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Further Papers relative to the Affairs of British Columbia

Part IV

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BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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FURTHER PAPERS

RELATIVE TO THE

AFFAIRS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

PART IV.

COPIES of DESPATCHES from the GOVERNOR of BRITISH COLUMBIA to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES, and from the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNOR.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
March 1862.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

2794. 1862.

	Page
DESPATCHES FROM THE GOVERNOR - - - - -	1
DESPATCHES FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE - - - -	66
APPENDIX - - - - - - - - - - - -	70

SCHEDULE.

DESPATCHES FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Number in Series.	Date and Number.	SUBJECT.	Page.
1	17 Feb. 1860 (No. 24.)	FREE GRANTS OF LAND TO ORDAINED CLERGYMEN, relative to - - - - - - -	1
2	18 Feb. 1860 (No. 25.)	STATE OF THE CHIMSYAN INDIANS. Transmitting correspondence between the Rev. Edw. Cridge and Mr. Wm. Duncan relative to the foundation of a Missionary Settlement for Indian Converts, and proposing the reservation of several hundred acres of land to enable Mr. Duncan to carry this object into effect - - - - - - - -	2
3	23 April 1860 (No. 42.)	GENERAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE COLONY. Water and road communication. Proposed road from Yale to Lytton. State of Mining Districts. Influx of Chinese -	4
4	23 May 1860 (Separate.)	GENERAL REPORT ON THE CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER. The inhabitants desire the incorporation of the town, the right of taxing themselves, and applying the proceeds to grading the streets, and to the general improvement of the town. Observations on the Land system - - -	6
5	31 May 1860 (Separate.)	GENERAL REPORT OF THE STATE OF THE COLONY. Visit to Pitt Lake. Growing attachment of the alien population to the institutions of the country. Map illustrating route enclosed - - - - - - -	8
6	5 June 1860 (Separate.)	GENERAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF HOPE. Encloses a Return exhibiting the average number of miners employed on the several bars of the Hope District, with their average earnings - - - - - - -	9
7	6 July 1860 (Separate.)	GENERAL REPORT ON YALE. States that he had conferred with the inhabitants, with a view to the improvement of the trail leading from Yale to Lytton, with the object of reducing the expense of transport - - - - - -	11
8	3 Aug. 1860 (No. 70.)	FIRST REPORT OF MINERS SENT FROM HOPE TO EXPLORE THE GOLD FIELDS AT SHIMILKOMEEN -	13
9	4 Aug. 1860 (No. 72.)	FREE GRANTS OF LAND TO THE CLERGY, relative to. Requests authority to substitute a money equivalent out of the Colonial Revenue, or to make some other provision for the support of the clergy of the English, Roman, Presbyterian, and Methodist churches - - - - - -	14
10	4 Aug. 1860 (No. 74.)	PROCLAMATION. "THE NEW WESTMINSTER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ACT, 1860," transmitted, with explanatory remarks - - - - - - -	15
11	16 Aug. 1860 (No. 76.)	DISCOVERY OF GOLD FIELDS AT ROCK CREEK IN THE SHIMILKOMEEN COUNTRY, AND OF SILVER AT UNION BAR NEAR FORT HOPE. Appointment of Mr. Nind as Assistant Gold Commissioner -	20
12	8 Oct. 1860 (No. 86.)	RETURN FROM A TOUR IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, reported. Peace and order existed throughout the Colony. Appointment of Gold Commissioner at Rock Creek - -	21

Number in Series.	Date and Number.	SUBJECT.	Page.
13	9 Oct. 1860 (Separate.)	GENERAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE COLONY. Address of the Grand Jury enclosed - - -	22
14	25 Oct. 1860 (Separate.)	GENERAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE COLONY. Elucidating the present state of the country, its natural capabilities, and the effect of its institutions on the development of its resources. Encloses report of massacre of an Immigrant train by the Snake Indians - - - -	27
15	9 Nov. 1860 (No. 95.)	REPORT BY DR. FORBES OF H.M.S. "TOPAZE" OF THE COUNTRY BORDERING ON HARRISON LAKE AND RIVER, WITH REFERENCE TO ITS MINERAL CHARACTER, enclosed. The whole region he believes to be metalliferous, and the greater portion argentiferous. Map of geological sections enclosed - - - -	32
16	28 Nov. 1860 (No. 100.)	GENERAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE COLONY. List of prices at Alexandria enclosed - - - -	40
17	26 Jan. 1861 (No. 7.)	ABSTRACT OF APPROXIMATE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1860, transmitted. Revenue, 53,011*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* Expenditure, 44,124*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* - - - -	43
18	28 Feb. 1861 (Separate.)	GENERAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE COLONY. Encloses prices of provisions at Hope, Shimilkomeen District, Yale, and Rock Creek respectively - - - -	45
19	2 May 1861 (No. 33.)	GOLD DISCOVERIES AT OKANAGAN LAKE AND ANTLER CREEK reported. Also transmitting Reports by Mr. Cox of Messrs. Beam & Co.'s tour to the Okanagan Lake, and Mr. Nind's report of the discoveries at Antler Creek, with a sketch of the new Gold Field - - - -	49
20	4 June 1861 (Separate.)	GENERAL REPORT OF THE STATE AND PROSPECTS OF THE COUNTRY - - - -	52
21	16 July 1861 (Separate.)	FURTHER GENERAL REPORT. Peace and good order prevail throughout the Colony. Explanatory map enclosed -	54
22	11 Sept. 1861 (No. 55.)	REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE. Abstract of actual revenue and expenditure for the year 1860, transmitted -	56
23 24	16 Sept. 1861 (Separate.) 24 Oct. 1861 (Separate.)	GENERAL REPORTS ON THE STATE AND PROSPECTS OF THE COLONY. Transmits accounts of the extraordinary yield of gold in the Cariboo District - - -	57 59
25	14 Nov. 1861 (No. 67.)	CURRENCY. Reporting the want of a circulating medium, and stating the means he had adopted for the issue of gold pieces bearing a certain value - - - -	62
26	30 Nov. 1861 (No. 74.)	ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR 1862, transmitted - -	63

DESPATCHES FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

1	19 May 1860 (No. 26.)	FREE GRANTS OF LAND TO ORDAINED CLERGYMEN. States reasons for not sanctioning the grants of land proposed in Governor's Despatch, No. 24, of 17th Feb. - - -	66
2	25 May 1860 (No. 27.)	STATE OF THE CHIMSYAN INDIANS. Authorizing the reservation of land in the neighbourhood of Fort Simpson for the formation of a settlement for Indian Converts to Christianity	66
3	26 June 1860 (No. 36.)	GENERAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE COLONY. Acknowledging Governor's Despatch, No. 42, of 23rd April -	67
4	19 July 1860 (No. 42.)	GENERAL REPORT ON THE CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER. Acknowledging Governor's Despatch of 23rd May	67

Number in Series.	Date and Number.	SUBJECT.	Page.
5	26 Oct. 1860 (No. 56.)	FREE GRANTS OF LAND TO THE CLERGY. Sanctions pecuniary assistance to the Clergy from Colonial funds on certain specified stipulations - - - - - -	67
6	1 Feb. 1861 (No. 66.)	GENERAL REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE COLONY. Acknowledging with satisfaction the Governor's Despatches of the 9th and 25th October, and 9th November, exhibiting the agricultural and mineral resources of the country - -	68
7	13 April 1861 (No. 74.)	ABSTRACT OF APPROXIMATE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1860. Acknowledging with satisfaction Governor's Despatch No. 7, transmitting a statement of Revenue and Expenditure - - - - - -	68
8	9 May 1861 (No. 77.)	PROTECTION OF THE SALMON FISHERIES. Encloses Memorandum by Mr. Ffennell, with copies of Correspondence on the subject - - - - - -	68

APPENDIX.

PROCLAMATIONS HAVING THE FORCE OF LAW.

1	No. 23 - -	THE CUSTOMS AMENDMENT ACT, 1860 - -	70
2	No. 29 - -	THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY ACT, 1860 - -	70
3	No. 30 - -	THE COUNTRY LAND ACT, 1861 - - -	71
4	No. 31 - -	THE PRE-EMPTION AMENDMENT ACT, 1861 - -	72
5	No. 32 - -	REMISSIONS ON THE PURCHASE OF LAND TO OFFICERS OF THE ARMY AND NAVY - -	72
6	No. 35 - -	THE PRE-EMPTION PURCHASE ACT, 1861 - -	73
7	No. 37 - -	THE BRITISH COLUMBIA LAND REGISTRY ACT, 1861	73
8	No. 38 - -	THE PRE-EMPTION CONSOLIDATION ACT, 1861 -	77
9	No. 40 - -	THE NEW WESTMINSTER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL EXTENSION ACT, 1861 - - - - -	80

MAPS.

		To face Page
1	MAP OF A PORTION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA - - - - -	8
2	SKETCH ACCOMPANYING DR. FORBES' GEOLOGICAL REPORT. (Sections on Harrison Lake and Lillooet River) - - - - - - -	32
3	REDUCED SKETCH OF PART OF BRITISH COLUMBIA - - -	50
4	REDUCED MAP SHOWING THE AURIFEROUS DISTRICTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA - - - - - - - - - - -	54

PAPERS

RELATIVE TO

THE AFFAIRS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

PART IV.

Despatches from the Governor.

No. 1.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

No. 1.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 24.) Victoria, Vancouver Island, February 17, 1860.

(Received April 12, 1860.)

(Answered, No. 26, May 19, 1860, page 66.)

MY LORD DUKE,

IN my Despatch, No. 224,* of the 18th October last, reporting to your Grace on the state of British Columbia, I took occasion, while adverting to the existing means of moral and religious instruction in the Colony, to inform your Grace that Divine Service was regularly held in the several towns of Lower British Columbia by resident clergymen, and that the almost total absence of crime went far to show how usefully and extensively the influence of their teaching is felt.

* Vide Papers presented in 1860, Part III., page 65.

2. It did not, however, occur to me to inform your Grace at the same time that I had, on the part of this Government, done everything in my power to promote the good cause, by encouraging the residence of an ordained and educated clergy in British Columbia.

3. Having no authority to apply any part of the public revenue to the aid and support of churches, there was little in my power to bestow beyond the sincerest sympathy and advice in aid of the zealous clergy of the Church of England and the Methodist Episcopal Church, who first entered the field of missionary labour in British Columbia.

4. I did not, however, hesitate to assign to the clergy of those persuasions respectively, on their application, a church, school, and dwelling-house site, forming a block of four building lots, or about one acre of land in extent, in all towns where they resided. Thus free grants to that extent, viz., one acre, have been made for the use and benefit of the Church of England and of the Methodist Episcopal Church respectively in the towns of Yale, Hope, Derby, Douglas, and New Westminster, as a small return for the valuable services rendered to the country by the clergy of those churches, who have hitherto received no other compensation from the Government.

5. I have to request your Grace's sanction for those grants, and authority to continue the same practice in all other towns of British Columbia where ordained Ministers of the Gospel may think proper to take up their residence; and further, seeing that one of the duties most deserving the attention of Government is to provide means for the moral and religious training of the people, I would take the liberty of recommending to Her Majesty's Government that free grants of 100 acres of rural land should be made in aid of every cure formed in British Columbia, provided they be not otherwise supported at the public expense, and there be a resident clergyman, and a place of Christian worship erected.

6. A grant of land to that extent would not be burdensome to the Colony, and would nevertheless form an attractive inducement for Christian churches to devote their

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

attention to the country until population increases, and other provision is made for the maintenance of a Christian clergy and the erection of places of Christian worship.

7. It is not my intention to advocate the establishment of a dominant and endowed church, as that object could not be accomplished without injustice in a country to which persons of all religious persuasions are invited to resort, but I conceive it would be advisable to extend, in the manner before indicated, the protection and support of Government to the four grand denominations of Christians, viz., the Church of England, the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Roman Catholic Churches, which are all represented by classes of the population in this Colony.

8. I shall be glad to receive the instructions of Her Majesty's Government on this subject.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, (Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 25.) Victoria, Vancouver Island, February 18, 1860.
(Received April 12, 1860.)

MY LORD DUKE, (Answered, No. 27, May 25, 1860, page 66.)

THE desire manifested on the part of Her Majesty's Government for the improvement and well-being of the aboriginal races of British Columbia induces me to lay before your Grace the enclosed interesting correspondence between the Reverend Edward Cridge, district minister of Victoria, and Mr. William Duncan, an exemplary and truly worthy gentleman, who has, for some years past, been devotedly labouring with a wonderful degree of energy and perseverance as a Christian missionary among the Indian population at and about Fort Simpson

2. The facility with which Mr. Duncan has acquired the native language, and succeeded in winning the confidence and attachment of the natives, is a proof of the good sense, kindness of heart, and talent which he has brought to the task; while the very marked success of his efforts as a religious teacher gives rise to the gratifying hope that the natives will yet, through God's blessing, be rescued from ignorance, and assume a respectable position in British Columbia.

3. Mr. Duncan proposes to found a missionary settlement for Indian converts in an eligible situation, about 20 miles south of Fort Simpson (probably Port Essington), a plan which meets with my entire approval.

4. I therefore, with your Grace's sanction, intend to reserve several hundred acres of land in that neighbourhood to enable Mr. Duncan to carry this useful and benevolent plan into effect.

5. I would submit, with respect to all land reserved for Indians, the advisability of withholding from them the power to sell or otherwise alienate the title, as they are yet so ignorant and improvident that they cannot safely be trusted with the management or control of landed estate, which, if fully conveyed to them, would soon pass into other hands.

6. I would, therefore, recommend, as a safe and preferable course, that such reserves of land should be conveyed to the Governor of the Colony for the time being in trust for the use and benefit of the Indians, leaving no power whatever in them to sell or alienate the estate.

7. Should those measures meet with your Grace's approval, I have to request the sanction of Her Majesty's Government for carrying them into effect.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, (Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 1 in No. 2.

Enclosure 1 in No. 2.

To his Excellency JAMES DOUGLAS, C.B., Governor of British Columbia, &c. &c. &c.

The Parsonage, Victoria, V. I.,
February 18, 1860.

MY DEAR SIR,

I BEG to lay before you a letter which I have just received from Mr. W. Duncan, Church of England Missionary at Fort Simpson, in reply to one which, in conformity with your Excellency's

instructions a short time ago, I wrote to him expressive of the interest you felt in his mission, and of your desire to aid him in his work. A copy of which I subjoin.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. CRIDGE.

(Copy.)

The Parsonage, Victoria,
January, 1860.

DEAR MR. DUNCAN,

I AM requested by his Excellency the Governor to express to you the great gratification he has received from conversing with several of the Indians who have been under your instruction at Fort Simpson, and who are now at Victoria, and his pleasure at witnessing the great improvement in manners, learning, and religion which you have succeeded in effecting in their condition.

His Excellency trusts you will continue to show the same energy and perseverance which he is sure you must already have applied to the work, and that your labour will be rewarded by a still larger measure of success.

His Excellency also wishes me to say that he will feel obliged by your reporting to him from time to time on the progress of your mission. Any suggestions you may make with regard to measures which may occur to you as likely to prove beneficial to the Indians under your care, such as settling them in any particular locality, or setting apart a reserve of land for their use, will receive his Excellency's best attention, who will also, if necessary, represent such measures with his favourable recommendation to Her Majesty's Government.

Praying that the Divine blessing may rest abundantly on your mission,

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. CRIDGE,
District Minister of Victoria and Colonial Chaplain.

Enclosure 2 in No. 2.

Encl. 2 in No. 2

MR. DUNCAN to REV. E. CRIDGE.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

Fort Simpson, British Columbia, February 7, 1860.

I DULY received, by the favour of Captain Dodd of the Honourable Hudson's Bay Company, your kind letter of the 11th ult., tendering me the sympathy and good wishes of his Excellency the Governor of British Columbia in reference to my work as a Missionary among the Chimsyan Indians of this place. Also expressing his Excellency's desire that I would report to him from time to time the progress of the mission, and make suggestions of any measures which I deem would be likely to prove beneficial to the Indians under my care, such as settling them in any particular locality, or setting apart a reserve of land for their use.

I feel indeed truly thankful to his Excellency for the very kind interest he manifests in the mission, and I shall rejoicingly avail myself of the privilege he extends to me, in making such communications to him from time to time as circumstances may suggest and opportunities afford.

For his Excellency's information I would now mention that I began a school here in November 1858, which I still continue to carry on. My pupils number about 200, of whom only about 30 are adults. The daily attendance varies from 80 to 130 souls, excepting the times when they go away in great numbers to procure fish, which occupies about four months in the year, and at such times our daily attendance is from 40 to 80 souls.

The instruction I give them is in reading, writing, counting, singing, and religious knowledge. The latter I teach in their own tongue, but everything else in English.

Another prominent part of my daily work is visiting the Indians in their own houses; the visits I make are mostly in answer to calls for help and medicine in sickness; but I have thereby many opportunities of speaking to all the inmates of a house. I usually address them on the evil of their doings, and point out the inevitable consequences of sin, both in time and in eternity. I then tell them of the sinner's friend, and set the blessed Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ before them, illustrating from their own customs our need of such a Saviour.

As to the result of my labours among them, speaking generally, I may say that many remain infatuated, utterly regardless of the future, while others, caring not for themselves, yet seem anxious for their children to learn and walk in the good way; the remainder are those who are anxious for themselves as well as their children to learn and practise what is good.

It is to the case of this latter class that I would wish his Excellency's attention was drawn; and, in reference to their case, permit me humbly to suggest the propriety of a place being founded in which such Indians may find a home, and where there may be no lack of remunerative labour put into their hands. I confess my only hope of seeing the Indian races of this coast diverted from the destructive courses to which they are now so strongly tempted lies in the carrying out of some such plan as the above for their benefit.

However small and insignificant at first such a place might be, I have no doubt of its ultimate growth and prosperity. Some time ago I hinted to a few of the better disposed Indians here the idea of their separating from the rest, and thus avoiding the ruin which threatened them all, and they embraced the subject heartily.

One old chief urged me much to write to the people at home about the matter. He very properly told me that he saw no chance of benefiting even the rising generation unless they were removed from the evil influence around them at this place.

And I now see from instances which have already occurred, that the children I am teaching will be drifted from me as they grow up and become victims to the same vices which enslave their parents.

This makes me feel a growing anxiety for a safe retreat.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

There is no lack, I am happy to state, of suitable spots of land. One place the Indians frequently speak of as offering many advantages for a future home. It is about 30 miles south of this place, so far as I can ascertain. They have often wanted me to go and see it, but I never went, for I was not anxious to raise up hopes among the Indians which I might afterwards disappoint.

However, as his Excellency the Governor has kindly alluded to the matter of settlement, I shall now make it my duty in my addresses to the Indians to bring the subject prominently before them.

By the time that another opportunity occurs of communicating with Victoria, I hope to be able to speak more definitely regarding the subject as the Indian views it.

Thanking you for your kind letter, and praying that the Governor may ever be moved and guided in his efforts for the public good by that wisdom which is from above,

I remain, &c.
(Signed) W. DUNCAN.

To the Rev. E. Cridge,
District Minister of Victoria.
&c. &c.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 42.) Victoria, Vancouver Island, April 23, 1860.
(Received June 11, 1860.)
(Answered, No. 36, June 26, 1860, page 67.)

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Grace that the winter has passed away without the occurrence of any extraordinary event in British Columbia.

2. The season has been comparatively mild, and the miners residing in the various inland districts have been abundantly provided with food and with home-grown vegetables in small quantities, which have had the effect of checking the ravages of scurvy, by which the health of many of those laborious men was seriously impaired in the winter of 1858.

3. Very satisfactory reports have been lately received from all the mining districts of the country; on these, however, strict reliance cannot always be placed, though in the present instance they are corroborated by heavy arrivals of gold dust, both in the hands of miners and of the exporting companies.

4. The roads leading into the country from Hope and Yale have, in consequence of the great depth of snow in the mountain passes, been impassable since the beginning of winter to any other mode of transport than by Indian packers, who, with singular force and power of endurance, toil through the mountain trails at that trying season with loads of 100 lbs. each; but that mode of transport is not even attempted in winter by the Hope trail, which is hermetically sealed to travel from the interior, between the months of October and June; yet these two trails may, I believe, be made available for winter travel, by evading the precipitous hills over which they pass, and carrying the line of road by easy grades through the deep valleys. The transport might then be carried on during the winter by means of sleighs drawn by horses, as it is evident that the depth of snow would not form in itself an insuperable obstacle, provided the precipitous ascents, which constitute the real difficulty of the road, could be avoided.

5. Much attention has been directed to the exploration of those difficult routes, and we have ascertained the feasibility of running an easy graded line of road from Yale to Lytton; and I am daily expecting a report from a surveying party employed at Hope, in examining, with a similar object in view, the passes leading from that place to the "Shimilkomeen" Valley. These routes may, without exaggeration, be severally compared to the passage of the Alps. It is, however, a great satisfaction to know that the country beyond the mountains is generally level and of easy access.

6. The great outlet of British Columbia continues to be by the Harrison River trail, and that fortunately has been uninterruptedly open during the whole winter, and large stocks of food have been accumulated at its further terminus near Cayoosh, in anticipation of the influx of miners for the Upper Fraser. The price of food is in consequence of that abundance comparatively low, the last quotations being 8*d.* per lb. for flour and beans at Lytton, and 11*d.* at Cayoosh, and at both places bacon is quoted at 14*d.* per lb. The improvement in the condition of the miner is very great, as he can live substantially for 1½ dollars per diem, instead of 3 or 4 dollars; and many claims are now workable at a profit which could not afford the miner any support last year.

7. A detachment of 80 Royal Engineers, under the command of Captain Grant, has been employed since the beginning of March embanking the shoals near the mouth of the Harrison River, for the purpose of deepening the channel, which is now impassable in

winter for the lightest steamer, and there is every reason to believe that the work will be brought to a successful termination.

8. The same detachment of Royal Engineers will shortly proceed to resume work on the waggon road from Douglas, which it is expected they will complete in a few weeks as far as the 10-mile house; from that point a party of civilian labourers have undertaken a section of six miles of the road, for which they are to receive the sum of 550*l.* per mile. This will carry the road to the 16-mile house, where the Royal Engineers will recommence operations, and probably complete the next 12 miles, that is, to the 28-mile house, situated on the smaller Lillooett Lake, before the end of summer.

9. We propose to use that and the larger Lillooett Lake as a water communication, connecting them by means of a good waggon road $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles in length, which is already made and in use. The application of some enterprising settlers to run a steamer, without any special privilege, on the larger Lillooett Lake has been granted, which will greatly facilitate transport. An excellent mule trail, 30 miles in length, with substantial bridges over all the rivers, connects the larger Lillooett Lake with Lake Anderson, beyond which the route to Cayoosh offers no very serious difficulties to engineering enterprise.

10. Two stern-wheel steamers, intended to ply on Lakes Anderson and Seaton, are nearly completed by an association of settlers, who at much labour and expense packed the engines and boilers from Douglas over the Harrison road. To give an idea of the difficulty of the undertaking, I may mention that the boilers, being too heavy to carry on mules, were rolled over the trail, as far as the 28-mile house, in five sections. Serious difficulties of that kind will not be felt when the waggon road is made, and the facility of communication will, I have no doubt, give a prodigious impulse to industry and to the rapid development of the resources of the country, as all kinds of machinery required to assist the operations of the gold miner may then be imported.

11. I have received advices from Lytton up to the 6th of this month (April). Commissioner Ball reports that the mining season had commenced, and that the miners who had migrated to the lower country for the winter were fast returning to their old claims on the benches of Fraser River, but the great majority of those hardy wanderers were making their way towards Quesnel River, where it is confidently expected rich hill diggings will be found.

12. A great number of Chinese miners were also arriving and taking up mining claims on the River Bars, in the Lytton district, who are reputed to be remarkably quiet and orderly. Mr. Ball's report refers to no other subject of general interest.

13. The prevailing impression respecting the great auriferous wealth of the district about Alexandria and the Quesnel River will have the effect of attracting a large population to that distant quarter, and I shall consequently be under the necessity of appointing a magistrate and a small body of police to remain there for the purpose of maintaining the peace of the country, and preventing conflicts among the miners and with the Indian tribes.

14. The last intelligence from the Shimilkomeen River is not so favourable as before reported. I perceive by the Oregon papers that many persons who had gone there for the purpose of mining had been unsuccessful. It is stated in those papers that 20 or 30 miners only were making from 8 to 10 dollars per day, while the others engaged in the same occupation were not paying expenses. That is, I conceive, but the usual and silly outcry of the idler and the visionary, and does not in the least shake my opinion in regard to the auriferous nature of the country, founded on its geological character, and further strengthened by the report of Lieut. Park, a highly scientific member of the American Boundary Commission, who entertains a similar belief in the auriferous character of that district, and in the existence of extensive placer diggings. Should a large population assemble there, the attention of Government will have to be directed towards it, and a police force employed to maintain the peace. I shall use every exertion to connect the Shimilkomeen with Port Hope by means of a convenient road, with the important object in view of making Fraser River, instead of the Columbia, the outlet of its trade.

15. British Columbia is becoming highly attractive to the Chinese, who are arriving in great numbers, about 2,000 having entered Fraser River since the beginning of the year, and many more are expected from California and China. They are certainly not a desirable class of people, as a permanent population, but are for the present useful as labourers, and, as consumers, of a revenue-paying character. I have therefore protected them from the payment of differential duties not equally borne by other classes of the population.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

16. I have received advices from Commissioner Sanders of Yale district up to the 14th instant (April). He describes the migration of miners for the upper country as being very general, and expresses a fear that the feeling in favour of Quesnel River may lead to the depopulation of the Yale district.

