

lately necessary for the speedy development of its vast and varied resources, yet no proper effort in the direction of securing it was ever made; but with a shiftless patience worthy only of Dickens' Wilkins Macawber, we have always been content "to wait for something to turn up." In view of the rapid progress made in the settlement of less favored regions by the adoption of a liberal immigration policy it becomes more apparent that our do-nothing course has been a penny wise and pound foolish one. To this cause, rather than to our isolated position, (for we have always had a grand ocean highway leading to every port in the world), is mainly due the fact, that this most extensive province of the Dominion, although pregnant with wealth creating resources beyond all others, is, to-day, little more than a sealed book—a *terra incognita* to the outside world. Business men, and especially officials and journalists, are now constantly in receipt of numerous letters of enquiry from intending emigrants, regarding the climate and resources of this country. The increasing interest manifested abroad in this respect is largely due to a happy, and, to us, very fortunate circumstance, namely, the recent visit of H's Excellency, the Governor General and his Royal Consort, the Princess Louise, who have since written and spoken in unstinted praise of our country and its climate, and to whom, for so kindly a service, our people although truly grateful, must ever remain very much indebted. Heretofore this province has always been an uncared-for waif of the British Empire, and like other waifs, it too has often sadly neglected many of the opportunities for self-advancement. To no friendly, helping hand or fostering care does it owe its present position. Often kicked but never caressed, the history of this long disregarded province is not unlike that of Mrs. Stowe's immortal "Topsy" as related by herself, "I had no fadder, no mudder, no miffin, I speeks I growed."

### Summary of Land and Mining Laws.

Any person being the head of a family, a widow, or a single man over the age of 18 years and a British subject, or any other alien upon declaring his intention to become a British subject, may record any tract of unoccupied, unsurveyed and unreserved Crown Lands, not exceeding 320 acres, north and east of the Cascade or Coast Range of Mountains, and 160 acres in the rest of the Province, and "pre-empt" or "homestead" the same, and obtain a title therefor upon paying the sum of \$1 per acre in four equal annual instalments, the first one year from the date of record. Persons desiring to acquire land under this law must observe the following requirements:

1st. The land applied for must be staked off with posts at each corner not less than four inches square, and five feet above the ground, and marked in form as follows: (A B's ) Land, N. E. post. (A B's) Land, N. W. post, &c.

2nd. Applications must be made in writing to the Land Commissioner, giving a full description of the land, and also a sketch plan thereof, both in duplicate, and a declaration under oath, made and filed in duplicate, that the land in question is properly subject to settlement by the applicant, and that he or she is duly qualified to record the same, and a recording fee of \$2 paid.

3rd. Such homestead settler must within 30 days after record enter into actual occupation of the land so pre-empted, and continuously reside thereon personally or by his family or agents, and neither Indians or Chinamen can be agents for this purpose.

Absence from such land for a period of more than two months continuously or four months in the aggregate during the year, subjects it to forfeiture to the Government. Upon payment for the land as specified, and a survey thereof at the expense of the settler a Crown grant for the same will issue, provided that in the case of an alien he must first become a naturalized British subject before receiving title.

Homesteads upon surveyed lands may be acquired, of the same extent and in the same manner as upon the unsurveyed, except that the applicant is not required to stake off and file a plat of the tract desired.

There is a Homestead Law, by which under due registration, real and personal property is protected to the extent of not more than \$2,500 from seizure and sale in bankruptcy.

Unsurveyed, unoccupied, and unreserved Crown lands may be purchased in tracts of not less than 160 acres for \$1 per acre, cash in full at one payment before receiving title by complying with the following conditions:

1st. Two months' notice of intended application to purchase must be inserted at the expense of the applicant in the British Columbia Gazette and in any newspaper circulating in the district where the land desired lies, stating name of applicant, locality, boundaries and extent of land applied for, which notice must also be posted in a conspicuous place on the land sought to be acquired, and on the Government office, if any, in the district. The applicant must also stake off the said land as required in case of pre-emption, and also have the same surveyed at his own expense.

Surveyed lands, after having been offered for sale at public auction for one dollar per acre, may be purchased for cash at that price.

### THE MINING LAWS

Provide that every person over sixteen years of age may hold a mining claim, after first obtaining from the Gold Commissioner a Free Miner's Certificate or License, at a cost of five dollars for one year and fifteen dollars for three years. Every miner locating a claim must record the same in the office of the Gold Commissioner, for a period of one or more years, paying therefor at the rate of \$2 50 per year.

Every free miner may hold at the same time any