

As regards all Crown lands sold as mining lands or locations, and lying south of the French and Mattawa rivers and Lake Nipissing, the following prices are fixed :—

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| If within a surveyed township, any part of which lies within 12 miles of any railway | \$3 per acre. |
| If situate elsewhere | 2 per acre. |

But it is provided that where any locality is shown to be rich in minerals, the Governor-in-Council may set apart the whole or any part of it, and fix the price per acre at any greater sum as above specified, or may temporarily withdraw it from sale altogether.

Some consideration, however is shown to parties who had been prospecting for minerals, or who had paid money on locations before the withdrawal of lands in the Sudbury district from sale last year; for it is provided that in certain cases, such parties may acquire grants of farming lands at the old prices and subject to the old conditions.

But the person who desires to obtain a mining location is not obliged to purchase it at the foregoing figures; he may, if he sees fit, acquire the right to hold and work the property under a lease for ten years, instead of a tenure in fee simple, with right of renewal for a further term of ten years at the same rental if the covenants and conditions have been performed. The rental is \$1 per acre for the first year, and twenty-five cents an acre per annum thereafter, for lands above Lake Nipissing and the French and Mattawa rivers, and sixty cents an acre the first year and fifteen cents an acre per annum thereafter for lands situated elsewhere—the rental in all cases to be payable yearly in advance. It is further provided, that at the end of the second term of ten years, if the covenants and conditions have been fulfilled, the lease may be renewed for a term of twenty years on such conditions and at such rent as the regulations shall provide, and so on from time to time at the expiration of every twenty years. It is also provided that the lessee may become the purchaser of the land, if he has complied with the conditions, in which case the sum paid for the first year's rental is to be treated as part of the purchase money; that the lease may be forfeited if default is made in payment of rent; and that in case of forfeiture or non-renewal of the lease the lessee may remove any mining plant and machinery which he may have placed upon the premises, if so agreed upon in the lease.

As regards conditions of occupation it is provided that, whether the land is held in fee simple or under lease, the occupier shall expend in stripping or in opening up the mines, in sinking shafts or in other actual mining operations, at the rate of \$4 per acre during the first seven years where the location exceeds 160 acres, and \$5 per acre where it is less. In default of such expenditure the tenure is to become absolutely forfeited in the case of a leasehold, and in the case of the grantee or owner the mineral right is to revert to the Crown, saving only his interests in the soil as agricultural land, distinct from the minerals.

The provision respecting royalties applies alike to occupation in fee simple and leasehold, but only as regards ores or minerals taken from lands sold, granted or leased by the Crown under the amended Act. The royalties are to be calculated upon the value of the ores at the pit's mouth, and are fixed as follows, viz. :

Silver, nickel or nickel and copper, 3 per cent.; all other ores except iron are to be subject to such royalty, not exceeding 3 per cent., as may be imposed from time to time by Order in Council, and iron ore not exceeding 2 per cent. But "to assure speedy development," it is provided that the royalty thus reserved is not to be imposed or collected upon any ores until after seven years from the date of the patent or lease, except as to mines known to be rich in nickel, and as to those not until after four years. It is reasonable to assume that the lawmakers of Ontario are desirous of promoting a speedy development of the mineral resources of the Province. One can hardly suppose that there is a member of the Legislature on either side of the Chamber, no matter whether out of or in the Cabinet, who favors a policy of tardy development of the industry. Yet the very language of the statute implies that the royalties are calculated to hinder development; for it is specifically declared that the object of postponing their operation is "to assure the speedy development." This, indeed, is a *rara avis* in the phraseology of an Act of Parliament.

The only remaining subject dealt with in this Act is a Bureau of Mines established in connection with the Department of Crown Lands, and with the object of promoting the mining interests of the Province. The head of the Bureau is to be known as "Director of the Bureau of Mines," and it is provided that he is to have all the powers, rights and authority which an inspector or local agent has or may exercise in any mining division or locality, and such other powers, rights and authority for the carrying out of the provisions of the Act as may be assigned to him by regulation for that purpose. In a word, he has scope enough for the doing of useful work, and we are confident that in Mr. A. Blue the government has found a Director possessing the ability and the energy to undertake it and do it.—*The Canadian Mining and Mechanical Review.*

A FLY ON THE WING.

There are many insects which one would little suspect to be furnished with apparatus suited to swift and more or less continuous flight. House flies frequent the inside of our windows, buzzing sluggishly in and out of the room. But what different creatures are they when they accompany your horse on a hot summer's day. A swarm of these little pests keep pertinaciously on wing about the horse's ears; quicken the pace up to ten or twelve miles an hour, still they are there; let a gust of wind arise and carry them backward and behind, the breeze having dropped, their speed is redoubled, and they return to their post of annoyance to the poor horse even when urged to its fastest pace says the *New York Ledger*.

But this example gives only a partial proof of the fly's power of flight, as the following will show: The writer was travelling one day in autumn by rail at about twenty-five miles an hour, when a company of flies put in appearance at the car window. They never settled, but easily kept pace with the train; so much so, indeed, that their flight seemed to be almost mechanical, and a thought struck the writer that they had probably been drawn into a sort of vortex,