17. In a previous passage of this report I stated that we had ascertained the feasibility of running a line of road by easy grades the whole way from Yale to Lytton, which would avoid the lofty passes, and be accessible in winter for pack mules, and not like the present trail, rendered valueless for five months in the year by an impassable depth of snow.

With reference to that enterprise which I proposed to undertake, Mr. Sanders complains of the character of the population. His remarks on the subject are as follows:—"There is very little probability of any person in Yale or its neighbourhood tendering "for the construction of the projected mule trail; the proposed part payment in land is "very far from being an inducement; in fact, it is generally objected to; an arrange-"ment of that nature might possibly be acceptable to British subjects, but would naturally "be objectionable to aliens, and unfortunately the population of this Colony is almost "without exception foreign."

We shall, nevertheless, commence that undertaking as soon as a small body of the Royal Engineers can be spared without detriment to other important work.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(Separate.)

New Westminster, British Columbia, May 23, 1860.

(Received July 14, 1860.)

MY LORD DUKE,

I have the honour to inform your Grace that I left Victoria on the 15th instant on a visit to British Columbia, and arrived at this place on the evening of the same day, and I have since been engaged with business of great public importance.

2. I was glad to observe that this city had greatly improved in appearance since my last visit, and that many new buildings have been erected, and the surface in many parts cleared of the gigantic stumps and fallen trees that obstructed the thoroughfares and incumbered the ground.

The erection of a court house and buildings for the Assay offices have also greatly added to the appearance of the place and increased the bustle and activity which pervades the town. Trade is also on the increase. Two steamers, of from 200 to 300 tons burthen, are plying with goods and passengers between Victoria and New Westminster, where their cargoes are discharged, and the inland transport is carried on from thence to Douglas and Yale by four stern-wheel river steamboats, varying in burthen from 50 to 200 tons, which now make two trips a week to those places.

3. The Custom house receipts having for the last two weeks somewhat exceeded the sum of 1,000*l.* of weekly return, corroborate the opinion I have expressed with respect to the state of trade, and indicate the spirited manner in which supplies are being sent into the mining districts, and the confidence entertained by business men in the auriferous resources of the country.

4. The effect of the pre-emption law is already observable in the forest clearings made by settlers in the densely wooded land on the banks of Fraser River. The cost of clearing such land by means of hired labour ranges from 15*l.* to 30*l.* an acre, and it will consequently never prove an attractive investment for capital; such land cannot be cleared to advantage otherwise than by the actual settler investing his own labour in the formation of a permanent home and property for himself and family.

5. I have given much anxious thought to the subject of settling British Columbia, and the conclusion is more than ever forced upon me that it cannot be successfully accomplished without adopting a very liberal land system. I am strongly induced to view the public land simply as a source of revenue, and, provided an income of equal or greater value can be realized by other means, it does not appear wise or expedient to lock up the public land under a system which practically places it beyond the reach of purchase by ordinary settlers. It is evident that without population a revenue for the support of government

is unattainable, and unproductive land is next to valueless both to the country and to the Crown. The sale of land affords a temporary revenue, but the settler indirectly, by the payment of duties on the foreign articles he consumes, and by means of a small direct tax which could be levied on the land he occupies, will become a permanent contributor to the revenue, and, therefore, although the land may have been acquired for nothing, and brought no revenue in the first instance, yet, in such case, the Crown in the end would become the gainer by his presence. If the public land could be sold at a high upset price, and the country at the same time filled with people, there would be an advantage in continuing the present sale price of land; but if one or other of those objects must be sacrificed, it is evidently preferable to have the population, and to grant the land without purchase or at a much lower price than at present.

6. These observations are thrown out merely for the purpose of acquainting your Grace with the impressions made upon me by the present circumstances of this country, as I propose to bring the subject under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government in a more formal manner when I have arrived at clearer and better-supported conclusions.

7. The inhabitants of New Westminster having expressed a great desire for the incorporation of their town and the appointment of municipal officers to manage its revenues, I consulted their select committee as to their views, and as to the best means of carrying out their wishes. Their propositions are extremely moderate, embracing chiefly two points, viz., the right of taxing themselves, and of applying the proceeds of such taxes to grading the streets and to the general improvement of the town. After several interviews, and obtaining the sense of the people at a public meeting with respect to the amount of taxes they wished to raise, and as to whether such taxes should be levied on an arbitrary valuation or on an actual assessment of property, the draft of an Act was made containing the following provisions:—

(1st.) That all persons subject to the payment of rates according to the Act shall be entitled to vote at elections for members of the town council.

(2nd.) That the town council shall consist of seven members, who are to hold office without remuneration, and for one year only.

(3rd.) That none but British subjects or foreigners who have become naturalized British subjects shall be eligible for councillors, and, in addition, they must be possessed of property valued at not less than 50*l.* sterling, and shall have resided at least six months in New Westminster.

(4th.) That the town of New Westminster shall be divided into four wards, each returning a certain number of councillors.

(5th.) That the council shall be empowered to levy rates on property within the town, as may be determined and authorized by the majority of the rate-payers, and to cause the proceeds of such rates to be expended under the direction of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

(6th.) That the council shall be authorized to levy a tax not exceeding two per cent. on the assessed value of all town lots and property within the town for the year 1860 and 1861, and to enforce payment thereof.

(7th.) That the said council shall be empowered to levy a further rate over and above the said two per cent. for the said two years, provided the majority of the rate-payers deem it necessary and require them so to do.

(8th.) That the said council shall be further authorized to compel town lot holders to cut down all trees on their respective town lots, except such as may be reserved for ornament, and in default to cause the trees to be cut down, and the cost thereof, not exceeding 7*l.* sterling on each town lot, to be levied on the property.

Such is the substance of the proposed Act, which will be immediately put into the hands of the Attorney General for proper drafting.

8. Your Grace will observe that the powers of the council are so limited by the supervision of the Commissioner of Lands and Works on the one hand, and the rate-payers on the other, as almost to remove the danger of abuse, and I am of opinion that the city will be greatly benefited by its exertions and by the expenditures on substantial and much-needed improvements.

Trusting that this measure may meet with your Grace's approval,

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

No. 5.

No. 5.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(Separate.) Camp, Fraser River, Chilwayhook District, May 31, 1860.

(Received August 6, 1860.)

MY LORD DUKE,

In continuation of my last report, marked Separate, and dated New Westminster, 23rd May, I have to communicate for your Grace's information, that the 24th of May was spent not unprofitably in making a tour in one of the river steamers to Pitt Lake, distant about 40 miles from New Westminster, accompanied by the colonel in command, the civil and military colonial officers, the local magistrates, the Lord Bishop of British Columbia, his chaplain, and many of the citizens of New Westminster, who were invited to celebrate with me the auspicious natal day of our most Gracious Queen, amidst the wild romantic scenery of that mountain lake, and never, I believe, has any part of Her Majesty's dominions resounded to more hearty acclamations of loyalty and attachment than were heard on that occasion.

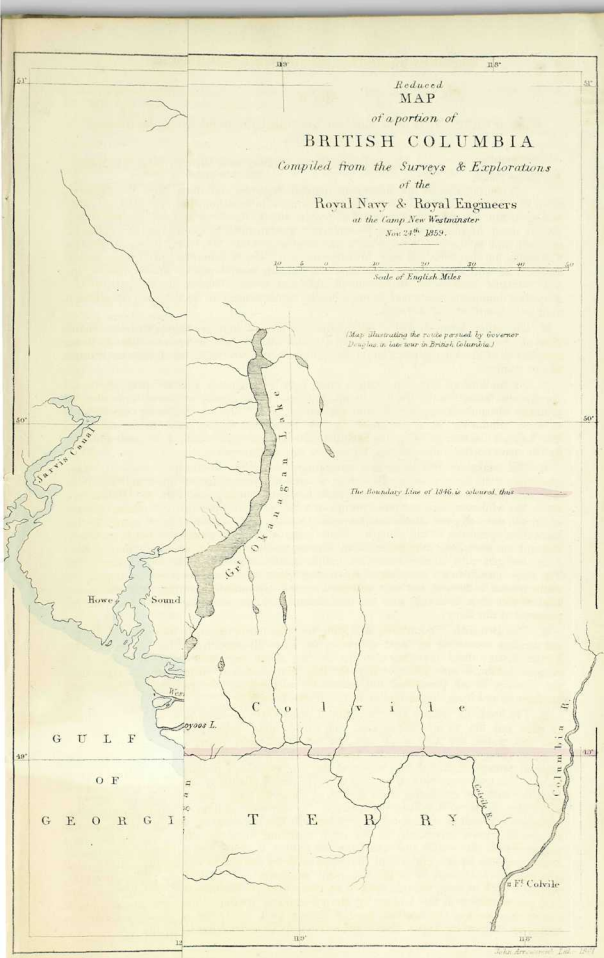
2. The other towns in British Columbia vied in loyal demonstrations with the inhabitants of New Westminster, a fact which I record with pleasure as a proof of the growing attachment of the alien population of the Colony to our Sovereign, and to the institutions of our country.

3. On the 25th of May I proceeded from New Westminster, with my party, in one of the revenue boats towards Derby; in our progress up the Fraser we passed a number of tributary streams flowing into it from the north. The "Pitt" is the most considerable of these tributaries, being navigable for vessels of 300 or 400 tons to its source in Pitt Lake, a distance of 35 miles, including the lake, beyond which it is accessible for Indian canoes a few miles further, but not for any larger craft.

4. The banks of Pitt River are exceedingly beautiful; extensive meadows sweep gracefully from the very edge of the river towards the distant line of forest and mountain. The rich alluvial soil produces a thick growth of grass interspersed with the Michaelmas daisy, the wild rose, and scattered groups of willows. This fine district contains an area of 20,000 acres of good arable land, requiring no clearing from timber, and ready for the immediate operations of the plough. Many parts of it are however exposed to overflow, through the periodical inundations of the Fraser, which commence about the first week in June, and generally subside before the middle of July. Owing to this circumstance the Pitt River meadows are not adapted for raising wheat and other cereals which require the entire season to mature, but may be turned to good account in growing hay and every kind of root crop, and may also be used extensively for pasturing cattle, and for the purposes of the dairy.

5. The Brunette, Coquitlum, and Whytus, the latter opposite the site of Derby, are streams accessible by boat or canoe for some distance from their debouche into Fraser River; their importance to the district, as an easy and inexpensive means of communication, is very great, seeing that they form a series of natural canals, intersecting the country in all directions, and admirably adapted for the transport of goods and produce to and from the navigable waters of the Fraser.

6. The banks of Fraser River are almost everywhere covered with woods. Varieties of pine and firs of prodigious size, and large poplar trees, predominate. The vine and soft maple, the wild apple tree, the white and black thorn, and deciduous bushes in great variety, form the massive undergrowth. The vegetation is luxuriant almost beyond conception, and at this season of the year presents a peculiarly beautiful appearance. The eye never tires of ranging over the varied shades of the fresh green foliage, mingling with the clustering white flowers of the wild apple tree, now in full blossom, and filling the air with delicious fragrance. As our boat, gliding swiftly over the surface of the smooth waters, occasionally swept beneath the overhanging boughs which form a canopy of leaves, impervious to the sun's scorching rays, the effect was enchanting; yet amidst all this wealth and luxuriance of nature, I could not repress the wish that those gorgeous forests might soon be swept away by the efforts of human industry, and give place to cultivated fields and the other accessaries of civilization. This, however, will be a work of time, though there is no doubt that the facilities and inducements now held out to settlers in this Colony by the pre-emptive law and other enactments, might enable thousands of the destitute poor of Britain, by a few years of steady industry, to secure for themselves happy homes and a comfortable independence for life.


Reduced
MAP
of a portion of
BRITISH COLUMBIA
Compiled from the Surveys & Explorations
of the
Royal Navy & Royal Engineers
at the Camp New Westminster
Nov. 24th 1859.
Scale of English Miles
(Map illustrating the route pursued by Governor Douglas in his tour in British Columbia.)
The Boundary Line of 1846 is coloured thus
Jervis Canal
Howe Sound
Okanagan Lake
Colville
GULF
OF
GEORGIA
TERRY
Colville R.
Columbia R.
Fort Colville
49°
50°
51°
113°
118°

7. Leaving the boat at Derby we travelled two miles by the bridlepath which skirts the Fraser to Langley. In my Despatch No. 224,* of the 18th October last, I communicated to your Grace the intention I then entertained of opening up leading roads in the districts bordering on Fraser River from Derby to Hope, to connect those places, and for the relief of settlers exploring the country; as they cannot otherwise make their way through the woods, which are blocked up in every direction by thick brush and immense quantities of fallen timber.

* Vide Papers presented in 1860, Part III., page 65.

8. A portion of that road from Langley to Smess, which completes the line of communication between Derby and Hope, having been lately finished, I proceeded on horseback from Langley with the intention of riding the whole way to Hope; that intention could not however be fully carried into effect, as Fraser River had overflowed its banks, and inundated the low plains through which the road has been injudiciously led. After a ride of 13 miles our progress was arrested by a flooded plain, impassable in its present state for horses, and we were therefore compelled to seek the river and to proceed by canoe.

9. The tract through which we rode is well adapted for settlement, the soil being a deep rich loam, and the woods which once evidently covered the whole face of the country, having been in parts so completely destroyed by fire as to leave large patches of ground almost clear of timber. The tract alluded to and that extending to Smess River contains about 150,000 acres of land, easily cleared and generally well adapted for tillage; its advantageous position on the banks of a navigable river further recommend it as an eligible place of settlement.

10. Captain Parsons with a party of Royal Engineers is now engaged in a reconnaissance of the country on the Smess and Chilwayhook Rivers. I will therefore defer the notice of that district until I receive that officer's report on its capabilities.

I will now close this communication, as a steamer is in sight, and I will proceed by her from this point towards Douglas or Hope, with the intention of continuing this sketch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 6.

No. 6.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(Separate.)

Hope, British Columbia, June 5, 1860.
(Received August 6, 1860.)

MY LORD DUKE,

My last communication to your Grace was dated "Camp, Chilwayhook District, 31st May."

2. During the few hours I remained at Douglas, whither the river steamer which conveyed my party from Chilwayhook was bound, I had merely time to observe the increasing size of the town, the improved style of the newer buildings, and the evident attention paid to comfort and stability in their arrangement and construction, indicating the growing wealth of the inhabitants, and their confidence in the progress of the town.

Its business facilities have lately been much improved by the construction of two substantial wharves which afford ample accommodation for all shipping which visit the port.

3. I met Captain Grant, R.E., at Douglas, who reports very favourably of the progress of the detachment of Royal Engineers and civilian labourers employed under his command in forming the waggon road from Douglas to the lesser Lilooett Lake, which he expects to finish before the close of summer.

4. Our steamer having a full cargo on board was detained at Douglas in landing goods from the hour of her arrival at six o'clock in the evening, till four the following morning, when she was again under weigh steaming full power in the direction of Hope, and arrived there at nine o'clock the same evening, the distance being 90 miles, during 40 miles of which she had to stem the current of Fraser River, now almost at its greatest force and height.

5. At a public meeting of the inhabitants of Hope, held soon after my arrival there, I entered into an exposition of the state and prospects of the country, and more particularly directed the attention of the meeting to the importance of opening lines of road without delay, into various parts of the country, but especially a line leading into the valley of the Shimilkomeen, and showing that the immediate and direct effect to the

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

country would be a vast reduction in the cost of transport, and a great accession of trade to the town and district of Hope.

6. The valley of the Shimilkomeen has many attractive features, no part of British Columbia being more beautiful as a country, or offering greater inducements to settlers.

The whole of that district is watered by running streams, possesses a great deal of arable land, and is diversified by woodland and meadow.

The climate is pleasant and healthy, the winters mild, and the capabilities of the district for raising and pasturing stock are very great.

There is, moreover, satisfactory evidence that the rivers and soil are auriferous, and that gold will become a chief article of export and source of wealth.

The settlement of that fine district has been retarded by want of roads, and there is no doubt that people will flock thither as soon as it is accessible to travel.

7. A cutting of 60 miles through the mountains will connect it with the town of Hope. I entreated the meeting to give the subject their earnest attention, and to recommend such financial measures as might raise the funds requisite for carrying that great work into effect.

The people cordially agreed with the views expressed, and promised their hearty aid and support in providing money for the occasion.

8. The day following I called a meeting of the miners in the Hope district, and in the course of a long interview ascertained that they had no grievances to lay before me, and that they were satisfied with the existing "Gold Fields Act." I spoke to them about the probable existence of gold in Shimilkomeen, and recommended that they should at once form a party, selected by themselves, and composed of experienced miners, and of men on whose energy and judgment they could rely, to prospect the Shimilkomeen country, and I agreed on the part of the Government to furnish the party with food, and to allow a bonus of 4*l.* sterling in money to each of the men employed in prospecting, provided they succeeded in finding gold.

The proposal was received with evident marks of satisfaction by the whole company of miners, and they proceeded at once to select a party of nine men, out of a large number of those present who volunteered for the service; and this choice band will start in a few days time, or as soon as the freshets, which now fill the rivers to overflowing, have somewhat abated, and travelling becomes a less dangerous undertaking.

9. The despatch of a party to reopen and improve the road leading direct from Hope to Quayome, or Boston Bar, was at once undertaken and carried into effect, but the improvement of the other routes is left for the present and cannot be undertaken until my return from Yale, when I will report further.

10. I annex a return exhibiting the average number of miners employed on the several bars of the Hope District, together with the average earnings of each man per diem, which I have no doubt will be interesting to your Grace.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

Encl. in No. 6.

Enclosure in No. 6.

AVERAGE NUMBER of MINERS employed on the several Bars in the Fort Hope District, viz., from Victoria to Hudson Bar.

Names of Bars.	Average No. of Miner's employed.	Average per diem earnings of each Man.
Victoria Bar - - -	40	3 to 5 dollars.
Puget Sound Bar - - -	50	3 to 5 „
French „ - -	15	10 to 12 „
Trafalgar „ - - -	9	5 to 7 „
Maria Ville „ - -	10	4 „
Union „ - - -	20	4 to 5 „
Cornish „ - - -	15	3 to 4 „
Prospect „ - - -	6	4 „
Blue Nose „ - -	8	4 „
Hudson „ - - -	30	8 to 10 „
Total - -	203	

(Signed) P. O. REILLY,
Acting Gold Commissioner.

Fort Hope, June 9, 1860.

No. 7.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(Separate.)

Victoria, Vancouver Island, July 6, 1860.

(Received August 22, 1860.)

MY LORD DUKE,

CONTINUING our progress from Hope, from whence I last addressed your Grace, on the morning of the 6th June, we arrived at Yale in the afternoon of the same day.

2. A deputation of the inhabitants, bearing a congratulatory Address, waited upon me almost immediately after my arrival, and I took that opportunity of stating that I had been induced to visit Yale on that occasion chiefly by the desire of conferring with them on the highly important subject of improving, and, wherever necessary, altering the line of the present trail leading from Yale to Lytton, with the view of reducing the expense of transport, and rendering the country beyond the mountains accessible to intending settlers.

3. I drew their attention to the fact that the cost of transport by the existing mountain trail between Yale and Lytton, a distance of 80 miles, exceeded 76*l.* sterling a ton, a charge which the gold miner, by reason of his large earnings and limited wants, might possibly contrive to meet, but it was evident that until the cost of transport be greatly reduced, settlers, with their multiform wants, would be involved in ruinous expenses, and in fact virtually excluded from the interior of the country, which might, for want of such facilities of communication as I proposed to form, remain a desert for years to come.

I also remarked how nearly impossible it was, by any conveyance practicable on those trails, for the settler to transport the implements indispensable for bringing the land into cultivation.

4. I therefore recommended that the inhabitants of the town should forthwith hold a meeting for the purpose of choosing a temporary council of five members to concert measures with me for raising the funds requisite for carrying on that important enterprise, which must necessarily confer the most signal benefits on the country at large, and so greatly promote the individual interests of the people of Yale.

5. I then suggested that the money required for that service should be raised by means of an inland duty of one farthing a pound, to be charged after the completion of the road on the weight of all goods leaving Yale for any inland part above and beyond that place, and that in the meantime the outlay should be met by an issue of Colonial Bonds, bearing interest at six per cent. per annum, to be repaid at fixed periods from the revenues so created.

6. In continuation of that subject I may remark for your Grace's information, that a Town Council of five members was subsequently chosen by the inhabitants of Yale, who, on behalf of their fellow citizens, presented a petition recommending that the proposed duty of one farthing a pound should be charged on all goods carried inland from Yale, and that the revenues derived from that source should be applied to the redemption of the bonds issued in payment of the work done on the roads, and also praying that a uniform rate of duty should be levied on all goods carried inland from Hope and Douglas, in order that no one route should have any preference or decided advantage over the others.

7. The inland exports from Yale are estimated at 50 tons a week, or 2,600 tons per annum; the proposed duty, equivalent to 2*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* a ton, should therefore yield an annual revenue of 6,500*l.* sterling, without taking into account the progressive increase of trade and population; that sum will thus, at the most moderate computation, form an ample fund for the redemption of the bonds, and payment of the interest accruing thereon; and the country will be largely repaid for the immediate outlay by a direct saving of fivepence a pound weight, or 46*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* sterling a ton, which it is estimated will be effected in the cost of transport from Yale to Lytton by opening the new line of road, as well as from many other sources of prosperity and wealth that the improvement of roads will bring into play.

8. Having thus provided the means of executing our plans, the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works was authorized to proceed immediately in carrying them into effect.

Two portions of the new line of road from Yale to Spuzzem are now in progress, and a third portion between Chapman's and Boston Bar is about being surveyed in hopes of discovering some line which may avoid the circuitous direction and the mountainous

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

district through which the mule trail now passes, whereby the actual distance is greatly increased, while the route is in winter rendered altogether impassable by the great depth of snow.

9. I beg herewith to forward for your Grace's information the substance of a short address,* which, previous to my departure, I delivered to the people of Yale, complimenting them for their public spirit, and thanking them for the cordial manner in which they had responded to my proposals for promoting the improvement of the country.

10. The inhabitants of Hope, to which place I returned on the 15th June, were equally liberal in their views, and also drew up a petition in favour of an inland duty equivalent to that to be levied at Yale, on all goods carried overland from Hope, which will provide funds for improving the road to "Quayome," or Boston Bar, and opening a new route by the "Callomme" River into the "Shimilkomeen" valley, a distance of 60 miles, the expense of which on the scale proposed will not exceed four thousand pounds sterling.

11. I herewith transmit for your Grace's information a sketch map* of part of British Columbia, showing the proposed lines of road mentioned in this report, together with the roads before completed, and others strongly recommended by the Commissioner of Lands and Works, and which will no doubt greatly facilitate and promote the settlement of the country.

12. I am happy to inform your Grace that the reports from all the mining districts continue to be of the most favourable character. Mining is no longer a speculation; it is becoming a business yielding an appreciable and certain return, and every day is extending our knowledge of the gold deposits.

13. Our latest accounts represent that 600 white miners were successfully employed on Quesnelle river, earning from 10 to 25 dollars a day. The spring freshets had driven them away from their claims in the beds of the rivers, and they had commenced operations on the hills and ravines, which have turned out to be highly auriferous. Several pieces of gold, varying from six to eight ounces, have been found in those new diggings, and the gold produced has a rougher surface and is in larger pieces than that found in the country west of Lytton.

14. About 1,000 white miners are working on Fraser river, between Alexandria and Lytton, and about 4,000 Chinese miners are employed in the various districts of the colony.

15. In my next excursion to British Columbia I propose to devote my attention to the Harrison River district, where the land communications are being rapidly improved, and two small steamers, soon to be increased by a third, are in full operation on the lakes.

16. I trust Her Majesty's Government will approve of the measures herein detailed for removing the impediments of access to the country, and the issue of bonds as a means of raising money for carrying on the work. The whole expense of those works will be defrayed out of the revenues of the country, derived, as I have before stated, from the duty on inland transport.

I feel assured that I have not overrated the resources of the country, and that they are equal to the emergency, and I believe that those resources will be more or less largely developed just in proportion to the degree in which those difficulties of access are removed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

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* Not printed.

No. 8.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Douglas, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

(No. 70.)

Victoria, Vancouver Island, August 3, 1860.

(Received September 27, 1860.)

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour of transmitting herewith, for your Grace's information, copy of a letter from Mr. O'Reilly, the magistrate at Hope, with enclosure, being the first report received from the party of gold miners sent out from that place, as stated to your Grace in paragraph 8 of my Despatch of the 5th June, marked "Separate."* * Page 9.

2. This report, though not conclusive as to the general character of the country, yet speaks very favourably of those parts examined.

3. The quality and value of the specimens of gold alluded to in the above report have been estimated by a practical assayer here, as follows:—

No. 1.	Weight	about 5 grains.
	Quality	860 thousandths fine.
	Value	9 pence.
No. 2.	Quality	860 thousandths fine.
	Value	22 pence.
	Weight	about 12 grains.

from which an inference may be drawn greatly in favour of the Shimilkameen as a mining district.

4. A new gold district is also said to have been discovered in the southern part of British Columbia, at York Creek, a tributary falling into the Kettle-fall River near the 49 parallel, and 400 miners, chiefly from Oregon, were reported to be engaged in working that field, and making wages from 15 or 20 up to as high as 100 dollars a day. It is anticipated that there will be a great rush of miners to that part of the country, and, if so, food will be required in large quantities, which will lead to a great increase of trade, and to the formation of new settlements in that part of the Colony by reason of this additional attraction.

