

Government, the leasing or disposal of mineral lands or rights is administered under provincial laws and regulations. However, until new conditions necessitate change, mineral lands or rights within the province are being administered by the Provincial Government in accordance with the Dominion mining laws and regulations in force at the time of the transfer.

The Coal Mines Regulation Act of the province of Alberta and regulations made thereunder make provision for the safe operation of mines in the province, applying to mines of coal, ironstone, shale, clay and other minerals. Operations must be under the control of officials who hold certificates granted after suitable examination. A staff of inspectors is provided to administer the regulations. Monthly reports of operations must be returned to the Minister.

The Coal Sales Act requires that all coal mines shall be registered by name and all coal produced in Alberta sold under the registered name. The Coal Miners Wages Security Act requires all coal operators to provide bond to insure the payment of wages, unless exemption is obtained through the Board of Public Commissions.

British Columbia.—The Department of Mines, organized under the provisions of c. 163, R.S.B.C., 1924, and amendments, administers the mineral lands of the province, and has charge of all matters relating to mining, including the Bureau of Mines and all offices established under the Bureau of Mines Act and all Government offices in connection with the mining industry.

The terms of the mining laws are favourable to the prospector, with small fees and rentals. On a lode mine of 51 acres an expenditure of \$500 in work, which may be spread over 5 years, is required to obtain a Crown grant, while surface rights are obtainable at a figure in no case exceeding \$5 per acre. Any person over the age of 18 and any joint stock company can obtain a "free miner's certificate" on payment of a fee, which for the individual is \$5 per annum, while for the joint stock company it is either \$50 or \$100, depending on capitalization. Mineral claims located under the provisions of the Mineral Act must not exceed 1,500 feet square.

Placer.—Placer mining is governed by the "Placer Mining Act", and by the interpretation clause its scope is defined as "the mining of any natural stratum or bed of earth, gravel, or cement mined for gold or other precious minerals or stones".

Placer Claims.—Placer claims are of 3 classes, as follows:—(1) Creek diggings,—200 feet long and 1,000 feet wide, 500 feet on each side of the stream; (2) bar diggings,—250 feet square on a bar covered at high water, or a strip 250 feet long at high water, extending between high-water mark and extreme low-water mark; (3) dry diggings, over which water never extends,—250 feet square.

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:—