

In consequence of the purchase of the North-west from the Hudson's Bay Company, the Federal Government became directly interested in mines and minerals.

The mining laws of Canada are, therefore, to be found in the statutes of the respective legislatures of the Provinces and of the Parliament of Canada. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia have statutes dealing with mining.

#### NOVA SCOTIA.

939. In Nova Scotia the Province does not part with its mineral lands, excepting by granting leases for the term of 40 years for mining areas for gold and silver and 20 years for all other mining areas.

The mining areas for gold, or gold and silver, are 250 feet in length and 150 in width, the lesser length being along the lodes. Applications for leases of areas are to be made in writing to the Deputy Commissioner for the districts in which the areas are situated, accompanied by a payment of \$2 for each area of which up to 100 can be obtained by any one applicant, such payment being considered the annual payment in advance for the first year's lease. 40 days' labour is required in each year for each area. On all leases of gold or gold and silver mines and prospective licenses the Provincial Government reserves a royalty of two per cent upon the gross amount of gold and silver mined, or thirty-eight cents for each ounce of smelted gold. The leases are deemed personal property and can be transferred.

In the case of mines other than gold and silver, the Commissioner of Mines, on application, grants licenses to search, good for 18 months. These licenses entitle the holders to enter upon any lands covered thereby, and dig and explore for minerals held by the Crown for the benefit of the people of Nova Scotia, viz., for tin, lead, copper, coal, iron and precious stones, and any other minerals reserved by the legislature. Applications for licenses must be accompanied by payment of \$30. A license to search may cover any single tract of ground not exceeding five miles in extent and not exceeding  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length.

A lease (for which \$50 must be paid) for the purpose of mining coal or iron may cover any single tract of ground not exceeding one square mile in extent and not exceeding two miles in length. For the purpose of mining copper or lead a lease may cover one square mile in extent, and one mile in length, and for the purpose of mining tin or precious stones, one quarter of a square mile in extent and one-half of a mile in length.

These leases are not transferable without the consent of the Governor-in-Council. Leases may be surrendered at any time on prescribed conditions.

The sum of \$30 a year in advance must be paid by the lessee for each square mile or fraction of a square mile leased, default in payment working forfeiture at the end of 12 months.

All ores and minerals, other than gold or silver, mined are subject to the following royalties :

*Coal.*—10 cents per ton of 2,240 pounds of coal sold or removed from the mine or used in the manufacture of coke—royalty not demanded on coal used by the workmen or in any mining operations in and around the mine.

*Copper.*—4 cents upon every unit ; that is upon every one per cent of copper contained in each and every ton of 2,352 pounds of copper ore sold or smelted.