5. The importance of directing the supply of provisions for this region by way of Hope is thus greatly increased, and an additional motive supplied for opening the road between Hope and Shimilkameen, which is being at the present moment vigorously carried on, and thus preventing the trade from taking the course of the Columbia River to Oregon.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

Enclosure in No. 8.

Encl. in No. 8.

Sir,

Fort Hope, July 31, 1860.

I have the honour to enclose, for His Excellency's information, a letter just received from Mr. Allison, one of the party selected to proceed to the Shimilkomeen, for the purpose of exploring that district.

I shall endeavour to send them to-day a small quantity of provisions, to enable them to prosecute further their exploration.

As the steamer is about to start, I have not time to write at greater length.

I have, &c.

W. A. G. Young, Esq.

(Signed) P. O'Reilly, J. P.

Sub-Enclosure.

Sub-Enclosure.

Sir,

Shimilkomeen River, July 27, 1860.

I send in the two Indians to-day, they have worked for us nineteen days, at one dollar per day. I suppose they will expect to be paid for the time they are returning; my agreement with them was to pay them one dollar per day or $30 per month. We have prospected the country in this locality to the best of our ability for the time we have been out, and have found diggings that will pay five or six dollars a day with a rocker. I think as the river falls, much richer deposits will be found. I have not the least doubt but we could find good bench diggings (if we had time), that would pay well for sluicing; we have prospected twelve miles up the south fork, which I think is the main source of the gold in this locality. The little package No. 1† was the result of the washing of two pans‡ of dirt taken from a point of bed rock that just projected above the water. I also found dirt on the bank near the same locality that prospected three or four cents to the pan.

† About 5 grains.

‡ The pan contains about 2 quarts of earth.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Package No. 2* was the result of the washing of a few buckets of dirt in a rocker we have made for prospecting (rather a rough machine, made with an axe, and this the first washing); this was taken out a little below the junction of the south forks on the main river. All the surface of the country in this locality is a gravel deposit, and I have got very good prospects in banks of from 50 to 75 feet high. I think some of them will pay to work with a hydraulic.

* Weight, about 12 grains.

It is singular that in all my prospecting I have not yet seen a quartz vein, although gold is distributed all over the country; this is one reason why I should like to penetrate further into the mountains. I think there must be quartz veins at the head of the streams, and that coarser gold will be found: the Indians report coarse gold high in the mountains, but I do not place any dependence in their reports.

I think this fall, at low water, rich deposits will be found in the bed of the streams; the rivers are rapidly falling, and the chances of striking good deposits improving every day. We shall be obliged to break up our company in a few days if we do not receive supplies from Hope. If I can purchase a horse at a reasonable price I shall return to Hope immediately, and make fuller reports of our prospecting, if not, I shall probably go down the Shimilkomeen.

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) J. F. ALLISON.

P. O'Reilly, Esq.

No. 9.

No. 9.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 72.) Victoria, Vancouver Island, August 4, 1860.

(Received September 27, 1860.)

(Answered, No. 56, October 26, 1860, page 67.)

MY LORD DUKE,

† Page 66.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Grace's Despatch, No. 26,† of the 19th of May 1860, on the subject of the grants of endowments in land to the clergy of the principal Christian communities established in British Columbia; and I learn with satisfaction that your Grace has been pleased to sanction the grants already made of about one acre each, and also to approve of a similar grant under similar circumstances in all towns in British Columbia; and I will take care that your Grace's suggestion as to the precautions necessary in the appropriation and conveyance of the land is not disregarded.

I observe and admit the force of the reasons which have induced your Grace to withhold the sanction of Her Majesty's Government to my further proposal that free grants of 100 acres of rural land should be made in aid of every cure established in British Columbia, and not otherwise supported at the public expense.

Your Grace will perhaps permit me to remark with reference to my recommendation of that measure, that I was desirous by it of holding out inducements to educated and respectable clergymen to take up their residence in the Colony, and of contributing in a small degree towards their decent maintenance and support; I, in fact, regarded it as an easy and inexpensive means of providing a fund which would materially and increasingly tend to the advancement and support of religion, without putting the Colony to any serious expense.

I did not view the proposed endowment as a sufficient or exclusive means of support; it was considered in my scheme only as an attractive inducement and important aid for religious bodies and clergymen, who perhaps, having a certain amount of private means or of funds drawn from other sources at their disposal, might by the prospect of that additional aid be induced to assume pastoral charge, and to found cures. When the good work was well begun, I trusted to the effect of voluntary contributions to complete the fund necessary for the support of the incumbent and for church extension throughout the Colony.

The circumstances of British Columbia, as your Grace is aware, are very peculiar; had the Colony been settled by a population drawn from the mother country, holding the same religious views, and appreciating Christian privileges and instruction, there would have been less cause for anxiety about the support of religion.

Bodies of Christian settlers, however poor, might reasonably be expected to unite in contributing, according to their means, to secure the advantage of having a Christian pastor resident among them.

But unfortunately the state of British Columbia is such as precludes the probability of such a desideratum; its population is made up of drafts from many nations, dissimilar in language, and totally disagreeing in their religious views; and it will, I fear, be many years before Christian congregations of any denomination will be found capable of supporting their own pastors.

It is for that reason that the Colony so urgently needs the fostering care of Government, for without its aid the country may remain unprovided with churches and destitute of Christian teachers for an indefinite period of time.

I hope it will not be supposed from anything herein stated that I am pressing this matter with an earnestness beyond its merits. I have merely addressed your Grace under a profound sense of one of the wants felt by the Colony, and for which I have no other means of providing.

* * * * * * * * * *

I feel, in fact, that this is a subject demanding my closest attention, and to which I am particularly directed by Her Majesty's instructions, which enjoin that I should take especial care that Almighty God be devoutly served, and that orthodox churches be built, and well and orderly kept.

Should it still appear to Her Majesty's Government that the peculiar circumstances of the Colony do not warrant a reconsideration of your decision in respect to the proposed endowment, I trust your Grace will authorize me to substitute a money equivalent out of the Colonial Revenues, or to make some other provision calculated to advance and support the cause of religion.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, (Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 10.

No. 10.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Douglas, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

(No. 74.)

Victoria, Vancouver Island, August 4, 1860.
(Received September 27, 1860.)

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour of transmitting herewith, for Her Majesty's approval, the copy of a Proclamation entitled "The New Westminster Municipal Council Act, 1860."

2. This is the Act which I had the honour of reporting to your Grace in my Despatch marked "separate," and dated New Westminster, the 23rd of May 1860.* * Page 6.

3. It provides for the election of a Municipal Council invested with power to raise money by assessment on all town lots, and erections thereon, situated within the limits of New Westminster, and authorizes them to expend that money in the formation of streets, and in providing for the health, comfort, and security of the inhabitants.

4. The Municipal Council is to consist of seven members, being British subjects, and each being possessed of a property qualification of fifty pounds; and all ratepayers are entitled to vote in the election of Councillors.

5. The Council can levy such rates only as are approved of by the majority of all the ratepayers and by the Governor for the time being. In the same manner all bye-laws passed by the Council must be confirmed by the Governor for the time being, before they have the force of law.

6. The compulsory clause requiring lot-holders to cut down the standing trees, except such as may be reserved on any lot for ornament, was introduced into the Act at the request of the people themselves, who represented that there was no security for their property, which was in perpetual danger of being destroyed either by the falling of trees or by their conflagration, as long as any part of the forest within the inhabited portion of the town remains.

7. The clause has also merits of another kind; it will have the effect of inducing holders of lots, whether resident or not, to improve their property, and thereby benefit the town.

8. The Act has been prepared with much care and consideration by the Attorney-General, and will, I trust, be productive of much good.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, (Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.
&c. &c. &c.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Encl. in No. 10.

Enclosure in No. 10.

(No. 20.)

British Columbia.

PROCLAMATION.

By his Excellency JAMES DOUGLAS, Companion of the most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Colony of British Columbia and its dependencies, Vice-Admiral of the same.

PROCLAMATION having the force of Law in Her Majesty's Colony of British Columbia.

WHEREAS, by virtue of an Act of Parliament made and passed in the 21st and 22nd years of the reign of Her most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and by a Commission under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in conformity therewith, I, James Douglas, Governor of the Colony of British Columbia, have been authorized by proclamation issued under the Public Seal of the said Colony, to make laws, institutions, and ordinances for the peace and good government of the same; and

Whereas it is expedient to establish a Municipal Council in the city of New Westminster:

Now, therefore, I, James Douglas, Governor of British Columbia, by virtue of the authority aforesaid, do proclaim, order, and enact,

1. That from and after the date of this proclamation the tract of land specified in the first part of the Schedule hereto shall be deemed for the purposes of this proclamation the city of New Westminster.

2. The said city shall be divided into four wards, called respectively: Number One Ward, Number Two Ward, Number Three Ward, and Number Four Ward.

The Number One Ward shall include the tract of land specified in the second part of the said Schedule. The Number Two Ward shall include the tract of land specified in the third part of the said Schedule. The Number Three Ward shall include the tract of land specified in the fourth part of the said Schedule, and the Number Four Ward shall include the tract of land specified in the fifth part of the said Schedule.

The Municipal Council.

3. The Municipal Council shall consist of seven councillors possessed of the qualifications and subject to none of the disqualifications herein-after specified.

Qualifications.

4. Being a male British subject of full age.

Having resided in the city of New Westminster for a space of three calendar months previous to election.

Being seised or possessed in his own right in fee simple of a town lot or part of a town lot in the city of New Westminster of the market value of not less than fifty pounds sterling.

Disqualifications.

5. Being a minister of any religious denomination.

Being a sheriff or sheriff's officer, or returning officer under this proclamation.

Being a bankrupt, insolvent debtor, or outlaw, or having been convicted of any felony.

Having taken the oath of allegiance to or having become the subject or citizen of any foreign state or nation, or having forsworn or declared his intention of forswearing his allegiance to Her Majesty or Her successors, unless he shall have taken the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty and Her successors before the Judge of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice of British Columbia three months at least before the time of election.

Having directly or indirectly any contract with the Municipal Council.

Election of Councillors.

6. The persons possessed of the qualifications and under none of the disqualifications herein-after mentioned concerning electors of the said Municipal Council shall have one vote a-piece in the election of a councillor or councillors for the ward wherein he has a property qualification; but he shall only vote once in the same ward, and may either split his vote between the candidates if more than one, or vote for one only; and if he shall vote for one only, his vote shall only count one.

7. There shall be elected in Number One Ward one councillor, in Number Two Ward three councillors, in Number Three Ward two councillors, and in Number Four Ward one councillor respectively.

8. The candidate or candidates, as the case may be, in each ward (duly qualified) who shall obtain the greatest number of votes in the ward for which he or they may stand shall be councillors.

Open Voting.

9. The voting for councillors shall be open, and no person shall vote by proxy.

Duration of Office of Councillors.

10. The councillors shall be elected for one year only. Provided always, that if any of the councillors, or any person on his or their behalf, or any person in partnership with him or them, shall enter into or obtain any interest directly or indirectly in any contract entered into by or with the

Municipal Council, such councillor shall immediately resign his councillorship. Provided always, that if any councillor shall vote at any meeting of the Council, or shall not resign his office as aforesaid within the space of one calendar month from the time when he shall have entered into or obtained any interest in any such contract as aforesaid, such councillor shall forfeit to the Municipal Council a sum of 50*l.*, which said sum may be recovered by action to be brought in the name of the "Municipal Council of the city of New Westminster."

Time of Election of Councillors.

11. The nomination shall be on the 6th day of August in each year, and the election day on the 7th day of August in each year; and if either of the said days shall fall on a Sunday, the nomination or poll, as the case may be, shall be holden on the next day.

Place of Voting.

12. The voting shall take place in such place in the city of New Westminster as the Chief Inspector of Police for the time being of British Columbia shall appoint, and such person, or in his absence, such person as the Governor shall appoint, shall for the purpose of this proclamation be the returning officer.

13. The returning officer shall, on the 25th day of July in each year, make out a list of qualified voters, and such list shall be final and conclusive.

The returning officer shall give at least seven days' public notice of the place of voting.

Qualification of Voters.

14. Being a male of full age.

Being, at the time of tendering his vote aforesaid, placed on the list of voters. Provided always, that at the first election of councillors, which shall be holden at New Westminster, the voters shall be such male persons of full age as shall, being owners or lessees of a town lot or part of a town lot in New Westminster aforesaid, be placed upon the list of voters for that purpose by the Chief Inspector of Police of British Columbia aforesaid, who is hereby authorized to make up such list of voters and to take such measures for that purpose as he may think proper.

Disqualification of Voters.

15. Being a sheriff, or a sheriff's officer, or returning officer.

Being a bankrupt, insolvent debtor, or outlaw, or having been convicted for felony.

16. Every person tendering his vote at any election of a councillor shall, before voting, take such of the following oaths as he may be required by some other duly qualified voter.

I.—I, *A. B.*, do hereby swear that I am the same *A. B.* who is mentioned on the list of voters, and that I am now in my own right possessed of or tenant of (statement of qualification), in respect of which I have been entered on the (list of voters or assessment roll, as the case may be).

II.—I, *A. B.*, do hereby solemnly swear that I have not received or been promised, or to my knowledge has any other person on my behalf or for my benefit received or been promised, any money, gift, advantage, place, or consideration for or for the purpose of influencing the vote which I now tender.

Nomination and Poll.

17. The returning officer shall, on the day of nomination, nominate such persons as shall present themselves before him, or who shall be put in nomination in their behalf by some duly qualified voter, as candidates for the office of councillor. A show of hands shall then take place, and the returning officer shall thereupon declare which of the candidates has or have been elected by the show of hands.

Any candidate may demand a poll, which shall be taken on the day of election, and the returning officer shall immediately after the close of the poll declare who has or have been elected by the greatest number of votes.

18. The poll shall be kept open between the hours of eleven o'clock a.m. and four o'clock p.m.

President of the Council.

19. The councillor who shall be elected by the majority of the Council shall preside at each meeting of the Council, and in case of the death, bankruptcy, insolvency, resignation, or permanent absence of such president, another councillor shall be elected the president.

Vacancies in the Council.

20. In case of the death, bankruptcy, insolvency, resignation, or permanent absence from the city of New Westminster, for the space of three calendar months, of any councillor, the president of the Council shall, by writing, call upon the returning officer to cause some duly qualified person to be elected in the stead of the vacating councillor, by some day not sooner than 21 days from the date of the said notice, and such election shall take place accordingly, and such councillor shall act for the residue of the term for which such councillor so dead, bankrupt, insolvent, absent, or resigned would have held the same.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Custody of Poll Books.

21. The returning officer shall, within forty-eight hours after the declaration of the poll, deliver over the poll books to the stipendiary magistrate of New Westminster.

22. Any person may obtain a certified copy of the poll books from the stipendiary magistrate aforesaid upon payment of one shilling per folio.

Validity of Elections.

23. The validity of all elections shall be tried by the returning officer aforesaid for the time being, and his decisions thereon shall be final.

Proceedings of the Council.

24. All acts whatsoever authorized or required by virtue of this proclamation to be done by the Council, and all questions of adjournment, or others, that may come before the Council, may (save as herein-after excepted), be done and decided by the majority of the members of the Council who shall be present at any meeting held in pursuance of this proclamation, the whole number of members present at such meeting not being less than four; and at such meeting the president of the Council, if present, shall preside, and the president, or, in the absence of the president, such councillor as the members of Council then assembled shall choose to be the chairman of that meeting, shall have a second or casting vote in all cases of equality of voters; and minutes of the proceedings of all such meetings shall be drawn up and fairly entered into a book to be kept for that purpose, and shall be signed by the president or councillor presiding at such meeting; and the said minutes shall be open to the inspection of any person, who may also make copies thereof and extracts therefrom, at all reasonable times, on payment of a fee of one shilling.

25. Previous to any meeting of the Council, a notice of the time and place of such intended meeting shall be given three clear days at least before such meeting, by fixing a copy of the said notice on the door of the place of meeting, on the door of the magistrates' court, and on the door of the Post Office, and such notice shall be signed by the president of the Council, who shall have power to call a meeting of the Council as often as he shall think proper; and in case the president shall refuse to call any such meeting after a requisition for that purpose, signed by three members of the Council at the least, shall have been presented to him, it shall be lawful for the said three members to call a meeting of the Council, by giving such notice as is herein-after declared in that behalf, such notice to be signed by the said members, instead of the president, and stating therein the business proposed to be transacted at such meeting; and in every case a summons to attend the Council, specifying the business proposed to be transacted at such meeting, signed by the president or members, as the case may be, shall be left at the usual place of abode of every member of the Council, or at the premises in respect of which he is placed on the municipal assessment roll, three clear days at least before such meeting, and no business shall be transacted at that meeting other than the business which is specified in the notice. Provided, however, that there shall be four quarterly meetings in every year, at which the Council shall meet for the transaction of general business, and no notice shall be required of the business on such quarterly days; and the said quarterly meetings shall be holden at noon, on the 15th day of August, or, if the 15th day of August shall fall on a Sunday, then on the 16th day of August, and upon such other three days as the Council at the quarterly meeting on the 15th day of August shall decide.

26. The Council may, out of their own body, from time to time appoint such and so many Committees, either of a general or special nature, and consisting of such members as they may think fit, for any purpose which, in the discretion of the Council, would be better regulated and managed by means of such Committee. Provided always, that the acts of every such Committee shall be submitted to the Council for their approval.

27. The Council shall determine their own place of meeting.

Powers of the Council.

28. The Council shall have power to pass bye-laws for any of the following purposes:—

I. To regulate the sanitary condition of the said city.
II. To regulate the markets situate within the said city.
III. To provide means for the preservation of the said city from fire, and to regulate all matters affecting the liability of the said city to fire.
IV. To provide for the prevention and removal of nuisances.
V. To regulate the introduction of diseased and unhealthy meat, and to provide for the inspection of the same.

29. The Council shall also have power, by a resolution passed as herein-after mentioned, to devote any portion of the monies raised by the assessments herein-after mentioned to any of the following purposes:—

A. The construction, erection, maintenance, and repair of the streets, ways, footpaths, and bridges situate within the said city.
B. The drainage and sewerage of the said city.
C. The improvement of the sanitary condition of the said city.
D. The clearing of the lots situate within the said city.

30. Every bye-law shall be passed by the vote of at least four members of the Council, and at a meeting where at least five members of the Council shall be present. The bye-law passed by the said

Council shall, when confirmed by the Governor for the time being of British Columbia, have the force of law.

31. The penalty by which any bye-law may be sought to be enforced may be stated in the bye-law, and if no penalty is therein mentioned, the breach of any bye-law shall be punished in a summary way by a fine not exceeding 10*l.*, or by imprisonment for any time not exceeding three months, at the discretion of the magistrate before whom the offender may be brought. The magistrate before whom any offender may be brought, may, in case of a fine, adjudge that such offender shall pay the same either immediately or within such period, or by such instalments as the said magistrate shall think fit; and in case such sum of money shall not be paid at the time so appointed, the same shall be levied by distress or sale of the goods and chattels of the offender, and for want of a sufficient distress, such offender may be imprisoned, with or without hard labour, in the common gaol, for any term not exceeding three months, or for the period mentioned in the bye-law, as the case may be. The imprisonment to cease, if for default, upon payment of the fine and costs.

32. The Council may, by a resolution passed in manner provided for the passage of a bye-law, devote any portion of the municipal funds, not exceeding in the whole for any one year one-third of the municipal revenue, towards defraying the ordinary expenditure of the Council, in the conduct of its general business, and to any of the purposes in respect whereof the Council is empowered to pass bye-laws.

33. Provided always, that the Council shall have no power to incur any personal liability other than a liability for the misapplication of the municipal revenue, or any liability against the municipality, or the revenue thereof, beyond the municipal revenue of the city for the current year.

34. The Council may, by a bye-law passed and confirmed as aforesaid, direct that a tax be levied on all town lots within the said city, and all erections thereon, other than the property of the Government, not to exceed 2*l.* in the 100*l.* on the value of such town lots and erections as aforesaid. Such value to be assessed as herein-after mentioned.

Provided always, that such tax shall not extend over or be levied for a longer time than the financial year in which the same is authorized to be levied by any bye-law aforesaid.

35. The Council may, if called on so to do as herein-after mentioned by a bye-law passed and confirmed as aforesaid, direct the levy of a further rate, not exceeding 5*l.* in the 100*l.* on the value aforesaid, in addition to the rate lastly herein-before mentioned, and to continue for the same period; provided always, that such further rate shall not be levied until a requisition to that effect shall have been made in writing by a majority of the ratepayers on the assessment roll. Such further rate to be of the amount specified in such requisition.

Assessment Roll.

36. An assessment roll shall on such day in each year as the Council shall appoint be prepared by or on behalf of the Council, and the freehold and leasehold property situate within the said city shall be therein specified, together with the names of the persons occupying the same and the names of the persons owning the same.

An assessor shall be appointed for the purpose of making such assessment by the Council, and the said assessor shall make such assessment according to the actual value of the property at the time of such assessment, and lay the same before the Council within fourteen days from the said day of assessment. The assessment shall be made as well on the leasehold interest of every lessee of any portion of a lot as upon the freehold interest of the same lot. Any person so assessed may, if he feels himself aggrieved by the assessment, appeal to the Council, who shall summarily decide thereon.

The decision of the Council shall be final. The Council may, in addition to the bye-laws which they are authorized to make as aforesaid, make bye-laws providing for the manner in which such appeal may be conducted. Such bye-law to be passed and confirmed, and to have the force aforesaid.

In the event of nonpayment by any person of any rate or tax duly imposed by the Council, the same may be levied by the magistrate of the said city, by distress on the goods and chattels of the person liable to pay the same, and in default of a sufficient distress by sale of the lot, or portion of a lot, together with the erections aforesaid, in respect of which such rates or tax shall have been imposed, within 30 days from the day on which such payment ought to have been made, and such sale shall be made in manner provided for the sale of lots in clause 37, and such sale shall have exactly the same effect as if made under such clause.

Clearing of Lots.

37. The Council may give notice to any persons, owners of town lots within the said city, by advertisement in the *Government Gazette* and local newspapers, to cut down, within any time to be mentioned in such notice, not being less than 30 days from the date of the insertion of such notice, all timber and other trees standing thereon, except such as may be reserved with the consent of the Council for ornament; and in case such notice be not complied with, the Council shall have power to cause the said timber and other trees to be cut down at the expense of the person or persons on whose lot the same may be, and if such person or persons do not, within 60 days after the timber or other trees shall have been cut down as aforesaid, defray such expense, the magistrate may adjudge that such person or persons shall pay the same, either immediately or within such period as the said magistrate shall think fit; and in case such sum of money shall not be paid at the time so appointed,

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

the same shall be levied by sale of the lot upon which such timber or other trees shall have been so cut down as aforesaid, in manner herein-after mentioned.

Any sale so adjudged to be made as aforesaid shall be made upon the simple order of the magistrate in writing, upon such day and in such manner as the said magistrate may specify in such order, and the magistrate shall convey such lot to the purchaser at such sale, and the title of such purchaser shall be an absolute fee simple, notwithstanding any irregularity or informality in such sale, or in the proceedings prior thereto or subsequent thereon.

The magistrate aforesaid shall defray the expenses of and attendant upon the said sale, and such expenses for cutting down as aforesaid, out of the purchase monies arising from such sale, and shall pay the residue of such purchase monies into the Treasury of British Columbia, in trust for the person or persons to whom as real estate it may belong.

Provided always, that in no case shall the expense of clearing any lot so to be cleared as aforesaid exceed the sum of seven pounds sterling.

Provided, that unless the Council shall completely cut down the trees on any lot, no demand shall be made on the owner, nor shall any sale of any such lot be made under the provisions of this Proclamation.

38. This Proclamation may on all occasions be cited as the "New Westminster Municipal Council Act, 1860."

(L.S Issued under the Public Seal of the said Colony, at Victoria, Vancouver Island, this Sixteenth day of July, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty, and in the Twenty-fourth year of Her Majesty's reign, by me,

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

By his Excellency's command.
WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

SCHEDULE.

First Part.

All that tract of land now marked and laid out on the Official Map as the city of New Westminster.

Second Part.

All that tract of land which includes the pieces of ground described on the Official Map of the said city as Blocks 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23, and 28.

Third Part.

All that tract of land which includes the pieces of ground described on the Official Map of the said city as Blocks 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17.

Fourth Part.

All that tract of land which includes the pieces of ground described on the Official Map of the said city as Blocks 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, and 31.

Fifth Part.

All that tract of land which includes the pieces of ground described on the Official Map of the said city as Blocks 18, 19, 20, 21, 27, 32, and 33.

No. 11.

No. 11.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 76.) Victoria, Vancouver Island, August 16, 1860.

(Received October 8, 1860.)

MY LORD DUKE,

THE intelligence I had the honour to communicate to your Grace in my Despatch, No. 70,* of the 3rd instant, respecting the discovery of rich and paying gold fields at Rock Creek and in the Shimilkomeen country, have been confirmed by the arrival of different persons with samples which they themselves have dug in those parts.

* Page 13.

The gold is nuggety and of fine quality, being readily separated from the soil without the use of quicksilver, and is found away from the watercourses as well as in the river beds, and the miners are said to be realizing from six to 50 dollars a day to the man.

