



RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR THE

WORKING OF GOLD MINES.

Issued in conformity with the Gold Fields Act, 1859.

WHEREAS, it is provided by the Gold Fields Act, 1859, that the Governor, for the time being, of British Columbia, may, by writing under his hand and the Public Seal of the Colony, make Rules and Regulations in the nature of by-laws, for all matters relating to Mining. Now, therefore, I, JAMES DOUGLAS, Governor, &c., do hereby make the following Rules and Regulations, accordingly:—

I. In the construction of the following Rules and Regulations, unless there be some contrariety, or repugnancy thereto in the context, the words "Governor," "Gold Commissioner," "Mine," "to mine," shall have the same meanings as in the Gold Fields Act, 1859. The expression "Bar diggings" shall mean every mine over which a river extends when in its most flooded state. "Dry diggings" shall mean any mine over which a river never extends. "Ravines" shall include water courses whether usually containing water or usually dry. "Ditch" shall include a flume or race, or other artificial means for conducting water by its own weight into or upon a mine. "Ditch head" shall mean the point in a natural water course or lake where water is first taken into a ditch. And words in the singular number shall include the plural, and the masculine gender shall include the feminine.

II. All claims are to be as nearly as may be, in rectangular forms, and marked by four pegs at the least, each peg to be four inches square at the least, and one foot above the surface, and firmly fixed in the ground. No boundary peg shall be concealed or moved, or injured, without the previous permission of the Gold Commissioner.

III. The size of a claim, when not otherwise established by a by-law, shall be, for bar diggings, a strip of land twenty-five feet wide at the mark to which the river rises when flooded, and thence extending down direct into the river indefinitely. For dry diggings, a space twenty-five feet wide by thirty feet. For ravine diggings, a space of twenty-five feet along the bank of the ravine and extending up to the top of each bank. In quartz claims, the size, when not otherwise established by a by-law, shall be one hundred feet in length, measured along the vein or seam, with power to the miner to follow the vein or seam and its spurs, dips, and angles, anywhere on or below the surface included between the two extremities of such length of one hundred feet, but not to advance upon or beneath the surface of the earth more than one hundred feet in a lateral direction from the main vein or seam, along which the claim is to be measured. All measurements of area are to be made on the surface of the earth, neglecting inequalities. Every claim is to have a distinguishing number marked on its boundary pegs.

IV. If any Free Miner, or party of Free Miners, shall discover a new mine, and such discovery shall be established to the satisfaction of the Gold Commissioner, the first discoverer or party of discoverers, if not more than two in number, shall be entitled to a claim double the established size of claims in the nearest mines of the same description, (i.e. dry, bar, or quartz diggings.) If such party consist of three men, they shall collectively be entitled to five claims of the established size on such nearest mine, and if of four or more men, such party shall be entitled to a claim and a half per man. A new stratum of auriferous earth or rock, situate in a locality where the claims are abandoned, shall for this purpose be deemed a new mine, although the same locality shall previously have been worked at a different level. And dry diggings discovered in the neighbourhood of bar diggings shall be deemed a new mine, and vice versa.