

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.

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.