

ing the assessed value of the land, without reference to its enhancement in value from the discovery of gold, and twenty-five per cent bonus. Quartz mines were laid off, in areas of different sizes. Area No. 1, being one hundred and fifty feet along a lead, by two hundred and fifty across. Rent forty dollars per annum.

Area No. 4, being four hundred and fifty feet along by five hundred across. Rent two hundred and forty dollars per annum.

Under special circumstances, leases of larger areas, and on modified terms, might be granted with the approval of the Governor in Council.

Alluvial diggings were to be laid off in lots of one thousand square feet. Rent five dollars per annum, payable in advance.

A royalty of three per cent to be exacted upon the gross amount of the gold mined.

Under this Act, several gold fields were gazetted, claims were leased, shafts sunk, and order maintained among the miners during the season of 1862, and considerable progress was made in developing the true system of mining. But the experience of the year also elicited the defects of the law, and led to the passing of the Act of March 1863, under which, any number of areas of any of the classes prescribed by the former Act, not exceeding five, if lying contiguous to each other, might be included in one lease, and the labour to be put on the demised premises, being at the rate of one hundred days, for each area of class No. 1, might be put on any part of the demised premises.

Applicants for leases of mining areas on private lands, without the limit of any proclaimed gold district, or on any lands within the limits of a proclaimed district, not ordered under the principal Act to be re-vested, may arrange by agreement in writing with