2. One instance of remarkable success is mentioned in the report of Mr. O'Reilly, the Gold Commissioner at Fort Hope, it being of two miners, who realized in six weeks by mining the sum of 1,300 dollars, and their confidence in the productiveness of the country was so great that they soon after invested the whole sum in the purchase of another claim.

3. In consequence of those reports there has been a great rush of people to the new diggings, and all articles of consumption are scarce and selling there at a high price.

4. The same report mentions the very important discovery of a silver lead at Union Bar near Fort Hope.

5. The specimens of the ore sent here appear rich and valuable, but it is impossible to predict without a severer test the actual value of the discovery, and whether the lead will be rich enough to pay the working expenses or not.

6. The discoverers, and upwards of 70 other persons who have recorded claims on the lead appear, however, to be much elated, and fully satisfied of its value; and they are said to be importing blasting tools and materials in large quantities, with the intention of turning the discovery to immediate account.

7. Several tons of the ore having already been sent to New Westminster for assay, and we will no doubt receive further reports of its value in the course of a few days.

8. Specimens of silver ore have also been found at the mouth of Harrison's River. One of these yielded on assay, at the rate of 20*l.* worth of silver to the ton of ore.

9. I propose to despatch a party to investigate the mineral resources of that part of the country, in hopes of making some valuable discovery, which may attract and afford employment to a population, as the whole country about Harrison Lake is otherwise valueless, being mountainous, rocky, and utterly unfit for tillage.

10. The tidings from Yale, Cayoosh, and Lytton are generally satisfactory.

11. The new roads are progressing apace, and the cost of transport is being gradually reduced with the increasing facilities of communication.

12. The number of miners collected about Alexandria and Quesnel River rendered it necessary for the maintenance of peace and order to form a police station at the former place; and I have to announce to your Grace that I have lately appointed Mr. Philip H. Nind, as Magistrate and Assistant Gold Commissioner for that district.

There being nothing further of an unusual nature to communicate,

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

No. 12.

No. 12.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Douglas, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

(No. 86.)

Victoria, Vancouver Island, October 8, 1860.

My Lord Duke,

(Received November 30, 1860.)

Having very recently completed a rather protracted journey, exceeding five weeks of almost constant travelling, in British Columbia, I regret that there is not time to communicate to your Grace, by the mail of this day, now about leaving for San Francisco, the result of my observations on the character and prospects of that Colony.

2. On leaving Vancouver Island I proceeded by the northern, or Harrison River road to Douglas, and from thence successively visited Cayoosh, Lytton, Shimilkomeen, and Rock Creek. On my return I followed the mountain road to Hope, and afterwards paid a hasty visit to Yale and New Westminster.

3. The lately discovered gold district in Shimilkomeen is, for the time being, attached to the Hope district, a course which I was compelled to adopt for want of an efficient officer at that time to conduct the public business of the new district.

4. The fame of the rich diggings discovered at Rock Creek have drawn to that place, chiefly from the State of Oregon, upwards of 500 miners, and persons engaged in other pursuits. I therefore found it necessary to lose no time in making arrangements to maintain the peace and to protect the public revenue by the appointment of a Magistrate and Gold Commissioner for that district, together with other officers to enforce the Customs laws of the Colony, and that object was, I am happy to say, effected without creating any dissatisfaction among the foreign population there present.

British Columbia.

5. I am further glad to report that peace and good order exist everywhere within the Colony, and that a general and marked feeling of confidence is exhibited by the resident population in the resources of the country.

6. I shall endeavour to prepare a report of my late proceedings for your Grace's information, before the departure of the next mail.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, (Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 13.

No. 13.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Douglas, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

(Separate.) Victoria, Vancouver Island, October 9, 1860.
(Received, December 18, 1860.)
(Answered, No. 66, February 1, 1861, page 68.)

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to submit for your Grace's information the following particulars relative to a recent journey in British Columbia, from whence I have just returned.

2. I left Victoria by the regular steam packet on the evening of 28th of August, and early next day landed at New Westminster.

3. I heard with much concern on my arrival there, that the capital was suffering from one of those fluctuations in commerce common to all countries, and that there was much depression in business circles, and a marked decrease of trade, a fact which was indeed corroborated by the Customs returns, it appearing from them that the imports for the four previous weeks had fallen off about 25 per cent. as compared with the increasing ratio of the preceding month; a casualty generally attributed by business men to the growing overland trade with the possessions of the United States in Oregon and Washington territory, which now supply, by the southern frontiers of the Colony, a large proportion of the bulky articles, such as provisions and bread stuffs, consumed in the eastern districts of British Columbia; and those imports, it was supposed, had this year been for the most part fraudulently introduced, to the great loss and detriment of the home merchant and the fair trader.

4. It is, however, not easy to conceive how so extensive a contraband trade as this would imply, could be carried on without the knowledge of the vigilant officer stationed on the frontier for the protection of the revenue, whose official reports give no room for such impressions. I am therefore led to believe that the present depression is traceable to another cause, and may with more probability be regarded as the simple result of over-importation, and I have no doubt a revival will take place, and trade resume its accustomed tone as soon as the stocks of goods in the Colony have been reduced.

The officers of the Colony residing permanently at New Westminster, and employed in the management of the several departments of the public administration, are as follows:—

Military -	- Colonel R. C. Moody, R.E., commanding.
Lands and Works	- Colonel R. C. Moody, R.E., Chief Commissioner.
Judiciary -	- Matthew B. Begbie, Judge.
Police - -	- Chartres Brew, Chief Inspector.
Treasury -	- Captain W. D. Gosset, R.E., Treasurer.
„ Assay Office	- F. G. Claudet, Assayer.
„ „	C. A. Bacon, Melter.
Customs -	- Wymond Hamley, Collector.
Post Office -	- W. R. Spalding, Postmaster.

6. The Treasury was lately transferred from Victoria to New Westminster, where all the financial business of the Colony is now transacted.

The Assay Office has been in operation since the beginning of the month of August, and the last accounts of the 28th of that month give a return of 1,600 ounces of gold dust which had been smelted and run into bars of various weights.

Those and the other departments are in a state of efficient organization.

The public offices are plain substantial buildings, devoid of ornament, and constructed on a scale adapted to our limited means; they are nevertheless roomy and commodious, and on the whole not unsuitable to the present business of the Colony.

7. There has not been much activity in building since my report transmitted to your Grace in the month of May last, but town property nevertheless sustains its former price,

and the inhabitants of New Westminster appear to have unlimited confidence in the ultimate progress of the place.

8. The run from New Westminster to Douglas was effected by one of the river steamers in 16 hours, including brief stoppages at Langley and Carnarvon, and the whole distance from Victoria to Douglas in 24 running hours, being little over half the time occupied by the same journey last year. The charges on the transport of goods have also proportionately decreased, freights being now generally taken at 3*l.* 8*s.* a ton, or 25 per cent. less than the former rates.

9. While at Douglas I despatched an exploring party under the command of Dr. Forbes, of Her Majesty's ship "Topaze," for whose assistance I am indebted to the kindness of Rear Admiral Sir Robert L. Baynes, to examine the country bordering on Harrison Lake and River, where many fragments of silver and copper ore have been found. A specimen of the former, which was carefully assayed, gave a return of 50*l.* worth of silver to the ton. The copper ore appears also to contain a large proportion of that metal.

10. I am in hopes that Dr. Forbes's scientific researches will be productive of much good to the Colony, as the district subjected to his examination has all the characteristics of a mineral country, is almost destitute of arable land, and, except timber, possesses no ascertained natural products capable of contributing to the support or giving remunerative employment for labour. It is, therefore, especially desirable that no effort should be wanting for the early development of the minerals supposed to be contained in the soil, otherwise the district may, for years to come, remain a wilderness without inhabitants.

11. Douglas is still an inconsiderable town, much improved, however, since my former visit in June last. A Stipendiary Magistrate is stationed here, Mr. J. B. Gaggin, who also performs the duties of Gold Commissioner within the district, which extends from Carnarvon to Port Anderson. A brisk trade is carried on from Douglas with the mining districts of the interior, and the constant arrival and departure of trains of pack-mules give to the place a lively and bustling appearance.

12. We pursued our journey by the newly formed waggon road, then nearly finished, as far as the Lesser Lillooet Lake, 28 miles from Douglas, a work of magnitude and of the utmost public utility, which, I think it only right to inform your Grace, has been laid out and executed by Captain Grant and a detachment of Royal Engineers under his command with a degree of care and professional ability reflecting the highest credit on that active and indefatigable officer.

13. A number of waggons, imported by the enterprising merchants of Douglas, have commenced running on the new road, and the cost of transport has already been greatly reduced. I look forward with confidence to further important reductions in the rates of transport, as the most experienced carriers are of opinion that goods of all kinds may and will be carried the whole distance (100 miles) from Douglas to Cayoosh for 20*l.* a ton, which would be a reduction of 250 per cent. on former rates. The effect of so large a saving on the carriage of goods will be of vast importance to the country, and no doubt give a prodigious impulse to trade and the settlement of the public lands.

14. A row-boat is still the only means of conveyance over the Lesser Lillooet Lake, which is nearly five miles long, and one mile and a half distant from Lillooet Lake, with which it is, however, connected by a narrow river, full of shoals and dangerous rapids, perilous in their present state for any larger craft than Indian canoes. This circumstance renders a transhipment and a resort to land carriage for a mile and a half on an excellent road necessary before reaching Lillooet Lake. Various plans have been proposed for rendering the river between those lakes navigable, but, important as would be the improvement, the cost is altogether beyond our present means, and the work must be left for a future time.

15. A very fine piece of gold-bearing quartz, which I received at this point of my journey, determined me to instruct the District Gold Commissioner to cause the mountains west of Harrison River, where the quartz was found, to be carefully examined, as there is a possibility of discovering and turning to advantage the lead from whence it came.

16. There are many extensive quartz veins in the valley of the Harrison, but none of those which have been inspected contain visible traces of gold. The bed of the river, however, yields gold almost everywhere in small quantities; and at one place, 12 miles from Douglas, a party of French miners have brought in sluices, and are now working to great advantage, making as much as 10 dollars a day to the man. The only drawback is the shortness of the working season, which they represent as limited on the one hand by the flooded state of the river in summer, and on the other by the severe cold in winter, which is found to have the effect of preventing the amalgamation of the fine

particles of gold, and much is therefore lost in the process of washing. Their statements are, no doubt, in part true, but I think it may, notwithstanding, be safely concluded that all these difficulties will be overcome, and this part of the country be profitably worked, whenever men of greater skill and application turn their attention to the subject.

17. Some of the tributaries of the Harrison also yield a fair return of gold, varying from five to 10 dollars a day; but that will not satisfy men whose excited imaginations indulge in extravagant visions of wealth and fortune to be realized in remoter diggings. These all with one accord rush off to the Quesnel and Caribœuf countries, and neglect the less productive districts.

18. A number of fine specimens of coarse gold have lately been brought by Indians from the Lillooet River beyond the lake, and I shall not fail to have its course carefully searched, at the public expense, should no private adventurers in the meantime anticipate that intention.

19. The paddle-wheel 25 horse-power steamer "Martzell," a small boat of 50 tons burden, built by Mr. Decker, an enterprising American, conveyed my party in four hours to Port Pemberton, at the further extremity of Lillooet Lake. There is nothing to prevent vessels of a much larger class than the "Martzell" from running on this lake, as it is deep enough to float a 500 ton ship, and there are no rocks or concealed dangers whatever. It is, in fact, a highland lake, surrounded by lofty mountains rising abruptly from the water's edge. Port Pemberton is five miles distant from the Meadows, a fine tract of several thousand acres of rich alluvial land, situated at the mouth of the Lillooet River. A settlement is already formed at that attractive spot, and the soil is most productive, the settlers having raised this year excellent crops of oats, Indian corn, potatoes, and hay; the barley, however, was indifferent, in consequence it was supposed of imperfect tillage, but I never saw better garden-stuffs of all kinds, especially tomatoes and cucumbers, which were exceedingly fine. Mr. Jones, the oldest and principal settler, raised last year, as he assured me, a very fine crop of potatoes, for which he found a ready sale at 5*d.* a pound, and thereby realized the large return of upwards of 240*l.* an acre. Having this year a much larger crop, he expects to do better, though the price of vegetables is now comparatively moderate, being 50 per cent. lower than last year.

20. Near the settlement is an Indian reserve of several hundred acres of land which is retained for the benefit of and occupied by about 30 native families, who live on the most amicable terms with their white neighbours, and look healthy, clean, and altogether in very comfortable circumstances. They live by fishing, and on the produce of the chase, and of the land, which they cultivate, to some extent, with care and skill. They appear happy and contented, and had no complaint whatever to make.

21. The Horse-way, formed in the year 1858, is still the only road from Port Pemberton to Anderson Lake, the distance being about 34 miles. It is a fair and passable road of the kind, but must be improved into a cart-road without delay. The line of road runs between parallel ranges of mountains, rising on both sides with the unbroken regularity of a wall, into dark, rugged, and gloomy masses, thousands of feet above the mountain stream that traverses the valley beneath, which is in places a mere defile, and nowhere exceeds two miles in breadth.

The summit or half-way house is prettily situated on the mountain side overlooking a rich expanse of arable land covered with a profusion of potatoes, beets, carrots, tomatoes, cucumbers, and other vegetables; a certain proof of the great capabilities of the soil and climate. A large stock of hay was also carefully put up by the provident owner for winter use.

22. The country from that point presents a more cheerful aspect. The river winds along the mountain side towards Lake Anderson, affording lovely views of the exceedingly beautiful valley beneath, with its gay covering of bright green woods.

23. We arrived at Port Anderson just in time to participate in the trial trip of the "Lady of the Lake" steamer, and a most successful one it proved to be: the machinery working well, and no casualty whatever occurring to cause delay. We had to boat over Lake Seaton, as the steamer usually plying there was under repair. A walk of five miles from Port Seaton brought us to the banks of Fraser River, and to the mining town of Cayoosh.

24. The country between Douglas and Cayoosh probably contains a smaller proportion of agricultural land than any other district in British Columbia. The whole district may be truly described as a succession of valleys and mountains covered with woods almost to their rocky summits, and abounding in rivers and streams of every size. Forests of magnificent trees and great water-power constitute its natural advantages; its metalliferous resources, though probably vast, having yet to be explored.

25. Houses and fields begin, here and there, to break the cheerless solitude of the valleys; and in no instance that has come under my notice, has the husbandman been disappointed of his reward. Its genial climate may be inferred from the fact that tomatoes ripen in the open air, and had come to full maturity at the end of August; when melons raised in the same manner, were nearly fit for use.

26. The settlers, though few in number, were full of hope and confidence; pleased with the country, and satisfied from experience that the climate is one of the healthiest in the world. The winters are moderate, the minimum temperature being Zero, Fahrenheit; but the cold is seldom so severe. The lakes have never been known to freeze, nor the snow to lie so deep as to interrupt the ordinary traffic of the road.

27. The district is, in short, not wanting in any of those conditions which contribute to the comfort and happiness of man; and should the explorations now in progress add the precious metals to its known elements of wealth, there will be no want of inducements to attract and retain an industrious population.

28. As the road advances from Port Seaton towards Fraser River, a marked change is observed in the character of the country; the mountains are left behind, the massive forests gradually disappear and are succeeded by green hills and open plains, dotted with fine old trees of the species "Pinus Ponderosa." The change is grateful, the contrast bringing into bolder relief the charming scenery of Cayoosh, which is situated about half a mile from Fraser River.

29. This being the centre of a flourishing trade, where all goods brought from Douglas are necessarily deposited in their transit to the interior, and the chief town of a valuable mining district, a Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr. Thomas Elwyn, who also acts as Gold Commissioner, is stationed here. Successful attempts at cultivation have been made on a small scale near the town, and streams of water from the neighbouring hills have been skilfully diverted from their natural course and applied to the important purposes of mining, and of irrigating the soil, which thereby acquires a degree of fertility and productiveness otherwise unattainable in a climate seldom visited by summer showers. Cayoosh is thus a place of much real and prospective importance.

30. I found nothing defective in the state of the public administration. The people are satisfied with the laws. The district accounts appear to be kept with order and regularity, and returns of the local revenue have been duly made at proper intervals to the Colonial Treasurer. The regular establishment consists of a magistrate and one constable, who attend to all duties connected with the public service; the former being however, fully authorized to employ casual aid whenever emergencies arise.

31. An address which I received from the principal inhabitants of Cayoosh makes no allusion to any local grievance affecting the interests of the town or district, nor suggests any change in the mining or general laws of the country. The object of the address, of which a copy is transmitted, was to urge the early sale of town lots at Cayoosh, protection for the Chinese miners, and the removal of stake nets and all obstructions having the effect of preventing the ascent of salmon from the sea to the inland rivers.

32. I gave immediate attention to those matters, and addressed a communication to the Commissioner of Lands and Works, expressing regret that early measures had not been taken to meet the public demand for town land, as delay in such cases discourages settlement, checks improvement, and is ruinous to the country.

33. I encouraged the inhabitants to build, and improve their lots, with the assurance that the value of such improvements would be added to the upset price, and reserved for the benefit of the holder when the lots are sold. They will, in that way be fully protected from loss.

34. The assizes were opened by the Judge of British Columbia during my stay at Cayoosh, for the trial of two Indians charged with having murdered two Chinese miners. The facts were established on the admission of the accused themselves; but, it appearing from the evidence that the deceased were the aggressors, and had been slain without malice prepense, in a casual affray, arising out of an indecent assault committed on the wife of one of the Indians, the jury returned a verdict of "manslaughter" against one of the prisoners, and found the other "not guilty."

35. I had an opportunity of communicating personally with the native Indian tribes, who assembled in great numbers at Cayoosh during my stay. I made them clearly understand that Her Majesty's Government felt deeply interested in their welfare, and had sent instructions that they should be treated in all respects as Her Majesty's other subjects; and that the local magistrates would attend to their complaints, and guard them from wrong, provided they abandoned their own barbarous modes of retaliation, and appealed in all cases to the laws for relief and protection. I also forcibly impressed

upon their minds that the same laws would not fail to punish offences committed by them against the persons or property of others.

I also explained to them that the magistrates had instructions to stake out, and reserve for their use and benefit, all their occupied village sites and cultivated fields and as much land in the vicinity of each as they could till, or was required for their support; and that they might freely exercise and enjoy the rights of fishing the lakes and rivers, and of hunting over all unoccupied Crown lands in the colony; and that on their becoming registered free miners they might dig and search for gold, and hold mining claims on the same terms precisely as other miners: in short, I strove to make them conscious that they were recognized members of the commonwealth, and that by good conduct they would acquire a certain status, and become respectable members of society. They were delighted with the idea, and expressed their gratitude in the warmest terms, assuring me of their boundless devotion and attachment to Her Majesty's person and crown, and their readiness to take up arms at any moment in defence of Her Majesty's dominion and rights.

36. Three exploratory parties were dispatched, during my stay, from Cayoosh: the first, under the charge of Sapper Duffie, had orders to examine a route by the Cayoosh River from Port Seaton to Lilloet Lake, reported by the natives to be more direct, and in many other respects more convenient than the present route by Anderson Lake; the second, under Sapper Breckenridge, who is directed to examine the character and capabilities of the country between Cayoosh and Bridge River; and the third, composed of Mr. Martin, an intelligent English miner, and two natives, was dispatched to the mountains east of Port Anderson to inspect certain quartz veins, said to be auriferous.

37. Lytton was the next stage in my progress. There is a good horse-way from Cayoosh, but travelling by the river being more expeditious, I chose that alternative, and made the run of 70 miles in five and a half hours. The stream is swift, and a number of dangerous rapids render it in that part impracticable in high water and unsafe at all seasons.

38. The mining bars were, with few exceptions, deserted, or occupied by Chinese and Indians, who appear to form the great body of miners on this part of the river.

39. Mr. H. M. Ball is Stipendiary Magistrate and Gold Commissioner for the Lytton district; and, with the exception of one regular constable, there is no other person on the establishment; whenever circumstances render a larger force indispensable, it is made up by means of casual assistants and special constables called out for the occasion.

40. I granted a sum of 100*l.*, at the petition of the inhabitants, in aid of a horse-way to facilitate the transport of goods to Alexandria and Quesnel River. Other small sums were also granted for bridges, and to improve the communications with Quayome. A party was also dispatched to examine the country between Van Winkle Bar on Fraser River and Lilloet Lake, with the view of opening a horse-way between those places.

41. Proposals were lately made by a private company to throw a bridge, at their own expense, over the Thompson at Lytton, to be repaid by a system of tolls; and the negotiation will probably be concluded in a short time, as I am desirous of promoting so useful a scheme.

42. The gardens about this town are highly productive, and furnish a profusion and variety of vegetables; but, considering there is no want of good soil and clear land, I was surprised to find that not a single farm had been opened in the district. The want of roads and the enormous cost of transport may in some measure account for that circumstance, but it also strongly marks the character of a population devoted to other pursuits, and who probably look to other countries for a permanent home.

43. Complaints were made here, as at Cayoosh, of the non-sale of town lands; and I again addressed the Commissioner of Lands and Works on the subject, directing an early sale on the spot, through the agency of the district magistrate.

44. The Indians mustered in great force during my stay at Lytton. My communications with them were to the same effect as to the native tribes who assembled at Cayoosh, and their gratitude, loyalty, and devotion were expressed in terms equally warm and earnest.

45. The further report of my journey to Shimilkomeen and Rock Creek I will take the liberty of communicating to your Grace hereafter, as this Despatch has been drawn out to a greater length than I had proposed.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

Encl. in No. 13.

Enclosure in No. 13.

ADDRESS of the GRAND JURY at CAYOOSH to Governor DOUGLAS.

THE Grand Jury beg to welcome your Excellency to Cayoosh, and to offer you their congratulations on the daily increasing prosperity of the Colony of British Columbia, and on the steady advance of trade, mining operations, and settlement in and near Cayoosh.

The Grand Jury desire to call your Excellency's attention more particularly to the great number of Chinamen now residing in and flocking to this Colony; that from our experience of them we find that they are a steady source of profit to the trader and materially increase the revenue of the Colony, and in addition greatly benefit the country by the extreme development of its mineral resources; they are also a well-behaved and easily-governed class of population, and the Grand Jury desire that your Excellency will afford them every due protection to prevent their being driven away, either by attacks from Indians or otherwise.

The Grand Jury representing the general feeling of the inhabitants of this town request that the town and suburban lots be speedily offered for sale by public auction, as no security is felt in improving property until it is bonâ fide purchased.

The Indian population of the Upper Fraser have been making great complaints of the scarcity of salmon, which constitutes their winter food. They represent this scarcity to be owing to stake-nets being fixed at Langley, which bar the ascent of the fish, and the Grand Jury therefore trust that your Excellency will take measures to stop these proceedings, if really found to exist.

The Grand Jury would, in conclusion, draw your Excellency's attention to the inefficient state of the law as relates to the collection of small debts, and request that measures may be instituted to prevent, by a summary process, parties who have contracted debts from leaving the Colony with their property.

(Signed) ALLAN MCDONALD,
Foreman.

No. 14.

No. 14.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(Separate.) Victoria, Vancouver Island, October 25, 1860.

(Received January 2, 1861.)

MY LORD DUKE, (Answered, No. 66, February 1, 1861, page 68.)

RESUMING the subject of my report on British Columbia, marked Separate, of the 9th of the present month, I proceed to inform your Grace that on leaving Lytton, accompanied by Mr. Good, Private Secretary, and four mounted attendants, my course was directed towards Shimilkomeen and Rock Creek, the latter being about 228 miles from Lytton.

2. It is not my intention, neither does it appear necessary, that I should occupy your Grace's time with a narrative of the incidents of the journey. I will, therefore, in continuing this report, dwell on subjects only which serve to elucidate the present state of the country, its natural capabilities as a Colony, and the effect of its institutions on the development of its resources.

3. With the exception of the miners assembled on Thompson River at Rock Creek and Shimilkomeen, the part of British Columbia through which my route lay, is still exclusively occupied by the native Indian tribes, a race of bold and active hunters, forming, when mustered in force on their hardy native horses, an imposing array. I fell in with detachments at different points of the route, where they had assembled to offer a rude but cordial welcome.

4. I received them with every mark of respect and kindness, entered freely into conversation with the chiefs, assuring them of the warm regard of Her Majesty's Government, and leading them into the discussion of their own affairs in order to discover if they entertained any real or fancied grievance which might lead to disaffection, or induce them to make reprisals on the white settlers.

5. There was one subject which especially pre-occupied their minds, as I discovered by the frequent allusions they made to it, namely, the abject condition to which the cognate native tribes of Oregon have been reduced by the American system of removing whole tribes from their native homes into distant reserves, where they are compelled to stay, and denied the enjoyment of that natural freedom and liberty of action without which existence becomes intolerable. They evidently looked forward with dread to their own future condition, fearing lest the same wretched fate awaited the natives of British Columbia.

I succeeded in disabusing their minds of those false impressions by fully explaining the views of Her Majesty's Government, and repeating in substance what I have in a former part of this report informed your Grace was said on the same subject to the assembled tribes at Cayoosh and Lytton.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Encl. No. 1.

6. Those communications had the effect of reassuring their minds and eliciting assurances of their fidelity and attachment.

7. An appalling Indian outrage committed in the neighbouring State of Oregon, as related with its attendant horrors in a slip enclosed herewith from the "Vancouver Chronicle," will show better than comment the impolicy of the American system, and how careful we should be in guarding against the contagion of evil example, by treating the natives with justice, and removing when necessary, every cause of distrust as to the ultimate views and policy of Her Majesty's Government with respect to them.

