BRITISH COLUMBIA.

V. R.

PROCLAMATION.

No. 7, A. D. 1863.

By His Excellency JAMES DOUGLAS, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Columbia and its Dependencies, Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c.

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, entitled "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 is desirable for the protection of Miners, and others searching for the precious metals, to retain in possession of the Crown power to prevent such Miners or other persons from being obstructed or hindered by the Claims, and exactions of persons holding land under the provisions of the Pre-emption Consolidation Act passed on the 27th day of August, 1861;

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

Power of the Governor to create Mining Districts.

I. It shall be lawful for the Governor, for the time being of British Columbia from time to time, and at any time hereafter by any writing under his hand, published in the Government Gazette, to erect any portion of the Colony into a Mining District, and to give to such District a distinguishing name, and to define the limits and boundaries thereof, and also again to abolish or reconstruct any such District, and from time to time to alter and vary such limits and boundaries.

Repeals Clauses 17, 25, & 26, of Pre-emption Consolidation Act, 1861; Resumption of any part of a Pre-emption claim in Mining Districts for public purposes.

II. On and after the publication of the erection of any District into a Mining District as aforesaid the provisions of sections seventeen twenty-five, and twenty-six, of the said Pre-emption and Consolidation Act, 1861, shall as to such District, and any part or parts thereof cease to be in force, and all persons entering thereafter into possession of land under the authority and provisions of the said Pre-emption Consolidation Act 1861, within such Mining District, shall do so subject to the resumption of the whole or any part of such lands for making Roads, Bridges, Ferries, Towns, Villages, or any other public purposes whatsoever without any compensation being made for the land so taken or resumed.

Mining Districts open for Mining under the Gold Laws.

III. Provided nevertheless that Mining Districts erected as aforesaid in any part of the Colony whatsoever, shall be free and open to all persons engaged in Mining or searching for the precious Metals, under and according to the provisions of the Gold Field's Act, passed on the 31st August, 1859, and the Rules and Regulations for the working of Gold Mines, past respectively on the 7th September, 1859, and the 6th of January, 1860, and of the Ditches Rules, and Regulations under the Gold Field's Act, passed on the 29th of September, 1862, the Rules and Regulations under the Gold Field's Act passed on the 24th of February, 1863, and the Proclamation relating to Gold Mines, passed on the 25th of March, 1863.

Saving of existing Pre-emption rights.

IV. Provided also that all rights lawfully acquired, and held under the Pre-emption Consolidation Act, 1861, prior to the passing of this Act, in any Mining District erected as aforesaid, shall continue and remain of full force and effect.

Short Title.

V. This Act may be cited as "The Mining District Act, 1863."

L. S. Issued under the Public Seal of the said Colony, at Victoria, Vancouver Island, the Twenty seventh day of May, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in the twenty-sixth year of Her Majesty's reign, by me,

JAMES DOUGLAS.

By His Excellency's Command,
WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG.
Colonial Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.