

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 the tunnels and drains, water rights (*see* 1879, cap. 45) 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 20 years as follows:—Before application for lease, legal posts to be placed with names and descriptions, and plans, &c., to be deposited with Mining Recorder; creek diggings, or abandoned or unworked creeks, half a mile in length; any other placer mining grounds, 80 acres; precious stone diggings, 10 acres. (Placer mining on the Yukon River, *see* Dominion Government Regulations, 21st May, 1897.) The lease may be renewed. The ground must 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; 1896, Chap. 35; 1897, Chap. 29; 1897, Chap. 45.)

A Bill intituled An Act to repeal "An Act to aid the Development of Quartz Mines," and amending Act, has been passed (1896, Chap. 36).

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

The Mineral Act, 1896, Chap. 34, as amended by 1897, Chap. 29, have been consolidated for convenience only.

The Placer Mining Acts have been also consolidated.

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.

A Bill intituled the "Inspection of Metaliferous Mines Act, 1897," has just been passed providing for the appointment of an Inspector, and containing Rules and Regulations for the safe working of mines other than coal.

DOMINION.

The Dominion Government have provided regulations for the disposal of coal lands, the property of the Dominion in Manitoba, the North-west Territories and British Columbia.