8. The country situated between Lytton and Rock Creek is highly attractive, and no other part of British Columbia, nor of the United States territory north of Columbia River, offers so many inducements in point of soil and climate to the enterprising emigrant.

Its distance from the coast, and difficulties of access have hitherto almost excluded it from intercourse; but as those impediments are removed by the formation of roads, now in rapid progress, from the navigable points of Fraser River, it will no doubt become a centre of population and the seat of flourishing settlements.

9. I will not attempt to describe its physical aspect; but to give a general idea in few words, I will observe that it forms an elevated table land of great extent, sometimes rising into hills, and is traversed by many noble valleys, and watered by numberless streams flowing into its great arteries the Thompson, Shimilkomeen, and Okanagon Rivers. There are many varieties of soils, much arable land, and a great deal that is fit only for pasture; but as a remark generally applicable, I may observe that the valleys contain a large extent of good open land; while the steeply swelling hills are mostly covered with trees formed into groups, or growing with park-like regularity, widely apart and free from brush or underwood; but the peculiar feature of the country is the profusion of grass that covers both woodland and meadow, affording rich pastures for domestic animals, a circumstance which gives to this district an extraordinary value, as every part of the surface, whether hill or valley, may be turned to account and made available either for tillage or stock farming.

10. The climate, like that of all other parts of the Colony, is perfectly healthy; and there is much less humidity at all seasons than in the districts bordering on Fraser River. Vegetation was nevertheless fresh and green to a degree that was hardly to be expected at that time of the year. The seasons exhibit no extremes of temperature, the summers being warm and the winters sharp but not severe.

The lakes, except the Okanagon, and all the rivers, freeze in winter; and there are occasional falls of snow, but it seldom lies in the valleys more than a few weeks at a time. The fact that horses and domestic cattle are left out all winter to shift for themselves, and generally thrive without any care on the range of the country, is probably, however, a better criterion of the temperature than any other circumstance that can be adduced. It is in short, a very pleasant and desirable part of the Colony, possesses a healthy climate and many other advantages, pastures being already formed where thousands of cattle may find food; and the industrious colonist will find it much better and easier to raise crops than in the woodland districts, where it takes much labour and expense to clear a small space.

11. After five days' travel in a fine open country we reached the main branch of the Shimilkomeen River, a few miles below the lately discovered gold diggings, where 80 or 100 miners were at work, all seemingly in high spirits, pleased with the country, and elated with their prospects and earnings. Many of them were engaged in putting up log huts, and making other preparations, as they intend to winter there if they succeed in having supplies of flour and other necessaries brought from Hope before the mountains become impassable from snow. As that was clearly impossible without greater facilities of communication, it was evident they would have no alternative but to desert their claims and leave the country, at a serious loss to themselves and to the Colony.

12. That circumstance brought the vital subject of roads again forcibly to mind. A road party working out from Hope, had, I knew, nearly got the length of the summit ridge, about 36 miles distant from our camp, and could means be found of cutting through to that point, and connecting Hope with Shimilkomeen by a practicable trail before the advent of winter, I felt assurred that an important object for the country would be gained, and I resolved to make the attempt. Some Indian hunters were soon found who undertook to conduct a party to the desired point, by a better and less circuitous line than the present almost impassable trail; and the subject was immediately brought before the miners, who, seeing the object of the measure, at once volunteered in force sufficient for the work, and early the following morning a party properly equipped

with tools, provisions, and means of transport, was dispatched with instructions to open a path which would connect with the horse-way from Hope.

13. Leaving Mr. Good and one of my attendants at this point to urge on the work, and to inquire into the condition of the miners, I pushed on without further delay with my three other attendants in light marching order, towards Rock Creek. On the way I fell in with Mr. Cox, the Revenue Officer of the southern frontier, who joined my party, and after three days travel we arrived at the town known as Rock Creek, situated at the junction of that stream and Colvile River.

14. The town contains 15 houses, and several more in progress, chiefly shops and buildings intended for the supply and entertainment of miners.

15. Nearly 500 miners are congregated about Rock Creek and another tributary of the Colvile, about 10 miles below that point.

16. The Rock Creek diggings were discovered last October by Mr. Adam Beam, a native of Canada, as he was travelling from Colvile to Shimilkomeen; he again visited the spot in December, but did not begin to work till the 7th of May: the following is a statement of his daily earnings with the cradle for the first few days afterwards:—

First day's work	produced	20	dollars,	
Second	"	"	43	"
Third	"	"	33	"
Fourth	"	"	27	"
Fifth	"	"	32	"
Sixth	"	"	17	"
Seventh	"	"	99	"

The subsequent record of his daily earnings could not be found, but on the 20th of June, that is, six weeks from the day of commencement, he had made 977 dollars in gold, valuing it at 16 dollars to the ounce.

17. Hugh McKay, another Canadian miner, said that on his claim, the bed-earth of the stream yielded nothing, but a drift into the bank produced 20 dollars a day. I moreover ascertained from the testimony of the miners generally, that none of those who had succeeded in opening gold claims, were making anything less than 10 dollars a day.

18. Rock Creek is supposed to indicate the course of the gold lead, and to be everywhere auriferous; it is also believed that all the benches near the river will pay well; and many of the miners propose running in tunnels without delay. There is much uncertainty however, as to the real extent and value of the lead, nor can it be ascertained until the country comes to be more extensively prospected.

19. I met the assembled population of the place the day after my arrival, and addressed them on various subjects. I did not attempt to conceal that the object of my visit to Rock Creek was to inquire into their conduct, and to suppress the disorders which were reported to be prevalent in that part of the country; and I assured them that I was agreeably surprised to find that those reports were unfounded. After that merited compliment, I proceeded to explain the views of Her Majesty's Government, the general mining regulations of the Colony, especially directing their attention to that section of the Act which provides for the establishment of mining boards, with powers to frame byelaws adapted to the circumstances of each district; or in other words, investing the miners themselves with full powers to amend their own laws. I further pointed out the nature and object of the Pre-emption Law, passed expressly for the encouragement of settlers; and demonstrated the fact that the whole policy of Her Majesty's Government was considerate and liberal in the extreme. I then announced the appointment of Mr. Cox as Justice of the Peace and Assistant Gold Commissioner for the district of Rock Creek; and that he was duly authorized to punish offences, to attend to the maintenance of civil order, to the registration of mining claims, and to receive all dues payable to Her Majesty's Government. I concluded by exhorting them, one and all, as they valued and looked to the laws of the land for protection, to aid and assist him on all occasions, not only as a duty incumbent on good subjects, but as being also their manifest interest; for, I continued, if the laws are not enforced there can be no security, and without security there can be no prosperity; therefore, I went on to say, as you hope for redress yourselves when individually suffering wrong, you must be prepared to rally round the magistrate charged with the execution of the laws.

The meeting ended pleasantly, and the measures announced appeared to give general satisfaction.

20. Mr. Cox then proceeded to the less pleasant task of levying the regular customs charge on all goods found at Rock Creek which had not been entered for importation; such goods being really contraband and legally forfeited, might have been seized for the

benefit of the Crown, had it not been considered inexpedient in the circumstances to inflict the extreme penalty of the law.

21. I left soon afterwards on my return to Fraser River, and have since then added another officer to the revenue establishment at Rock Creek, and authorized the employment of any amount of force when necessary for restraining the illicit importation of goods into British Columbia; and the cost of such extra establishment is to be superadded as a Treasury fine to the import duties. It is, however, impossible, I conceive, altogether to prevent smuggling at places situated so immediately on the frontier as Rock Creek, which is within two miles of the boundary. The simple and only certain means of effecting the object is to under-sell the foreign merchant by supplying goods at the cheapest rate, and much may be done towards that object by improving the communications and lessening the cost of transport from Hope.

22. The total distance from that place to Rock Creek is about 160 miles. By improving the channel of the Shimilkomeen River and rendering it navigable in boats, we may substitute 60 miles of water for land carriage at a great reduction of cost. The improvement of the Shimilkomeen would not involve an outlay of more than 1,000*l.*, while it would reduce the land carriage to 100 miles, by substituting a cheap water conveyance for the remaining 60 miles. With that advantage the whole trade will flow towards Fraser River.

23. The following mining statistics were collected by Mr. Good at Shimilkomeen:—

Mr. Alison's claim produces 10 dollars a day for each man employed.

M'Dowell's claim, 12 dollars a day per man.

Merril and Eddy worked three days, and made from 10 dollars to 12 dollars daily per man.

M'Dougal took out 26 dollars in the cradle the first day; in prospecting his claim he found 1 dollar and upwards to the pan; anticipates earning 50 dollars per man; when sluicing operations commence in about a week's time they will all begin to work.

On examining the country, prospects were so good that they all immediately commenced preparations for sluicing, wing-damming, and other costly works for mining on a large scale.

24. The road party were far advanced with their task on my return to Shimilkomeen, and I took that road to the summit or punch-bowl, where I fell upon the new road from Hope, which is carried over an elevation of 4,000 feet without a single gradient exceeding 1 foot in 12, a fact very creditable to Serjeant M'Call and the detachment of Royal Engineers employed in marking out the line; it moreover suggests the possibility of converting it hereafter into a cart-way. It is even now a great boon to the country, yet it will lose much of its value unless it be kept open for traffic in winter, by sending out parties of men on snow-shoes to beat the roads after every fall of snow, a course which I strongly recommended to the merchants at Hope.

25. The persons who hold the Union and Emory Bar silver leads near Hope are making great exertions to open the works, with, I believe, every probability of a most profitable result.

26. Masses of nearly pure virgin copper have been found in the excavations made for mining purposes above Yale, and valuable outcrops of coal occur on the Shimilkomeen River, but the present value of those minerals is not sufficient to induce the investment of capital.

27. The new horse-way from Yale to Spuzzem is now open for traffic. Unlike the mountain trail which it supersedes, the new road is carried over the mountain side along the course of Fraser River at a moderate elevation, and will be open for travel both in summer and winter. In riding over the face of those frowning cliffs, which a twelve-month ago seemed to defy all efforts at improvement, it was impossible to repress a feeling of thankfulness and intense gratification at the successful issue of our labours, and their probable influence on trade and the developement of the country. The arduous part of this undertaking—excavating the mountain near Yale—was executed entirely by a detachment of Royal Engineers, under Serjeant-major George Cann, and it has been completed in a manner highly creditable to themselves and to the officers who directed the operation.

28. The most favourable accounts continue to arrive from the Quesnel River and Caribœuf diggings, confirming all the former reports of the vast auriferous wealth of those districts.

29. An opinion is gaining ground among persons who have closely inspected and studied the phenomena of the gold fields, that there exists a zone or belt of country 50 or 60 miles in breadth, which is the matrix or depository of the gold found in British Columbia. Its course has been partially traced from the neighbourhood of Fort George,

at the forks of Fraser River, for nearly 60 miles in a south-south-east direction; and the theory derives a measure of support from the fact that the rich diggings at Cariboeuf, Quesnel River, and Rock Creek,—the latter unknown when the theory was started,—come within the limits which it prescribes. Mr. Nind, the Assistant Gold Commissioner for Quesnel River district, may probably be able to throw light upon the subject, and I await his report with much anxiety, especially as I have had no official communication from him since his appointment. I learn from other sources that the miners in that quarter are making large profits, and that good order and tranquillity reign throughout the district. The want of roads is, however, seriously felt, and has become a general subject of complaint. As soon as those more important communications now in progress are completed, we shall not fail to turn our attention to the remoter districts.

No. 1. Cariboeuf diggings.
No. 2. Rock Creek diggings.
No. 3. Shimilkameen River.
No. 4. Lillooett River.
No. 5. Gold quartz.—Lillooett Lake.
No. 6. Gold, with quartz.—Queen Charlotte's Island.

30. Some specimens exhibiting the varieties of gold found in British Columbia are forwarded with this report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 14.

Encl. 1 in No. 14.

MASSACRE OF AN IMMIGRANT TRAIN BY THE SNAKE INDIANS—45 PERSONS BUTCHERED.

Yreka, October 9, 1860.

The following is an "extra" from the Vancouver Chronicle:—

Vancouver, October 3,—9 P.M.

Forty-five Immigrants murdered.

H. Schreiber has just arrived at the Dalles with news of the massacre by the Snake Indians of an entire immigrant train, consisting of 46 persons, 19 of whom were men, the balance women and children. The party were first attacked about 50 miles this side of Salmon Falls, on the 9th of September. This attack lasted about one hour. The Indians then withdrew and allowed the train to proceed five miles, when they again attacked them. The fight lasted two days and one night.

On the afternoon of the 10th the Indians had possession of the whole train, with the exception of six men, who, being mounted escaped. After travelling through the woods for nine days these six were again attacked, and five of the party killed. Schreiber alone escaping by hiding in the bushes. After travelling seven days, without food, he was found in an exhausted condition by some persons who took him to the Dalles.

Of the 19 males in the party, six were discharged soldiers from Fort Hall. Mr. Schreiber is the only one who escaped. He says that the six men who left on horseback did not leave until the Indians had complete possession of the train; and from the screams of the women and children he was led to believe that the whole party were butchered.

Enclosure 2 in No. 14.

Encl. 2 in No. 14.

To his Excellency Governor Douglas, C.B., &c. &c. &c.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Hope, October 3, 1860.

WE the undersigned inhabitants of Hope beg to congratulate you on the approaching termination of the new trail to the Shimilkameen, an object in which you expressed lively interest at the commencement of the year, and on which you were pleased to express your views in a very satisfactory manner on the occasion of your visit to Hope during the summer.

We trust that the plans originated by your Excellency for the formation of the Shimilkameen and other routes of Colonial importance and advantage, may be fully realized by the traffic passing over such routes, and by the continued prosperity of the country as evinced by the late Customs returns.

Large as such quarterly revenue appears, it is not unknown to your Excellency that the amount has been considerably reduced by the absence of Customs duties on the frontier adjacent to the Shimilkameen country. Your personal observation has we doubt not confirmed the reports which are unanimously made of the large amount of supplies introduced from America, the eager eyes turned by all the inhabitants of Washington and Oregon to a gold field so near them, their determination to compete with British Columbia for the supply of her own territories, and the plans in contemplation for establishing a town or towns as near the line as possible.

The inhabitants of British Columbia are not wanting in enterprise and energy, but the different circumstances under which they compete with foreign traders (backed by the sympathy of their nation), both as to capital at command, the aggregate number of competitors, and the motives influencing each, are not we think to be overlooked. We beg to state to your Excellency, that, as a community, we hope not to be behindhand in taking advantage of the Shimilkameen trade, but also to convey our unanimous opinion that the interests of the Colony, as well as our own, demand such arrangements for the collection of revenue on goods entering British Columbia, otherwise than through its present port of entry, as will ensure protection to British trade, and the augmentation of its revenue by means and rates of import at present existing.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

We beg to tender your Excellency our thanks for your liberal aid to the Boston Bar trail. Without noticing many interested motives to decry the trail, we can assert that your compliance with our wishes in this respect has fully realized our expectations of benefit to Hope.

Your Excellency's first outlay was the means of our town obtaining a share of the traffic to the upper country, to which we considered ourselves entitled, and your more recent grant will greatly improve the road in placing it in a permanently efficient state, in a portion on which the nature of the ground had made locomotion very difficult.

But the chief argument which will weigh with your Excellency in taking a colonial view of the expenditure is the circumstance of packing having been much reduced through the access afforded to Lytton by this trail.

We have now availed ourselves of the occasion of your Excellency's visit to return you our thanks for your attention to the wants and welfare of the Colony in the matter of the trails above alluded to; we trust it will not be deemed out of place if we conclude our remarks with the hope that the original intention of your Excellency respecting the Shimilkameen trail may soon be carried out, in forming the present trail, or any route considered best, into a waggon road; we do not ask this as a local matter only.

We do not consider that scope will be given to that commercial energy and enterprise which your Excellency is so desirous of encouraging locally unless your intention should be carried out as soon as possible, and your Excellency has repeatedly, publicly and privately, expressed your opinion that the route to the new gold fields and agricultural district of the Shimilkameen is through Hope. A waggon road to this important country will not be looked upon otherwise than a colonial measure, and one which has already received the sanction of public opinion at large.

We have, &c.

(Signed) A. D. PRINGLE, M.A.
W. H. SUTTON, and 50 others.

No. 15.

No. 15.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 95.) Victoria, Vancouver's Island, November 9, 1860.

(Received January 2, 1861.)

MY LORD DUKE, (Answered, No. 66, February 1, 1861, page 68.)

* Page 22.

IN my report on British Columbia of the 9th of October last, marked "Separate,"* I had the honour to inform your Grace of the dispatch of an exploratory party from Douglas, under the charge of Dr. Forbes of Her Majesty's ship "Topaze," to examine, especially with reference to its mineral character, the country bordering on Harrison Lake and River.

I have now the honour of forwarding the valuable and highly interesting report of that gentleman, who lately returned to this place with his party, in good health.

His researches, carried on under many difficulties inseparable from the country, were prosecuted with a very creditable degree of activity and vigour, and have been eminently successful in elucidating the true mineral value of the district, the whole of which he believes to be metalliferous, and the greater portion of it argentiferous.

He found and examined many argentiferous veins, and he observes that he has not the least doubt that there is abundance of silver in those formations, but it can only be reached by an outlay of capital and steady persevering mining operations.

He has also, from various indications, been led to believe that in many of the metalliferous veins described in his report, deep mining will develope gold.

Dr. Forbes recommends that encouragement should be given to companies for the purpose of working silver mines, and thinks they cannot be worked advantageously by individual enterprise or exertion, a suggestion which meets with my warmest approval.

I trust that Dr. Forbes's able report may have the effect of attracting public attention in England to the mineral wealth of British Columbia, and to the facilities it presents for the profitable investment of capital.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, (Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 15.

Enclosure in No. 15.

SIR, H.M.S. "Topaze," Esquimalt, Vancouver Island, Oct. 22, 1860.

BY letter dated 8th October, I had the honour to apprise your Excellency of my return to Victoria on the 6th, with the exploring party under my command. It now becomes my duty to lay before your Excellency a general summary of my proceedings, with a detailed account of such explorations as time and circumstances enabled me to make.

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No.

* Page 2

1. In compliance with your Excellency's instructions contained in letter dated 29th August, I took charge of the exploring party at New Westminster, and there received from the Treasury and the Commissariat such supplies of money and provisions as appeared necessary for carrying on the exploration of the district specified, viz., from the mouth of the Harrison River to the 28-mile house on the Lilloet trail.

2. Unable to procure a canoe at the mouth of the Harrison River, as directed by my instructions, I proceeded in the steamer "Colonel Moody" to Port Douglas, and at that place on the afternoon of the 30th, succeeded, after some difficulty, in procuring a canoe and Indians to take me down the Harrison Lake. Finding on starting that my canoe was too heavily laden, I engaged another and smaller canoe, and with a party consisting of three Spaniards, four Indians, self and servant, proceeded at 5 p.m. to make the best of my way to the mouth of the Harrison River.

At 8½ p.m., having come by computation about eight miles, I camped on a sandy spit, near a mountain stream, known as the Douglas River, on the eastern side of the lake, opposite to a remarkable double-peaked mountain, having on its northern and eastern aspect a glacier between the peaks.

Friday, 31st August.—At daylight, weather was much overcast and threatening. Nevertheless, I struck camp and got ready, being anxious to commence work at the place indicated in my instructions. A thunder-storm, however, passed to the southward, followed by heavy rain, and a fresh breeze from the S.W. causing a heavy swell on the lake and rendering it impossible to proceed. I therefore pitched my camp again, and proceeded to prospect the neighbouring ravine and to examine the geological formation around.

At the mouth of the stream, and extending on both sides along the shore of the lake, were water-worn boulders of granitic and quartzose rocks, gneiss with garnets, mica schist with ditto, pieces of good roofing slate, together with masses of a pure white quartz containing excellent indications of metal. The mountain, the top of which is somewhat rounded in its outline, having a flat surface to the westward, and a remarkable pinnacle or finger-like rock at its immediate base, is composed of trap, having resting upon it and tilted at a high angle, micaceous, talcose, and hornblendic schists, all highly charged with iron, the oxidation of which has produced disintegration of these rocks.

At a point about 500 yards from the mouth of the stream on its proper right bank, a mass of trachytic rock has been erupted, shattering the surrounding rocks, itself much shaken and shattered; great masses dislodged by weathering and other causes having slipped and rolled to the bottom of the ravine.

In this rock, of volcanic origin, was found a mass of quartz, of a beautiful white colour, containing good indications of silver and copper, which indications proved true, for on assaying a specimen, by the reducing process, a globule of each of these metals showed itself. This mass or vein of quartz dips northerly beneath the overlying trachytic rock. It is wedge-shaped, the thickness increasing with the depth. From it, in all directions, radiate veins of quartz, which, guarded on each side by a fissile rock of a French grey colour, permeate the mass of trachyte in all directions. Those only, however, which run north and south are metalliferous, the east and west veins or cross courses are barren.

Deeming it necessary to explore this formation thoroughly before proceeding farther, I determined to blast the rock in order to see if the indications improved with the depth; but finding one of the blasting tools in a very inefficient state, I was obliged to send it to Port Douglas for repair, and in the meantime proceeded to examine the veins, seriatim, as they radiated from the great central mass. Rising in a north-westerly direction is a quartz vein running through or along with the fissile rock above alluded to containing ores of silver; and to the right, having the same N.W. and S.E. direction, about 200 yards above the "mother vein," a quartz vein shows itself in the broken precipitous face of the containing trachytic rock.

It runs between two great bands of the fissile French grey-coloured rock, separated from it by masses of a partially decomposed pyrites, which besides, in a band of about three inches in thickness, accompanies the quartz vein throughout its course.

Besides these masses and bands of iron pyrites, masses of a dark green chlorite rock occur, and nodules containing the sulphuret of silver are clearly discernible both in the vein itself and in the rock through which it passes.

Following the ravine, and at the same time ascending, I found, at an elevation of about 600 or 700 feet, another quartz vein of the same character, dipping in the same direction, and belonging to the same system; and from the numerous angular fragments of quartz and quartzose rocks everywhere scattered about, I believe that there are numerous other veins, which I had not time to look for or explore.

I worked into the quartz matrix and its ramifying veins, and satisfied myself of the existence of silver at this spot, which, however, will require somewhat extensive mining operations to procure in paying quantities.

The geological character of this locality affords a good type of the general formation of the whole eastern side of the lake, and may here be briefly described as a region of primary, metamorphic, and volcanic rocks, crossed and recrossed by trappean dykes and veins and seams of metalliferous quartz and quartzose rock. The primary or igneous rocks, which form the central axis of the mountain range, have on their flanks transverse ridges and spurs of trappean rock, bedded and jointed, resting on which, and tilted at various angles, lie the metamorphic schistose rocks, which, again broken through, disturbed, and shattered by successive intrusions of volcanic rock, have in many instances undergone a second metamorphosis, and show an amorphous crystalline structure, accompanied by segregation of metal into the permeating veins.

Thursday, 6th September.—I began here to have trouble with my Indians; though well cared for in every way, they were becoming impatient, and I had to discharge one yesterday and another to-day.

Heavy rain during the night, but the morning promising well, I started with the three Spaniards and one old Indian to examine the landslips.

Found that the great mass of the debris in all the slips was composed of plutonic, trappean, and quartz rocks, all of them full of beautiful groups and strings of crystals of iron pyrites, both massive and in cubes, and all possessing good indications of the proximity of valuable mineral.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

I ascended the landslips to the broken craggy summits, and found the walking most tiresome and laborious, the rocks at every step giving way and slipping from beneath my feet, the inclination of the mountain side being at a very high angle. The rock forming the broken crags at the summit is a dense, highly crystalline blue trap, bedded and jointed, ringing to the hammer, its weathered surface coated and coloured by the oxide of iron, which metal in the form of pyrites abounds in the neighbouring rocks and veins.

The central mass on which this great mass of trappean rock reposes is a plutonic or igneous rock of a granitic character, very dense, highly crystalline, crossed and permeated by bands and veins of quartz, one of which, about half way up the slip, passing in a direct line from one remarkably red rock to another some 500 yards off, on the same level, is metalliferous. It continues in a southerly direction along the face of the range, and if not continuous with, belongs to the same system as the argentiferous vein I described yesterday as running close past my camp, inside of Point Spencer.

Saturday, September 1st.—Heavy rain all day, impossible to do anything further than prospect the shores of the lake right and left. The rocks everywhere indicating that they belonged to a metalliferous region.

Sunday, September 2d.—Morning hazy, but quiet, light breeze from the eastward. The man I had sent to Douglas to get crowbar repaired not having returned, I took advantage of the steamer passing to go up and look after him. On the way passed him in a canoe going down, and I returned to camp in the steamer.

Monday, September 3d.—The weather being favourable, commenced work at daylight and made the geological examination of the locality as above detailed.

Tuesday, September 4th.—Prospected the ravine, and found that the same formation extends on the southern side for about a mile and a half along the lake, terminating where the red ferruginous rock meets a dense-bedded trap, with a white weathered surface, which rock continues without interruption, broken only by watercourses, until the great landslips are reached.

Wednesday, 5th September.—At daylight roused all hands, packed up, and started, examining the rocks in passing down the lake.

At 10.30 a.m. came to and examined landslips, opposite to a point on the western shore known as "Shay Point"—where "Shay," the native god of the weather, has an effigy cut out of the solid rock. The indications, as shown by the fragments of rocks, at the foot of the different landslips, were so good that I pushed on to the first available camping-place, pitched tents, had breakfast, and proceeded to examine further.

