

Crown grant may be got by paying \$50 per acre to the Government, in lieu of representation and expenditure on the claim.

General provisions for ordinary mining claims apply to mineral claims as far as may be.

The proper representation of a "mineral" claim requires that the sum of two hundred dollars, in money, labour, or improvements, shall be expended annually upon the claim, to the satisfaction of a Gold Commissioner, and that the owner shall have obtained a certificate from the Gold Commissioner to that effect, within a year from the location of the claim, and thereafter annually, and shall have recorded the certificate immediately after its issue.

An annual tax of \$1 per acre, or fractional part of an acre, of every mineral claim is payable on the 31st December.

Leases of mining ground, ditch privileges, &c., may be issued, but will not in general be granted for a longer term than ten years, or for a quantity of ground greater than—

In dry diggings, ten acres;

In bar diggings, unworked, half a mile in length along the high-water mark.

In bar diggings worked and abandoned, one mile and a half in length along the high-water mark.

The regulations as to flumes, ditches, and drainage need not be detailed, but it may be stated that the water taken into a ditch or sluice has to be measured at the ditch or sluice head. No water should be taken into a ditch or sluice except in a trough placed horizontally at the place at which the water enters it. One inch of water means half the quantity that will pass through an orifice two inches high by one inch wide, with a constant head of seven inches above the upper side of the orifice.

COAL PROSPECTING LICENSES.

A twelve months' prospecting license for 480 acres of vacant coal land, in one block, may be granted by the Government on payment of \$25. The license may be extended for another year if the licensee has actually explored for coal, on payment of \$50. The license is not transferable without notice being given to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works. If a licensee wishes to purchase the coal lands, he may do so under the said Land Act at \$2.50 per acre.

THE SURFACE OF THE PROVINCE.

The general physical features of British Columbia may be described in a few words. It occupies the mountainous, or hilly, region that extends to the Pacific Ocean from the western edge of the great plain or prairie country of Central Canada lying east of the Rocky Mountains. The length of the province is about 700 miles, and the extreme breadth over 500 miles. Its area is estimated at about 350,000 square miles.

The Rocky Mountains rise abruptly at their eastern base from the plain or prairie region of Central Canada, and present often to the east almost perpendicular walls of rock. They are composed not of a single upheaved ridge, but of a number of more or less nearly parallel ranges, which have a general direction a little west of north, and a breadth of over sixty miles. The rivers that flow into Hudson's Bay and the Arctic Ocean have their sources farther back among the several ranges of the Rockies as we proceed northward. Between the 51st and 52nd parallels the ranges not only become more diffuse, but decrease rapidly in height, till on the border of the Arctic Ocean they are represented by comparatively low hills.

The surface of the country between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean may be divided into two subordinate mountain districts, flanking on either side an irregular belt of high plateau country, which extends, with an average width of about 100 miles, up the interior of the province to about 55.30 N.L., and is, in fact, a northerly continuation of the great basin of Utah and Nevada in the United States. On the eastern side of this high irregular plateau, are masses of mountains that run generally parallel to the Rocky Mountains, and are not well distinguished from them. This is one of the mountain districts above-mentioned. The other is a mass of mountains on the western side of the plateau. These latter are commonly called the coast range of