

of the vein not more than 1,500 feet apart, or a fractional mineral claim can also be marked out. On No. 1 post of a mineral claim shall be written the names of the locator and the claim, the date, the compass bearing of No. 2 post and the number of feet (of the 1,500) lying to the right and left respectively of this line; these particulars are to be furnished also to the Mining Recorder. He must mark the line by blazing trees or post-planting, and place a post where he found rock "in place," and as near as possible to four corners of the claim. He is entitled to all minerals within the claim. The claim is not to be recorded without an affidavit that mineral has been found "in place" on the claim, that the legal notes and posts have been put up, that ground is unoccupied, &c. A location made on Sunday or a holiday is not invalid. Where, from the nature of the ground, the location cannot be thus marked, posts may be set as near as possible and the direction and distance recorded. The free miner shall record his claim with the Mining Recorder within 15 days, if his office is within 10 miles, with an additional day for every additional 10 miles. A claim recorded by error in the wrong district may be recorded anew in the right district with the original date. If left in the Recorder's absence the applicant is entitled to a record of that date. The claim may be held from year to year on a certificate by the Gold Commissioner, or Mining Recorder, that work has been done on it to the value of \$100. Assessment work to be counted in certificate. A free miner or partners having adjoining claims may work them together, and may obtain certificates for all the claims for sufficient work done on one. A free miner may, in lieu of work pay \$100 to the Mining Recorder. Disputes as to titles are determined by priority.

No free miner can hold (except by purchase) more than one claim on the same vein or lode, but he may hold by location a claim on any separate vein or lode. He may abandon his claim by notice in writing to the Recorder and may remove his machinery and extracted ore; he cannot re-locate the same claim (or one which he has not recorded in time) without written permission from the Gold Commissioner.

Lodes discovered in a tunnel to develop a lode may be marked out as a mineral claim and recorded by the owner. The interest of a free miner in his claim is deemed a chattel interest.

The lawful owner of a mineral claim is entitled to a Crown grant on payment of \$500 to the Government in lieu of expenditure (assessment work to be considered a part of \$500), and after having obtained a certificate of improvements from the Gold Commissioner. With a certificate of improvement the owner need not take out a free miner's certificate, or work on the claim to hold it.

With a certificate of improvement the owner of a claim outside the railway belt is entitled to a Crown grant, and inside the railway belt on payment of \$5 an acre to the Mining Recorder.

The claim for the grant must be made within three months. The issue of the grant does not invalidate any previous lien. The grant covers all minerals except coal.

Conveyances, mortgages, &c., of mineral claims shall be recorded or shall not be good against third parties, and transfers must be in writing. A free miner's claim shall not be open for location during his last illness, nor for twelve months after his death. The Gold Commissioner and official administrator administer miners' estates.