V. R.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency, JAMES DOUGLAS, Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Columbia.

PROCLAMATION having the force of Law in Her Majesty's Colony of British Columbia.

WHEREAS, under and by virtue of an Act of Parliament made and passed in the session of Parliament held in the 21st and 22nd years of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled "An Act to provide for the Government of British Columbia," and by a Commission under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, I, JAMES DOUGLAS, have been appointed Governor of the said Colony, and have been authorized by Proclamation under the Public Seal of the said Colony, to make Laws, Institutions and Ordinances for the peace, order and good government of the same:

And whereas, it may be doubted whether the provisions of an act of the Imperial Parliament made and passed in the tenth year of the reign of His late Majesty King George IV. intituled "An act for the relief of His Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects," or of an Act of the Imperial Parliament made and passed in the 22nd year of the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled "An act to substitute one oath for the oaths of allegiance, supremacy and abjuration, and for the relief of Her Majesty's subjects professing the Jewish Religion," and of another act made and passed in the same year intituled "An act to provide for the relief of Her Majesty's subjects professing the Jewish Religion" are applicable to persons not subjects of Her Majesty. And whereas, it is expedient to give relief to the consciences of all such persons, as well subjects of Her Majesty as aliens, and also to give relief to the consciences of all persons who shall be conscientiously unwilling to be sworn:

Now, therefore, I do hereby declare, proclaim and enact as follows; viz:

1. If any person called as a witness in any Court of Judicature or required or desiring to take any oath or to make an affidavit or deposition shall refuse or be unwilling from alleged conscientious motives to be sworn, it shall be lawful for the Court or Judge, or other presiding officer or person qualified to take such oath, affidavit or deposition upon being satisfied of the sincerity of such objection, to permit such person, instead of being sworn, to make his or her solemn affirmation or declaration in the words following, viz:

"I, A. B., do solemnly, sincerely and truly affirm and declare that the taking of any oath is, according to my religious belief, unlawful, and I do solemnly, sincerely and truly affirm and declare," &c. &c.

Which solemn affirmation and declaration shall be of the same force and effect as if such person had taken an oath in the usual form, and shall in like manner infer the penalty of perjury in case of falsehood.

2. If any person professing the Roman Catholic Religion shall be required by any lawful authority, or shall be desirous for any purpose to take the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, it shall be sufficient if he shall in lieu thereof take the oath in the form appointed and set forth in the 2nd section of the act made and passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom, held in the tenth year of his late Majesty King George IV. intituled "An act for the relief of His Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects."

3. If any of the persuasion of the people called Quakers, or any other person under this or any other law permitted to make his solemn declaration or affirmation in lieu of an oath, or any person professing the Jewish religion, shall at any time be required by any lawful authority, or shall be desirous for any purpose to take the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty, her heirs or successors, or any form of oath containing the words "And I make this declaration upon the true faith of a Christian" the said words, "And I make this declaration upon the true faith of a Christian," shall be omitted in the form of oath to be taken or the declaration or affirmation in lieu of an oath to be made by such person. And the taking of every such oath, or the making of such affirmation and declaration with such omission as aforesaid, shall have the same force and effect as the taking and subscribing by other persons of the oath containing the said words "And I make this, declaration upon the true faith of a Christian."

4. This Proclamation may in all legal proceedings and documents be referred to as "The Oaths Act, 1859."

Issued under the Public Seal of the said Colony, at Victoria, this 19th day of May, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, in the twenty-second year of Her Majesty's Reign, by me,

JAMES DOUGLAS, [L.S.]

By His Excellency's command,

WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.