

The Legislature of Ontario created a Bureau of Mines in 1891. Mr. Archibald Blue was made director, and he has issued several valuable reports.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The Mining Laws of British Columbia provide, with respect to coal mining, that a prospector for coal or petroleum on leased Crown Lands in which the minerals are reserved, before obtaining a license, shall place a post at one angle of the land with his name and the initials of the angle, and shall post a notice of his application on the land and on the Government office of the district for 30 days, and shall advertise it in the *British Columbia Gazette* and some local newspaper for 30 days.

Security for damages must be given if the Crown Lands in question have been leased or are covered by a timber license.

After the expiration of the 30 days, and within two months from the application in the *Gazette*, an application in duplicate (with a plan) must be sent to the Assistant Commissioner of Land and Works for a prospecting license for not more than one year, when the Chief Commissioner may grant the license. Such lands must be in one rectangular block with sides running north, south, east and west, and of area not exceeding 640 acres.

The license shall cease at its expiration, and a new license may be granted to a new applicant.

On proving that he has *bonâ fide* explored for coal during the year he shall be entitled to an extension for a second year on payment of \$50, and a further extension for a third year may be granted. License holders of adjoining lands, not exceeding ten, may work in partnership, when they need not prospect separately, provided the Chief Commissioner is satisfied with the prospecting done on the land of one of them.

The licensee may use the timber and stone on the land for the purpose of buildings on the land. Dispute as to right of title shall be decided in the County Court. No transfer for a prospecting license may be made without written notice to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may grant to a prospecting licensee a lease for five years at a rent of 10 cents on proof that he has discovered coal on the land; and if during this term, or three months thereafter, he can show that he has continuously and vigorously carried on coal-mining he shall be entitled to purchase the land at \$5 an acre, in one payment, at time of sale.

Before the lease is issued a survey must have been made by the applicant. Besides the 10 cents rent a royalty of 5 cents a ton on coal and 1 cent a barrel on petroleum must be paid. The lessee must be bound to carry on coal-mining continuously. Any number of persons, not exceeding ten, may work in partnership on adjoining lands, when it shall not be necessary to work each leasehold separately, provided work on one is done to the satisfaction of the Chief Commissioner.

(Cons. Act, 1888, Chap. 83, and amending Acts; 1890, Chap. 32; 1892, Chap. 31, and 1895, Chap. 37.)

Proprietors of coal mines may acquire such portion of any Crown Lands, or lands held under pre-emption or Crown grants or lease or license, as may be necessary for a right of way to the sea shore, a river or public highway,