

**British Columbia.**—The Department of Mines, organized under the provisions of c. 163, R.S.B.C., 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, fees and rentals being small. 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 and for a joint stock company either \$50 or \$100 per annum 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—250 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 closed 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.

Since 1886, the first year that the Geological Survey issued complete returns of mineral production, Canada has shown a fairly steady growth in mineral output. In that year the per capita production was only \$2.23; in 1901, five years after the Yukon discoveries, production totalled \$12.16 per capita. There was a falling-off from 1902 to 1904. Thereafter, owing to the discovery of silver in the Cobalt area, the development of the copper and nickel ores of the Sudbury district, the opening up of the gold mines of Porcupine and Kirkland Lake in Ontario, the improvements in metallurgical practice which led to the recoveries of large quantities of lead and zinc from British Columbia ores, and the discoveries and developments in Quebec and Manitoba, the per capita production rose to \$31.00 in 1929, although owing to the current depression it has since dropped to \$21.92 in 1931.