

rate, rather early in the season, while mining was yet impracticable, from the spring floods—being unable to procure mining locations either on private property or under any public law, and seeing that some who had commenced work without permission were *arrested for trespass*, gradually went off, many, indeed, intending to return, had not the gold-mining Act been finally passed so late in summer as practically to spoil the season.

It may be here remarked that the obnoxious bill mentioned as being before the legislature was ultimately withdrawn, and a very liberal act passed, by which the right to the gold is recognized in the proprietor of the soil; the royalty is abolished—except in the one case of the mining patent previously granted; and a trifling and easily-understood poll-tax of one dollar per month on each working miner imposed.

About two hundred and fifty men did continue at work a part of the season, on a small space of between *two* and *three* acres on the Gilbert River, and met with great success, having obtained, at the lowest estimate, over \$116,000 of gold in about one hundred and sixteen days' work, as computed by the division gold inspector. It is known, however, that the miners have at times been averaging as high as \$10 to the hand per day, and some parties as high as \$30. And it must be taken into consideration that they had every motive to conceal the actual quantity, inasmuch as they were working on the tract excluded from the operation of the new law and subject under the de Lery patent to a royalty of ten per cent., while at the same time they were acting on proprietary rights in violation of the patent, and liable to be called upon to refund the gold should the patent, which is in litigation, be maintained. The miners had, therefore, every motive to report as small a quantity as possible, and