

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 7 days, 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 recorded again 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 such a lease 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.

Section 2.—Summary of General Production.

The importance of mineral production as compared with other primary industries in Canada is indicated in Chapter VII, beginning at p. 167, while its part in the external trade of Canada is dealt with in Chapter XVI, especially Subsections 3 and 7.

Subsection 1.—General Statistics of Mineral Production.

Historical Statistics.—Definite records of the annual value of mineral production go back only to 1886, as given in Table 1, although actual production began with the earliest settlements. The figures given are not strictly comparable throughout the whole period, minor changes having been adopted in methods of computing both the metallic content of ores sold and the valuations of the products. Earlier methods resulted in a somewhat higher value than those now in use would have shown. However, the changes do not interfere with the general usefulness of the figures in showing the broad trends of the mineral industry.

Current Production.—The trend in the development of the mineral resources of Canada is given at pp. 300-303 of the special article that appears at the beginning of this chapter.