



BRITISH COLUMBIA.

ANNO TRICESIMO SECUNDO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

No. 22.

An Ordinance to facilitate the working of Mineral Lands.

[10th March, 1869.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to develop the resources of the Colony by affording facilities for the effectual working of Silver, Lead, Tin, Copper, Coal, and other Minerals, other than Gold;

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

I. From and after the Proclamation in this Colony of Her Majesty's assent to this Ordinance, every Person, or Association, or Company of Persons whomsoever, shall be free to enter and explore for Silver, and all the baser Metals and Minerals, including Coal, in and under the Mineral Lands hereinafter defined, subject nevertheless to the provisions and conditions of this Ordinance, and any other regulations affecting the acquisition and tenure thereof, which may from time to time hereafter be prescribed by law.

After Queen's assent to Act, all Mineral Lands open for Mining.

II. Every Person, Association of Persons, or Company, desirous of acquiring a Mine or Mining Claim under this Ordinance, shall, before entering into possession of the particular part of the said Mineral Lands he or they may wish to acquire and work for Minerals, make application in writing to the Assistant Commissioner of Lands and Works for the District within which the land required is situate, for a Prospecting License over such land, for any term not exceeding two years from the date of such application.

Prospecting License for two years.

III. Every such applicant shall give to such Assistant Commissioner the best practicable written description of the plot of land over which the privilege is sought, after having located the same, together with a proper plan or diagram thereof shewing the position of the boundary posts to be set up by the applicant in and upon the land, and by stating in the description any other landmarks of a noticeable character; and such application and plans shall be in duplicate, one of which shall be filed of record in the office of the said Assistant Commissioner at the time of its being received by him, and the other transmitted forthwith by the said Assistant Commissioner to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, and retained by him for general reference.

Applicant to send place and description to Land Office.

IV. Every piece of land sought to be acquired under the provisions of this Ordinance, shall, save as hereinafter mentioned, be of a rectangular shape, and the shortest line thereof shall be at least two-thirds the length of the longest line.

Shape of land.

V. Where the land sought to be acquired is in whole or in part bounded by mountains, rocks, lakes, swamps, or the margin of a river, or by other natural boundaries, then such natural boundaries may be adopted as the boundaries of the land sought to be acquired; and

Natural boundaries may be adopted in certain cases.