

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.

ONTARIO

The Mines Act of Ontario provides for the abolition of all royalties imposed upon ores or minerals within the province. Reservations of gold, silver and other mines contained in any patent are made also void, and all such mines in and upon such lands are deemed to have been granted in fee simple and to have passed with the lands, excepting as to lands patented under the Free Grants and Homestead Act, and the Public Lands Act, being lands sold for agricultural purposes only.