

**Mining Laws**—The finder of a lode must mark off a "mining location," not exceeding 320 acres in area, by four posts of a prescribed size; he may obtain a twelve months' lease by paying a fee of \$10 and complying with certain conditions; at the end of this period he may obtain a 99-year lease at an increasing scale of rent; and finally, upon certain other conditions he may obtain a grant in fee.

**Registration of Deeds**—Instruments requiring registration must be proved by the affidavit of a subscribing witness, or of any party executing the same, or by the personal acknowledgment of a party from whom an interest passes. If executed within the Colony the affidavit or acknowledgment must be made before the Registrar, Deputy Registrar, a Judge or Commissioner of the Supreme Court, or a Justice who, in the case of an acknowledgment, shall sign a certificate of such acknowledgment on the deed. If executed out of the Colony the instrument may, if the party or witness proving it be within the Colony at the time of proof, be proved as above; otherwise it shall be proved in the same manner before a Commissioner of the Supreme Court, a Judge of a Court of Record, the Mayor or Chief Magistrate of any city or town, a Justice, a British Ambassador, Consul, Vice-consul, or Consular Agent; and in case it be proved before a Judge or a Mayor, the attestation or acknowledgment shall be certified under the seal of the Court, city or town. In the case of the other officials, their official character shall be certified by a Notary Public.

**Sale of Goods**—The law upon this subject is codified by the "Sale of Goods Act, 1899."

**Trustees**—"The Trustees Act, 1898," consolidates and amends the laws upon this subject. This Act is, except in some minor particulars, a copy of "The Trustee Act, 1893," of the Imperial Parliament.

**Wills** must be in writing, and must be either written and signed by the testator, or if not so written and signed, must be signed by him in the presence of at least two witnesses, who shall sign as witnesses in his presence; and if he is a marksman the will must have been first read over to or by him in the presence of the said witnesses. Incompetency of a witness to be admitted to prove a will does not *per se* invalidate the will. A legacy or devise to a witness, or to the husband or wife of a witness, is not void if the execution of the will can be sufficiently proved without the evidence of that witness. An executor may be a proper witness. Every will is revoked by marriage, except a will made in the exercise of a power of appointment, when the property appointed would not in default of appointment pass to the testator's executor or administrator or next of kin. A will made by a person under the age of 17 years is invalid.

**INTESTACY**.—The Supreme Court grants administration to the estate and effects of any one dying intestate leaving property within the Colony. The person primarily entitled to administration is the nearest of the next of kin, but the Court will grant administration to any fit and proper person upon the consent of the persons entitled to share the estate. There is no local enactment respecting the distribution of intestate estates; the law of the Colony upon the subject being the Statutes of the Imperial Parliament made in the time of James and Charles. The Court allows to the administrator as remuneration for his services a commission, not being more than five per cent. upon the value of the estate.