

licence of competency to ensure that drilling will be efficiently carried out. The record of a driller may be obtained by payment of a fee. Operators are required to furnish a substantial bond to guarantee compliance with the regulations.

Permits to prospect for oil and gas are granted under similar regulations except that a cash rental of 20 cents per acre is required and a bond of 30 cents per acre which is forfeited if work to determine structure is not carried out within one year.

*Placer.*—These regulations remain as under Dominion administration except that 30 instead of 10 adjoining claims may now be grouped.

The Saskatchewan Mines Act provides for the competency of mine managers and pit bosses, for the reporting of accidents and generally for the welfare and safety of those employed in the production of minerals.

For further information apply to the Department of Natural Resources, Regina, Saskatchewan.

**Alberta.**—Since the Dominion Government in 1930 transferred control of the natural resources lying within the boundaries of Alberta to the Provincial Government, the leasing or disposal of mineral lands or rights is administered under provincial laws and regulations. However, for the present, 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 Utility Commissioners.

**British Columbia.**—The Department of Mines, organized under the provisions of c. 163, R.S.B.C., and amendments, administers mineral lands, 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".