

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MINING LAWS.

Your Committee have the honor to report:—

1. That, in the opinion of the Committee, it is highly desirable that the present Gold Mining Law of British Columbia should be changed.
2. That the system of granting leases of land for mining purposes should be abolished, and in lieu thereof, that it should be permitted to Miners to purchase and acquire by Crown Grant, any land, of which, under the existing law, a lease could be had, situate in a Mining District, on the basis of five acres to an individual, on such applicant therefor proving, to the satisfaction of the Government, that the sum of \$ per acre has been expended on the land applied for,
3. That the rights of intending purchasers should, prior to the Grant being issued to them, be secured to them by a simple record in the office of the Gold Commissioner of the District; and such rights should be transferable.
4. That in the case of ordinary Mining Claims, held under record, that the owners thereof should have the right to obtain a Crown Grant thereof, after expending the sum of \$250 per interest thereon.
5. That persons holding leases or claims by record should, if they desire, be permitted to come under the operation of the new law.
6. That discoverer's claims should extend from summit to summit.
7. That the system of acquiring water rights, in Mining Districts, should be assimilated, as far as possible, to the mode of acquiring water rights for irrigating agricultural lands.
8. That miners should be entitled to run a tunnel, for drainage purposes, through any occupied mining land, on compensating the owners of such land for any damage that they may sustain by the construction of such tunnel; and such tunnel, when completed, should be deemed to be a part of the claim of the person or persons by whom the same was run.
9. That the size of claims upon gold quartz ledges should be increased, and should be the same for an individual as for a company.

A. ROCKE ROBERTSON,
Chairman.

Victoria, 27th January, 1873.