Found a metalliferous quartz vein close to the camp, and followed it in a north-west direction up a ravine. The time thus occupied prevented me from reaching the landslips, which were three or four miles off. In the evening I went out on the lake and sketched the general features of the landscape and the mountain range where the landslips occur.

Friday, 7th September.—Heavy rain all night; 6 a.m. cleared up. Roused all hands and went across lake in canoe to see the run of the range, and ravines under which I am camped.

The quartz vein described yesterday as running up a ravine in a N.W. direction close to my tent, ascends and crosses the face of the hill, at angle of 45°; after running a short distance along the shore it dips beneath the lake. It passes along with a fissile grey-coloured rock, which guards it on both sides, through the trap, and rests apparently on the igneous rocks of the great landslip mass, or Gauges Peaks.

From its indications I was induced to examine this vein fully, and blasted a portion of it near to the camp, and found silver ore in strings throughout the mass.

At 11 a.m., light breeze from west by north, left camp, prospecting along shore; metamorphic slates and schists, with quartz veins, one of which I examined just before coming to some small rocky islets, outliers of an erupted mass of trap, in which this part of the lake formation terminates. The vein was non-metalliferous, but possessed the best indications of there being metal in the neighbourhood.

On passing the rocky islets of trap, came to a slaty rock, with, in many places, a very perfect cleavage, and crossed in a N.W. and S.E. direction by a quartz vein, which at the point of contact has destroyed the slaty or fissile character of the rock, and altered it into a dense, semi-crystalline fawn-colored trap. The quartz vein runs in the same direction as the other metalliferous veins, but I could find no trace of metal in the cursory examination I was able to afford it; yet I believe on a fuller exploration it would lead to silver ore; all the necessary geological conditions being present, the same band of decomposed pyrites accompanying the vein as in those others found to be argentiferous.

Onwards, towards the point known as 20-mile Point, the trap begins to show itself in cliffs, and outliers from the form of islands of a moderate height. The slaty rock rests on this trap, and the formation terminates at a low spur, near the mouth of the Klatchka River.

Saturday morning, 8th September.—Up before daylight. A planet, either Venus or Jupiter, shining like a moon. Sunrise magnificent, sun's rays tinging lower surfaces of the scattered cumuli a rosy red, and lighting up the snowy walls of Mount Baker (plainly visible in the distance), till it shone like one great ruby; wind light from N.W., everything promising fine weather; struck tents, got under weigh, and sounding the shoals and bars off the mouth of the Klatchka (or Courtenay River, as I named it, being uncertain of its native name), entered that stream, having 4 feet outside and inside of the bar. The mouth of the river is about 100 yards wide, 4 feet deep, with low banks of sand and gravel, thickly and somewhat heavily timbered. This river had been prospected, and gold found on its banks by Messrs. Humphreys and Hare, of Port Douglas, and I was in this case much indebted to the former for much information and advice, besides great assistance which he kindly afforded me in my dealings with the Indians, in the hiring of canoes, &c. &c. At 9 30 a.m., after ascending with difficulty two rapids, came to, and pitched camp about 2 miles from the mouth of stream. The pools between the rapids had from 3 to 4 feet of water, abounding in salmon and trout of various species. Hired two small canoes and ascended the river, prospecting as I went, but evening closed in upon me before I could reach the falls, which I was anxious, if possible, to examine that day, but it being dangerous, impossible in fact, to shoot the rapids after dark, I was obliged to return to camp.

The pebbles on the beach at the mouth of this river are chiefly of igneous rock, with numerous specimens of beautiful clay-stone porphyry. The trap rock I passed yesterday, here forms the right bank, ascending in precipitous bluffs, tolerably thickly timbered. The left bank is formed by a series of terraces of different elevations, made up of the rounded boulders and gravel of the great northern drift, which here, as in all the valleys of this region, may be seen to perfection, rolled and water-worn boulders of every igneous and crystalline rock that would seem to defy attrition are to be found, while the sedimentary and softer rocks, ground and pounded, form the land, the clay, and the gravel of the formation. The river issuing from a narrow gorge, about six miles from its entrance into the lake, sweeps through this boulder drift, which fills up and covers the whole valley, formed by the divarication of two spurs or ranges of trap, which here running east and west meet the shores of the lake at right angles. The whole forms a fine sweep of level land, well timbered, and having a good surface of alluvial and vegetable soil; but lying as it does on this great gravel bed, were the timber to be removed, I fear that the summer heats would convert the soil into a very fine dust, which the autumn winds and winter rains and floods would eventually sweep away, leaving nothing but naked terraces of boulder stones and gravel. During my prospecting to-day, I found a rock, in situ, possessing good indications of silver, but could not trace the vein, it being overlaid by the drift.

From where my camp is pitched, about two miles from the mouth of the river, up to within a mile of the falls, I carefully prospected for gold, and in a ferruginous gravel on the river bank, found first minute specks, in technical language, "the colour," and as I ascended, coarse grains of gold, sufficient to pay from 2 to 3 dollars per man per diem, if worked by a rocker or by sluices.

Sunday, 9th September.—Gave the men a day of rest; being fine, were enabled to dry our clothes, &c. &c., which were thoroughly saturated with moisture. In the afternoon assayed specimens of argentiferous quartz and other rock, from the veins at the landslips and neighbourhood, and found silver in all but one, the vein running near the rocky islets on the lake approaching 20-mile Point.

Monday, 10th September.—Up at daylight, packed one tent and provisions for two days. Left camp at 7 a.m. to explore river up to, and if possible, past the falls, in order to ascertain the geological formation, and if possible, trace the origin of the gold, which, from its rough crisp-looking surface, evidently has been transported no great distance. With two small canoes and three Indians, pushed up the stream, tracking up the rapids, and reached the falls at 9 a.m., where I camped. Coming up I had passed a considerable deposit of gravel and ferruginous sand, extending on both sides of the river, and from this I believed the gold had come; I left it however to be examined on my return. Just as my tent was pitched, heavy rain set in; it cleared up somewhat in about an hour, and I was enabled to examine the falls and the neighbouring rocks. Found the country beyond the falls so much broken up, so difficult to pass over, that in such weather it would have taken more time than I could afford to explore it thoroughly; I was therefore obliged reluctantly to give it up, having ascertained that the walls of the gorge or ravine, through which the river flows, are composed of massive plutonic and trappean rocks, the latter having a slaty fracture. These masses rise in perpendicular cliffs, cut up by numerous deep cracks or ravines, covered by almost impervious clumps of trees and shrubs, the ground encumbered with fallen timber, rendering travelling very difficult, almost impossible.

The rock over which the water rushes at the falls, which are not more than 6 or 8 feet at this time of the year, is an igneous rock, of a granitic character, crossed by numerous bands of quartz, and having the general appearance and character of the rock described as underlying the trap at the landslips on the lake. Although the quartz veins which here cross the igneous and trappean rocks, show no indications of metal, yet many transported blocks in the bed of the river do so, and indicate the existence of metalliferous veins higher up the valley, which ought to be fully explored.

No trace of gold could be detected in the sand or alluvium at the falls. Heavy rain had again set in, I therefore struck my tent and returned to examine the gravel and red sand deposit passed in the morning.

At 2 p.m., examined and found this deposit to consist of boulders (water-worn), sand, and gravel, with *angular* boulders. The boulders are of igneous rocks of various kinds, granitic, porphyritic (felspar), and hornblende rocks; the sand of two kinds, a fine white quartzose sand, and a coarser ferruginous sand or gravel, the whole mass running in a N.W. and S.E. direction, cut across by the river. On the right bank of the river, this gravel rests on a trap rock, which has a slaty fracture, and extends inland about 500 yards, forming terraces along the river bank for about half a mile.

On the left, it rises into a conical shaped hill, some 200 to 300 feet in height, and runs on as above stated in a S.E. direction. The upper portion has about 3 m. in thickness of rolled and rounded boulders of igneous and trappean rock, then 3 to 5 feet of fine gravel, next, several feet of a fine quartzose sand; and below, to a depth which I could not distinctly ascertain, is the ferruginous gravel, containing *angular* fragments of quartzose rocks, masses of metalliferous-looking quartz, and numerous blocks of a dense black ironstone, the product of intense volcanic action. I tried the sand and gravel from every part of this deposit, but could not find a trace of gold; from the surface to the river side, from 6 to 8 feet, to which depth I dug beneath the surface, all fruitless, not a speck to be seen, which surprised me much, as immediately below, on the river banks, in this same ferruginous sand, I could wash out rough gold, in small quantities certainly, with a common prospecting pan.

Much of this gravel is becoming consolidated into a conglomerate or pudding-stone, by the oxidation of the volcanic ironstone alluded to above, which, with granitic, quartzose, and other hypogenic rocks, forms the lithological character of the mass.

That gold exists in this locality is a fact, and that its origin is to be referred to this gravel deposit I fully believe. At the same time, I cannot explain why, on prospecting, it did not yield gold, unless that my examination was too cursory and superficial. This ferruginous auriferous gravel, on the left bank, rests on the boulders and gravel of the great northern drift, with which, however, it has no geological connexion, further than that of accidental relation. It extends, I believe, across the whole valley beneath the vegetable and alluvial soil, which affords holding ground, and gives nourishment to the trees and shrubs covering the plain; and under this soil will gold be found, I feel sure; what is washed on the river side must only be regarded as indications.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

As to this origin of this auriferous gravel, it appears to me that an extensive range of quartz rock has undergone degradation, consequent on disruption by volcanic forces, and oxidation of its auriferous pyrites, which has coloured its component particles red, and set free its contained gold. Heavy rain continuing and night closing in, I came down the river, shooting the rapids, and arrived at camp at sunset.

On my way down met four miners going up to prospect the gold reported to exist. I gave them all the information on the matter that I could.

Tuesday, 11th September.—Morning fine, but all our gear soaked with yesterday's rain. Struck tents and loaded canoe, found her too deep from the weight of the wet tents, &c., &c.; emptied and left pork cask behind; endeavoured to procure another canoe, but did not succeed, all away employed on the salmon fishery, which the Indians are carrying on vigorously.

Started at 8 a.m. and proceeded down the lake, prospecting and examining the various formations as I went. A few miles beyond the valley of the Klatchka came to schistose rocks resting on trap, with metalliferous quartzose veins passing through.

Pushed on to a camping place at the mouth of a small river or mountain torrent, which enters the lake opposite to the north or Long Island.

Camped, and that afternoon prospected the river bed; found it containing numerous water-worn boulders of hypogenic and metamorphic rocks, masses of quartz with chlorite schist, having good indications of silver; other rocks having the same of copper. About two miles up found traces of gold in the black sand of river bank. It had been raining heavily all the afternoon, and darkness now setting in, I returned to camp.

Wednesday, 12th September.—At daylight, weather having cleared up, and the day promising well, roused all hands, and started to examine the metalliferous quartz veins found yesterday.

The formation is of the same character as prevails generally, so far as I have yet seen, and on further examination I found the metamorphic schistose rock resting on and tilted by intruded masses of trap, which is here regularly bedded and jointed. Trap dykes, containing veins and masses of quartz run right and left, and at points where these masses of trap intrude, and where the quartzose veins enter and permeate the schists, they become metalliferous. An argentiferous vein, 16 to 18 feet wide runs along the side of the lake and rises on the hill at an angle of 45° or thereabout, passing beneath the mountain in its strike.

The silver, in the form of sulphuret, is contained in a crystalline blueish-grey rock, having masses and veins of quartz permeating it, and running along its centre a band of unctuous-feeling blue-black rock, an excellent indication of good silver ore.

The character of the vein alters as it passes through the different strata of the containing rock, becoming in places highly crystalline and very hard.

I was obliged to blast in two places to ascertain the character of the vein, and was glad to find all the indications improve with the depth.

On the beach a prismatic trap which makes excellent sharpening stones, and good specimens of roofing slate, were picked up. Having examined the coast line, and finding it coming on to blow, made the best of my way to camp, found a heavy surf on the beach, and got capsized close to tent.

Thursday, 13th September.—5.30 a.m., all off, morning overcast, slight drizzle, weather looks threatening, light breeze from S.E. right up the lake, nasty jabble of a sea on. 7.30 a.m.—Passing metamorphic and trappean rocks, overtopped by a rounded red-coloured mountain, which from the form of its ravines and general aspect looks promising.

The wind now freshened so much, and the water became so rough, that it was dangerous to proceed, and I therefore pitched camp on a sandy spit near a rocky ravine, opposite south end of Long Island at 8.30 a.m. After breakfast prospected ravine, through which a mountain stream flows, found igneous and metamorphic with trappean rocks abounding. Some of them with good indications, in mining language, excellent shoad stones. Examined ravine by this same process of shoading, and found on the right bank numerous angular fragments of rock assuming a prismatic structure, coated with the red oxide of iron, and containing vestiges of silver ore. The specimens appeared to belong to a metamorphic rock, semi-crystallized by intruded volcanic agencies, in the form of erupted trap and intruded quartzose masses.

Heavy rain and a gale of wind prevented an extended examination of the locality at this time.

Friday, September 14th.—Very anxious to get on, but cannot; heavy rain during the night; morning overcast, drizzly and squally. Can neither get on, nor go back. Half my time gone, and I have still the Lilloet district before me.

Unable to prospect, I proceeded to examine the specimens of yesterday, and found the rock full of metallic sulphurets, chiefly of silver and antimony. At 4 p.m. the rain ceased, and I was enabled to follow up and discover the metalliferous rock, to which the specimens found yesterday and examined to-day belong. The lode is 22 feet wide, close to the water in the ravine, and passes north-westerly right in along a broken ravine, covered by a mass of angular fragments of the same rock, and a quantity of red earth which marks its course along the face of the mountain. I was obliged to blast twice to ascertain its true character, and found it to be a very hard crystalline mass of a bluish-black and black-grey colour, enclosing masses of quartz and groups and strings of metalliferous ores.

The formation both north and south of this vein is trappean, a dense crystalline rock, bedded and jointed, rising into mountain peaks.

Saturday, 15th September.—The weather having been for some days so very bad, and looking altogether broken, being unable to procure more than one canoe, which was in consequence much too heavily laden, I was completely cramped in my movements, for, unless when perfectly calm, it was dangerous to attempt navigating the lake. Fearing that if I delayed waiting for fine weather to complete the exploration of the Harrison I might possibly altogether lose the Lilloet country, I resolved to make the best of my way to Port Douglas, and if I should have time and a favourable opportunity complete the Harrison Lake and River on my return.

Accordingly at 4 a.m., finding the weather moderate, and promising well, I roused all hands, and after a cup of coffee got under weigh, crossed the lake to Long Island, skirting it and proceeding by the western shore to Port Douglas.

The northern or Long Island I found to be composed chiefly of trap, with occasional patches of metamorphic rock, but no indications of metal were observable from the lake. On the western shore, at a point opposite to north end of Long Island, a fine tract of level land commences, and runs north for about 8 miles, having an average width of 1 mile, a stream flowing through it, and abundance of fine timber upon it. Like all the other flats and terraces in this district, the substratum is boulder drift and gravel, the alluvium deposited being of no great thickness, but should the silver leads on the other side be worked this flat will be of the greatest use to the miners.

Where this terrace terminates and the bold precipitous bluffs again abut upon the lake, the formation of the mountain ranges at the back can be well seen.

Rising from the water are rounded masses of a dense black trap rock, sparsely covered by stunted pine trees, alternating with beautiful little coves, fringed by shingle beaches in which the vegetation is more varied and growth more perfect.

At and near the point known as Whiskey Point the formation changes, and metamorphic argillaceous schistose rocks resting on the trap begin to show themselves, and this, alternating with an erupted trachytic rock, continues all the way to "Shay Point," where an image of that deity who presides over the Indian meteorological department stands out, cut from the solid rock. From this point to Port Douglas, the whole western shore appears to be a mass of dead trap, no indications of mineral to be seen. Nearly swamped crossing the lake, though only a light breeze from the S.E. Arrived at Port Douglas at 6 p.m.

Sunday, 16th September.—Rested at Port Douglas. Men employed drying clothes, bedding, &c.

Monday, 17th September.—Making preparations for prospecting Lilloet district. All our blasting tools required repair, had to be fresh steeled. Twelve days' provisions to be packed, arrangements made for conveyances; Indians to be paid for work and hire of canoes, &c., &c.

Tuesday, 18th September.—Made an agreement to have my baggage packed as far as 20-mile house, at the rate of 2 cents per lb. Suffering from sprain and rheumatic affection of right knee, I was obliged to hire a riding mule. At 2 p.m., having seen everything off, left Douglas for the Lilloet, and camped that night at the 10-mile house.

Wednesday, 19th September.—Prospecting as I went, pushed on and camped at 20-mile house, anxious to get on to commence work from 28-mile house downwards.

Thursday, 20th September.—Obliged to rest this day, suffering from rheumatism.

Friday, 21st September.—Tried to ride, but found myself unable, started on foot, pushed on, and reached Creek Camp, 27½-mile from Douglas, where I pitched my tents close to the Royal Engineers' camp.

Saturday, 22nd September.—Employed prospecting round camp, found good indications both on river side and up the mountain.

Sunday, 23rd September.—A day of rest.

Monday, 24th September.—Left camp at 8 a.m. to examine and explore the indications on the river side. At a point 28 miles from Douglas, struck down upon the river, and close to a native lodge found a vein of argentiferous rock, running N. by W. along the river bank and rising at an angle of about 30° to the termination of the bluff at 29½-mile house. On the level beneath, a vein with excellent indications runs along by and passes the 29½-mile house, to terminate at the summit of a round-topped mountain, about 6 or 8 miles to the northward, and which has on its side a remarkable cleft and ravine full of debris.

Time did not permit me to follow up the veins of this formation to this point, but from reliable information I received, and from the geological formation of the country there, I believe they terminate and are possibly more fully developed, and to that point further exploration should be directed. Although limited by my instructions to the 28, or more correctly speaking, to the 29½-mile house, as the limit of my exploration, I yet considered that a radius from that point was permissible, and being anxious to see the formation of country through which the above-mentioned metalliferous veins ran, I hired Indians, and setting the men to work to clear away the rocks and blast the vein on the river side, I proceeded in a boat, kindly lent to me, to prospect the shores of the Little Lilloet Lake. The whole formation presents the very best indications of being rich in mineral wealth, and requires a prolonged exploration. I was very anxious to examine a remarkable mountain known as the "Split Crag," but when at its foot, to my mortification, it became enveloped in clouds, and I had no time to wait till it should clear up and I could make the ascent. It owes its remarkable form, whence its name, to the passage of a metalliferous dyke or vein through its summit, to the degradation of which, by the oxidation of the metals, is due the cleft or "Split Crag."

Four p.m.—Returned to the vein where the men have been at work, found that they had exposed the argentiferous vein, and prepared to blast; but the drills proved defective, and require repair.

This argentiferous rock is of a pale blue colour, with masses and strings of quartz running through it. Sulphuret of silver, argentiferous pyrites, and some specks of gold were to be seen along with iron pyrites in cubes and masses. The vein runs through trap, which, where in contact with the vein, is of a trachytic character. Great volcanic disturbances have here taken place, numerous faults existing in the trappean range which runs in parallel ridges north and south, slips and slides having taken place in the planes of bedding; and this bluff, in which this metalliferous rock is found, appears to be the result of a great slip from the boundary range of the valley on its eastern side.

Tuesday, 25th September.—Through the kindness of Lieut. Palmer of the Royal Engineers, I was enabled to get the drills and other tools put into good working order, and sent the men off at an early hour to complete the blasting operations. I myself proceeded along the trail, to examine the formation at a point where a great body of trap had been recently removed by blasting by the Royal Engineers. At a precipitous bluff, about 27 miles from Douglas, round which the trail runs, and which was not more than 2 feet wide a few days before, I found an open road 6 feet wide, and the angular promontory removed. A mass of trap, dense, highly crystalline, of a dark blue colour, bedded and jointed, had been cut through, and in the operation an argentiferous vein permeating the rock on which metamorphic clay slate

rested, had been opened up. The argentiferous mass, or lode, is divisible into three distinct portions, the whole 20 feet in width, rising at a high angle, and running in a direction N. by W. The rock is of a pale blue colour, dense and highly crystalline, with masses and strings of quartz, argentiferous pyrites, and other excellent indications pervading it. The trap of this formation was the most highly crystalline rock of the kind that I had yet seen, when broken, assuming a pentagonal prismatic form, each fragment having a pyramidal shape. I had on a previous occasion obtained specimens of an argentiferous rock from the hill above, and was now enabled to identify them with this lode, which rising, crosses the side of the mountain in the direction named, to terminate, I believe, in the round-topped mountain described as being on the eastern side of the smaller Lilloet Lake, a member in fact of the same argentiferous formation.

Having obtained specimens, though but outcrops, of this and of the 28-mile vein, which on blasting, fully bore out its indications, I submitted them to a hurried process of assay, and obtained a fair proportion of silver from all.

Wednesday, 26th September.—At an early hour sent on, by pack mules, all the baggage, with orders to camp at 20-mile house and wait my arrival, and retaining one hand, with pick-axe, &c. &c., one mule, and an Indian boy, I followed slowly, prospecting as I went.

Shortly after leaving camp, where I had received the greatest assistance and experienced much kindness from Lieut. Palmer, R.E., and all his party, I came upon a metalliferous vein crossing the road, rising from the river, at 26¼ miles from Douglas. It passes through the same formation as the one last described, and which I named Royal Engineers' Mine, they having in that instance, as in the present, been the means of opening it up.

Four p.m.—Passed the junction of the Amaqua River with the Lilloet; the valley through which the former flows is said to possess the very best indications of mineral wealth and rich metalliferous deposits. Rocks containing gold, silver, platina, and copper being found in abundance at its mouth, and in its bed. These I have not myself seen, but I believe my information to be reliable, although it must always be carefully borne in mind, that in this district of the Lilloet, where the transported rocks and boulders of the great northern drift are so widely spread, mistakes are very apt to occur, metalliferous, along with other rocks, being often carried many hundred miles. From its geological formation and mineralogical relations, I am inclined, however, to believe that up the valley these metalliferous rocks will be found in situ, and the whole should be carefully explored.

The whole geological formation of this day's march to the Hot Springs, where I camped at 6 p.m., is shown by the accompanying section to be trap of various characters, in reference to its crystallization and bedding; in some cases both these characteristics very perfect, in others less so. Metamorphic rock resting on the trap, altered and disturbed by its intrusion, permeating quartzose veins, in some cases metalliferous, in others not so, run through the whole formation. Near to the Hot Springs, an erupted granitic rock, having a highly crystalline trap on both flanks, occurs, which extending eastward, has relation to the granitic rock developed in the argentiferous formation of Fort Hope, if indeed it be not the same.

Trap rises in lofty precipices on the western side of the river, and continues on the east, resting on a rocky range of white-coloured stone, which on examination proved to be a siliceous rock, containing a few indications of copper.

Passing the granitic mass above alluded to, the trail runs over the northern drift, which continues to and beyond the hot springs at the 20-mile house.

The hot springs which give their name to the locality, bubble out from three openings in the rock, under a mass of concrete or conglomerate rock, and an angular block of trap which has slipped from the rock above.

The water has a temperature of about 120° Fah., and at 62° Fah. a specific gravity of 1002·5, being thus simply distilled water. Existing below and permeating fissures in the crust of the earth in the form of watery vapour or steam, it loses its caloric as it approaches the surface, and becoming condensed, issues in the form of hot distilled water.

Around the spot where the water flows from the rock, the surface of the pebbles in the stream is coated with a mass of reddish-brown conferva, which, as the water flows and cools, becomes of a beautiful bright green colour. Where the stream crosses the road, it has cooled down to the temperature of the surrounding atmosphere, and forms a favourite drinking-place for all animals on the trail. Horses and mules, when free and having the opportunity, have been known to come back a couple of miles to drink of the limpid refreshing water.

Thursday, 27th September.—The weather has been and continues very fine. Endeavoured to-day to get a canoe, in which to cross the river, as excellent indications exist on the western side, which I was very anxious to examine. No canoe to be had, all down at Port Douglas. While prospecting, one did come up, and the Indians would have taken me across, but they would not wait till next day to bring me back, and I could not risk detention. From information received to-day, I am led to believe that active volcanic forces exist up the valley of the Zoalchleen River. An Indian states that at the second lake, half a day's journey from the mouth of river, a fire issues from the earth, which burns night and day; this with the hot springs in the same neighbourhood, indicates volcanic action, existing at present in a semi-quiescent state. The Indian also stated that the rocks in the neighbourhood abounded in a yellow metal, and as from this locality the auriferous quartz was brought, which, by your Excellency's order, Mr. Humphreys went to explore, the probability is, that valuable metalliferous deposits do exist, especially since the best indications exist at the mouth of the Zoalchleen River, which flows from and is fed by the two lakes at the head of the valley. This with the other valleys of the district should be fully explored at an early date.

Friday, 28th September.—After an early breakfast, struck camp and sent on tents and baggage to 10-mile house. Followed, prospecting as I went, with Mr. Lopez, Indian, and mule. At 11 a.m., having passed the junctions of the Zoalchleen River with the Lilloet, came to a metalliferous vein rising through the great bank of gravel from the bed of the river, and about 160 yards farther on, another and more promising vein rising in the same way, and running north by west across the level formed by boulder drift towards a remarkable cleft in the mountain range, which bounds the valley on its eastern

side. The formation on the western side of the river indicates that these veins pass along a ravine which dips to the river bed, under which they pass, to rise again as above described. The latter and most promising vein above mentioned, is a quartzose mass, six feet in thickness, bedded in and running along with a siliceous rock, having masses and fragments of talcose schist in the immediate vicinity. The quartz contained strings of sulphuret of silver, and is I believe the outcrop of a valuable mine. I very much regret that time did not permit me to follow it to the mountain range and explore it fully.

