

once every week, to examine carefully, read and countersign in ink all reports entered in the mine record book by the mine foreman; and if he finds on such examination or otherwise that the law is being violated in any particular, to stop such violation immediately; and every such operator shall require the superintendent or other managing official in charge of such mine, and all other officials in whatever capacity, to comply with the provisions of this Act, and especially not to obstruct the mine foreman or other officials in the fulfillment of their respective duties. It shall be the duty of the operator, by a representative other than the mine foreman, to visit every working place in each such mine once every sixty days, and to note the condition of such working place.

SEC. 60. Every such operator shall assist the Bureau and its officers in making any proper inspection or investigation, and shall promptly execute every proper order made under the provisions of this Act; and whenever any such operator shall wilfully neglect or refuse to obey any such order, or shall interfere with or hinder such Bureau or any of its inspectors or agents in the proper discharge of their duties, such willful neglect, refusal, interference or hindrance shall constitute a misdemeanor.

CHAPTER VIII—*Mine Foremen and Assistants.*

SEC. 61. In order to secure efficient management and proper ventilation of the mines, to promote the health and safety of the persons employed therein, and to protect and preserve the property connected therewith, the operator of any coal mine in this State shall employ a competent and practical mine foreman for every mine where ten or more persons are employed, who shall have charge of such mine under the supervision and control of such operator. If such mine is gaseous, such mine foreman must possess a first-class mine foreman's certificate of competency, or a service certificate of equal grade. If the mine is not gaseous, such mine foreman must possess either a first-class or a second-class certificate of competency or a service certificate of equal grade.

SEC. 62. Whenever the mine workings become so extensive that the mine foreman is unable personally to discharge his duties, the operator shall employ a sufficient number of competent persons as assistants, who shall have like qualifications with the mine foreman; provided, that whenever any exigency arises whereby it is impossible for any operator to secure the