

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 \$1,000 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, or 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).

772. A Bill intituled An Act to repeal "An Act to aid the Development of Quartz Mines," and amending Act, has been introduced this session and has passed its third reading.

Counting the consolidated Acts of 1888 and subsequent amending Acts to 1896, there are twenty-two British Columbia Acts relating to mining, without reckoning several special Acts concerning hydraulic mining companies.

773. A Bureau of Mines was 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.