

Last Six Years of the New Government—

Year	Value of output
1908.....	\$25,637,617
1909 (10 months)	32,981,375
1910.....	39,313,895
1911.....	41,976,797
1912.....	48,341,612
1913.....	53,203,484
Average per year.....	40,242,463

ADMINISTRATION LOCALIZED

Among the first acts of the new Government was to overhaul the Mining Law—a process that was much needed. The old law centralized everything in the Department at Toronto, and complaints of delay were rife. The new law placed a Recorder in every Mining District, and gave him power to accept applications for claims, without reference to Toronto.

Under the old Act the grant or lease could be obtained at once, but the title might be cancelled if so much money was not spent on development work, and in the case of a lease, so much rent paid every year. The new Act put the horse before the cart, and required a specific amount of work to be done before the Crown Deed could be given. Thus when the deed issued, the tenure was secure, a most important feature in mining. Formerly, the prospector was not required to put up any discovery or other posts, but simply filed his application in the Department; the new law obliged him to erect a stake at each of the four corners of his claim, and a post on the outcropping of mineral, with his name and the number of his license, thus giving notice to all coming on the ground that he had made a find and claimed the location.

The old law charged three or four different prices for mining lands, depending upon how far they were from a railway, whether in surveyed or unsurveyed territory, etc., and the prospector found it difficult to tell how much he would have to pay per acre. The new law divided the mining lands of the Crown into two classes only, surveyed and unsurveyed, and placed a price of \$3.00 per acre on the former and \$2.50 on the latter.

DISPUTES PROMPTLY SETTLED

Previously all disputes arising in connection with unpatented mining lands were settled by the Department. Whether rightly or wrongly, unsuccessful disputants were apt to attribute their want of success to political influence unfairly brought to bear against them. In reforming the Act the new Government determined to remove this cause of complaint, and provided for the settlement of disputed claims entirely outside of the Department. The Recorders were given power to decide in the first instance, and a new officer, called a Mining Commissioner, was appointed, to whom an appeal from the Recorder might be taken. If the Commissioner's decision was not satisfactory to either side, an appeal might be had to the ordinary Courts of the land. In any case, the Department was relieved of the onus of settling disputes between rival claimants, which are bound to arise under any conceivable kind of mining law, especially where the lands are, or are believed to be, valuable.

The operation of the new Act has justified the changes which were made. The law on the whole works smoothly; localized administration and prompt, inexpensive settlement of disputes being undoubted boons to the prospecting and mining community. The appointment of a Mining Commissioner has been of the greatest advantage. The Commissioner goes to the scene of the dispute, hears the evidence submitted by both sides, and gives his judgment at once or at most in a few days. Political influence is eliminated, justice is done, and that speedily—an ideal condition for mining contests, in which time is often a most important element.