

mile in length ; any other placer mining grounds, 80 acres ; precious stone diggings, 10 acres. 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. Consolidation of holdings into one not to exceed 640 acres is provided for by Act of 1898, amending the Placer-mining Act, 1891.

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). An Act to amend the Placer-Mines Act (1891) was passed in the session of 1898.

Counting the consolidated Acts of 1888 and subsequent amending Acts to 1898, there have been twenty-four 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, has 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," provides 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.

Lands containing anthracite coal may be sold at an upset price of \$20 an acre cash, and coal other than anthracite at an upset price of \$10 per acre cash. Not more than 320 acres can be sold to any one applicant. The Minister of the Interior has power to grant an applicant, upon receipt of the fee of \$10 permission to prospect for coal over an area of 320 acres for a period of 60 days.

The regulations governing the disposal of mineral lands other than coal apply to Dominion Lands in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, including the Provisional District of Yukon, and relate to lands containing gold, silver, platinum, iridium or any of the platinum group