

A.D. 1879



## CHAP. 27.

An Act to authorize the Lieutenant-Governor to execute Marriage Licences, and for other purposes relating to Marriages.

[14th March, 1879.]

**H**ER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, enacts as follows :—

1. Licences authorizing the celebration of the ceremony of marriage in this Province may hereafter be under the hand and seal of the Lieutenant-Governor, or his Deputy duly authorized in that behalf.

Authorizes Lieutenant Governor to issue licences.

2. Every such licence executed under the hand and seal of the Lieutenant-Governor or his Deputy duly authorized in that behalf, shall be and remain valid, notwithstanding that the Lieutenant-Governor, or Deputy, has ceased to hold office before the time of the issue of the licence.

Licences to be valid though officials who signed them have ceased to hold office before the same were issued.

3. All marriages which have, before the passing of this Act, been celebrated within the Province by any person legally authorized to marry between persons not under any legal disqualification for entering into the contract of matrimony, are hereby declared to have been, and to be, lawful and valid so far as respects the civil rights in this Province of the parties or their issue, and so far as respects all matters within the jurisdiction of the Legislature of this Province, notwithstanding that the banns were not published for the number of times or at the time and place or in the manner required by law, or that there was any other defect in the publication of the banns, or that no banns were published, or notwithstanding that there was any defect in the marriage licence, or that the marriage was celebrated without a licence, or notwithstanding any other non-compliance with the provisions of the "Marriage Ordinance, 1867," or the "Marriage Ordinance Amendment Act, 1872:" Provided that the parties thereafter lived together and cohabited as husband and wife, and that the validity of the marriage has not hitherto been

Declares all prior marriages valid, notwithstanding any defect in licence or publication of banns if the parties have cohabited as man and wife.

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questioned in any suit at law or in equity; and provided, further, that nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to make valid any marriage illegally solemnized where the parties to such illegal marriage, or either of them, has since contracted matrimony according to law.

Former licences  
already signed and  
in hands of Regis-  
trars for issuance  
declared valid.

4. All licences heretofore signed by the present Lieutenant-Governor of this Province, as Deputy of the late Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada, and now in the hands of the various Registrars, for the purpose of being issued from time to time as may be required by persons desiring to be married, shall be and are hereby declared to be valid and sufficient to authorize any marriage under the "Marriage Ordinance, 1867."

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