

forfeiture. Records of placer claims may be renewed on payment of the fees, \$250 a year.

A placer claim gives no right to a vein or lode unless the ground is located and recorded as a mineral claim.

A placer claim must be worked continuously by the holder or his employee, and shall be held abandoned and forfeited if unworked for 72 hours, except for reasonable cause, satisfying the Gold Commissioner. A year's leave of absence may be given if the sum of \$100 has been expended without reasonable return, or if all holders of the set of claims sign the application.

Provisions as to tunnels and drains, water rights, partnerships, mining recorders, gold commissioners, county courts, penalties, paying free miners' fees for employees, are much the same as those regarding mineral claims.

Provisions are made for "bed-rock flumes."

Free miners may obtain a lease of placer-mining ground for ten years, as follows:—Dry diggings, ten acres; bar diggings, half a mile along high water mark; creek diggings, on abandoned or unworked creeks, half a mile in length; bench lands, for hydraulic workings, eighty acres, but not to exceed 500 yards in length. The lease may be renewed. The ground must not be already occupied (without consent of occupiers) nor immediately available for agricultural purposes; and only placer-mining must be carried on.

Water may be granted by the Gold Commissioner for hydraulic workings on bench lands.

Leases may be granted for twenty years of the bed of the river for dredging for a distance not over five miles.

(Act, 1891, Chap. 26, and amending Acts, 1894, Chap. 33, and 1895, Chap. 40).

948. *Development of Quartz Mines.*—An expenditure of \$64,000 was authorized in 1888 in the erection of crushing, chlorinating and smelting works, to enable miners to develop quartz ledges. Bonuses of sums of money, not exceeding \$12,000 each, nor \$36,000 in whole, may be granted to assist quartz mines partly developed. Moneys may also be granted, secured by a first mortgage, to be paid within five years. There must be an audit showing solvency before any bonus or guarantee.

(Cons. Act, 1888, and amending Act, 1889, Chap. 17).

Counting the consolidated Acts of 1888, and subsequent amending Acts to 1895, there are twenty-one British Columbia Acts relating to mining, without reckoning several special Acts concerning hydraulic mining companies.

949. A Bureau of Mines has been established in 1895, under the Minister of Mines, with a Provincial Mineralogist, whose duty it is to collect information relating to the mining industry, and publish it. Besides a museum there are to be lecture rooms, an assay office and laboratory, where assays and tests may be made according to a schedule of fees. Arrangements may be made for giving instructions to prospectors, and others, and societies of arts, and other societies, may affiliate with the Mining Bureau for the instruction and examination of students.