

similar circumstances he has also the power to declare a close season, by a notice in writing and published in the *Gazette*, for all or any claims in his district. Tunnel and drain licenses are also granted by him on the person applying giving security for any damage that may arise. Grants of right of way for the construction of tunnels or drains across other claims are also granted on payment of a fee of \$25, the owner of the claim crossed having the right for tolls, &c., on the tunnel or drain which may be constructed. These tolls, however, are, so far as the amount goes, under the discretion of the Gold Commissioner.

Placer Discovery Claims.

The following provision is made for new discoveries of placer mining ground :—

‘If any free miner, or party of free miners, discover a new locality for the prosecution of placer mining and such discovery be established to the satisfaction of the Gold Commissioner, placer claims of the following sizes shall be allowed to such discoverers, viz. :—

‘To one discoverer, one claim 600 feet in length.

‘To a party of two discoverers, two claims, amounting together to 1,000 “

‘And to each member of a party beyond two in number, a claim of the ordinary size only :—

‘Provided that where a discovery claim has been established in any locality no further discovery shall be allowed within five miles therefrom, measured along the watercourses. The width of such claims shall be the same as ordinary placer claims of the same class.’

No special privileges are allowed for discovery of new mineral claims.

CO-OWNERS AND PARTNERSHIPS.

In both the ‘Mineral’ and ‘Placer Mining’ Acts provision is made for the formation of mining partnerships, both of a general and limited liability character. These are extensively taken advantage of and have proved very satisfactory in their working. By an amendment to the ‘Mineral Act,’ passed last session, provision is made for collection of the proportion of assessment that may be due from any co-owner in a mineral claim. It should not be forgotten that if any co-owner permits his free miner’s certificate to lapse, the title of his associates is not prejudiced, but his interest reverts to the remaining co-owners.

HYDRAULIC AND DREDGING LEASES.

Leases of unoccupied Crown lands may be granted by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, upon recommendation of the Gold Commissioner of the district, after location by placing a legal post at each corner of the ground applied for. On the post nearest the placer ground then being worked the locator must post a notice stating the name of the applicant, the location of the ground to be acquired, the quantity of ground and the term for which the lease is to be applied for. Within thirty days application must be made in writing to the Gold Commissioner, in duplicate, with