

to any person a mineral prospecting warrant authorizing the holder to prospect for any specified mineral or minerals over any Crown or other lands specified in the warrant, not exceeding 10,000 acres; provided that no such warrant will be issued with respect to any land other than Crown land unless the consent in writing of the owner and lessee (if any) of the land has been obtained and is deposited with the Warden or the Commissioner, as the case may be.

The term of such warrant is five years, and the holder has the exclusive right to prospect for the mineral or minerals specified in the warrant on the land to which the warrant relates. A deposit as security for compliance with the requirements of the Mining Act and regulations is required to be made by each applicant for a warrant, such deposit being £50 for the first 1,000 acres applied for, with an additional £25 for each 1,000 acres or fraction thereof in excess of 1,000 acres. The rental payable is 1d. an acre per annum for the first two years, 2d. for the third year, 3d. for the fourth year, and 6d. for the fifth year.

The provisions of the law relating to the labour to be employed on the area comprised by the warrant, the necessity to transmit six-monthly reports of prospecting and statements of expenditure, and the conditions governing the refund of the deposit, are contained in Regulations Nos. 18, 19, and 21 under the Mining Act, 1926.

(9) At any time while a mineral prospecting warrant is in force the holder, if he is satisfied that the mineral for which he is prospecting exists in payable quantities, has the right under section 81 of the Mining Act, 1926, to a mineral lease of such part of the land to which the warrant relates, not exceeding 1,000 acres and in one continuous block, as he may select. The term of a mineral lease is not to exceed sixty-three years.

A deposit, as security for compliance with the requirements of the Mining Act and regulations, must accompany each application, such deposit being at the rate of £1 for every acre of land applied for, but not exceeding in the whole a deposit of £1,000. A rental of 2s. 6d. an acre or part thereof per annum is payable under a mineral lease, and a royalty of one-twentieth of the value of the mineral at the pit's mouth, such value to be fixed before a lease is issued. Should the prescribed royalty exceed the amount of rent in any one year, then such rental ceases for that year. The regulations relating to mineral leases are Nos. 16 to 17 and 20 to 23.

(10) With the consent of the Minister of Mines the Warden may, pursuant to section 106 of the Mining Act, 1926, and subject to the provisions of that Act, grant mineral licenses authorizing the licensees to occupy any Crown land within or outside a mining district for the purpose of mining for any specified metal or mineral other than gold. The maximum area that may be held under a mineral license is 320 acres, and the term of the license may be for any number of years up to forty-two.

Rental is payable at the rate of 2s. 6d. an acre or part thereof, and in addition a royalty in respect of all the specified metals and minerals raised pursuant to the license, such royalty being not less than one-hundredth nor more than one twenty-fifth of their value at the pit's mouth.

Attention is directed to section 169 of the Mining Act, 1926, and Regulation 33 thereunder, in which is set forth the general procedure on applications to the Warden or Commissioner of Crown Lands in respect of mining privileges. Where a mining privilege is required by law to be marked out or surveyed attention is also called to Regulation 32 and Regulations 34 to 37, both inclusive.

Prospectors are recommended to acquaint themselves with the provisions of the Mining Act and the regulations relating to the acquisition of mining privileges. Copies of the Mining Act, 1926, and the regulations thereunder may be obtained from the Government Printer, Wellington, at 10s., plus 1s. for postage and registration.