

receive revenue for inspection and office expenses if they do not sell the lands as at present? The free-grants which proved paying mines, on arriving at that stage if charged a low royalty on profit, after working expenses are paid, would yield annually a larger revenue to the government than the present system of selling lots. In proof of this, the British Crown paid the Earl of Derby £50,000 stg. for the Isle of Man, and has been refunded from royalty on mines and quarries more than the sum paid for the island.

Compulsory working to hold a claim may be considered a small thing in an individual case, as regards the amount of labor employed, but take the returns for a province, or the whole Dominion, and it would amount to a large sum, on all the now known valuable minerals lots throughout Canada. In yearly doing a little on a mining property to hold it, new discoveries would be made, and new life given to what was possibly considered a doubtful prospect. It was in this manner that John W. McKay and other United States millionaires gained their first start. Through being compelled to work their claims they made a discovery which enabled them to sell or work it with profit. The mining interests in Canada will never prosper till similar measures are adopted. The custom of granting land to farmers under the free-grant system, and not giving an explorer, prospector or miner a free-grant, under conditions similar to that of the farmer, or of compulsory development of the minerals contained in the property is an injustice to the mining section of the population, and for that reason settlement has made progress and mining has not.

Some parties ask "but why give away a valuable mine as a free-grant?" A mining property in this section has no more value than the same amount of land, say \$1.00 an acre, which you now give to the farmer. The miner would return \$100 in labor each year, and develop the mine and prove its value, and if it proved valuable the Government would receive a revenue from royalty as long as it paid expenses. And some say: "What use would a free-grant be to a miner who had not money enough to purchase it at \$1.00 per acre?" Under the free-grant plan both the farmer and the miner have energy and skill to develop the value of their claims, with proper provisions imposing on them a certain amount of work yearly, and that is worth