

A BRIEF RESUME OF THE MINING LAWS OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA AND OF THE SEVERAL PROVINCES IS HERE GIVEN.

NOVA SCOTIA.

In Nova Scotia the province reserves all its minerals and ores (excepting lime-stone, plaster and building stone) and leases the land under rent and royalty for revenue purposes. The gold and silver leases are for terms of 40 years. Other minerals are leased for 80 years in four renewable terms of 20 years each.

The gold and silver areas are 250 by 150 feet, laid off with the shorter side running east and west. Any number of these areas up to 100 can be secured under a license to prospect for 12 months on payment of 50 cents an area. During this period any number of the areas can be taken under lease, or the areas can be directly applied for under lease. The price of an area under lease is \$2, and thereafter an annual rental of 50 cents per area secures it from forfeiture for non-working. If an amount of work equivalent to 40 days per annum per area is performed on the lease the rental for that year is refunded. A royalty is payable on all gold at the rate of 2 per cent, the gold being valued at \$19 an ounce smelted, and \$18 an ounce unsmelted, and at the rate of two per cent on the silver valued at \$1 per ounce.

In the case of the other minerals the payment of \$30 secures a license to search for 18 months over a tract of land 5 square miles in extent, and not exceeding $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length.

All ores and minerals, other than gold or gold and silver, mined are subject to the following royalties:—

Coal.—10 cents per ton of 2,240 pounds of coal sold or removed from the mine or used in the manufacture of coke—royalty not demanded on coal used by the workmen or in any mining operations in and around the mine.

Copper.—4 cents upon every unit, i.e., upon every one per cent of copper contained in each and every ton of 2,352 pounds of copper ore sold or smelted.

Lead.—2 cents upon every unit.

Iron.—5 cents on every ton of 2,240 pounds of ore sold or smelted.

Tin and precious stones and any other minerals that may be reserved, 5 per cent on their values.

The Governor in Council has power to lower the rates of royalty above stated on iron, copper, lead, tin and precious stones, on being satisfied that the owners of such leased minerals have commenced effective mining operations. The leases of coal mines contain a proviso that royalties on coal may be increased, diminished or otherwise changed by the Legislature.

QUEBEC.

The mining laws of the province of Quebec provide that mining rights are property separate from the soil covering mines and minerals, unless the proprietor of the surface has purchased from the Crown, as a mining concession or otherwise, the underground properties.