

cate, the locality of the ground, the quantity of ground, the term of the lease desired and the rent proposed to be paid. A sum of \$20 must accompany the application, which is returned if the application is not granted. The term of leases must not exceed 20 years. The extent of ground covered by leases are not in excess of the following:—Creek—half a mile; hydraulic diggings—80 acres; for dredging leases—5 miles; precious stone diggings—10 acres. Under Order in Council the minimum rental for a creek lease is \$75 per annum, and for a hydraulic lease, \$50 per annum, with a condition that at least \$1,000 per annum shall be spent in development. For dredging leases the usual rental is \$50 per mile per annum, development work worth \$1,000 per mile per annum must be done, and 50 cents royalty per ounce paid on the gold mined.

TAXATION OF MINES.

Mineral claims, when Crown-granted, are subject to a yearly tax of 25 cents per acre, but if \$200 is spent in work in a year this tax is not levied. A tax of 2 per cent is levied quarterly on all ores and other mineral substances mined in the province, but where ore-producing mines produce under \$5,000 in a year half the tax is refunded, while placer or dredging mines that do not produce a gross value of \$2,000 in a year are entitled to a refund of the whole tax. These taxes are in substitution for all taxes on the land and for the personal property tax in respect of sums so produced, so long as the land is only used for mining purposes. By the 'Land Act' a royalty of 50 cents per M., board measure, is levied on timber suitable for mining props, a cord of props being considered as 1,000 feet board measure.

COAL AND PETROLEUM PROSPECTING.

Coal or petroleum prospecting licenses may be procured after a thirty days' notice has been placed on the land and in the Government office of the district, as well as published in the *Gazette* and in a local paper for the same length of time. Application must be made in writing to the Gold Commissioner, in duplicate, accompanied by plans of the land and a fee of \$50. A license may be issued for not more than 640 acres of land for one year, the said \$50 covering the first year's rental. All lands must be in a square block and run due north, south, east and west. At the expiration of the first year an extension may be granted for a second and third year. Land for which a license has been granted may be leased, upon proof being given of the discovery of coal, for five years at a rental of 10 cents per annum per acre; the lease also contains provision for a royalty of 5 cents per ton of coal and 1 cent per barrel of petroleum. If the lessee is able to prove that he has worked the land continuously, he may, within three months of the expiration of his lease, purchase the land at \$5 per acre.

MINING RECORDERS IN OUTLYING DISTRICTS.

Where mineral is discovered in a part of the province remote from Mining Recorders' offices, so that the provisions of the Act cannot be justly enforced, the miners themselves may, by a two-thirds vote at a meeting for that purpose, appoint a Mining Recorder from among themselves. Such Recorder can issue free miner's certificates, records of mining property, &c.,