Passing over the flats and gravel beds on both sides of the 16-mile house, at 2 p.m. arrived at the red earth hill near the 14-mile house, and proceeded to examine the locality. Found the prevailing rock to be bedded trap, traversed by injected veins or dykes of trap containing masses of quartz, and having good indications of metal. The cause of the red earth is the presence of a great quantity of oxide of iron, which wells out from a chalybeate spring in a constant flow, at a slight dip in the hill, on the old mule trail about 500 yards above the present road. At the top of the hill there is a cutting through a mass of rounded pebbles of trappean rocks, concreted into a dense mass of solid rock by the injection of carbonate of lime. The region is one in close proximity to extinct volcanic agencies, and to these are no doubt due the presence of the ferruginous and calcareous matters which abound. Dipping the crown of the hill, a mass of dense highly crystalline trap, regularly bedded and jointed, full of iron pyrites and of argentiferous pyrites, occurs, rising in precipitous bluffs, and having resting upon it and tilted at a high angle a metamorphic clay slate, highly charged with oxide of iron.

At the foot of the hill, where the rock has been blasted and cut away to form the trail, an argentiferous vein rises at a high angle in a N.W. direction, of the same general character as the others already described, as are two other veins which about 500 yards farther on show themselves on the sides of the cliff. Circumstances prevented me from fully determining the character of these veins, but I am certain of their indications, and feel sure of their value on mining.

At 5 p.m. camped at the 10-mile house.

Saturday, September 29th.—8 a.m., struck camp and sent on baggage to Port Douglas. Passed over a level and undulating road, the only rock visible being a trap on the side of St. Helen's Lake. Ascending Sebastopol Hill, at Jerry's well, came to a metamorphic clay slate resting on trap; and at Spring Hill camp, about seven miles from Douglas, found a vein of good promise, running N.W., having a beautiful quartz vein running at right angles to it; its intrusion has converted the clay slate into a semi-crystalline, fissile blue rock, crossing about two miles of level, and at the 5-mile tree ascending a gentle rise to a bluff cut away by blasting, an argentiferous vein crosses the dense-bedded trap of which the bluff is composed. Its direction and character agrees with all the others already described.

From this point, the bluff above the 5-mile tree, a good view of the remarkable flat-topped mountain known as Mount Richards may be obtained; it is an extinct volcano, the basaltiform trap which now forms the summit is the consolidated lava of the old volcanic fires, the scoriaceous walls having crumbled down to form the now sloping sides of the mountain. This, I have no doubt, was the centre of the volcanic agencies developed in this quarter.

At 2 p.m. arrived at the 4-mile house, and was there shown by the discoverer, Mr. Hancock, a specimen of quartz, containing such indications as induced me to examine the locality whence it had been brought. Found the vein of quartz running northerly through a mass of trap, much shattered and disjointed; followed it in a southerly direction; traced it to where metamorphic rock joined the trap, but found no indications of metal, although I feel convinced that on a more extended survey it will yet be found in this formation.

Anxious to get into Port Douglas to take advantage of a fine day or two, should they offer, to enable me to complete the Harrison Lake and River, I pushed on; and passing trappean and metamorphic rocks at Gibraltar Hill, which continued on to the trappean mass above Port Douglas, at the foot having a great bed of the northern drift, I arrived at that place at 6 p.m. and camped on plain above the town.

Sunday, 30th September.—6 p.m., heavy rain set in last night, and continues; no steamer arrived, and no certainty when she may arrive. If the weather clears shall endeavour to hire canoes and go on to New Westminster.

Monday, 1st October.—Heavy rain all morning; cleared off about 2 p.m. No sign of steamer; endeavoured to hire canoes and Indians to take me down the Harrison and on to New Westminster, but could get neither the one nor the other, every Indian able to travel having gone up the Lillooet to a "blanket feast." At length, through the kind assistance of Mr. Humphreys, I obtained the promise of a canoe on the following day; and Mr. Oliver Hare most kindly placed his boat at my disposal, and offered to accompany me himself to afford me aid, an offer which I most gladly accepted. I was thus enabled to start at 6 p.m., the canoe to follow me in the morning. About 10 p.m., when off 12-mile Point, the steamer "Caledonia" hove in sight. I boarded her, and arranged that she should pick me up on her return next day, and sent orders to stop canoe. Rounding Shay Point, I camped under a red craggy hill opposite the landslips, which I was anxious to examine, as it showed good indications, but which I had not time to test on my way up.

In the morning of Tuesday, the 2nd October, proceeded to examine the formation, and found trap alternating with metamorphic rock, altered in places to a semi-crystalline structure by the intrusion of the trap; and at a place known as Smugglers' Caves, about 100 yards from the beach, discovered two metalliferous veins, each 8 feet thick, separated by about the same thickness of the above-mentioned altered rock, running N. and S., full of iron pyrites, argentiferous pyrites, and other indications of silver. The veins run from a point known as Whisky Point in a northerly direction to Shay Point, a locality already described. I blasted the rock, and found the indications improve. At 5 p.m. went on board steamer, and arrived at New Westminster at noon of the 3rd October.

On the 6th of October I arrived at Victoria, and by letter dated the 8th of that month, had the honour to report to your Excellency the return of the exploring party under my charge.

A period of 40 days was thus occupied in this exploration. I did all I could to accomplish it in the prescribed time, "of about 30 days," but broken weather and unforeseen difficulties, having reference to the hiring of canoes, &c., &c., prevented me.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

In the foregoing report the particular features of the Lilloet and Harrison Lake districts have been briefly described, and a section of the country from the 29½-mile house on the Lilloet, to near the termination of the Harrison Lake, has been prepared and accompanies this.

The section is on a scale of three inches to the mile, horizontal; the vertical section is merely approximate, or hypothetical, and the whole is intended merely as an illustration of the description given in the report. I may mention, however, that the distances in miles given on the Lilloet trail are correct, those on the Harrison Lake merely approximate.

The elevation of all these ranges is due to the action of volcanic forces, causing, in the first place, in this N.W. and S.E. line, a slow and gradual upheaval of the primary and igneous rocks composing the crust of the earth. Then, as these forces increased at intervals in intensity, upheavals and disturbances of the mountain masses occurred, both generally and locally, until the geographical features of the country assumed their present aspect, viz., great mountain chains running N.W. and S.E., having, at right angles to their axis of elevation, trappean rocks running E. and W. in transverse spurs and ridges. Resting on these spurs, tilted by them at various angles, are detached and broken masses of metamorphic rock of various kinds, such as clay slate, micaceous, hornblendic, talcose, and chlorite schists, all permeated by dykes and veins of erupted rock, which in many instances have changed the metamorphic rocks, at the points of contact, into amorphous semi-crystalline masses.

I fully believe that the whole district is metalliferous; and I am happy in having been able to prove that the greater portion of it is argentiferous.

With regard to the argentiferous veins which I have been fortunate enough to discover, I would beg your Excellency to bear in mind that limited as I was to time, it was impossible for me to work into the rock so as to determine their true and relative values; having found, examined, traced, and proved their argentiferous nature, I was obliged to leave each in succession, its value undetermined, to explore the formation and the district further. That there is abundance of silver in these formations I have not the least doubt, but it can only be reached by an outlay of capital and steady persevering mining operations. From various indications, I am led to believe that in many of the metalliferous veins described, deep mining will develop gold.

The gold in the Klatchka River on the Harrison Lake will enable any steady hard-working man, who will work it with a rocker and be content with moderate gains, to live well all the year through, and save money, as also would workings on the bars of the Lilloet at the 20-mile house; but in neither locality need any man, in mining language, expect to make "a pile."

To work these argentiferous veins, I would beg respectfully to represent to your Excellency, that encouragement should be given to a company or companies formed for the purpose of working mines.

I do not think that they can be advantageously worked by individual enterprize or exertion.

I do not think that the existing laws having reference to leases and claims on gold diggings are applicable to the working of silver mines in the district which I have explored, and would most respectfully urge that some special rules and regulations be framed and put in force at an early date.

It affords me the greatest pleasure to inform your Excellency of the great kindness and assistance I everywhere met with during my exploration, more especially from Colonel Moody, the officers and men of the Royal Engineers; from Mr. J. B. Gaggin, J.P. of Port Douglas; Messrs. Humphrey and Hare, of ditto; and from Captain Frein of the steamer "Caledonia," who finding that I was about to return in a canoe, gave a free passage to New Westminster to all the party.

Entreating your Excellency's indulgence for the imperfections of the above report,

I have, &c.

To his Excellency
James Douglas, Esq., C.B., &c. &c.

(Signed) CHARLES FORBES, M.D.,
Surgeon, Royal Navy.

No. 16.

No. 16.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 100.)

Victoria, Vancouver Island, November 28, 1860.

(Received January 31, 1861.)

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Grace that nothing of much importance, beyond the usual course of events, has transpired in British Columbia since the date of my last report.

2. The miners of Alexandria and Quesnel River, dreading the severity of the inland winter, have for some weeks past been arriving in great numbers from those districts, and settling themselves for the winter in the towns on the Lower Fraser, being attracted thither by the genial climate and cheaper rate of living. Their labours have, I understand, not been unrewarded, many of them having been eminently successful, while, contrary to the general experience of mining countries, few or none have been entirely disappointed. So much indeed is this the case that, as I am informed, they almost without exception propose returning to Alexandria as soon as the snow disappears in spring, and surface claims become accessible to the miner. The population of those remote districts will probably for this winter be confined to persons who have invested their means in the construction of sluices, and especially such miners as are employed in tunnelling, whose operations are little effected by the external temperature, and may be carried on during the severest weather.

3. I have lately received a communication, dated Alexandria, 17th of October, from Mr. Philip H. Nind, Magistrate and Gold Commissioner for Alexandria, from which it appears that he had, from various causes, encountered much detention on his route to Alexandria. His arrival in the district was hailed with a general feeling of satisfaction, and his services were immediately called into requisition by the complaints of the inhabitants against a few notorious evil-doers who had taken refuge there, and become the terror of the place. The most vigorous measures were at once set on foot to bring them to justice, and one of the number was soon afterwards apprehended and committed for trial; but the others could nowhere be found, and are supposed to have fled over the frontier into Oregon. Mr. Nind had temporarily established his head-quarters at William's Lake, on account of its central position, from whence diverge, as from a common focus, all the routes leading to the upper and lower country.

4. The extract from Mr. Nind's valuable report, which I here subjoin, contains some interesting statistical facts in addition to his own views of the auriferous and physical character of parts of the Alexandria district which he has lately visited.

"The rate of wages to hired labourers is five and six dollars a day, and of provisions and other necessaries about the same as at Alexandria, in some instances a little lower from the greater amount of competition.

"I have the honour to enclose a list of the prices of various articles at Alexandria.

"Ferguson's or Rich Bar when first discovered proved highly auriferous, as much as 60 dollars a day to the hand having been made; but after the pay-streak near the river became exhausted, the flat in the rear had to be pierced, and the gravel wheeled over plank roads for some hundreds of yards to be rocked out at the river; the profits, consequently, of the day's labour considerably decreased, so that when I was there the average receipts were from seven to ten dollars a day to the hand. As soon, however, as water can be brought on for sluicing there is no doubt but that high wages will be made. Unlike the bars on the Lower Fraser, the ground is here unobstructed by heavy timber or roots, and the miner finds that not only does the pay-streak yield gold, but also the sand overlying it in sufficient quantities to pay for the washing. It is the general opinion that there will be employment on this bar for more than a hundred men, and that it will not be exhausted in less than two or three years. The introduction of water is an operation requiring considerable capital and engineering skill. The ditch is cut from a lake situated between four and five miles to the north-east, and has to be brought on by means of a long tunnel; the expense of completing it is calculated at 12,000 dollars.

"Three miles below Ferguson's Bar is British Bar, where a company of six Cornishmen are bringing in a ditch about five miles in length for their own use. The bar is but of small size. I did not notice any miners between here and Alexandria, though there were signs of work done in the spring. The Fraser between Alexandria and Quesnel River is a swift but not turbulent river, averaging from 200 to 300 yards across; it has a few small ripples, but none of the dangerous whirlpools so common in its lower course; the navigation does not appear difficult; Ferguson's Bar being supplied with necessaries by boats from Alexandria, which make the trip of 60 miles in about two days and a half.

"Between Alexandria and Fort George I hear but of two impediments to steamboat navigation which it would be difficult to surmount, viz., two passes or cañons where the river narrows and rushes violently through precipitous rocks. The physical features on the Upper Fraser, that attract the attention of the miner, are three:—

"1st. Its benches, bars, and flats.

"2nd. Its earth-slides, and high banks displaying several strata of wash gravel.

"3rd. The water in its vicinity that can be made available for mining.

"The first are very extensive, and some have been worked with rockers; but rockers are really only an advanced kind of prospecting apparatus, and stand in the same relation to sluicing and the hydraulic pipe as the Chilian arastra does to the California quartz mill; in both cases the deposit of gold must be very large to yield remuneration to the employers of so limited and primitive a method of obtaining it.

"Respecting the second feature, the earth-slides and high banks yield the "colour" to prospectors, and in many cases, two or three cents to the pan; were the hydraulic pipe brought to bear upon them, ground that is now unemployed would be highly remunerative.

"Respecting water, this great essential to extensive mining operations can be procured without much difficulty, though not without labour and expense; for if streams are less frequently met with descending from these wooded hills than flow from the snow-topped mountains of the Lower Fraser, yet the great number of lakes situated within accessible

distances of either bank, would afford a supply entirely independent of rain-fall or melting snow. At present the country is struggling against the high rate of provisions and necessaries; the class of men that arrive in the spring have but enough money to purchase a few weeks provisions, they cannot afford to work for the future, but must make money immediately or return, so that a thorough testing or development of the auriferous resources of this particular section of country, till very considerable reduction takes place in the price of things, is not to be looked for. I have conversed with many men who have been prospecting from Alexandria to the furthest point hitherto reached, and I find even amongst the unsuccessful no disbelief in the richness of the mines, but a general impression to return next year and try their luck again. Amongst the geological phenomena of this portion of Fraser River there is much to attract attention, more particularly a dark brown substance which the people call coal; on Ferguson's Bar and the adjacent banks many detached pieces lie scattered about, and I was informed by a person on that bar that he had used it for blacksmithing purposes and found it to answer. Some eight or nine miles above Alexandria, where the river, from a north and south course, makes an almost rectangular bend to the east, a high bank displays a complete stratum of this singular formation. I collected some specimens of it, and found on examination that its specific gravity was much lighter than that of coal, that it did not soil the fingers, and that the grain of the wood was distinctly visible. I apprehended it to be lignite in a transition state, but whether it could be utilized for commercial purposes I am unable to judge. The banks of the river here are of considerable altitude, and are composed of a kind of indurated clay, called by the miners "soap-stone;" they have been worn by the action of the water into cylindrical forms and assume the appearance of buttresses and columns. The trail between Alexandria and Ferguson's Bar passes through some exceedingly rich open land consisting of heavy black loam with a subsoil of clay, apparently well adapted to the growth of wheat. The land that Mr. Davidson has pre-empted has produced excellent crops, a small patch of less than half an acre has returned 20 bushels of wheat, and the turnips and cabbages would be considered fine in any country. Mr. Davidson owns several head of cattle, a yoke of oxen, waggon, and other agricultural implements. Finding his experiments so successful, he is preparing to farm next year more extensively, and is anxious to purchase land in addition to his pre-emption claim; several white men and Indians are at present in his employ. A substantial and commodious log house has been built, and farm buildings are in process of erection. The price of vegetables on the ground has ranged from 20 cents a lb. to 12½, onions excepted, which have never been sold for less than 50 cents a lb. Several of the hills that enclose the valley of William's Lake are covered with pasture of the finest description, and in the valley and on the slopes are hundreds of acres of prairie that would repay the labor of the agriculturist. The timber on these hills principally consists of Douglas pine, larch, fir, and balsam; the larger trees make useful lumber, free from knots. Since I have resided in this district, the weather, during the early part of September was unsettled, but from the middle of the month till the present time it has been exceedingly fine; latterly the frosts have been sharp at night, but the thermometer in my tent ranges between 60° and 70° during the middle of the day. I have been enabled from the central position of this spot to transact a good deal of business with miners and traders returning from the upper country. The Indians around here seem well disposed; some work well and readily, and are very intelligent, and would be, I think, susceptible of the influences of civilization; others, on the contrary, are extremely indolent, and neglect providing against the wants of to-morrow if supplied with food for to-day. As there has been a dearth of salmon this summer, I very much fear they will suffer severely this winter; the greater number talk of wintering on the Thomson River and at Cayoosh."

5. I have received intelligence from Hope and Yale up to the 29th of November. The Gold Commissioners report that the weather had been so far most favourable for mining operations, and that nearly all the miners in those districts had built comfortable houses, where they intend to remain for the winter. Some miners from the Cariboeuf country had lately arrived at Hope with very fine specimens of lump gold worth from 1*l.* to 8*l.* a piece; their object being to remain at Hope until the winter is over, when they propose returning to their distant mining claims.

6. The miners at Shimilkomeen were making fair wages, varying from 30*s.* to 60*s.* a day to the man; and there was a sufficient stock of food in that part of the country to last till spring.

7. In consequence of the number of new steamboats which have been lately built here and commenced running on Fraser River, the charge for freights from this place to

Hope has fallen to 20*s.* a ton, being a reduction of 300 per cent. on the former rates of transport. BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The reports from British Columbia contain nothing further deserving of special notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 16. Encl. in No. 16.

LIST OF PRICES at ALEXANDRIA, 18th September 1860.

		£	s.	d.
Flour	per lb.	0	1	2
Beans	„	0	1	3
Bacon	„	0	3	1
Sugar	„	0	3	1½
Rice	„	0	1	3
Tea	„	0	6	0
Coffee	„	0	3	1½
Lard	„	0	3	1½
Candles	„	0	5	0
Soap	„	0	2	0
Salt	„	0	2	0
Pepper (ground)	„	0	4	0
Yeast Powder	per tin	0	4	0
Butter	per lb.	0	6	0
Rope	„	0	3	1½
Tobacco	„	0	8	0
Potatoes	„	0	1	0

		£	s.	d.
Steel shovels	each	1	4	0
Picks	„	1	0	0
Sluice Forks	„	1	8	0
Axes (Collins)	„	1	4	0
Nails	per lb.	0	2	0
Quicksilver	„	0	12	0
Overshirts	each	0	10	0
Undershirts	„	0	9	0
Canvass trousers	„	0	10	0
Kentucky tweed do.	„	0	12	0
Corduroy (common)	„	1	0	0
Boots	per pair	1 12	0 to 2	8 0
Shoes (common)	per pair	0	14	0
Drilling	per yard	0	1	3
Duck	„	0	3	4
Oregon blankets	pair	2	0	0

No syrup or dried apples in the market.

No. 17. No. 17.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 7.) Victoria, Vancouver Island, January 26, 1861.
(Received March 25, 1861.)
(Answered, No. 74, April 13, 1861, page 68.)

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE much pleasure in transmitting herewith a synopsis of the revenue and expenditure of the Colony of British Columbia for the year ending on the 31st day of December 1860, which I have caused to be compiled in the Audit Office from the public accounts, for the purpose of laying approximately before your Grace at the earliest moment such information as may be desirable, in anticipation of the formal estimates which are in course of preparation, and will be forwarded by the next mail. Encl. No. 1.

Although the December returns and some of the back accounts of the distant outstations have not been received, and are merely estimated in this account, yet it exhibits very closely the actual revenue and expenditure, and may, for all practical purposes, be assumed as a true statement of the financial position of the Colony.

The principal item of revenue in that account will be found under the head of Customs, classified as follows, viz., duties on imports, 29,702*l.*; harbour and tonnage dues, head money, the roads tolls at Yale and Douglas for the month of November, and other minor receipts, collectively 5,817*l.*; making in all the sum of 35,519*l.*

The increase of revenue from duties on imports is about 70 per cent., as compared with the revenue derived from the same source in 1859; and it may be fairly assumed, considering the increase of population and the progressive state of the Colony, that the Customs returns of 1861 will be in excess of those of 1860.

The amount of land sales for the year 1860 is 10,962*l.*, which is less by 7,915*l.* than the sales of 1859; a difference explained by the large sums received for building lots at New Westminster and other towns where land was required for commercial purposes and sold at high prices. A larger quantity of country land has been sold in 1860, but from the comparatively low price did not yield a proportionate revenue.

There is no prospect of a material increase in land sales for 1861, except through the effect of emigration from Canada and Great Britain, as there is a very small farming

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

population in the Colony, the working classes being chiefly miners, accustomed to excitement, fond of adventure, and entertaining generally a thorough contempt for the quiet pursuits of life.

The minor items of revenue in the synopsis will probably not vary much in 1861 from the sums in the present return, and cannot in any case be expected greatly to affect the amount of the general revenue.

On the other side of the account is the sum of 16,736*l.* expended for "establishments." The most rigid economy having been exercised in this department, the amount is not susceptible of reduction, but might with advantage to the public service be increased by some very necessary additions to the emoluments of the principal executive officers of the Colony, their present salaries being not only inadequate to the relative importance and responsibility of the offices they hold, but literally insufficient to maintain them in a respectable position; a subject which I will take the liberty of bringing before your Grace in a separate Despatch.

The outlay on works and buildings amounts to the sum of 3,513*l.*, and in the formation of roads and bridges there has been expended the sum of 18,935*l.*; a profitable investment for the Colony, as is apparent from its increasing revenue, which will no doubt keep pace with the improvement of its internal communications and the facilities afforded to trade and commerce. A detail of those works is given in Statement No. 2, and the outlay on each is approximately shown. The other items of disbursement, being separately of small amount, need no comment. The entire expenditure, amounting to 44,124*l.*, has been defrayed out of the current revenue, and there remains a balance of 8,886*l.* in the treasury, which will be sufficient to meet the outstanding liabilities of the Colony for the unfinished contracts of the roads in progress.

Encl. No. 2.

The works we propose to execute this year are as follows:—

A cart-road from Pemberton to Cayoosh, length about	36 miles.
Ditto from Hope to Shimilkomeen	74 "
Improvement of navigation of Shimilkomeen River	60 "
Horse-road from Boston Bar to Lytton	30 "
Ditto from Lytton to Alexandria	150 "
Ditto from Cayoosh to junction with Lytton Road	30 "

In progress.

Road from New Westminster to Langley	15 "
Ditto from New Westminster to Burrard's Inlet	9 "
Ditto to boundary line at Semiahmoo Bay	14 "
Ditto from Spuzzem to Boston Bar (nearly finished)	20 "

For the execution of these highly necessary works, we may, I believe, safely estimate that the sum of 25,000*l.* can be provided out of the revenue of the Colony, without at all impairing its capacity to defray the whole civil expenses of the Government. Much more than that sum is, however, required to complete such extensive public works; and I therefore addressed your Grace on the subject of a loan of 50,000*l.* in my Despatch, No. 84, of the 28th of August last.

If that project can be carried out, we shall enter the field with larger means, and the Colony will sooner experience the impulse thereby given to trade and industry; if, on the contrary, the loan is not procurable, the extent of those undertakings will be regulated by the means actually at my disposal.

I see no probability, short of an almost absolute abandonment of all the essential public works upon which we are engaged, of our being able this year to maintain out of the Colonial Revenue the detachment of Royal Engineers stationed here; and I rely with confidence upon the mother country again affording her assistance in our difficulties, by providing for them, as heretofore, out of Imperial funds, so that I may be free to apply the whole surplus revenue of the Colony, after paying all its own Governmental expenses, to the opening of roads and other public works indispensable to its development.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G. &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

Enclosure 1 in No. 17.

Encl. 1 in No. 17.

APPROXIMATE STATEMENT of the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of BRITISH COLUMBIA for the year ending 31st December 1860.

HEADS OF RECEIPT.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs.									
Duties - -	29,702	8	6						
Harbour dues -	610	7	7						
Head money -	1,034	0	0						
Tonnage dues -	3,669	5	3						
Inland Navigation licences -	98	10	0						
Warehouse fees -	12	8	0						
Seizures - -	112	17	0						
Tolls at Yale and Douglas for Nov.	259	14	6						
				35,519	10	10			
Land sales - - -				10,962	15	1			
Licences, spirit and trading -				2,284	12	10			
Free Miners' certificates -				1,594	6	0			
Mining receipts, general -				805	12	0			
Ferries and tolls - -				576	19	0			
Rent - - - -				379	4	4			
Fines, fees, and forfeitures -				572	8	6			
Postage - - -				89	3	9			
Miscellaneous - -				274	8	5			
Assay fees - - -				140	8	0			
Interest - - -				11	12	10			
Refund - - -				0	8	6			
							53,011	10	1
							£53,011	10	1

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Establishments.									
Salaries, fixed -	5,138	18	9						
Salaries, provisional and temporary -	9,699	14	2						
Office contingencies	982	16	3						
Allowances - -	915	8	4						
				16,736	17	6			
Works and buildings - -				3,513	19	6			
Roads, streets, and bridges -				18,935	0	9			
Transport - - - -				1,415	19	0			
Administration of justice, exclusive of establishments - -				199	16	0			
Revenue services, ditto - -				176	2	8			
Police and gaols, ditto - -				710	13	0			
General expenditure, ditto - -				360	17	6			
Surveys and explorations, ditto -				1,296	5	2			
Charitable allowances - - -				200	0	0			
Conveyance of mails - - -				57	15	0			
Miscellaneous - - - -				340	4	2			
Rent - - - - -				48	0	0			
Refund - - - - -				135	0	0			
							44,124	10	3
Balance - - - - - - -							8,886	19	10
							£53,011	10	1

The above account, although only approximate in consequence of the whole of the returns not having yet been received, is still not far from the actual receipts and expenditure, the principal items being compiled from the actual accounts.

