

CHAPTER 105.

[H. B. 306.]

AMENDING ACT RELATING TO THE VENTILATION AND SAFETY OF COAL MINES.

AN ACT to amend sections 4 and 16 of an act entitled "An act relating to the proper ventilation and safety of coal mines, and prescribing the manner of appointment of inspectors," approved March 5, 1891, and adding a new section to said act to be numbered section 23, and providing for reports relative to the transferring of coal mines, and prescribing a penalty for the violation of the provisions thereof.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. That section 4 of an act entitled "An Act relating to the proper ventilation and safety of coal mines, and prescribing the manner of appointment of inspectors," approved March 5, 1891, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows: Section 4. All escapement shafts shall be equipped with stairways or ladders having landing places or platforms at reasonable distances apart, as in the judgment of the mine inspector they should be constructed for easy traveling, or, in lieu thereof, such hoisting apparatus as will enable the employees in the mine to make safe and speedy exit in case of danger. The escapement shaft, ropes and machinery used for hoisting or lowering employees out of or into said mine shall be kept in a safe condition and inspected at least once in each twenty-four (24) hours by a competent person employed in whole or in part for that purpose; and a record of such examination shall be entered by the person making the same in a book to be kept at the mine for that purpose and said book must always be produced for examination at the request of the inspector.

SEC. 2. That section 16 of said act be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows: Sec. 16. The owner, agent or operator of every coal mine operated by shaft or slope shall provide suitable means of signalling between the bottom and top thereof, subject to the approval of the mine inspector, and shall also provide in all shafts safe means of hoisting and lowering persons in a cage

Escapement shafts.

Inspection.

Equipment of mine with safe means of signalling and hoisting.

covered with boiler iron, so as to keep safe as far as possible persons descending into or ascending out of such shaft, and such cage shall be furnished with guides to conduct it through such shaft with a sufficient brake on every drum to prevent accident in case of the giving out or breaking of the machinery, and such cage shall be furnished with safety catches (to be approved by the mine inspector), intended and provided as far as possible to prevent the consequences of cable breaking or the loosening or disconnecting of the machinery, and no props or rails shall be lowered in a cage while men are descending into or ascending out of said mine, and such owner, agent or operator shall also provide in all slopes, safe means for raising and lowering persons therein: *Provided*, That in shafts less than one hundred feet in depth the owner, agent or operator shall provide such means for raising or lowering persons as may be approved by the mine inspector.

SEC. 3. That said act be and the same hereby is amended by the addition of a new section to be numbered section 23 and to read as follows: Sec. 23. Any mine owner transferring any coal mine shall immediately report such sale to the inspector of mines, giving the name or names of the purchaser or purchasers and the address or addresses of the same. The purchaser or purchasers of any such coal mine shall also immediately report to the inspector of mines giving the officers and superintendent of such coal mine with their addresses. Failure to make such report shall constitute a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, the said seller or purchaser shall be subject to a fine of not to exceed one hundred dollars, and not less than ten dollars, or by imprisonment not to exceed thirty days in the county jail, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Sales of
mines to be
reported to
inspector.

Penalty.

Passed the House February 25th, 1907.

Passed the Senate March 6th, 1907.

Approved by the Governor March 11th, 1907.