

high water mark to extreme low water mark. In 'dry diggings' a claim shall be 250 feet square."

Section 8, increases the size of discovery claims as follows:

"17. If any free miner, or party of free miners, discover a new locality for the prosecution of placer mining and such discovery be established to the satisfaction of the Gold Commissioner, placer claims of the following sizes shall be allowed to such discoverers, viz.:

"To one discoverer, one claim, 600 feet in length; to a party of two discoverers, two claims, amounting together to 1,000 feet in length; And to each member of a party beyond two in number, a claim of the ordinary size only: Provided that where a discovery claim has been established in any locality no further discovery shall be allowed within five miles therefrom, measured along water-courses. The width of such claims shall be the same as ordinary placer claims of the same class."

Section 9 provides that:—"Every placer 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. On each of such posts shall be written the name of the locator, the number and date of issue of his free miner's certificate, the date of the location and the name given to the claim. In timbered localities all boundary lines of a placer claim shall be blazed so that the posts can be distinctly seen and underbrush cut, and the locator shall also erect posts not more than 125 feet apart on all boundary lines. In localities where there is no timber or underbrush monuments of earth or rock, not less than two feet high and two feet in diameter at base, may be erected in lieu of the said last mentioned legal posts, but not in the case of the four legal posts marking the corners of the claim."

Section 18 is evidently framed with the object of preventing the extensive staking of creeks by one man in the name of others on the strength of powers of attorney. It reads:

"Mining partnerships can locate, record, and re-record in the partnership name a placer claim for each partner, but the name of every partner and the number of his free miner's certificate shall be on the record or re-record of every such claim. The partnership name, and the name of the foreman also, must appear on every such record, or re-record, and all the claims so taken up shall be the property of the partnership: Provided always, that no free miner who is a member of a mining partnership, such partnership holding by right of location a placer claim, shall be entitled to locate and record a placer claim on the same creek, ravine or hill. A set of claims belonging to a mining partnership may be recorded and re-recorded in one record, but the fee provided by this Act shall be paid in respect of every such claim."

To restrict "jumping" as far as possible forms are added to the original declaration when making application for record, and embodied in the affidavit. The application now reads:

"I, of , hereby apply, under the provisions of the "Placer Mining Act," for a record of a claim for placer mining as defined in the said Act [here describe locality, etc., fully], and I make oath and say:—

"1. That I am the holder of free miner's certificate No. issued at on the day of .

"2. That from indications I have observed on the claim applied for I have reason to believe that there is therein a deposit of placer gold.

"3. That I am, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the first to observe such indications and stake said claim (or, that said claim was previously located by as claim known as but, has remained unworked by the said locator for not less than seventy-two hours).

"4. That the said land is at present unoccupied for placer mining purposes.

"5. That I did, on the day of , mark out the ground and make the proper inscriptions required by the Placer Mining Act" amendments, on the claim for which I make this application, and in doing so I did not, so far as I know, encroach on any other valid claim previously laid out by any other person.

"6. That the said claim, as nearly as I could measure, is feet long, running in a and direction,

and feet wide, and that the above description sets forth in detail its position, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

"7. That I have not heretofore located any placer claim on the said creek (or, that heretofore I located claim [name and number] on said creek, but I have recorded an abandonment of same on day of , and have posted notice of such abandonment on each of the stakes of such claim).

"8. That I make this application in good faith to acquire the claim for the sole purpose of mining.

In reference to the proposed amendments to the placer mining act, a correspondent sends us the following suggestions, which are very much to the point:—

1. The Act to be in three parts, viz:—Placer, Hydraulic and Dredging, whereof each part shall in itself be a complete Act, for the reason that they are separate and distinct kinds of work, and persons engaged in either one does not wish to refer to the law on a subject in which he is not interested in order to find points relating to the class of work he is engaged in.

2. All hydraulic mining leases to be issued at Victoria on the recommendation of the Gold Commissioner for the district in which the property is situate.

3. The consolidation of hydraulic mining leases to be effected at Victoria, and that without necessarily referring the matter to the Gold Commissioner, the reason being that such could be done during the winter, when in some instances, it is impossible to reach such Gold Commissioner, and further there being certain legal formalities connected with consolidations they can be better attended to in a city than at the Gold Commissioner's headquarters, where there is seldom or never legal assistance on the spot.

4. When leases are consolidated, it shall be proof that all notices, applications, rentals, work, etc., etc., have been duly attended to according to law up to the time of the consolidation, with the exception that the Government alone, may in case of fraud cancel such consolidated leases.

5. One lease to be issued in lieu of the several leases which are consolidated, this will do away with the necessity of paying rentals at different periods during the year, the lessee having one payment only to make and that on the date of the consolidated lease in each and every year. At present it is probable he may have to pay his rent on each lease at different dates and thereby risk the loss of a part of his property in the event of his omitting one of his payments.

6. All rentals to be paid in Victoria. Seeing properties of this nature are usually worked until the very end of the season when it is imperative for the employees to hurry out of the country, they have not the time at their disposal to give to formalities which may detain them if only for part of a day, as such detention may mean their having to remain all the winter in the country.

7. All work on hydraulic mining leases to be recorded at Victoria, for the reasons given in No. 6. The present Act is, I think, silent as to the record of work on these properties.

8. In case of the free miner's certificates, rentals, work, etc., etc., be not attended to on the date they should be, the property affected should not be open for re-staking for a period of one year, during which time the lessees should have the right to re-enter upon payment to the Government of certain penalties, such as for instance in the case of a joint stock company neglecting to take out its free miner's certificate, value \$100.00, the penalty could be set at 10 per cent. over and above that amount for each month or portion of a month it is in arrears. In the meantime the Government could communicate with the registered owners of the property (whose address should be registered, compulsorily, with the Government at Victoria), this would prevent an agent for non-resident owners dealing in an unlawful manner with property placed in his charge to protect.

9. When a hydraulic mining leasehold has been fully equipped with machinery, a Crown grant of the property may be issued on payment to the Government of such