

the position it will not be from her geographical position, but from the manufacturing advantages she gains by the possession of vast mineral wealth."

MINING REGULATIONS.

A very liberal mining law was passed by the Legislative Council during the last session, allowing prospecting rights to Companies over large tracts of land, to continue for two years, and followed by grants in fee simple; in the case of coal 1,000 acres, to be selected out of the larger area. The price fixed is £1 per acre, or in lieu thereof, beneficial expenditure, to an amount not less than £2,000. For mineral lands other than coal and gold, the price is, for any quantity not exceeding 30 chains long by 6 chains wide, £50, to a company of ten persons. This law however has not yet been extended to Vancouver Island.

The gold mining regulations are very simple. Any person may mine where he pleases, on unoccupied ground, on payment of an annual sum of £1 for a "Free Miner's Certificate," which is not transferable, and must be recorded, and a fee of 10s. paid therefor. The size of each claim is according to the nature and character of the ground: for "bar diggings," 100 feet wide, extending to the river; for "dry diggings" and "bank claims" respectively, 100 feet square; for "creek claims," 100 feet long, in the direction of the stream, and from vale to vale of a hill on each side. For "hill claims," a frontage of 100 feet; for "quartz claims," 150 feet in length. Any number of claims may be held by purchase, and a discoverer is allowed to hold two claims without purchase.

Mining leases are granted on deposit of £25; but the lease cannot be assigned without the license of the Gold Commissioner, and is not in general to be for a term of more than 10 years, nor for a larger area than, in "dry diggings," 10 acres; in "bar diggings," unworked, half a mile in length along the high water mark, or in worked and abandoned, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles; in quartz reefs, unworked, half a mile in length, or in worked and abandoned, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Mining is now carried on all the year through, underground and above, when there is sufficient water, and the cold not too great.

A branch of the Government Assay Office has been established in Cariboo. In each mining district there is a Gold Commissioner, who is the local magistrate, and determines all disputes in a "Mining Court."

TIMBER.

The coast line, both of the inland and mainland, is clothed with the finest timber. The Douglas pine, with its straight uniform trunk, often 200 feet high, and exceedingly tough and flexible, furnishes the finest masts and spars for the largest vessels. On Burrards' Inlet, near New Westminster, are two large mills, one belonging to Messrs. Moody & Co., and the other to the British Columbia and Vancouver Island Spar, Timber, and Saw Mill Company, of London, employing between them over 500 hands. The lumber is of such excellent quality as to find a market