

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT LANDS.

Crown lands in British Columbia are classified as either surveyed or unsurveyed lands, and may be acquired either by record and pre-emption, or purchase.

PRE-EMPTIONS.

The following persons may record or pre-empt Crown lands:—Any person, being the head of a family, a widow, or a single man over 18 years of age, being a British subject, may record surveyed or unsurveyed Crown lands, which are unoccupied, or unreserved, and unrecorded.

Aliens may also record such surveyed or unsurveyed lands on making a declaration of intention to become a British subject.

The quantity of land which may be recorded or pre-empted is not to exceed 320 acres northward and eastward of the Cascade or Coast Mountains, or 160 acres in the rest of the province.

No person can hold more than one pre-emption claim at a time. Prior record or pre-emption of one claim, and all rights under it, are forfeited by subsequent record or pre-emption of another claim.

Land recorded or pre-empted cannot be transferred or conveyed till after a Crown grant has been issued.

Such land, until the Crown grant is issued, is held by occupation. Such occupation must be a bona fide personal residence of the settler or homestead settler, or his family or agent. Indians or Chinese cannot be agents.

The settler must enter into occupation of the land within thirty days after recording, and must continue to occupy it.

Continuous absence for a longer period than two months consecutively of the settler or homestead settler, and his agent or family, is deemed cessation of occupation; but leave of absence may be granted not exceeding four months in any one year, inclusive of the two months' absence.

Land is considered abandoned if unoccupied for more than four months in the aggregate in one year, or for more than two months consecutively.

If so abandoned, the land becomes waste lands of the Crown, without any cancellation of the record.

The fee on recording is two dollars (8s.)

The settler may either have the land surveyed at his own instance (subject to rectification of boundaries), or wait till the Chief Commissioner causes it to be surveyed.

After survey has been made, upon proof, in declaration in writing of himself and two other persons, of occupation from date of pre-emption, and of having made permanent improvements on the land to the value of two dollars and fifty cents per acre, the settler, on producing the pre-emption certificate, obtains a certificate of improvement.

After obtaining the certificate of improvement and paying for the land, the settler is entitled to a Crown grant in fee simple. He pays five dollars therefor.

PAYMENT FOR LAND AND CROWN GRANT.

The price of Crown lands, pre-empted, is *one dollar* per acre, which must be paid in *four equal instalments*, as follows: First instalment two years from date of record or pre-emption, and each other instalment is not payable till after the survey.