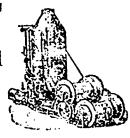


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MINING.

The bill to amend and consolidate the acts in relation to mines and min. rals came up for a short reading in the House of Assembly on Monday.

The consulidation of the act is a necessity and will meet with the approval of all interested in mining. The amendments will need careful consideration, but we must say that on their face as read by the Honorable Commissioner of Mines they appear to be appropriate and made mainly to overcome defects that have been discovered in the act. Many have our warm approval, particularly the measure to compel mill owners to make their regular monthly returns on pain of forfeiting their license, and the thirty days notice of forfeiture for non-payment of rental. The bill has been referred to a committee of the whole house and all its provisions will be thoroughly discussed before the final reading.

The matter is of such great importance to miners that we reproduce in full the remarks of the Hon. Commissioner when moving the second reading

of the bill.

He had explained on the first reading of the bill the amendments which had been passed since the revision of the statutes in 1884. Several new provisious of the bill were intended to adopt as law the practice of the provisions of the bill were intended to adopt as law the practice of the department in regard to applications made by post and other matters of that character. The bill also proposed a change in relation to mining areas to the following effect: The legislature had some years ago made some provisions in regard to the regulation of surveys. It was now provided that the surveyor appointed by the department should notify all parties to be on the ground and should then proceed to make a survey, having selected competent chainmen who would be duly sworn. If any party were dissatisfied with that survey he must state his objections forthwith and by depositing a certain sum of money would have the right to a second survey, which would be considered final. Another section of the bill provided that the department should lay out what is known as a base line: This had be not the practice heretofore and it was desirable to have it embodied in the the department should lay out what is known as a base line: This had he in the practice heretofore and it was desirable to have it embodied in the law. The tendency of this section would be to prevent disputes in the nuture as to boundaries. Another section provided that if a licensed mill owner failed to make his returns in any one month the mill license might be revoked. Another provision of the bill was intended to legalize the use of copies of all original papers relating to title, and render it in most cases unnecessary in matters on trial in the supreme court to send the original documents out of the mines department. original documents out of the mines department.

Sec on 77 was substantially the same as the old section 74. Where a number of applications were made simultaneously, and the applicants declined to take a joint title, the practice was for the commissioner to hold an auction. The question had arisen as to whether other parties than the applicants were to be admitted to bid at the sale. This clause provided that the auction in the first instance should be confined to the applicants, but that if none of them offered a premium the auction should be made

goderal.

Section 80 made a slight change in the law in relation to unlawful entry and working. The commissioner or his deputy were authorized to enter and search, and the party, if found guilty, cou _ no compelled to fill up the stope or pit made. If this was not done the party should be deemed guilty of a separate offence for every day thereafter.

Section 83 contained a change providing that the appeal from the decision of the justice should be to the supreme court or a judge thereof.

Section 86 which was put in at the instance of the gold miners' association, provided that no lessee should work within ten feet of the boundary line of property held by him, would not be pressed. Some of the parties interested in mining thought it could not be worked.

Section 104 was a new one. It provided that parties applying for licenses or leases should state the mineral in respect of which they were applied for. This merely made the law to correspond with the present practice of the department.

Section 107 was also now. It enabled the commissioner to grant a license to search over a tract of land already covered by a right to search for another mineral.

Sub-section (f) of section 108 provided for 30 days notice of forfaiture for non payment of rent. The act as it stood did not provide for any notice, though notice had been given.

Section 113 gave the legislature power to increase the annual rental, in

the case of leases renewed.

Section 131 was now. It defined what was intended by section 111 of the old act. If a mine was forfrited where there were arrears of royalty due, the government could make argulations for the payment of the arroars.

All that portion of section 146 relating to corporations holding mining

property was new.

In section 147 a slight change as made providing for the payment of a small fee for the registration of documents of title in the mines office.

As he had stated in introducing the bill it was largely made up of matters of detail, though the subject was one of great importance to the province, as it related to the oal source of supplementing the provincial revenue. The old act had worked fairly well, but as many amendments had been made it was felt necessary to consolidate it. In 1894 there would be another revision of statutes, and any further amendments that were

be another revision of statutes, and any furthur amendments that were found to be necessary could be added then.

Mr. Cahan said that the only principle involved in the bill before the house seemed to be whether the house was in favor of consolidating the acts

upon the statute books, and of making certain minor amendments thereto.

With regard to this there could be no discussion. The principle of consolidation must receive the approval of members on both sides of the house. With regard to the amendments proposed members must hold themselves free to discuss or move against them in committee. He noticed