

The Governor in Council has power to lower the rates of royalty above stated on iron, copper, lead, tin and precious stones, on being satisfied that the owners of such leased minerals have commenced effective mining operations. The leases of coal mines contain a proviso that royalties on coal may be increased, diminished or otherwise changed by the legislature.

QUEBEC.

The mining laws of the province of Quebec provide that mining rights are property separate from the soil covering mines and minerals, unless the proprietor of the surface has purchased from the Crown, as a mining concession or otherwise, the underground properties.

Mining concessions are divided into three classes :

1. In unsurveyed territory (*a*) the first class contains 400 acres, (*b*) the second, 200 acres, and (*c*) the third, 100 acres.
2. In surveyed townships the three classes respectively comprise one, two and four lots.

All lands supposed to contain mines or ores belonging to the Crown may be acquired from the Minister of Lands, Mines and Fisheries (*a*) as a mining concession by purchase, or (*b*) be occupied and worked under a mining license.

No sale of mining concessions containing more than 400 acres in superficies can be made by the commissioner to the same person. The Governor in Council may, however, grant a larger extent of territory up to 1,000 acres under special circumstances. When it concerns inferior metals, the extent of mining concessions which may be granted to the same person is determined by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. 2 Ed. VII., c. 15.

The rates charged and to be paid in full at the time of the purchase are \$5 and \$10 per acre for mining lands containing the superior metals* ; the first-named price being for lands situated more than twelve miles, and the last-named for lands situated less than twelve miles from the railway.

If for the mining of inferior metals, the price shall be fixed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. 2 Ed. VII., c. 15.

Unless stipulated to the contrary in the letters patent in concessions for the mining of superior metals, the purchaser has the right to mine for all metals found therein ; in concessions for the mining of the inferior metals, those only may be mined for.

Mining lands are sold on the express condition that the purchaser shall commence bona fide to mine within two years from the date of purchase, and shall not spend less than \$500, if mining for the superior metals ; and not less than \$200 if for inferior metals. In default, cancellation of sale of the mining land.

Licenses may be obtained from the commissioner on the following terms : Application for an exploration and prospecting license, if the mine is on private land, \$2 for every 100 acres or fraction of 100 ; if the mine is on Crown lands (1) in surveyed territory, \$5 for every 100 acres, and (2) in unsurveyed territory, \$5 for each square mile, the license to be valid for three months and renewable. The holder of such license may afterwards purchase the mine, paying the price mentioned.

* The superior metals include the ores of gold, silver, lead, copper, nickel, graphite, asbestos, mica and phosphate of lime. The words 'inferior metals' include all other minerals and ores.