

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University
Ohio Mining Journal

Title: Oils Used in Our Mines

Creators: [Love, Thomas H.](#)

Issue Date: Nov-1890

Citation: Ohio Mining Journal, no. 19 (November, 1890), 97-98.

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/32592>

Appears in Collections: [Ohio Mining Journal: Whole no. 19 \(November, 1890\)](#)

Oils used in Our Mines.

No capital invested in mining yields a higher rate of interest than that which is judiciously expended in ventilation.

The Ohio Laws, for protection of the miner, demand one hundred cubic feet of air per minute for each one employed in the mine. This amount of air is sufficient for all ordinary cases, but if the common rule of prudence is broken, then an increase of carbonic acid gas must result. We cannot violate the rules which govern good ventilation without suffering bad results.

Great improvements have been made in ventilation during late years and I hope that the future will show still greater improvements for the comfort and convenience of the miner; but the use of inferior oils is being practiced to such extent that it is fast overcoming all the good which has been attained and the time is not far distant when active steps will be necessary to remove it. I base my views on this subject from a practical standpoint and wish to be able to prove that at least one half of the oils used in the fourth mining district are not suitable for mining.

The State inspection of oils would in a measure tend to produce a good result and protect the user from designing speculators; when these impure oils are used the air becomes loaded with a thick black smoke and in the back entries men are overcome by its effect and are compelled to quit before their day's work is done. We have been compelled to complain of the use of these oils even where an excess of air was circulated, but with no effect as our laws do not provide for any one kind of oils.

I have received four kinds of the oils now being used in our mines which I will put in these lamps and let each one judge as to what the result would be where 200 or more of them would be lighted; not only do these lamps throw off carbonic acid gas, but there is a fine dust or soot thrown off which separates from the smoke and, being lighter, settles on the roof or in the highest places and thus produces a greater explosion when carburetted hydrogen gas is ignited.

The use of these impurities is no advantage to any person who is interested in mining; for while they are destroying the lives of those employed they diminish the out-put of coal, and the men who are affected by the use become dissatisfied with their place of daily toil; the price is too small, he can't make wages, hence a controversy between him and his employer en-

sues and oftentimes strife that perhaps would not be thought of if his lungs were not filled with this filth in such a way as to make him feel that he could no longer stand it.

I do not know why such filthy oils are used unless it is their cheapness, but we should consider the effect before the cost. If we do this I am sure that Lard or Tallow oils will be used.

T. H. LOVE.

A highly instructive and very interesting paper prepared by our esteemed ex-Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. R. H. Weitzel, of Weatherford, Texas, was read by the Secretary. This paper contained a fund of information on the coal fields of the Lone Star State, all of which was new to the members of the Institute, who listened with marked attention while it was being read. A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Weitzel for his very interesting paper.
