

16. The Commissioner of Crown Lands may issue, under his hand and seal, to any person who has purchased or may purchase or is permitted to occupy or has been entrusted with the care or protection of any public land, or who has received or been located on any public land as a free grant, an Instrument in the form of a License of Occupation; and such person, or the assignee, by an instrument registered under this or any former Act, providing for registration in such cases, may take possession of and occupy the land therein comprised, subject to the conditions of such License, and may thereunder, unless the same shall have been revoked or cancelled, maintain suits in law or equity against any wrongdoer or trespasser, as effectually as he could do under a Patent from the Crown;—and such License of Occupation shall be *prima facie* evidence for the purpose of possession by such person, or the assignee under an instrument registered as aforesaid, in any such suit; but the same shall have no force against a License to cut timber existing at the time of the granting thereof.

Licenses of occupation to be issued to intending settlers—their effect.

As to prior licenses to cut timber.

17. Every License of Occupation heretofore granted, and every certificate of sale or receipt for money received on the Sale of Public Lands, and every location ticket heretofore granted or made by the Commissioner of Crown Lands or any Agent of his, so long as the sale or grant to which such license of occupation, receipt, certificate, or location ticket relates is in force and not rescinded, shall have the same force, and shall enure to the benefit of the party to whom the same was granted, or to the assignee, by instrument registered as aforesaid, in the same manner and to the same extent as the Instrument in the form of a License of Occupation mentioned in the next preceding section.

Licenses of occupation, certificates, receipts and location tickets heretofore issued to have the same effect.

18. The Commissioner of Crown Lands shall keep a book for registering (at the option of the parties interested) the particulars of any assignment made as well by the original nominee, purchaser or locatee or lessee of public lands or his heir or legal representative, as by any subsequent assignee of any such public lands or the heir or legal representative of such assignee;—and upon such assignment being produced to the Commissioner, with an affidavit of due execution thereof, and of the time and place of such execution, and the names, residences and occupations of the witnesses, or as regards lands in Lower Canada upon the production of such assignment executed before Notaries, or before one Notary and two witnesses, or of a notarial copy thereof, the said Commissioner shall cause the material parts of every such assignment to be registered in such book of registry, and shall cause to be endorsed on every such assignment a Certificate of such registration, to be signed by himself or the Assistant Commissioner or any officer of the department by him authorized to sign such certificates;—And every such assignment so registered shall be valid against any one previously executed, but subsequently registered, valid.

Commissioner to keep a register of assignments of claims to lands; on what proof entries shall be made therein, their effect, &c.

First registered assignment to be valid.