

STATUTES
OF THE
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,

PASSED IN THE

SESSION HELD IN THE FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HER MAJESTY

QUEEN VICTORIA,

*BEING THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA,*

BEGUN AND HOLDEN AT VICTORIA, ON THE 12TH NOVEMBER, 1894,
AND ENDING ON THE 21ST FEBRUARY,

1895.



HIS HONOUR
THE HONOURABLE E. DEWDNEY,
LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

VICTORIA, B. C.:

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1895.



CHAPTER 57.

An Act to authorize the granting of a license to prospect for Gold over certain Lands in the Cariboo District, with a Contingent Lease for a portion of the said Lands.

[21st February, 1895.]

WHEREAS it has been represented to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council that valuable gold deposits are supposed to exist in the ancient bed of a diverted river in Cariboo District, the course of which is at present unknown, although its traces have been found in the neighbourhood of the mouth of the Quesnelle River : Preamble.

And whereas it would require the expenditure of a large sum of money in exploratory operations before the course of such river could be fixed, and the benefit of such expenditure cannot be assured under present enactments to the parties making the same :

And whereas Charles F. Law has applied to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for the exclusive license to prospect over an area of five miles square for the term of two years for the purpose of locating such river bed, and that it is expedient that such license should be granted, and that, if during said period the river bed is discovered, the discoverer should receive a lease of a certain portion thereof, such license and lease to be respectively upon the conditions hereinafter contained :

Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, enacts as follows :—

1. This Act may be cited as the "Quesnelle Prospecting Act, 1895." Short title.
2. It shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to grant to Charles F. Law, his servants and agents (hereinafter called the "Prospector"), the exclusive right to prospect, for the term of two years from the date of such license, over an area in the neighbourhood of the mouth of the Quesnelle River of five miles square in extent, to Authorizes Lieut.-Governor to grant to Chas. F. Law certain prospecting rights.

be defined in said license, for the purpose of discovering the bed of an ancient river, supposed to exist in said area, by boring. Such license shall in no way affect the rights of free miners, except in so far as they may conflict with the pursuit of the search and the rights after discovery authorized hereby.

What may be done under such grant.

3. Under said license the Prospector may, by himself, his servants and agents, enter upon said land and dig, excavate, bore, tunnel, or otherwise prospect or explore the same, but in so doing he shall not interfere with or prejudicially affect the free miners, if any, who have already located claims on said land.

To spend \$5,000 and pay \$500 yearly rent.

4. The Prospector shall in each year during the currency of said license expend a sum not less than five thousand dollars in prospecting and exploring said land, and shall pay as rent therefor the sum of one hundred dollars yearly in advance to the Gold Commissioner of the district, to whose satisfaction also the expenditure aforesaid shall be made.

On discovery of a river bed, Minister of Mines may grant lease.

5. In the event of the Prospector during the term of his license discovering said river bed and locating the course of the same, to the satisfaction of the Minister of Mines, he shall be entitled to receive a lease of the ground forming said river bed for the distance of two and a half miles along the same, between points to be selected by the Prospector and extending across the river channel from bank to bank, for a period of twenty years, for the purpose of extracting gold therefrom.

What such lease shall contain.

6. Any lease granted hereunder shall reserve an annual rental of not less than six per cent. of the profits of the mine, after deducting working expenses and an allowance of ten per cent. on the annual valuation of the plant for depreciation, for the due payment and adjustment of which rent suitable provisions shall be inserted, and the lease shall also contain the usual covenants of a mining lease to secure the working of the ground and the performance of the other duties of a leaseholder under the mining laws for the time being. And also a covenant that no Chinese or Japanese person shall be employed by the Company or their agents, or by any contractor for them, or subcontractor for any such contractor, in or about or on the property demised, or on any part thereof, or on the work in connection therewith, under a sufficient penalty to enforce the observance of the covenant, and a further provision that any employment of such Chinese or Japanese person continued after notice given by the Gold Commissioner or Government Agent shall constitute a sufficient cause for the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to cancel such lease.