

MINING LAWS AND REGULATIONS

IN British Columbia mining has been the chief factor in the attaining of its present position as an organized and progressive province of the Dominion.

It was due to the discovery of placer gold on the banks of the Fraser River, and later to coal deposits on Vancouver Island, that the Pacific seaboard emerged from being merely a fur hunting reserve, and was settled long before any of the territory between the Great Lakes and the Rocky Mountains.

The administrative control of the industry, and of all matters relating to its regulation, as well as to the acquisition and transfer of mining lands is in the hands of the Provincial Government. The Departments of Mines and Lands and Public Works are the most important of the Provincial Government, and through their officials, consisting of a body of departmental officers and of gold commissioners and mining recorders stationed throughout the Province, the laws and regulations are easily and carefully administered.

The Department of Mines also publishes statistical and other information for the guidance and assistance of those engaged in the industry. The report of the Provincial Mineralogist is a comprehensive statement of the product of the mines, and of the latest estimates of the extent of the deposits, with much other valuable information.

The mining laws and practice of British Columbia have been the subject of favorable comment in other mining countries.

The law governing titles is simple and clear. Anyone wishing to locate a claim must be the holder of a Free Miner's Certificate, obtainable from the local office for a fee of \$5. When he discovers mineral in place and on waste lands of the Crown, or where not occupied as a mineral claim by another, he must erect a discovery post where he has found mineral in rock in place. He must blaze a line as nearly as possible following the direction of his lead. At the ends of this line he places his posts, numbers 1 and 2, inscribing his name, the name he gives to the claim, and the date of location, and defining the limits which he may place altogether on one side of the line, or divided by it into any proportions. His claim is then kept alive by annual assessment work, a minimum of \$100 being fixed each year. When he has expended the sum of \$500 or more in labor and improvements, and has had the claim surveyed, he completes