

BRITISH COLUMBIA.



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PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency, **JAMES DOUGLAS**, Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor 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, by a Proclamation issued on the 3rd December, 1858, under the public seal of the said Colony, and having the force of law in the said Colony, after a recital therein contained, whereby it appeared there was then no Officer in British Columbia empowered to levy the duties therein mentioned, nor any station in the said Colony at which the said duties could conveniently be levied, it was declared that until further provisions should be made for the collection of the said duties, the Port of Victoria, in Vancouver Island, should be the Port of Entry for all goods imported into British Columbia, and its Dependencies, or any part thereof, and that the duties by such Proclamation made payable on goods imported into British Columbia, and its Dependencies, should be under the management of the Collector of Her Majesty's Customs at Victoria, and should be levied, paid, and recovered at Victoria aforesaid;

And whereas, it is probable that numbers of Miners may be about to enter the said Colony in small boats from the territory of the United States of North America, and in order to prevent the loss of life which may be risked if such Miners be compelled to cross the Gulf of Georgia, it is desirable immediately to establish some method for admitting such boats into the said Colony of British Columbia, and to provide means for supporting such establishment;

And whereas, a Revenue Officer has been with this view and is now stationed at or near Queenborough, in Fraser River, aforesaid;

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

1. That open boats not having ever been constructed with a Deck, and *bona fide* employed in carrying immigrant Miners and their necessary Stores, not including any spirituous or fermented Liquors (except as hereinafter mentioned), and such Stores not exceeding 400lbs weight of Provisions for each person who shall be on board such boat, shall be admitted to enter and pass into British Columbia, by Fraser River, on payment of the same Customs Duties as would have been leviable in case such boat had cleared at Victoria aforesaid, according to the tenor of the said Proclamation of the 3rd day of December, 1858. And on further payment of 40 shillings for every such boat as and for sufferance money, in lieu of all entrance and clearance money whatever, and also of a sum of 5 shillings for every person who shall be in such boat.

2. Provided always, that no more spirituous or fermented Liquors shall be imported into the said Colony than two gallons in any one such boat, and if any greater quantity of spirituous or fermented Liquors than two gallons be found on board of any such boat, all such Liquors, together with the boat itself and all the rest of the Cargo and property in or upon such boat, shall be liable to be declared forfeited, and every person on board thereof shall be dealt with according to the tenor of the laws for the time being in force against smuggling contraband Goods, and if any provision or stores, or any dutiable goods whatever, (not being spirituous or fermented Liquors) other than and except as herein permitted, shall be found on board any such boat, then and in every such case it shall and may be lawful for the said Revenue Officer, or other person having lawful authority in revenue cases, to declare all such surplus stores and other dutiable goods forfeited, and to seize and deal with the same accordingly, as goods forfeited within any of the laws for the time being in force respecting the regulations and collection of Her Majesty's Customs, and such Revenue Officer, or other person, may restore to the owners thereof all the rest of the said stores and provisions to the amount hereby permitted to be by such owners conveyed into the said Colony of British Columbia, on payment of the sums herein declared to be payable in respect thereof.

3. All boats entering the Fraser River shall call and report themselves and their cargoes and passengers to the said Revenue Officer at Queenborough, in Fraser River aforesaid, and all persons in every such boat shall be bound to follow the instructions and directions which shall be given by the Officer, or other person, in charge at such station.

4 Every boat, and every person by whom or by the Crew, or Passengers, of which any evasion or infraction of the provisions hereof, shall be committed, or attempted, shall be deemed guilty of smuggling contrary to the tenor of the laws for the time being in force for the regulation and collection of Her Majesty's Customs, and shall be dealt with accordingly.

5 Nothing herein contained shall affect any boat, or other vessel, entering British Columbia from the Port of Victoria, Vancouver Island.

Issued under the Public Seal of the said Colony, at Victoria, this 5th day of March, 1859, in the twenty-second year of Her Majesty's Reign, by me,

JAMES DOUGLAS.

By His Excellency's Command,

WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.