

FREE MINERS' CERTIFICATES.

If Allowed to Lapse Mineral Properties Will Not Be Forfeited.

The Minister of Mines has issued an order which will be hailed as a boon by prospectors and claim owners throughout the Province. It provides that the lapse of a free miner's certificate shall not entail the forfeiture of any mineral property owned by the holder of such certificate. The following conditions are imposed upon any mining company or individual who shall omit to renew its or his certificate on the date of its expiration.

Forthwith upon ascertaining the expiry of the certificate to obtain a new one; to file with the recorder and post in the recorder's office a notice of intention to apply for relief; within thirty days of such filing, transmit to the Minister of Mines the following documents and fee:

A statutory declaration setting forth the circumstances of such omission, with full particulars of the mining properties held by the applicant which would be affected with forfeiture.

A certificate under the hand of the gold commissioner or mining recorder of each division wherein any of the said properties is situate that notice has been posted, and that no records (other than those mentioned in the said certificate, if any) adverse to the applicant's interest in the said properties have been made by him during the time in which the said applicant was not in possession of a valid existing free miner's certificate.

A declaration by the applicant or his agent duly cognizant of the location on the ground of the applicant's properties, and the other facts affecting the case; that he has searched the records of claims recorded during the interval the applicant was in default, and that such claims do not (except as may be therein stated) conflict with or overlap any of the properties of the applicant.

The sum of five dollars.

The Minister of Mines may thereupon give instructions for the alteration of the date of the applicant's free miner's certificate so as to conform with the date of the expiration of the lapsed certificate, and may also give instructions for such amendment to be made to the records affected as may be considered requisite, and any such relief may be partial as to properties in respect whereof relief is given, so as to save adverse rights acquired during default of the applicant.

This very desirable change will put an end to much threatened claim jumping.

EXTENSIVE WORK AT THE LE ROI.

The main shaft of the Le Roi mine is now being extended to the 700 ft. level, a work which will be completed about the end of January. The extended shaft will then be the deepest vertical opening in the Rossland Camp.

LE ROI SMELTER.

The Northport smelter is now under roof, and practically finished, with the exception of the calcine furnaces. It will start up some time before the Company's present contract with the Trail smelter is completed, and the Le Roi will then treat all its ore at the Northport smelter. It will be remembered that the erection of this smelter to treat Rossland ores on the other side of the international boundary line at Northport caused the now lapsed agitation in favor of an export duty on Canadian precious metal ore.

TO STOP BOGUS LOCATIONS.

The Golden Era says: "We are glad to hear from Mr. Griffith, our Gold Commissioner, that he is determined to stop as far as possible the practice of bogus locations, and no consideration whatever shown to people who have been making a practice of staking ground and keeping it idle, re-staking it from time to time in the names of other persons so as to enable them to hold it year after year without development. This sort of thing has been the curse of the mining industry and ought to be stopped.

BOUGHT FROM THE SHERIFF.

Mr. J. McCreath, of the Hamilton-Rossland Gold Mining Co., has bought out at a sheriff's sale five claims on Ford Mountain, near Nelson, and known as the Delight, Woodstock, Calgary, Balmoral and Atlantic. Some \$3,000 have been expended on the property, and the purchaser believes that he has bought solid value. Some of the surface ore from the group has, it is stated, assayed up to \$60 a ton.

NANAIMO'S FOREIGN COAL SHIPMENTS.

The foreign coal shipments of the Nanaimo district amounted in November to 57,962 tons, as compared with 50,907 tons in September. Nearly all went to California, though a few shipments in all were sent to points in Washington State and one small shipment to Portland Oregon. There was also a shipment of 1413 tons to Honolulu.

Mines and Prospects**W Thos. Newman**

Author "Hidden Mines," etc.; late engineer in charge for the British Canadian Gold and Silver Mines Co., Limited.

WILL EXAMINE

And report on MINES and PROSPECTS, with specific valuation where desirable. Also plan, estimate and supervise development. SPECIALTY—The appraisal of Prospects and

NEW CAMPS.

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