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# REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MINES.

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## ALTERATION OF THE MINING LAWS.

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MR. SPEAKER :

Your Standing Committee on Mines have the honour to report that they have received numerous suggestions for the alteration of the Mining Laws, and that after careful consideration they can confidently recommend that the following amendments be made :—

1. To the Mineral Act (other than Coal) :—

That clause 136 of the “Mineral Act” be amended by adding : “In bench lands adjoining rivers or creeks, unworked or abandoned, an area for hydraulic workings not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres of land, and for a period not exceeding twenty years.”

2. That clauses be added to the “Mineral Act” to the following effect :—

“That each District be divided into Mining Divisions, and that each division shall have its Mining Recorder, and that all mining claims which lie within any division must be recorded in such division. Also that each Recorder shall keep duplicates of all records, which shall be open for inspection to any free miner, and that such free miner shall be entitled to a certificate of any record upon payment of a fee of one dollar.”

3. That any free miner or mining company desirous of purchasing land for the purpose of erecting a mill in connection with his claim, or for any purpose which would further the profitable working of his claim, may have power to do so for an area of unoccupied land not exceeding five acres, at a price of ten dollars per acre, the survey of such land to be at the cost of the purchaser.

Your Committee also recommend that in the “Mining Act” the clauses relating to mineral claims be separated from those which relate to placer mining.

GEORGE COWAN,  
*Chairman.*