

"The Governor may also lease auriferous lands under regulations to be prescribed by himself.

"On the petition of 100 free miners in any district, the Governor may establish a 'Mining Board,' to consist of from six to twelve persons, elected by the miners. A majority of the Board, with the concurrence of the Gold Commissioner, or of two-thirds without that concurrence, may make by-laws respecting the size of claims, sluices, registration, and mining matters generally. Three members are to retire annually, but are eligible for immediate re-election.

"A person convicted (after his election) of misdemeanour, felony, or assault with a deadly weapon, vacates his office, and is not re-eligible.

"The Governor may dissolve the Board, or in the absence of a Board may make by-laws for the above purposes.

"Pending the constitution of these Boards, the Governor, in exercise of the power reserved to him by the 12th section of the Act, issued a set of regulations, of which the substance is as follows:—

"The size of registered claims is to be,—

"In dry diggings 25 by 30 feet. In bar or river diggings, 25 feet in breadth from the highest line to which the river rises in flood indefinitely into the stream.

"Provision is made for letting "exclusive water privileges," for which a rent is payable to the Government equal to one day's estimated receipts per month. The privileged person is bound to supply all miners with water, and not to waste it. Divisions of 3 feet in width are to be left between claims.

"Leases of auriferous lands may be made for periods not exceeding ten years, and of spaces not exceeding 10 acres in dry diggings, and in river or ravine diggings half-mile in length of unworked, or $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile of abandoned diggings."

"ASSAY OFFICE.—The establishment of an assay office in British Columbia has recently been sanctioned by the home Government.

"BANKING ACCOMMODATION.—The only banking accommodation for both British Columbia and Vancouver's Island is the Bank of British North America, Victoria, and Vancouver's Island. This bank is incorporate. The amount of the share is £50. The extent of the shareholder's liability is not great. In most colonial banks he is liable to twice the amount of the share, but in the case of the bank of British North America the liability is limited to paid-up capital. The head office of the bank is situate at 7, St. Helen's Place, Bishopsgate, London. The capital of this bank is £1,000,000, all of which is paid up."