

the first clause because it is rendered necessary in order to give full effect to the operating and substantial clauses that follow. The purpose of the Bill is this: Its design is to supply additional incentive to placer mining in the Yukon territory. When the Yukon was opened up, and for many years thereafter, placer mining was vigorously prosecuted because the awards under the then conditions were ample. They now are not so great as they were at that time, and it is sought by this Bill to amplify them in the following manner:

To adopt the practice of issuing leases—that is to say leases of territory along creeks where placer mining is carried on of considerable extent;—practically a reservation of that territory for the applicant in order that he may prospect it and if he finds that it is in his interest to stake claims, to do so. The territory proposed to be granted in respect of land already worked over—that is land already taken up, cancelled or abandoned—is five miles in length on any creek, and the time allowed is one year. The prospector is bound to expend at least a thousand dollars in that year on prospecting operations, and if he does so he is entitled to a renewal, if he desires, for another year, and under similar circumstances for a third. He pays \$25 per mile, or fraction of a mile, rental for that prospecting lease. Then in respect of the class of claim already worked over, he is at liberty to stake within those three years any area he wishes, or rather as many claims as he desires. Each claim is about 23 acres in maximum.

Mr. BUREAU: In that particular location.

Mr. MEIGHEN: In that particular location. When he gets the claim he, of course, abides by the regulations in the usual way. Now as regards new areas—that is to say creeks not already applied for, forfeited or abandoned, or not worked over—he is entitled not to five miles but to one mile. He is entitled to renewals in the usual way—or rather in the way I have just defined as respects the other class—but he cannot stake the whole thing. He can only obtain a discovery stake,—that is to say three times the ordinary stake—the discovery stake being one that has always been given. Where a man is in the position of the discoverer of the area he gets three times the ordinary stake. So in this class of creeks already worked over, that is all he can obtain. He pays the same rental as I stated before for the other class, viz., \$25 per mile or fraction of a mile.

Then the Bill provides as well for the method of measurement, a rather technical definition which could be explained much better by the hon. member for the Yukon. Indeed, greater detail could be given by him, if necessary, as to the main provisions of the Bill and as to the necessity therefor.

Mr. ALFRED THOMPSON (Yukon): Perhaps the committee will permit me at this stage to elucidate the object of the Bill a little further, although the minister has given the basic reasons for the amendments. It is now over twenty years since gold was first discovered in the Klondike. A very large area of the gold-bearing gravels has been worked, many creeks have been prospected, and many worked, and others prospected but not worked and subsequently abandoned, which claims have reverted to the Crown. Now we have quite a large area of ground in that country containing gold-bearing gravels of this character; ground that is not sufficiently rich in gold contents to be worked by the ordinary placer mining methods or by the individual miner by staking individual claims.

But by placing these gravels in larger groups it is hoped that it may be possible to have them prospected by what is known as the core drill method, involving the use of machine drills, as opposed to the ordinary shaft sinking method. These amendments were suggested by a non-partisan organization known as the Yukon Development League, and it is hoped that their adoption will give an impetus to the further prospecting of this low grade gravel on abandoned creeks. So far as virgin ground is concerned, as the minister has stated, the leases cover only one mile for a term of one year, and within that mile the prospector can secure at the end of the term only one discovery claim of the same size as he would be able to obtain if he were to make a discovery on any other ground upon which claims did not already exist.

Mr. BUREAU: Will the hon. member explain how he expects to get better results by allowing five miles to be included in a claim instead of the area allowed heretofore?

Mr. THOMPSON (Yukon): This low grade ground can only be prospected by the use of expensive power drills, and the gold contents of any one claim were not such as to warrant their continued operation, otherwise the claims would not have been abandoned. The idea is to give a prospector a larger claim so that he will be