of the mine, are used for three purposes. One of the headings, there is a train railroad or mine railroad built, on which the coal is drawn out of the mine.

The usual way of mining is to drive two headings or open

ings parallel with each other and some fifty to sixty feet
apart.

The second heading is usually used for bringing air
and to conduct fresh air into

The railroad heading.

14.
It usually used to conduct the first air shaft. The headings are driven as near as level can be, and it is practicable to deepen them and provide good drainage.

As the heading is the one nearest to the centre of the pool, it is intended to be run as nearly parallel with the longitudinal axis of the basin, and if practicable to do so, and improve drainage.

The pairs of small headings are driven nearly parallel to each other and at such distances apart as are convenient to be economical.

Also the line of the heading containing the ventilated openings is taken off in the upper side of such headings, one or twenty or twenty-five feet, which usually from nearly, but not quite at right angles to the line of the heading. After driving this
heading up some fifty feet, it branches off into two openings, which are run parallel with each other and are called "rooms." These rooms are usually fifteen feet wide and are driven up parallel with each other, either near to or quite apart, as circumstances may dictate. It is advisable, the next water
heading above.

A switch is laid in the road on the heading at the entrance to the rooms and a single track leads up through the entrance to the commencement of the rooms; at which point, it branches off into two tracks, one of which runs up into each room. These tracks are usually laid upon one side of the room.

The coal as it is mined, is loaded into small mine cars, that carry about two tons each, and are brought down from the rooms to the heading, usually by hand, as in most cases, there
It is scarcely for thrice

brawn to their own bodies, out of the scene.

They are then drawn by horses to the main

gathering of the main, where the plans are located, and

recorded directly to the

hopper at one of the foot

themselves, as already spoken

of in this respect.

In drawing

the heading, there is a rail-

road laid in each headings,

but for the sake of convenience,

opinions are occasionally

made from the water-heading

to the heading which is used

for drawing current sand,

so often as one would occupy

their opinions. We lay a

branching from the main

too-heading and draw the

current from the water-heading

up into that and out through

that heading.

We then take

up the back of the water.
heading, between the new opening and the last one that was made, and we did in di-
ing the male heading ca-
to wards another opening. 
Between the line of the rock
that we ordinarily mines to
and the roof rock, which
overlies the whole coal strata,
is a distance of from six to
seven feet; and the material
which occupies that space
is highly stratified and con-
spicuous of veins of coal and slate.
It has not been found prac-
ticable to separate this coal
beaten surface from the slate,
without a marked cleavage.

The whole mass is
so highly stratified that it
would not be safe to work
in the mine in a room fifteen
feet wide, without having some
protection to prevent this mass
of slate and coal below the roof
from falling upon the miners.
and selecting the wood. 

Most of the props vary 

from the foot of the 

main to the roof, that in 

may 

channel the 

centre of each, row, or the 

remainder there. 

These 

props are 

plies of 

wood 

beneath 

floor, 

from 

five to 

seven inches in diameter, 

about three feet apart, and 

in top of the props we put a 

cap between it and the roof. 

The cap is a piece of pitch 

wood about the foot long 

and five or six inches wide, 

and here there holes thirty, 

in order that the branches may 

distribute over a larger 

surface than the top of the 

props would cover.

The railroad 

in the room comprises the space 

between one side of the room 

and the row of props, between 

the row of props and the other 

side of the room, the supports 

must be laid out the
When in ded to proceed. Are defned the provision the "call the set?"

With the landscape the propimg, we very first have large masses of the strated seal and seal, which lie immediately above the line to which we revere seal, fall from the top — into the rooms.

The headings in which the permanence railroads are laid, are made as narrow as they can be and have room enough to conveniently use the railroads.

Experience has shown that this method should be about right feet. The object of having the narrow one or the one, to be or far or far, to be the difference of feet of the road upon the road. Now falls occasionally occur in spite of all the care that can be exercised.

When a fall does occur on
a road, the material has
to be run out of the
mine or up to the "pit pit,"
in some of the mines before
the mine road can be used
at that point for bringing
cut coal.

The process of
mining coal, only
if the pit on the enemy, is as
follows:

The miner starts
with his pick a horizontal
slot from one side of the
room to the other, in that
part of the Coal known as
"the under mining."

