

A placer claim gives no right to a vein or lode unless the ground is located and recorded as a mineral claim.

A placer claim must be worked continuously by the holder or his employee, and shall be held abandoned and forfeited if unworked for 72 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 miner's 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. 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.

An Act intituled the "Inspection of Metaliferous Mines Act, 1897," amended in 1899, provides for the appointment of an Inspector, and contains rules and regulations for the safe working of mines other than coal.