

1878, ch. 157.

**197.** No person shall be eligible to the office of mine inspector until he shall have attained the age of thirty-five years, and shall possess a competent knowledge of all the different systems of mining and working and properly ventilating coal mines, and the nature and constituent parts of noxious gases of mines, and of the various ways of expelling the same from said mines.

Ibid.

**198.** Before entering upon and discharging the duties of his office, said inspector of mines shall take an oath to faithfully discharge the same in an impartial manner; and for the faithful performance thereof, he shall receive a salary of fifteen hundred dollars per annum, which said salary shall be paid out of the State's money, by a warrant of the comptroller upon the State treasurer for the same.

Ibid.

**199.** It shall be the duty of the said mine inspector to carefully examine all mines that may be in operation in the counties of Allegany and Garrett, at least once in every month, and oftener if necessary, to see that every precaution is taken to insure safety to all workmen that may be engaged in said mines, and to see that the provisions of sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207 and 209, are strictly observed; and it shall further be the duty of the said inspector, after being notified by a justice of the peace or coroner of either of said counties of Allegany or Garrett, to attend at every inquest that may be held on the body of every person that may lose his life while engaged at work in or about any of the coal mines of said counties, and he shall examine closely into the cause by which said person lost his life; and if it shall be fully proven that the said person lost his life by any wilful violation of any of said sections or any wilful failure to comply with any of their provisions, the widow or lineal heirs of the person whose life shall be so lost, may institute a suit against the owner, lessee or operator of said mine wherein the accident took place, and may recover such damages as the courts may determine, for the loss she or they have sustained by the death of the person whose life has been lost while engaged at work in said mines.