

apply for 3 locations, but not over 19,200 acres in all, except in unsurveyed lands, in which the limit is 1,920 acres. An operator must obtain a permit and furnish a substantial bond. All drillers must secure licences of competency. The record of a driller may be obtained by payment of a fee.

Alberta.—*Administration.*—Department of Lands and Mines, Edmonton. There is a staff of inspectors of mines. *Legislation.*—The Coal Mines Regulation Act and regulations thereunder make provision for the safe operation of mines of coal, ironstone, shale, clay, and other minerals. Operating officials must hold certificates of competency. Monthly reports of operations must be returned to the Minister. The Coal Sales Act requires all coal mines to be registered by name and all coal produced to be 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.

The general laws and regulations pertaining to mining and minerals are similar to those in force under the Dominion Government before the Provincial Government took over the natural resources in 1930. They follow closely those summarized in Subsection 1 of this chapter.

British Columbia.—*Administration.*—Department of Mines, Victoria. The Department includes all Government offices in connection with the mining industry. *Legislation.*—The Department of Mines Act and other Acts respecting mining and minerals, notably: The Mineral Act (c. 181, R.S.B.C. 1936); The Placer-Mining Act (c. 184, R.S.B.C. 1936); Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act (c. 189, R.S.B.C. 1936); The Coal-Mines Regulation Act (c. 188, R.S.B.C. 1936); and amendments to the above Acts.

Placer.—Claims are of three classes: (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 close season, lay-over, leave of absence, sickness or other reason satisfactory to the Gold Commissioner is deemed abandonment. To hold a placer claim more than one year, it must be again recorded before the expiration of the year.

Placer leases of unoccupied Crown lands, approximately 80 acres in extent, may be granted by the Gold Commissioner of the district, the annual rental for same being \$30 and the annual expenditure required in development work \$250. Provision is also made for the granting of special leases of areas in excess of that referred to above.

General Minerals.—The terms of the mining laws are favourable to the prospector and operator, fees and rentals being small. Prospectors licence or "free miners certificate"—applicant must be over the age of 18; fee for individual \$5 per annum; for a joint-stock company \$50 or \$100 per annum depending on capitalization. Mineral claims must not exceed 1,500 feet square (51.65 acres); work, amounting to \$500 which may be spread over 5 years, required to obtain a Crown grant, while surface rights are obtainable at a figure in no case exceeding \$5 per acre.