

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, (since 4th of May, 1891) being lands sold for agricultural purposes only.

Provision is made for requiring nickel mines to be worked under authority of a license and on payment of certain license fees, to be remitted or reduced if the ore is refined in Canada, but this part of the Act has not yet been brought into operation.

Any person may explore for mines and minerals on any Crown land not staked out or occupied, and not withdrawn from sale by Order in Council as being valuable for pine timber or other reason. Crown lands supposed to contain ores or minerals may be sold as mining lands, called mining locations, or may, when situated within a Mining Division, be staked out and worked as mining claims under miner's license.

Mining locations containing not less than 40 acres, are sold as follows: If in a surveyed township and within six miles of a railway, \$3.50 per acre, if within twelve miles, \$3, if beyond twelve miles, \$2.50; if in unsurveyed territory, \$3, \$2.50 and \$2, according to distance from railway. All these mining locations revert to the Crown in default of the expenditure in actual mining operations of \$1 per acre during the first two years and of \$1 per acre in each year of the next five years, or of the equivalent in a shorter time.

Instead of granting mining lands in fee simple, the province will lease such lands for a term of ten years, and if at the end of the term all rents have been paid and working conditions performed the lessee will be entitled to a patent. The rental is \$1 per acre for the first year and fifteen cents to thirty cents per acre per annum (according to distance from the nearest railway and situation in townships or unsurveyed lands) for subsequent years.

Miners' licenses in parts of the province which may be set apart as mining divisions are granted for one year on payment of \$10, renewable at the end of the year on payment of a like fee. The holder of a license may stake out a claim of 15 chains square, 22½ acres, or 20 chains square, 40 acres, and he can hold it by expending \$150 per annum in actual mining operations thereon, reckoning grown men's labour at \$2 per day. Where the licensee desires to procure a patent or lease of a claim he may do so by completing the working conditions, for a period of four years on a claim of 20 chains square, or for three years on a claim 15 chains square, or the equivalent in a shorter time. But he is required to procure a survey of the land and to pay in the purchase money or first year's rental.

In unsurveyed lands of the Crown outside of mining divisions the holder of a prospector's license (fee \$10) may stake out two claims of 40 acres each and hold them for a period of two years by expending \$3 per acre in the first year and \$7 per acre in the second on development work, when the licensee may proceed in the usual way to acquire the property by survey and payment of the purchase price or the first year's rent.