

APPENDIX No. 5

To the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Mines,
House of Commons, Ottawa.

The mining law which is best suited to encourage the exploration and development of a country such as Canada, with its vast stretches of remote and unexplored territory, should first of all offer reasonable inducements to the prospector to search for and discover the mineral resources of the country; it should provide him with a quick and easy method of holding mining land and obtaining a title to it on terms which would not be beyond his reach; it should provide that he should be enabled to hold this land as long as he personally might wish to live on it and mine it. In addition, it should enable him to spend practically all his time on his mining property, for the time spent on that property is the only time which is of value to himself and to the country which he is attempting to develop. The calls made on him to attend the government offices should be as few and brief as possible, and the procedure in such offices should be simple and inexpensive.

By thus giving the poor men quiet and undisturbed possession of mining claims as long as they might wish to live on them, many men would be induced to become permanent residents in the most remote parts of the country for there is nothing that will attract a population into any country as quickly as the discovery of precious metals in it, and when a country has had a population drawn into it by this means, a population usually composed of energetic, quick-witted men, men prepared and willing to make use of any of the natural resources with which they may find themselves surrounded, it is certainly good policy for the government to make such laws as will encourage and induce these men to acquire such property as they wish to develop, and become permanent settlers.

To meet these conditions, therefore, a prospector should be obliged to make a discovery, as defined by Mr. Justice Field, of the Supreme Court of the United States, stake out a claim of forty acres on the ground, and record it in the Government Recording Office free of charge. Afterwards, he should be obliged to record that claim annually as long as he continued to live on it, for say six months in each year, paying a renewal fee of ten (\$10) dollars a year.

In case of non-payment, this renewal fee should be doubled every six months and if the total amount was not paid at the end of two years, he should be notified both by personal letter mailed to the recorded address, and by public advertisement, that his claim would be forfeited in six months thereafter if the rent was not paid.

In case the prospector should wish to obtain assistance from others to work and develop his claim, a reasonable time should be given him to accomplish this purpose, say two years, on an annual rental of two hundred (\$200) dollars a year. At the end of these two years he should either go back to live on the claim, as provided for above, and pay his annual renewal of ten (\$10) dollars a year or he should have the privilege of taking out a longer lease as follows.

After a man had spent four thousand (\$4,000) dollars on a mining claim either in actual mining or in the installation of mining machinery, he should be given a lease of it for twenty years, renewable for an additional twenty years, at an annual rental of two (\$2) dollars an acre free from all other incumbrances, which rental in case of non-payment at the proper time, should be doubled every six months and at the end of two years, if the rental was still unpaid, notice should be given to the owner, both by letter and public advertisement, and six months thereafter, in case of non-payment, the property should be forfeited to the Crown.