

ONTARIO.

The Mines Act of Ontario provides for the abolition of all royalties imposed upon ores or minerals within the province prior to the 4th day of May, 1891. Reservations of gold and silver mines contained in any patent issued prior to the above date are made void, and all such mines in and upon such lands are deemed to have been granted in fee simple and to have passed with the lands, excepting as to lands patented under the Free Grants and Homestead Act, Revised Statutes, Ontario, 1897.

All ores and minerals mined on lands located, sold, granted or leased by the Crown from the 4th day of May, 1891, to the first of January, 1900, are subject to a royalty to the Crown. The royalties on ores of silver, nickel and copper and iron are at the rate of two per cent, and on all other ores such royalty as shall be from time to time imposed by Order in Council, not exceeding two per cent; such royalties to be calculated upon the value at the mine after deducting the cost of labour, explosives, raising the ore to the surface, and subsequent treatment thereof for the market. Royalties are not to be imposed or collected until after seven years from the date of the patent or lease.

Any person may explore for mines and minerals on any Crown land not staked out or occupied, and not withdrawn from sale by Order in Council as being valuable for pine timber or other reason. Crown lands supposed to contain ores or minerals may be sold as mining lands called mining locations, or may, when situated within a mining division, be worked as mining claims under miner's license.

Mining locations in the territory north of Lake Superior and Lake Huron and of French River and the River Mattawa are required to be of rectangular shape, containing not less than 40 acres, and are sold as follows: If in a surveyed township and within six miles of a railway, \$3 per acre, if beyond 6 miles, \$2.50; if in unsurveyed, \$2.50 and \$2.00 according to distance from railway. When in any other region the price is \$2.00 and \$1.50 according to distance from railway. All these mining locations revert to the Crown in default of the expenditure in actual mining operations of \$1 per acre during the first two years and of \$1 per acre in each year of the next five years.

In addition to granting mining lands in fee simple the province also grants leases of such lands for a term of ten years, renewable for a second like term. The rental is \$1 per acre for the first year and 25 cents per acre per annum for subsequent years in the lands situated in the districts north of the French and Mattawa Rivers and Lake Nipissing, and 60 cents the first year and thereafter 15 cents per annum for land situated elsewhere. These leases are all renewable after the second term by further terms of 20 years.

Miners' licenses in territories which may be set apart as mining divisions are granted for one year on payment of \$10, renewable for another year on payment of a like fee. The holder of a license may stake out a claim of 15 chains square, or $22\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and he can hold it as long as mining operations are carried on, saving that in the northern districts he is not required to work during the four winter months, December, January, February and March.