This slot is operated
for a distance of three to
four feet in the solid Coal,
from the face of the heading
or room. He usually begins
at one side of the room and
after cutting the slot for
several feet, if he is able
to get shaft a part of the
breast may fall before he
gets the shaft entirely finished.
for the width of the room, he puts some wedges in the plot to hold up the broad coal above it and keeps adding wedges as he goes on with the plot.

This process is called by the miners "undermining." After he has finished his undermining, he drives another very flat plot on the side of the room from the undermining to the roof. This plot is about ten inches wide—sometimes a foot. He then drives a similar plot on the other side of the room. These side plots are called by the miners "shearing." After this he removes all his wedges from his undermining and drives some short wedges near the line of the roof of the mine and breaks off the mass of coal which he had undermined and
And earthed, and which
was held in place only
by its adhesion to the
roof, and to the solid body
of coal in front of it.

Sometimes quite
often, there is a seam be-
tween the coal that we
mine out and the roof of
the mine, that renders it
easy to get the mass
of coal down, and some
times it adheres very
strongly to the roof and
requires a great deal of
shaking before it can be
got down. In fact, the
mass of coal is more
or less broken. This coal
is then loaded into the
cars, the larger pieces
being broken into fine
small pieces. All can be
conveniently
handled. Before it is loaded,
the mass of coal be-
 tween the solid iron
and the first vein of coal.
below it, is then excavated with a pick and loaded into the car. After which, the vein of slate, coal, or ore excavated and cleared off from the coal below it. The slate or ore excited is deposited in the 'got,' then the next vein of coal below it is excavated—then the next vein of slate—then go on to the bottom. In most cases, the slate is readily separated from the coal, in all the veins below the undertaking, but sometimes the slate will adhere to the coal lying immediately over it; and in such cases, it must be separated from the coal a piece at a time; or some other operation employed. When the breadth of slate occurs, the breast plate and coal are apt to fall together. Sometimes
You can get down the coal by driving immediately under the breast slate, before you take down the breast slate and the coal lying above it; but as a general thing, more or less of the breast slate falls with the mass of the coal as it comes down, and as a part of the mass of breast slate is valuable and breaks into small pieces, I have never found it possible to get the minerals to separate it entirely from the coal. I have tried the operation of throwing the under-mining in the vein of slate, and so in the vein of coal, and the slate first and throwing it into the coal, but not entirely separating it from the coal, but I found this operation has to be frequent, that coal would not be broken out in this way, so perfectly, without these in
The breast state is one of the largest muscles in the body, and the largest part of the breast muscles is the breast itself. The breast muscles are much more numerous and will stand more bending and training than those taken from the pectoral muscle, which is immediately below the breast.

The breast muscles are located between the pectoral muscles, and the breast muscles are a little more. They come in contact with the breast and do not form the breast muscle. The breast muscle is in the breast itself, the breast muscle being the largest muscle in the body.
Very much broken up, he is getting down the falls and separating it from the state.

My experience is that the coal is more lumpy the coal is, the better is put into market, the better it satisfies customers and the more valuable it is, especially if it has the light in hand any length of time before it is needed. A pile of fine coal that has been kept in the pile for some time, does not make as bright or hot a fire as lumped or fine that has been recently mined.

The water headings are usually driven to the side of the object in driving them wider than the coal road headings so that we can cut the coal behind cheaper in a heading on the side, than in one right for side and there
it left of no chance of a fall occurring in a leading
Ton but pride, that into pre-
Vent its occurrence as a
Being to the tenants in the
obtained faiths in
rops and is not a fine re-
produced material's and as
there is no food in the mine,
the process of decomposition
of disintegration goes on
very slowly.

After the mines are cut, they drive galleries
from one room to another, through the walls that have
been left between them.

A part of these galleries
between the mines continue
while the mines are being
driven, for the double purpose
of getting more coal and of
improving the ventilation, while
the mines are being
driven. Others the miners are
drawn as far as it is deemed
advisable to drive them. More
of their activities are made
Before the same is dumped into the coal hopper—and the
prospecting of proper scales for that purpose by the Com-
panies, would give very
general satisfaction to the
miners and remove one of
the chief causes of complaint.
Besides doing justice toward
the employee as to the em-
ployee, in the accuracy of the
amount of coal mined by each indi-
vidual miner. While I
have no intention of her encum-
sing any notification upon the
Companies, or any of them.
In the matter of having the
cost of the coal to weigh (and I know
of no cause for so doing),
I yet it seems to me to be best.
Just and fair dealing that
the miner should be satisfied
that he is paid for all the coal
he mines, and that the Com-
panies and operators should
pay for no more than each
miner is entitled to receive.
A satisfactory adjustment of this matter would remove all cause of complaint and dissatisfaction, and to quantity mined by each miner and assure him of the correctness of the credit given him therefor. And I therefore suggest that the Legislature adopt some fair and just penalty mode of remedying the evil, if such there be, these complained of.

