

especially as to the size of claims, and as a consequence the records are badly confused, rendering it necessary to suspend locations on some creeks. The fault does not seem to lie with the gold commissioner, who is a conscientious officer and has made every effort to accommodate the public, but is attributable to the fact that the regulations are formulated in Ottawa by officials who are ignorant of local conditions, the gold commissioner having no discretion in their enforcement. The principal complaint is directed against the royalty of 10 per cent charged on the output of the mines, and many mine owners have announced that they will simply represent their properties during the coming winter or until such time as the royalty shall be declared off or modified. They feel that the royalty is a discrimination against the producer, the speculator who purchases a claim for the purpose of reselling it escaping taxation.

Under the regulations in force June 25 creek claims are limited to 250 feet along the general course of the stream. The discoverer is allowed to locate 500 feet. "Every alternate ten claims shall be reserved for the Government of Canada—that is to say, when a claim is located, the discoverer's and nine additional claims adjoining each other and numbered consecutively will be open for registration. Then the next ten claims, of 250 feet each, will be reserved for the Government, and so on."

A royalty of 10 per cent on the gold mined is levied and collected on the gross output of each claim, the sum of \$2,500 being deducted from the gross annual output of a claim when estimating the amount upon which royalty is to be calculated.

The gold commissioner's fees are as follows: Miner's license, \$10; location notice, \$15; transfer, \$2; mortgage, \$2; partnership agreement, \$5.

The duties of the mine inspectors are to exercise a general supervision of locations, to see that the law in regard to representation is obeyed, and to collect royalty. When a discovery is made on a new creek, the locator is required to report to an inspector, who visits the creek, if easily accessible, to ascertain whether gold has been discovered. If the creek is at a great distance, the inspector takes the affidavits of the locator and others as to the fact of discovery.

Up to June 23 over 3,000 free miner's licenses had been issued, and at that date they were being issued at the rate of forty per day. A miner's license gives the holder the privilege of cutting timber for his own use, for mining purposes, the building of boats, the construction of cabins, etc. Timber berths are granted to manufacturers of lumber. These are disposed of at Ottawa, through the department of the interior. A bonus of not less than \$250 per square mile is charged, and a stumpage of \$2 per 1,000 feet is collected. Berths shall not be less than 1 mile in breadth and shall not exceed 5 square miles in extent. Not more than five berths of 5 square miles each shall be