BRITISH COLUMBIA.

V. R.

No. 11. An Ordinance for the formation and regulation of Municipalities in British Columbia.

[22nd March, 1865.]

Preamble. WHEREAS, the creation of Municipal Institutions would be productive of great local improvements in the several Towns of the Colony, and it is expedient to promote the same;

Be it enacted by the Governor of British Columbia, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:

The Governor may grant Municipal Institutions. I. It shall be lawful for the Governor, on the petition of, in his opinion, a sufficient proportion of the residents in any Town or place in the Colony, praying for Municipal Institutions, to grant the same by Charter under the Great Seal of the Colony.

Powers of Governor. II. In every such Charter the Governor may

(*a*) Define the limits of such Borough or Municipality, and

(*b*) Its subdivision into Wards;

(*c*) Provide for the Election of Borough Officers, their qualification, duties, term and change of office;

(*d*) And for Meetings of all kinds;

(*e*) The qualification of Voters or Burgesses at the Election of such Officers;

(*f*) Confer such corporate powers, with or without limitation, and with or without the right of suing and being sued in a corporate name, or the name of an Officer, and with a Common Seal, and with the right of holding land for strictly Municipal purposes;

(*g*) Provide for raising, by by-law, a Municipal Revenue, by taxes and rates leviable on the property within the Borough bounds, and by Municipal fines and penalties for breach of local regulations. Provided that in such case the Charter shall fix a definite clear and not excessive limit to any such taxation, and to any borrowing power thereby conferred, and specify the Municipal objects to which alone the same may be applied;

(*h*) And for the passage and enforcement of by-laws, for the prevention of fires, the supply of light and water, the abatement of nuisances, for internal improvements and works of all kinds, for social and sanitary objects, and any other local purposes connected with such Borough.

Provided that every such by-law, passed in accordance with such Charter, shall not be contrary to law, and may be repealed or varied as in such Charter may be prescribed; and every such by-law for the time being in force shall have the force of law, and be enforceable as law in any Court in the Colony.

Charters how to be altered. III. Every such Charter shall contain a provision reserving power to the Governor, with the consent of such parties resident in a Borough established under this Ordinance, as shall be prescribed by the Charter creating the same, from time to time to alter, vary, or accept a surrender of the Charter of any such Borough, and grant a new charter with similar formalities.

Cessation of Charters. IV And a further provision for the cessation of each such Charter, whenever a general Municipal law, applicable to the whole Colony, shall be duly established in lieu thereof.

General provisions. V. And such other and further provisions as to the Governor shall seem meet and just in the premises.

Short Title. VI. This Ordinance shall be cited as "The Borough Ordinance, 1865."

Passed the Legislative Council this 17th day of March, A. D. 1865.

CHARLES GOOD, Clerk.

ARTHUR N. BIRCH, Presiding Member.

Assented to, in Her Majesty's name, this twenty-second day of March, 1865.

FREDERICK SEYMOUR, Governor.