

SECOND REPORT

OF THE

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINES.

Mr. Speaker.

Your Select Standing Committee on Mines beg leave to submit their Second Report, with minutes of their proceedings containing the amendments arrived at, to the "Gold Mining Act, 1884," and amending Acts, 1886 and 1887, from evidence submitted by persons interested in mining industries in this Province.

Your Committee also recommend to the favourable consideration of the Government certain resolutions passed by the Committee which, if made law, they believe would be for the interest of the Province.

GEORGE COWAN,
Chairman.

MINUTES OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON MINES HELD IN MINISTER'S ROOM, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7TH, 1888.

Members present--Messrs. Cowan, McLeese, Baker, Thomson, Mason, and Semlin (Cowan, Chairman.)

SUBJECT UNDER CONSIDERATION.

"An Act to consolidate and amend the laws relating to Gold and other Minerals, excepting Coal."

On motion of Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. McLeese, it was decided that the following be added to the 27th clause of Mineral Act, sub-section 1:—

"If a free miner, or any person applying for a free miner's licence, makes application at the Recorder's Office during his absence and leaves the fee required by the Mineral Acts with the officers in charge of said office, he shall be entitled to have licence or record from that date."

And after the words "Gold Commissioner" in Act of 1884, in clause 73, it was decided that the words "Mining Recorder or Assessor and Collector" be added.

And on the amendment to clause 62, as amended by the Act, 1886, strike out the words "as nearly as possible in rectangular form," and insert the words "in the form of a rectangular parallelogram."

Section 8, Amendment 1886.—It was decided to add after the words "expenditure," on the 6th line "by a detailed and attested description of the work performed."

Clause 38, 1884.—Strike out word "mineral" on 3th line and substitute the word "hill."

Clause 58.—Add after all claims "except as provided for in section 62."

MINUTES OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON MINES HELD IN MINISTER'S ROOM, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21ST 1888.

Present--Messrs. Cowan, Baker, Thomson, Allen, Semlin, Mason, and McLeese.

Minutes of last meeting taken as read, and the same subject under consideration.

On motion of Mr. McLeese, seconded by Mr. Allen, it was resolved that the Committee suggest to the Government that the following be added to section 22, in Act, 1884:—

“And may also enter upon any Crown lands, or lands covered by timber leases, to cut timber for mining purposes.”

On motion of Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Baker, it was resolved that the Government be recommended to enforce from all incorporated mining companies an annual fee of fifty dollars.

On motion of Colonel Baker, seconded by Mr. Allen, it was resolved that it is advisable that the Government should exact a royalty from all mineral claims, as under—

On all mineral claims a royalty shall be payable of 1 % (one per cent.) per ton on the marketable value of the ore sold.

On motion of Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. McLeese, it was resolved that the Committee suggest that the money voted last year as bonus in aid of quartz development be now set apart for the purpose of constructing Government crushing, chlorating and smelting works for testing purposes, to be erected in such portions of the Province as may be, on consideration of the House, decided upon.

On motion, the meeting adjourned subject to the call of the Chairman.

GEORGE COWAN.

MINUTES OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON MINES HELD IN PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, TUESDAY, MARCH 27TH, 1888.

Present—Messrs. Cowan, Baker, Mason, McLeese, Allen, Semlin.

Minutes of last meeting taken as read.

On motion of Colonel Baker, seconded by Mr. Mason, the following was put to the meeting and carried:—

That in order to assist in developing the mining resources of the country it is advisable to appoint a first-class Mining Engineer for the Province, and inasmuch as it is of paramount importance that such Engineer should have the confidence of mining capitalists in Great Britain, it would be advisable that the appointment of such an Engineer should be arrived at through the co-operation of British mining capitalists, and that the credentials of the person proposed to be appointed be submitted for the approval of the leading mining authorities in Great Britain before his final appointment by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council is made.

On motion of Colonel Baker, seconded by Mr. Mason, the following was put to the meeting and carried:—

The claim of the Dominion Government to the mining rights, and timber appertaining thereto, on the Indian Reserves of the Province is directly opposed to the advancement of the mining industry of the Province, and is calculated to cause considerable loss to the revenue, and inasmuch as the Indian Reserves are merely held by the Dominion Government in trust, it can give no right to the minerals on such lands.

It is therefore highly advisable that the Legislature should make strong remonstrance to the Dominion Government on this subject.

On motion of Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Allen, the following was put to the meeting and carried:—

That while we do not acquiesce in the claim of the Dominion Government to the mining lands of the Province, we are of opinion that if the claim be decided adversely to British Columbia the mining lands should be dealt with under the Provincial mining laws, as the Dominion mining regulations are entirely unsuited to develop or foster our mining industries.

GEORGE COWAN.