

from this to the surface, should the showing be sufficiently encouraging to justify the expenditure.

A new 50 h.p. boiler has been ordered for the mill and will shortly be installed. Fourteen extra men have been sent for and the ground in the vicinity of the new shaft is being cleared and levelled.

Mr. H. Nicholson has a force of men at work on the Old England, and is opening up what is believed to have been an old channel of Rock Creek. Fair values are being obtained in the sluice boxes.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions which may be expressed in this column. No notice will be taken of communications unless accompanied by the full name and address of the writer.

A PRACTICAL MINER'S VIEWS.

TO THE EDITOR:—I am taking the liberty to address you on a subject all miners and prospectors are interested in, namely, the necessity of getting the legislature to repeal part VII. of the placer mining act referring to leases.

It is very difficult to get capital interested in prospecting, men of this class preferring to invest when value of mines are demonstrated. At present the prospector cannot now hold deep placer claims as he is required to hand over to the Government before obtaining a lease for mining purposes \$50 for Hill leases, and \$100 for creek leases, besides paying a heavy charge for water with which to prospect or operate a mine, if value is found upon doing exploratory work; second, an annual expenditure of \$1,000 to \$1,500 in labour on each claim is required annually in addition to the yearly rent of \$50 to \$100. Therefore, it is plain to see that no prospector or free miner can afford to explore and prove values of deep placers. There are vast areas of auriferous alluvials in the interior of British Columbia undeveloped, the existing laws accounting for the reason that this vast area is still undeveloped, unexplored and unproductive.

In regard to Crown grants to deep placer mines such claims should be on the same footing as Crown grants for mineral claims. Let us compare a deep placer mine to a mineral claim to illustrate the difference in deep placer mining and mineral claims. In the first place the deep placer miner frequently expends thousands of dollars in development work before he knows whether the ground is valuable or not. For example, we will take the Miocene Company of Horsefly. That company have expended over \$150,000 and do not yet know the value of their property. The Horsefly Hydraulic Mining Company have spent something like \$500,000 and are still prospecting. I could mention a number of other companies, while a mineral owner finds a prospect at the grass-roots and knows something of what he has got before doing much development work. It is plain therefor that a deep placer mine is entitled to more consideration at the hands of the government in regards to Crown grants than at present. Capitalists do not want leaseholds, they want a title to the ground before investing their money. And Crown grants for deep placer mines on the same conditions as mineral claims would cover the difficulties we are now working under.

Trusting you will find space in the next issue of your valuable journal to publish these suggestions and advocate the necessary legislation by the govern-

ment for the same. I am sir, yours very respectfully,
Black Bear Creek, Quesnelle Forks, B.C.

JAMES MOORE.

I also enclose the suggested amendments to the Placer Mining Act, as follows:—

MEMO OF SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO THE PLACER MINING ACT.

Amend section 2, Chapter 136, Placer Mining Act of 1899 to read as follows:—

Placer mines shall be divided into two classes as follows:—

Shallow Placers and Deep Placers.

Shallow Placer mines shall include all claims located on Creek diggings, bar diggings, bench diggings, dry diggings, and hill diggings, in newly discovered shallow placer mining districts.

Deep placer mines shall include all claims located on deep alluvial or other deposits of earth, gravel and gravel conglomerates (excepting rock in place) containing gold, platinum, osmiridium, or other valuable metals, minerals, or precious stones that shall be worked by the hydraulic, hydraulic elevator, drifting, or milling process.

Part VII. of the Placer Mining Act so far as it refers to leases should be repealed and amended as follows:—

DEEP PLACER MINES.

Section 1. Every free miner shall be entitled to locate and record a Deep Placer Mining Claim on any creek, bar, bench, hill, or plateau on any unoccupied and unreserved Crown land, but not more than two claims in the same locality, one of which shall be a creek claim. He shall be allowed to hold any number of placer mining claims by purchase, and every free miner may sell, mortgage, or dispose of his claim, or any part thereof, but in no case shall any free miner be permitted to locate and record a deep placer mining claim in a newly discovered shallow placer mining district without first obtaining the consent of the Gold Commissioner with the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

Section 2. The dimensions of deep placer mining claims shall be as follows:—

In creek diggings, or abandoned or unworked creeks half a mile in length.

Section 3. In other deep placer mining ground 80 acres, but in no case shall any deep placer mining claim extend along any creek, or river, more than 500 yards; creek diggings excepted.

Precious stone diggings 10 acres, but the right to mine for precious stones shall not include the right to mine for gold, or other precious metals, unless the ground be held also for that purpose under the provisions of this act.

Section 4. Every deep placer mining claim shall be as nearly as possible rectangular in form and marked by four legal posts at the corners thereof, firmly fixed in the ground; one of such posts shall be marked as the initial post and on that post shall be placed a legible notice in writing stating the name of the claim, its length and breadth in feet, and a general description of its boundaries commencing at the ini-

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