

Summary by page of Coal Report Illinois, 1898

Page 1: The 'old-time miner' image has been destroyed. European workers have been recruited because they accept lower wages and are harder to organize.

Page 2: Miners are organized & persistent. Local settlements with miners do not work anymore.

Page 3: It is unfortunate that one person or company can defeat the general plan of the industry. Inter-industry charity results in lower wages.

Page 4: Wages are made by most unfavorable conditions. Transport costs are a problem. The eight-hour day is positive for the industry.

Page 5: Companies, including Virden owners, oppose an interstate mining scale.

Page 6: A plan to bring in Chinese scabs was abandoned when Governor Tanner refused to support it. Still, Virden owners still insist on importing negroes. The Virden conflict was the first time the government sided with labor in a dispute.

Page 7: The Virden conflict is not a strike by employees but a lockout by owners. Governor Tanner's speech excerpt begins.

Page 8: Governor Tanner is pro-unions and declares the conflict a lockout by owners not strike by workers.

Page 9: Governor Tanner insists that the company is in the wrong.

Page 10: Governor Tanner deems imported labor undesirable.

Page 11: The Virden company conduct is barbarous and labor will fight against it. Governor Tanner believes importing blacks will corrupt Illinois.

Pages 12-14: Governor Tanner's position is supported by the press.

Page 15: The *Coal Trade Journal* of New York defends Governor Tanner.

Page 16: The Governor's precedent will be made policy. The Virden company agreed to miners demands on 15 November 1898.

Page 17: The cost of conflict is greater than worker demands. The Virden company was in the wrong.