

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency, JAMES DOUGLAS, Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Columbia, 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, 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 Declaration under the Public Seal of the said Colony, to make Laws, Institutions and Ordinances for the peace, order and good government of the same ;

Whereas it is expedient to afford a clear and speedy method of recovering small debts and demands in British Columbia ;

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

1. Every person whom I may from time to time hereafter commission to act as a County Court Judge in British Columbia, shall from the date of his commission, be authorised and empowered to hear and determine all personal pleas and all actions of tort cognizable by the County Courts in England in manner hereafter mentioned.

2. So much of the enactments of the 8th and 10th Victoria chap. 95, entitled an Act for the more easy recovery of small debts and demands in England as are applicable to this Colony shall be adopted by the County Court Judge.

3. The amount recoverable before any County Court Judge in British Columbia, shall not exceed the sum of £50.

4. The duties of the Clerk of the Court appointed in England shall be performed by the County Court Judge himself.

5. The duties of the High Bailiff, appointed in England, shall be performed by the Sheriff of British Columbia, or by any Deputy Sheriff of British Columbia.

6. The practice and procedure in the County Courts, over which such County Court Judge shall preside, and the fees to be taken therein shall, as herein mentioned, and until altered by some rule or order to be made as hereinafter mentioned, be the same as in the inferior Court of Civil Justice, in Vancouver Island.

7. The County Court Judge shall have a power of granting a *capias ad respondendum*, in all cases of debt of the amount of £20 or upwards.

8. Any three of the County Court Judges, and also the Judge of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice in British Columbia may make rules and orders for the governance of the County Courts of British Columbia, which rules or orders shall be of full force when confirmed by the Governor of British Columbia, and the Judge of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice of British Columbia.

9. All fees shall from time to time, be paid into the Treasury.

10. This Act may be cited for all purposes, as the "British Columbia Small Debts Act, 1859."

Issued under the Public Seal of the said Colony, at Victoria, Vancouver Island, this tenth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, and the twenty-third year of Her Majesty's Reign, by me,

JAMES DOUGLAS, [L.S.]

By Command of His Excellency,

WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.