

A placer claim must be worked by the owner, or someone on his behalf, continuously during working hours. Discontinuance for 72 hours, except in close season, lay-over, leave of absence, sickness or other reason satisfactory to the Gold Commissioner is deemed abandonment. To hold a placer claim over one year, it must be again recorded before expiration of the year.

Placer Leases.—Leases of unoccupied Crown lands may be granted by the Gold Commissioner of the district. Placer leases are of 4 classes, as follows:—(1) Creek lease,—on rivers or on abandoned or unworked creeks, half a mile in length; annual rental, \$37.50; annual expenditure required on development, \$250. (2) Bench lease,—80 acres; annual rental, \$25; annual expenditure required on development \$250. (3) Dredging lease,—on the bed of any river below low water mark, 5 miles; annual rental, \$25 per mile; annual expenditure required on development, \$1,000 per mile; the value of any new plant or machinery employed to count as money expended in development. (4) Precious stone diggings,—10 acres.

Section 2.—Summary of General Production.

Notwithstanding the rapid development of mineral production in Canada during recent years—the value of the annual output increased from \$10,221,000 in 1886 to \$145,635,000 in 1913 and \$307,146,000 in 1929—the possibilities in the future are of even greater interest. For many years the natural difficulties of travel in the northland hindered the progress even of reconnaissance work, and a large part of Canada remained but very little explored. Nevertheless, sufficient was done to make known the main geological features, to indicate roughly the territories that would be found to be mineral-bearing, and to predict the character of the mineral resources in the different geological areas. The development of the aeroplane during and since the war has provided an agent of improved and rapid transportation in regions where the canoe and dog team were the only other means available, while exploration and photography from the air are providing accurate knowledge and reliable maps of large regions formerly almost entirely unexplored. This applies particularly to the Canadian Shield, that large northern area where are exposed rocks of Precambrian age which have already proved immensely rich in mineral resources. In spite of the manner in which the search for minerals in this area has been broadened and intensified in recent years, Canada to-day offers to the prospector the largest and most promising extent of mineral-bearing territory that anywhere remains unprospected. The opinion is often advanced that Canada is likely to become one of the leading mineral-producing countries of the world, and considerable ground for this assumption is found in the fact that the Dominion contains 16 p.c. of the world's known coal resources, has greater asbestos and nickel deposits than any other country and ranks third in the production of gold, while the diversity of mineral endowment is indicated by the fact that the three main divisions, metallic, non-metallic and clay products and structural materials, include some 60 principal items, 22 of which had each in 1928 a production valued at \$1,000,000 or over.

The mineral production of Canada has increased from \$172,000,000 in 1921 to \$307,146,000 in 1929, an increase of \$135,000,000 or 78 p.c. in 8 years, a greater proportional increase than in any other major branch of production during that time. In view of the developments now taking place on properties with proven reserves of