



BRITISH COLUMBIA.

ANNO TRICESIMO SECUNDO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

No. 24.

An Ordinance respecting Indian Reserves.

[15th March, 1869.]

WHEREAS it is expedient for the avoidance of disputes among Indians and Settlers, as to the right to lands used by Indians, to provide a more speedy means than now obtains for the settlement of all such questions;

Preamble.

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

I. In case of any dispute arising between or among any Indian or Indians, and any other person or persons as to the right to enter into, or occupy, or as to any damage done to, any Crown Lands in the Colony, being Indian Reserves or Settlements, or to the improvements, crops, or cattle thereon, it shall be lawful for the Stipendiary Magistrate of the District within which the land in dispute is situated, upon any complaint made to him thereon, or upon view of the premises, to hear and determine all such questions and disputes, as and when the same shall arise, and thereupon, or in any case, to make such order or orders in the premises, and from time to time to amend and vary the same as to such Magistrate shall seem just and reasonable; and in case of wilful injury or trespass upon such Crown Lands, being Indian Reserves, or Settlements, or Gardens, by any person or persons whomsoever as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for such Magistrate, after reasonable notice to all parties to be affected by such decision, and after a hearing, to award and enforce such costs and damages, not exceeding in any one case the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars, by warrant of distress of the goods and chattels of the person or persons against whom such decision is given, as to such Magistrate shall seem reasonable.

Power to Stipendiary Magistrates to settle disputes,

II. It shall also be lawful for such Stipendiary Magistrate in any such case, by any order in writing under his hand, to remove any person or persons from off the land, or any portion thereof, in respect of which the dispute has arisen; and in case of resistance or disobedience to, or infraction of, any such order, to imprison the party or parties so offending, for any term not exceeding One Calendar Month, or to compel him or them to find securities, to the satisfaction of the Magistrate, to be of good behaviour, for any period not exceeding Six Calendar Months.

and remove trespassers.

III. This Ordinance may be cited for all purposes as the "Indian Reserve Ordinance, 1869."

Passed the Legislative Council the 12th day of March, A. D. 1869.

CHARLES GOOD,
Clerk of the Council.

WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG,
Presiding Member.

Assented to, on behalf of Her Majesty, this 15th day of March, 1869.

FREDERICK SEYMOUR,
Governor.

VICTORIA, B. C.:

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