

Licenses for mining are of two kinds. Private lands' licenses, where the mining rights belong to the Crown, and public lands' licenses. These licenses are granted on payments of a fee of \$5, and an annual rental of \$1 per acre. Each license is granted for 200 acres or less, but not for more; is valid for one year and is renewable on the same terms as those on which it was originally granted. The Governor in Council may at any time require the payment of the royalty in lieu of fees for a mining license and the annual rental—such royalties, unless otherwise determined by letters patent or other title from the Crown, being fixed at a rate not to exceed three per cent of the value at the mine of the mineral extracted, after deducting the cost of mining it.

According to the law of 1892 the proprietor of a lot for agricultural purposes was entitled to a right of preference to the mines on said lot, but according to amendments made by (1 Ed. VII., c. 13) the first applicant to the mines has the first right on all lands which may have been sold since 1880.

Prior to 1880 the proprietor of a lot is also proprietor of the mines, with the exception of gold and silver mines, which are always reserved in favour of the Crown.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Free Miners' Certificates.

Any person over the age of 18, and any joint stock company, may obtain a free miner's certificate on payment of the required fee.

The fee to an individual for a free miner's certificate is \$5 for one year. To a joint stock company having a capital of \$100,000, or less, the fee for a year is \$50; if capitalized beyond this, \$100.

All these certificates expire at midnight on May 31 in each year. Certificates may be obtained for any part of a year, terminating on May 31, for a proportionately less fee.

The possession of this certificate entitles the holder to enter on all unoccupied lands of the Crown, or on other lands on which the right to so enter is not reserved, and prospect for minerals, locate claims and mine.

A free miner can only hold, by location, one mineral claim on the same vein or lode, but may acquire others by purchase. In the case of placer claims only one can be held by location on each creek, ravine, or hill, and not more than two in the same locality, only one of which shall be a 'creek' claim.

In the event of a free miner allowing his certificate to lapse his mining property (if not Crown-granted) reverts to the Crown, but where other free miners are interested as partners or co-owners the interest of the defaulter becomes vested in the company continuing co-owners or partners, pro rata, according to their interests.

It is not necessary for a shareholder, as such, in an incorporated mining company, to be the holder of a certificate.

Mineral Claims.

Mineral claims are located and held under the provisions of the 'Mineral Act.'