BRITISH COLUMBIA.

V. R.

PROCLAMATION.

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

WHEREAS, it is expedient to publish for general information, the method to be pursued with respect to the alienation and possession of agricultural lands, and of lands proposed for the sites of towns in British Columbia, and with reference also to the places for levying shipping and customs duties, and for establishing a capital and port of entry in the said Colony.

Now, therefore I, JAMES DOUGLAS, Governor of the said Colony, do proclaim and declare as follows, viz:

1.—All the lands in British Columbia, and all the Mines and Minerals therein, belong to the Crown in fee.

2.—The price of lands, not being intended for the sites of Towns, and not being reputed to be Mineral lands, shall be ten shillings per acre, payable one half in cash at the time of the sale, and the other half at the end of two years from such sale. Provided, that under special circumstances some other price, or some other terms of payment may from time to time be specially announced for particular localities.

3.—It shall also be competent to the Executive at any time to reserve such portions of the unoccupied Crown Lands, and for such purposes as the Executive shall deem advisable.

4.—Except as aforesaid, all the land in British Columbia will be exposed in lots for sale, by public competition, at the upset price above mentioned, as soon as the same shall have been surveyed and made ready for sale. Due notice will be given of all such sales. Notice at the same time will be given of the upset price and terms of payment when they vary from those above stated, and also of the rights reserved (if any) for public convenience.

5.—All lands which shall remain unsold at any such auction may be sold by private contract at the upset price and on the terms and conditions herein mentioned, on application to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

6.—Unless otherwise specially notified at the time of sale, all such sales of Crown Land shall be subject to such public rights of way as may at any time after such sale, and to such private rights of way, and of leading or using water for animals, and for mining and engineering purposes, as may at the time of such sale be specified by the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

7.—Unless otherwise specially announced at the time of sale, the conveyance of the land shall include all trees and all mines and minerals within and under the same, except mines of Gold and Silver.

8.—When any "Ditch Privilege" shall be granted, there shall be included (unless excluded by express words) the right to lop, dress, or fell any trees standing on unoccupied Crown Lands which, in the opinion of the Proprietors of the Ditch, might by their accidental fall or otherwise, endanger the safety of the ditch or any part thereof.

GOLD CLAIMS.

9.—Until further notice, Gold Claims and Mines shall continue to be worked subject to the existing regulations.

CAPITAL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

10.—It is intended with all dispatch to lay out and settle the site of a city to be the Capital of British Columbia, on the right or North bank of Fraser River.

11.—Plans of the City are intended to be prepared and published in the month of March next. Three-fourths of the whole number of lots, excluding the public reserves, will be submitted in lots to public competition, by auction, in the month of April. One-fourth of the whole number of lots, excluding the public reserves, will be reserved in blocks for purchasers in the United Kingdom, Her Majesty's Colonies in North America and elsewhere. All of such last-mentioned lots which may not be disposed of in the United Kingdom, or Her Majesty's Colonies, other than British Columbia, will be submitted to public competition in this Colony, of which due notice will be given.

12.—As the Government is desirous of concentrating the commercial interests of the Colony in and around the Capital, purchasers of town lots in the said proposed Capital who may be owners of town lots in Langley, under the late sale on the 25th November last, on which the whole amount of purchase money has been paid to the Government, will if so disposed, be allowed to surrender the lots in Langley, so purchased, and to have the price so paid to the Government allowed them as payment in full for a lot or lots purchased by them in the said proposed Capital of an equal or less price in the aggregate, and as payment in part for lots in the said proposed Capital of a greater price in the aggregate. Every such surrender must be executed and delivered in writing, addressed to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works in British Columbia, at Victoria, Vancouver's Island, one week, at least, previous to the day appointed for the intended sale.

13.—The proposed Capital will be declared to be a Port of Entry so soon as the neccessary arrangements shall have been provided, which will be done with all convenient dispatch. Custom House officers will then be stationed there, and vessels will be able to proceed direct to Fraser River without touching at Victoria, or may clear at Victoria, at their option.

14.—The whole of the river frontage will be laid out in a continuous road, the edge of which it is contemplated, ultimately, to convert into a public quay. No quay will, however, be at present constructed at the public expense, nor will the absolute property of the soil along the edge of the water be now alienated by the Crown. But the right to make and maintain quays of convenient sizes, and to demand certain tolls and rates for the use thereof, will be granted to private individuals for the space of seven years; such rights will be disposed of at public auction at or immediately after the sale of town lots, to the bidder of the highest annual rent. No restrictions will be placed on the lessee, as to the form or nature of the quays, except such as shall be necessary to protect the public safety and convenience.

Issued under the Public Seal of the Colony of British Columbia, at Victoria, Vancouver's Island, this fourteenth day of February, 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.