

(Cons. Act, 1888, chap. 82, and amending Acts, 1889, chap. 16 (repealed); 1890, chap. 31 (repealed); 1891, chap. 25; 1892, chap. 32; 1893, chap. 29; 1894, chap. 32, and 1895, chap. 39; 1896, chap. 34; 1897, chap. 45; and Acts of 1898.)

Placer Mining Act.—Every free miner holding a certificate may mine for gold or other precious metals on any land, except Government reserves for town-sites, lands occupied by buildings, curtilages and orchards, or for placer mining on Indian reserves. He must give security for damages.

He may locate a placer claim on each separate creek, ravine or hill, but not more than two in the same locality, and only one a creek claim, but he may hold any number for purchase. A creek claim shall be 100 feet long, and in width from base to base of the hills; a bar diggings claim shall be a strip 100 feet long, and in width, from high water mark to the lowest water level; a dry diggings claim shall be 100 feet square, and the same for bench diggings and hill diggings. Discoverers of new mines shall be allowed: If one, a claim 300 feet long; if a party of two, 600 feet; if three, 800 feet; if four, 1000 feet; if more than four, ordinary claims.

Placer claims shall be as nearly rectangular as possible. Posts shall be placed at the corners, and the initial post shall bear names and description. Locations on Sundays and holidays shall not be invalid. Placer claims must be recorded with the Mining Recorder. The removal of posts entails forfeiture. Records of placer claims may be renewed on payment of the fees, \$2.50 a year.

A placer claim gives no right to a vein or lode unless the ground is located and recorded as a mineral claim.

A placer claim must be worked continuously by the holder or his employee, and shall be held abandoned and forfeited if unworked for 72 hours, except for reasonable cause, satisfying the Gold Commissioner. A years' leave of absence may be given if the sum of \$1000 has been expended without reasonable return, or if all holders of the set of claims sign the application.

Provisions as to the tunnels and drains, water rights (see 1879, cap. 45) partnerships, mining recorders, gold commissioners, county courts, penalties, paying free miner's fees for employees, are much the same as those regarding mineral claims.

Provisions are made for "bed rock flumes."

Free miners may obtain a lease of placer mining ground for 20 years, as follows:—Before application for lease, legal posts to be placed, with names and descriptions, and plans, etc., to be deposited with Mining Recorder; creek diggings, or abandoned or unworked creeks, half a mile in length; any other placer mining grounds, 80 acres; precious stone diggings, 10 acres. The lease may be renewed. The ground must be already occupied (without consent of occupiers) nor immediately available for agricultural purposes; and only placer-mining must be carried