

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 \$1 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.

A mill site may be located by a free miner, not over five acres in extent, on unoccupied and unreserved Crown Lands not known to contain minerals. He may obtain a lease for one year, during its continuance, on proof of having expended \$500 on machinery, and shall be entitled to a Crown grant for \$5 an acre. This applies to former leases also. Minerals are not included in the grant.

Tunnels or drains may be run for a free miner to work his claim by license from the Gold Commissioner. Water rights may be granted to him by the Gold Commissioner, and must be recorded, rights of miners working on the streams being safe. He may not sell the water, and the grant shall cease when the mine is no longer worked. Work must be begun within 60 days; and there must be no waste of water, and an outlet must be provided for superfluous water.

Mining partnerships and limited liability companies are regulated by a number of clauses.

The duties of Mining Recorders and Gold Commissioners are fully laid down. Free miners may elect by a two-thirds vote a Recorder, where there is none.

County Courts have mining jurisdiction which is fully provided for.

Any person contravening the Act or refusing to obey the lawful order of a Gold Commissioner or Judge is liable to a fine of \$250 or three months' imprisonment.

An annual tax of 25 cents an acre is payable on every claim held under Crown grant. This tax shall be remitted on proof that the sum of \$200 has been expended on the claim within the year.