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RECENT MINING LEGISLATION.

THE volume of legislation relating directly to mining, passed at the last session of the Legislature, was not great. Taking the several acts up in the order of their introduction we have first a bill to amend the "Coal Mines Regulation Act," which provides that no Chinese, Japanese or person unable to speak English shall be employed as a bankman, onsetter, signalman, brakesman, pointsman, furnace man or underground or at the windlass of a sinking pit. There is another amendment to the same act providing for the payment of "check weighers" employed by miners, and also requiring a reasonable supply of timber to be kept in or near each working place.

A brief act provides for trial by jury of cases under "the Mineral Act," and for the determination of the respective right of persons who have certificates of work for the whole or portion of the same claim. The latter provision is purely of a technical character.

The most important measure of the session, as far as mining is concerned, is one making provision for the extraction of iron from magnetic sand. In introducing this bill the Minister of Mines said that it was to enable a new process to be employed in this

province. The act provides for the issuing of twenty-year leases for gold commissioners, with the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council of any unoccupied or unreserved Crown land for iron placer mining. The land may be staked by a free miner, who must place a post at each corner, and put a notice "on the post nearest to the iron placer leaseholds then being worked and also in the office of the Mining Recorder." The notice must give the name of the applicant, describe the location, and specify the area applied for and the terms for which the lease is desired. He must within thirty days after staking make his application to the Gold Commissioner in duplicate, specifying in addition to what the notice contains, the number of the applicant's free miner's certificate and the rent proposed to be paid, and there must be a plan of the ground on the back of the application. He must also file three plans of the land with the Mining Recorder, and deposit \$10.00 with the Gold Commissioner, to be applied on the first year's rent, if the application is granted, otherwise to be returned to the applicant. The balance of the first year's rent must be paid within sixty days after the lease is granted. The deposit is forfeited if the applicant does not fulfill his part of the application. The maximum area permitted in a single application is 80 acres, and the same person may not have two leases in the same locality. Agricultural land may not be leased nor any ground already occupied by free miners, except with their consent. The act provides certain covenants as to public rights of way and water, for the proper mining of the deposit and the like, and the lease may be terminated by the Gold Commissioner, subject to the sanction of the Minister of Mines, in the event of failure to perform the covenants. The leases will authorize iron placer mining only. Extensions of leases are provided for, also the consolidation of leases held as creek claims. A royalty of ten cents a ton on all iron produced is imposed. An amendment to the original act declares that none of its provisions shall interfere with the locations under the "Placer Mining Act."

A short act was passed in amendment of the "Companies Act, 1897"; one to amend the "Companies Act, 1897, Amendment Act of 1901," and one to amend the "Companies Clauses Act, 1897." The first relates to penalties to which companies may render themselves liable under the "Companies Act" or the other acts relating to such organizations. It pro-