May I be at liberty to call your attention also to the penalties imposed by this act, for neglect of duty of assured, officer and assayer. I propose that all, as stated in Sect. 11 of said act, should be fully increased. I would respectfully suggest that, instead of the sum provided for, a penalty for such neglect be imposed, for each day that such neglect be continued. The beneficial provisions of this act should be set at
Naught and unwholesome any company or operator that shall act proper to that regard, for at least a whole season, the law as it now stands; and when indicted and convicted of such neglect, might deem it economy to incur the payment of a single fine therein provided for, rather than the trouble and expense of complying with the requirements of the Act; whilst the miner, for whose benefit, protection and health this act was mainly passed, would fail to reap the advantage of its humane provisions; and numerous valuable lives perhaps be thus sacrificed by the neglect of duly providing and other means necessary for securing the lives at top coal of the different mines.

I have found this circumstance on one, make declar,
of my present duty as Maine Inspector to report to the State Attorney for said State of Maine, the result of my inspection of the premises, in order that he may discharge his duty in the premises.

At closing this, my first annual report, I beg leave to say that the duties incident in me to this act, have been filled out and done during the year, and that I have endeavored, to the best of my ability, to discharge the duties, with due regard to the welfare of the laborers and the indications from the men for active protection of wages intended. It has been my constant care to maintain by personal inspection the condition of each mine—and in safety, the health of those working and
its thorough and proper ventilation. To do this, required all my time and the closest attention that I was capable of giving to it.

And I also here record with pleasure, the fact that no serious accidents have happened during the year, and that the mines of this region, with the improvements already noted, are in a much better working condition.
Appendix

A printed circular in the following form was sent to each Coal Company in Allegany and Carroll counties

Of the Committee of Allegheny and Carroll Counties, Ala.

To the Superintendents of Coal Companies.

A copy of the annual report, a statement of the coal mined, number of men employed, &c., at your mine, for the year beginning May 1st and ending Dec. 31st last, is herewith sent to provide a basis for your report,

Superintendent of Coal Companies

[Signature]
All the companies, except the two noted, filled out and returned reports as required by the statutes so obtained. From these returns, the following statements have been compiled.
### Allegheny County

#### Names of Coal Companies & Mines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Coal Co.</th>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Number of Employees</th>
<th>Amount Paid in Specie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Coal Co.</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlantic &amp; Gross' Coal Co.</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<td>$1,000</td>
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<td>Adam River Coal Co.</td>
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<td>Cedar Mining Co.</td>
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<td>Cedar Coal Co.</td>
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<td>Consolidation Coal Co.</td>
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<td>Cumberland Coal Co.</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>East, Kern &amp; Co., Allegheny Co.</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easton Coal &amp; Iron Co.</td>
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<td>Franklin Coal Co.</td>
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<td>Fowl Coal Co.</td>
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<td>Grant Coal Co.</td>
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<td>George Hotel Co.</td>
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<td>Grant Coal Co.</td>
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<td>Georgia Hotel Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryland Coal Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Company Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Central Coal Co.</td>
<td>Malachian Mine</td>
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<td>Palomar Mine</td>
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<td>Nickel Mine</td>
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<td>New York Mining Co.</td>
<td>Piedmont Mine</td>
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<td>Palomar Mine</td>
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<td>Stono Mine</td>
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<td>North Branch Coal Co.</td>
<td>Piedmont Mine</td>
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<td>Palomar Mine</td>
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<td>Stono Mine</td>
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<td>New Reading Coal Co.</td>
<td>Piedmont Mine</td>
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<td>Stono Mine</td>
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<td>Pemberton Coal Co.</td>
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<td>Stono Mine</td>
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<td>Brandon Coal Co.</td>
<td>Piedmont Mine</td>
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<td>Stono Mine</td>
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<td>Gorse Hill Coal Co.</td>
<td>Piedmont Mine</td>
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<td>Boreas Mining Co.</td>
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