

**Eight Hour Law, Application to Coal Mines.**

The eight hour law applies to work at coal mines in connection with the washing and reducing of coal.

Helena, Montana, May 2, 1907.

Hon. J. B. McDermott,  
State Coal Mine Inspector,  
Helena, Montana.

Dear Sir:—

I am in receipt of your recent communication, submitting for decision by this office a certain question submitted to you by the Northwestern Improvement Company relative to the application of the eight hour day to mining and treatment of coal at coal mines. The question is:

Whether the recent act of the Tenth Legislative Assembly fixing eight hours as a days work "in the washing, reducing and treatment of coal" applies to the handling of coal from the time it leaves the mine until it reaches the washer and from the time it leaves the washer until it is ready for market?

The recent amendment to the State Constitution provides that:

"Eight hours shall constitute a days work on all works or undertakings carried on or aided by municipal, county or state governments, and all contracts let by them, and in mills and smelters for the treatment of ores and in underground mines."

Chapter 50 of the Laws of 1905 was designed to carry into effect the provisions of this constitutional amendment. This chapter was amended by the last legislature, (Chapter 108, Laws of 1907) by adding to section 1 thereof, the words "and in the washing, reducing and treatment of coal". This amendment is broad enough in its literal meaning and would seem to apply to all labor that is done or performed with reference to the coal from its extraction until it is ready for market.

This law, so far as it relates to the washing, handling and treating of coal, we believe can be sustained on police and sanitary grounds, irrespective of this recent amendment to the constitution. You are

advised, therefore, that said eight hour law applies to all labor connected with the mining, washing, reducing and treatment of coal at coal mines, from the mining of the coal until it is ready for market.

Yours very truly,

ALBERT J. GALEN,

Attorney General.

**State Examiner, Bond Of.**

Neither the State Examiner nor his assistants are required to furnish an official bond unless the same is required and the amount thereof fixed by the State Board of Examiners.

Helena, Montana, May 2, 1907.

State Board of Examiners,

Helena, Montana.

Gentlemen:—

In compliance with your request for an opinion as to whether or not it is necessary for the State Examiner and his Assistant to furnish bond under the law, and for the board of Examiners to require same, you are advised that it is not necessary for the State Examiner or his Assistant to furnish any official bond unless the same be required and the amount thereof fixed by the State Board of Examiners. See Chapter 149, Laws 1907, page 379.

Yours respectfully,

ALBERT J. GALEN,

Attorney General.