

No. 262.

## AN ACT

For the protection of miners, mechanics and laborers in certain counties.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That in all assignments of property, whether real or personal, which shall hereafter be made by any person or persons, or chartered company, engaged in the mining of coal, either as owners of the soil or having a lease of a coal mine or mines, or by any person or persons owning or leasing forges, furnaces, rolling mills, nail factories, machine shops or foundries, to trustees or assignees, on account of inability at the time of the assignment to pay his or their debts, the wages of the miners, mechanics and laborers employed by such person or persons, or chartered company, in and about such business aforesaid, shall be first preferred and paid by such trustees or assignees before any other creditor or creditors of the assignor: *Provided,* That the claims of each miner, mechanic and laborer thus preferred, shall not exceed fifty dollars.

Wages of miners, mechanics and laborers to be preferred in certain cases.

Proviso.

SECTION 2. That in all cases of the death of any person or persons engaged in the operations aforesaid, the wages of each miner, mechanic and laborer employed as aforesaid, not exceeding fifty dollars, shall rank and be paid immediately before rents as they are now payable in such cases by existing laws.

In case of death the wages not exceeding fifty dollars to be preferred to rent, &c.

SECTION 3. In all cases of executions, landlords' warrants, attachments and writs of a similar nature, hereafter to be issued against any person or persons, or chartered company, engaged in the operations before mentioned, it shall be lawful for such miners, laborers and mechanics to give notice of their claim or claims, and the amount thereof, to the officer, executing either of such writs, at any time before the actual sale of property levied on, and such officers shall pay to such miners, mechanics or laborers out of the proceeds of sale, the amount each is justly and legally entitled to receive, not exceeding fifty dollars, in like manner as rents are now payable in such cases: *Provided,* That the provisions of this act shall only extend to Schuylkill, Berks, Washington, Centre, Somerset, Westmoreland and Carbon counties.

Miners, laborers and mechanics, to give notice of their claim to officer.

Proviso.

WILLIAM F. PACKER,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

GEORGE DARSIE,

*Speaker of the Senate.*

APPROVED—The second day of April, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine.

WM. F. JOHNSTON.