

Chief Justice Begbie's Opinion, concerning Rights of Aliens.

1st. According to the Law of England, which is the Law of British Columbia, an alien may hold lands, but is liable to have them declared forfeited to the Crown at any time.

2nd. No alien can be disturbed in the possession of lands by any other person than the Crown authorities by reason only of his being an alien.

3rd. The Colonial Government proposes to secure to aliens the full rights of possession and enjoyment of any lands which they may purchase at the sale for the space of three years. At the end of that time they must, if they wish to continue to hold the lands, either become themselves naturalized British subjects, or else convey their rights to British subjects.

4th. It is the intention of the Colonial Government to endeavour to obtain from the Home Government their sanction to measures for carrying into effect the above views, which measures are now in course of preparation. But they must depend for their full effect on the ratification by the Home Government.