(Signed) WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
Acting as Auditor.

Audit Office, 15th January 1861.

Enclosure 2 in No. 17.

Encl. 2 in No. 17.

APPROXIMATE STATEMENT of EXPENDITURE during 1860.

On Roads, Streets, and Bridges.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Harrison Lillooet Road - -	5,237	18	9			
Yale and Spuzzum Road -	4,426	13	7			
Chuponnis Bar and Boston Bar Trail	3,446	10	10			
Hope and Shimilkameen Road -	4,304	3	0			
Langley and Sumas Trail - -	210	0	0			
Bridges at New Westminster, &c. -	376	4	2			
Clearing Streets, &c., New Westminster - - - -	692	6	8			
Sundry small works at Out-stations	241	3	9			
				18,935	0	9

On Works and Buildings.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Harrison River Navigation Improvement - - -	689	19	2			
Assay Office and Officers' Quarters, New Westminster - - -	1,072	7	8			
Gaol at New Westminster - -	584	14	0			
Painting, &c. Treasury, ditto -	222	2	0			
Court House, New Westminster -	232	10	0			
Replacing Buoys, Fraser River -	236	4	2			
Sundry works at Out-stations -	476	2	6			
				3,513	19	6

(Signed) WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
Acting as Auditor.

Audit Office, 15th January 1861.

No. 18.

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(Separate.)

New Westminster, February 28, 1861.
(Received May 13, 1861.)

MY LORD DUKE,

SINCE I last had the honour of reporting on the state of affairs in this Colony, I have received various communications from the district Gold Commissioners, the substance of which I will now lay before your Grace.

A report from the Gold Commissioner at Hope, dated 31st January, represents that district as being in a perfectly tranquil state; that about 300 miners were then employed in that vicinity, a large proportion of whom were Chinese; and that it was probable there would be a considerable emigration of that class towards Rock Creek and Shimilkomeen in the course of the spring. The river communication from New Westminster had been closed by ice for 11 days, but was then open, and the steamer "Hope"

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

had arrived on the preceding day with some freight, which was carried at the reasonable charge of 20*s.* a ton. Food was abundant in the district and prices moderate, as will be observed from the enclosed statement.

Encl. No. 1.

The miners at Shimilkomeen had not been able to do much work on their mining claims in consequence of the coldness of the weather, and the river being covered with drift ice. Bench diggings had however been discovered by several mining companies, which were expected to yield from 20*s.* to 30*s.* a day to each man employed in washing. Many new houses were being erected, and deals and other material prepared for the operations of the coming season. Bread stuffs and other articles of food were not abundant, and the price of those articles much higher than at Hope. Great exertions were being made to forward supplies by the mountain road opened last summer, which is practicable even in winter notwithstanding the depth of snow. It is not therefore apprehended that the miners in that district will suffer from want of food.

Encl. No. 2.

Mr. Commissioner Sanders reports that the Yale district continues in a satisfactory state. Mining is carried on to an equal extent, but he is of opinion with less remunerative results than last year. The mining claims are with few exceptions in the hands of the Chinese, there being about 2,000 of this people within the district. As a rule they have been successful and many have returned to their homes the possessors of from 2,000 to 4,000 dollars. There are but few white miners, and the major part of the small number still in this district intend to leave for Rock Creek or the Caribœuf country in spring. The total number of miners wintering in the district is about 3,000. There are about 2,000 Chinese in Yale and its environs alone. The cold weather had put a stop to all mining operations. The enclosed extract from Mr. Sanders' report contains some interesting information respecting the state of trade, and the public works in progress, especially the road leading from Yale to Lytton.

Encl. No. 3.

Encl. No. 4.

* * * * * *

The enclosed extract from Mr. Cox's report of the 16th January to the Colonial Secretary will convey in his own words the latest information from the mines on Rock Creek.

The last report from Mr. Elwyn, the Gold Commissioner of Cayoosh district, is dated on the 16th of February. The melancholy fate of Mr. Price, a respectable tradesman, who was barbarously murdered in his own house at Cayoosh, on the evening of the 1st of February, has excited an intense sensation. The authors and object of the crime are unknown, it is supposed however to have been committed by Indians, and three of those people have been taken into custody on suspicion, and duly committed for trial at the next assizes. The weather was already warm and pleasant at Cayoosh, and the exodus had commenced of miners and mule trains with supplies for the upper country; their departure being probably hastened by the arrival of several miners from Alexandria with reports of some wonderfully rich discoveries on Bear River, a stream which discharges into the south branch of Fraser River above Fort George. These men assured the Gold Commissioner that 25*s.* worth of gold had been washed out of a single bucket of the auriferous earth; and though he freely admits that there may be some exaggeration in these statements, yet he seems to entertain no doubt of their general accuracy, nor of the fact that very valuable discoveries have actually been made during the present winter in that quarter. Mr. Elwyn also states that the bridge over Fraser River, which was in course of erection by a private company near Cayoosh, was accidentally destroyed when more than half the work was finished, and the enterprise is therefore abandoned for the present, a circumstance which I much regret, not only on account of the travelling public who will be put to much inconvenience through the want of a bridge at that point; but also of the spirited adventurers, who have sustained a heavy pecuniary loss, and whose enterprise merits a better fate.

There is no further intelligence of much importance from the mining districts.

The reduction from 10*s.* to 4*s.* 2*d.* per acre in the upset price of country land, will no doubt give an impulse to the settlement of the country, but the change has been so recently made that we are not yet able to judge of its practical effects; we are however at present engaged in opening roads through the forests, into the more fertile districts around New Westminster, in order to render them accessible and to remove every serious impediment to their early settlement, which by that means will be greatly promoted.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G. &c. &c. &c. (Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

Enclosure 1 in No. 18.

Encl. 1 in No. 18.

PRICE OF PROVISIONS at HOPE, January 31, 1861.

		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Flour	per barrel	1	8	0	to	1	12	0
Bacon	per lb.	0	0	10	„	0	0	11½
Beans	„	0	0	2½	„	0	0	4
Sugar	„	0	0	5	„	0	1	0½
Coffee	„	0	1	0	„	0	1	2
Tea	„	0	2	0	„	0	4	0
Butter	„	0	1	2½	„	0	2	7
Lard	„	0	0	10	„	0	1	3
Rice	„	0	0	4	„	0	0	4½
Candles	„	0	1	8	„	0	2	1

(Signed) P. O'REILLY, J.P.

Hope, January 31, 1861.

Enclosure 2 in No. 18.

Encl. 2 in No. 18.

PRICE of PROVISIONS, SHIMILKOMEEN DISTRICT, January 1861.

		s.	d.
Flour	per lb.	1	4½
Bacon	„	1	10
Lard	„	2	0
Sugar	„	1	3
Tea	„	5	0
Coffee	„	2	0

Enclosure 3 in No. 18.

Encl. 3 in No. 18.

Mr. SANDERS to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

(Extract.)

Yale, December 27, 1860.

Trade is dull, the staples principally in demand are flour, bacon, and sugar. The ruling prices are as follows:—

		Wholesale. £	s.	d.		Retail. £	s.	d.
Rice	per lb.	0	0	5		0	0	6
Flour	per 100 lb.	0	18	0		1	0	0
Bacon	per lb.	0	0	10		0	0	11½
Butter	„	0	2	6		0	3	0
Beans	„	0	0	3½		0	0	4½
Sugar	„	0	0	9		0	0	10
Tea	„	0	3	0		0	4	0
Coffee	„	0	1	8		0	2	0
Potatoes	„	0	0	1½		—		
Fresh meat	„	0	1	0		—		

		£	s.	d.
In 1859—Flour was per 100 lbs.		1	8	0
Butter	per lb.	0	5	0
Beans	„	0	0	6

The rates of freight in consequence of excessive competition are remarkably low at present, being only 3*l.* a ton from Victoria to Yale; in the spring of this year as much as 10*l.* was charged.

The miner and labouring man can live comfortably on 3*s.* a day.

The charge made at the restaurants for board and lodging is 2*l.* a week.

The rates of wages is 10*l.* a month and keep.

The population of the town of Yale, according to a recent census, is 105 whites, 260 Chinese, and 200 natives, living in 110 dwelling houses.

The roads of the district have borne the severe test of the recent very heavy rains remarkably well; I went over the Yale and Spuzzem portion subsequent to the rains; with the exception of being furrowed here and there by small mountain streams seeking an outlet, it had not suffered in the least.

Messrs. M'Roberts and Power have completed the second section of their contract. The "Colonel's Retreat" has ceased to be an obstacle in the way. A mile of rough boulders beyond the "Retreat" has been reduced to the evenness of a billiard table. The bridge over the ravine before reaching Nicaragua Bluff is completed, so also that portion of the road known as the "Zig-zag."

On the Boston Bar end too, three miles of road are finished, and the timbers for the bridge over the river Anderson have been hauled from a considerable distance on to the ground; finally a party of eight men are constantly employed on the bluff, a bench of 80 yards in length being already accomplished.

The ferry at Spuzzem has been leased to Mr. Yorke at a rental of 305*l.* per annum. The rates of toll have been reduced from 6*s.* to 2*s.*

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

For the better collection of the "roads tolls" a toll house and gate have been erected at a cost of 70*l*. I estimate the probable yield of the road toll during the ensuing year at 5,300*l*.

	£
5,000 mules, 300 lbs. each, or 1,500 tons - -	3,000
400 tons carried by boats - - - -	800
750 tons carried by Indians - - - -	1,500
	5,300

According to lists kept by me during the past season, 2,723 mules packed from this town, viz., in June 271, in July 603, in August 779, in September 742, in October 328.

The revenue of the district has experienced a slight reduction as compared with the revenue collected in 1859.

	£	s.	d.
Mining licences - - - -	267	0	0
Mining receipts (general) - - -	201	6	2
Tolls and ferries - - - -	238	17	5
Sales of lands - - - - -	272	0	0
Fines and fees - - - - -	96	14	0
Spirit licences - - - - -	320	0	0
Tracking licences - - - -	141	0	0
	1,536	17	7

The expenditure of 1860 amounts to 1,366*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. H. SANDERS,
Assistant Gold Commissioner.

Encl. 4 in No. 18.

Enclosure 4 in No. 18.

Mr. Cox to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

(Extract.)

Rock Creek, January 16, 1861.

I BEG leave to enclose for the information of his Excellency the Governor a rude sketch of the respective British and American towns, Boundary Creek.

Mining was carried on here as late as the 28th December by sluicing and rocking; 28*s.* per day to the hand being the average pay.

The weather still continues extremely mild; a continued frost, but not severe, and undisturbed by either storm or rain.

A ditch that will cost time and money is being constructed by MESSRS. Curry and Co., it will take its course along the S.W. side of the creek, and terminate immediately opposite the town; its length one mile and a half; it is for the purpose of washing those benches which have been tunnelled about 20 feet into the gravel and 30 feet above the level of the creek, with fair results, viz., four colours to the pan.

A bridge is also being erected over Colville River facing the town, which will be a great improvement; although I cannot at present see where the receipts are to come from, the river being fordable during fully nine months of the year.

I purpose accompanying some miners to the gold fields reported to exist near the "Mission" on the Okanagan Lake, or rather on one of its tributary streams, as soon as I can procure a horse; and shall report to his Excellency what is to be seen there.

Active preparations for building are going on, and I, together, I may say, with all others, anxiously wait for his Excellency's instructions respecting the survey of the town, which I think should be proceeded with as soon as possible in order to meet the expected excitement.

The town now contains 23 good houses, some of which have been erected at a large outlay.

I shall feel obliged by being provided with the necessary authority for disposing of agricultural land to aliens, as at present I have nothing to guide me in the matter. I require also to know the conditions on which a saw mill privilege is to be granted.

Farms have been taken and houses built a few miles south of the line, which I dare say will be used as storehouses for spirits, &c., &c. until a favourable opportunity may present itself for smuggling such goods in here, so will require to be well watched. The creek affords every facility along both its banks for such manœuvres unfortunately.

Labour now averages 12*s.* per day without board.

PRICE OF PROVISIONS.—January 1861.

		£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.
Flour - - -	per lb.	0	0	10	Beans - - -	per lb.	0	1	3
Bacon - - -	"	0	2	0	Rice - - -	"	0	1	8
Lard - - -	"	0	2	0	Candles (scarce) -	"	0	6	0
Sugar - - -	"	0	1	8	Dried apples - -	"	0	1	8
Tea - - -	"	0	5	0	Molasses - -	per gallon	1	0	0
Coffee - - -	"	0	2	0					

(Signed) WILLIAM COX, J.P.

Rock Creek, January 16, 1861.

No. 19.

No. 19.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 33.)

Victoria, Vancouver Island, May 2, 1861.

(Received June 17, 1861.)

MY LORD DUKE,

IN my Despatch marked Separate,* of the 28th of February last, allusion was made in Mr. Cox's letter of the 16th of January, forming enclosure No. 4, to some reported Gold Fields at Lake Okanagan, and the intention of the Gold Commissioner to accompany a body of miners to inspect that part of the country. The miners proceeded on their proposed excursion, and returned to Rock Creek in the beginning of March, when they communicated the very satisfactory intelligence that they had found grain and scale gold of fine quality, in remunerative quantities, in all the streams flowing into the western shore of Lake Okanagan, which is over 70 miles in length. This important discovery had not been made public at Rock Creek, for the reasons stated in Mr. Cox's interesting report on the subject, which I herewith transmit, unabridged, for your Grace's information.

* Page 45.

2. I have also just received a very satisfactory report from Mr. Commissioner Nind, of Alexandria district, mentioning the great discoveries which have been made during the winter at Antler Creek, a tributary of Bear River, which flows from the mountains east of Quesnelle Lake into the south branch of Fraser River.

3. On the occasion of Mr. Nind's visit to Antler Creek, the whole face of the country was still deeply covered with snow; but a great number of miners were nevertheless on the ground anxiously awaiting the advent of spring to commence operations.

4. These discoveries were alluded to in my Despatch of the 28th of February last, and are now satisfactorily confirmed by the present report from Mr. Nind, who, however, refrains from giving currency to the perhaps exaggerated statements received from miners, that as much as 70 dollars worth of gold has been extracted from a single pan full (containing about one gallon) of earth.

5. The confirmed impression, however, is, that a gold field of extraordinary richness has been now discovered, and I sincerely trust that those impressions may be fully realized.

6. It is matter of sincere congratulation that the tranquillity of the country has been in nowise disturbed by the excitements arising from those discoveries; and that, as a body, the miners are well conducted and submissive to the laws.

7. A copy of Mr. Nind's report, and sketch of the new gold field, is also transmitted for your Grace's information.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G. &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

Enclosure 1 in No. 19.

Encl. 1 in No. 19.

SIR,

Rock Creek, March 1, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the result of Messrs. Beam and Company's prospecting tour to the Okanagan Lake, and at the same time enclose for his Excellency's inspection some unchosen gold taken out of the river Sand Cove, "Anse de Sable."

I shall now repeat as nearly as possible what was expressed by the above party.

"We prospected nine streams, all tributaries of the lake, and found gold in each, averaging from three to 50 cents to the pan; the ground was much frozen and impeded our work. We are quite satisfied of the richness of these mines, and shall as soon as feasible dispose of our claims on Rock Creek and leave for that section of the country, where a miner can grow his potatoes and other vegetables, besides keep his cow. We hand you some gold taken from William Pion's claim; he makes $4 per day with a rocker, and we as old and practical miners could realize much more by sluicing and other methods.

"The Indians treated us most hospitably, lending us canoes and horses free of charge; the soil, especially in the valleys, is well adapted for farming and stock raising. The snow, which did not exceed one foot in depth, is fast disappearing. We only prospected the flats, the frost preventing our proceeding up the creeks, where it is naturally to be believed the principal portion of the gold is deposited."

I have been particular in quoting the above, as Mr. Beam, the discoverer of "Rock Creek" gold fields is universally acknowledged to be a good and sure prospector.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

I have not made the above statement public, as it would only lead to bad results just at present. The miners in this neighbourhood would be easily coaxed off, and the mines now in a preparatory condition for being properly worked, abandoned; improvements going forward on buildings and farms would be checked; town lots would almost be unsaleable; in fact, the expected revenue receipt would be seriously interfered with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM GEORGE COX.

The Colonial Secretary.

Encl. 2 in No. 19.

Enclosure 2 in No. 19.

Williams Lake, March 27, 1861.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that during the winter great excitement has prevailed respecting the discovery of rich diggings on Antler Creek. The secrecy observed by its discoverers, the large prospects they were reputed to have found, together with the subsequent announcement of the situation of the creek, tended so to inflame the minds of all, that a rush of people took place in the dead of winter to this new El Dorado.

Many claims were recorded, and in several instances the same ground was taken up by different parties. This led to contention, and almost to open violence, at one time deadly weapons being drawn, but happily with no evil result.

Shortly afterwards, an appeal having been made for my interference, I determined to proceed to the forks of Quesnelle, and if necessary to Antler Creek. Accordingly on the 27th February I left Williams Lake accompanied by a constable and two Indians carrying necessaries for the journey. In consequence of the difficulty of travelling we did not reach the forks of Quesnelle until the 3rd March: here I learnt that the majority of miners was on Keithley's and Antler Creek expecting my arrival; I resolved therefore to visit these places. The route, which was a different one to that travelled by me last autumn, led up the left bank of the north fork of Quesnelle River for about seven miles; it then crossed the river at Mitchell's Bridge, and continued on the right bank to the Lesser Caribou Lake, the entire distance from the Forks of Quesnelle being about 20 miles.

I can speak favourably of the enterprize and ingenuity displayed by Mr. Mitchell, who without assistance has built the piers of this bridge, and has made blocks and a windlass from the materials around him. I should judge that by this time the bridge must be nearly completed and fit for the passage of foot travellers and animals.

On the north fork of Quesnelle mining is carried on with much spirit by some few companies which have been engaged nearly all the winter in constructing wing dams and water-wheels for working the channel at a low-water stage. Success has attended the labour of most, and a large quantity of gold has been extracted. I visited Messrs. Keithley's and Diller's claim, which is on the hill side, about 60 feet above the level of the water; it was discovered late last autumn, and at first proved of almost unprecedented richness; a tunnel was bored into the bank, but owing to natural causes was obliged to be abandoned; subsequently the hill was pierced in two other places, but the lode seemed to have been lost, for no prospects were found. Mr. Diller has persevered in attempting to recover the lode, and has informed me that he thinks he has at length succeeded.

Good prospects have been obtained on benches 100 and 200 feet above the present river level, and it is anticipated that paying diggings exist for a numerous body of miners at a future period, when some of the preliminary difficulties attached to the development of the country are removed.

That the river has once been a much larger stream, or has occupied a different channel, is apparent from the still perceptible traces of an old channel, and the alluvial flats deposited by its action on either bank.

Above what is called the Falls, which are some five miles from Caribou Lake, scarcely any gold has been found. Crossing the Lower Caribou Lake the trail leads to two houses intended for stores, at the mouth of Keithley's Creek; it then passes up the creek to Mr. Davis' store, a distance of five or six miles.

I observed here great preparations for fluming, and many thousands of feet of lumber that had been sawn out during the winter.

The snow, which hitherto had averaged about two feet and a half, here commenced to be much deeper, and everything wore the aspect of unbroken winter. I was prevented at Keithley's Creek by stress of weather from prosecuting my journey immediately, and during my detention there I heard of many proceedings on Antler Creek that render the presence of some officer on the ground extremely desirable. The trail to Antler Creek ascends a ravine and then passes along a branch of Snow-shoe Creek for six or seven miles until the summit of the watershed is reached, which divides the streams running into the Caribou Lake, and generally in a southern direction, and those running northward and eastward into Bear and Swamp River. From the top of these mountains a fine view is obtained of the surrounding country, which northward and eastward is bounded by rugged and lofty mountains; towards the west and north-west the prospect is more level, and immediately below the peak on which I was standing, lay rolling timbered hills intersected by valleys and ravines. Where the snow had been swept off by the wind I noticed masses of quartz rock and two species of grass, said to be very common on these mountains, one a kind of red top, the other very fine and feathery in appearance. After traversing the summit for some miles the descent into the valley of Antler Creek commences. I should imagine that from Mr. Davis' store to Messrs. Rose and M'Donald's claims, which are the first that were taken possession of on Antler Creek, the distance is about 20 miles N.N.E.

The streams that I passed on the journey were numerous, and where it was possible from the falling in of the ice and snow, to observe their beds, I noticed the same characteristics of large quartz boulders,

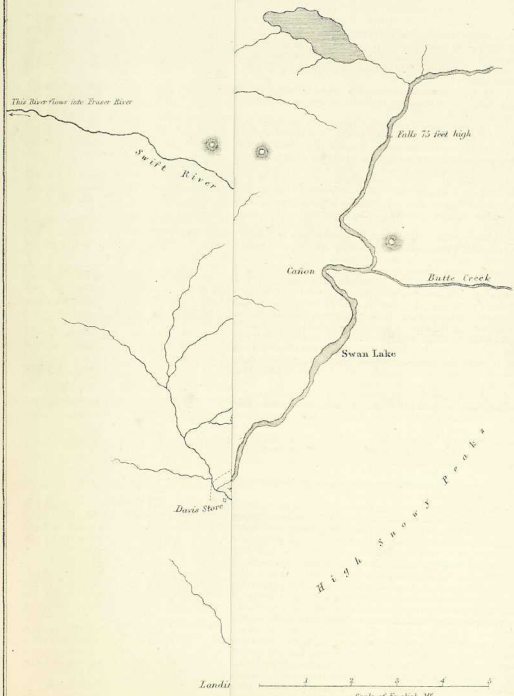
Reduced Sketch of part of

British Columbia

by F.H. Ward.

To accompany Despatch No. 33.

2d May 1861.



Latitude 55° North

John Arrowsmith Lithr 1861

and a kind of slate rock covered with red gravel, said to bear a close resemblance to the rich auriferous beds of the streams of the southern mines of California. I found one log cabin on Antler Creek built by the discoverers Rose and M'Donald; the rest of the miners were living in holes dug out of the snow, which was between six and seven feet deep. I remained here fully occupied for nearly six days in settling mining disputes, and transacting other business. Matters passed off without any disturbance, and if all were not satisfied the unsuccessful parties submitted quietly on finding their claims were not supported by the law.

Although I do not wish to disparage the motives that actuated such extremely creditable and decorous conduct as was displayed on Antler Creek, yet I am of opinion that the following reasons materially tended to bring about such a desirable result. Every miner had an interest in the country, the value of which in these new gold fields no one could truly estimate; but the prospect was more dazzling than had ever been presented before: it was patent to all who were old residents that English law, if transgressed, was not to be evaded with the same impunity as California law; no one therefore cared to risk the loss of what might be a fortune to him; besides this, there was an absence of every kind of intoxicating liquor. Prospecting was done during my stay, and in some cases proved most successful; but the labour of shovelling away the snow and sinking holes at that season of the year was excessive.

The creek winds through the centre of a narrow valley, and is surmounted by hills sloping down to flats and benches of alluvial deposit; the bed rock on which the gold is found lies but a short distance under the surface, and in many places crops out: there are several tributaries of the same general appearance as the main stream which offer facilities for the introduction of water; in addition, the absence of high precipitous banks, and the abundance of good timber form some of the favourable features that will render the working of mines on this creek more easy and comparatively less expensive than has been the case on the other known creeks of the Caribou country. Setting the workable ground at a low estimate, there is room here for at least 1,000 miners. Cunningham's Creek, discovered last autumn, but not prospected until after the Antler Creek excitement, has lately obtained a high reputation, a number of claims have been taken up and recorded upon it since the middle of last month, and it bids fair to rival Antler Creek in popularity. I believe it is about the same size, and will accommodate the same number of men.

I have the honour to enclose a map drawn for me by Mr. J. Martin, an enterprizing prospector, and a most intelligent person; it embraces a section of country known to but very few, and may, I think, be relied upon. The question of a mining Board, as laid down by the Gold Fields Act, being mooted, I encouraged the idea, as I believe that such an organization would be beneficial to the miner and the Colony. A new description of mines has been discovered which promises a more lasting employment of labour than has hitherto existed, and the features of the country being different to those of any other gold country, and unknown at the passing of the Gold Fields' Act, or the subsequent rules and regulations, I respectfully submit that its peculiarities are best met and turned to account by those who are most conversant with them. It is true that amongst individuals, and mining cliques which play into one another's hands, there are frequent attempts at monopoly and overreaching; yet the mining community at large, in the discussion of a question that affects its common interest, is just and impartial in matters of fact, and clear-headed in abstract questions.

Respecting the gold resources of the Caribou country, a perfect unanimity exists; but it is probable that many of those now so sanguine, particularly the new comers, who are unacquainted with the numerous difficulties that must be overcome, will meet with reverses and disapointment; these, however, who are fortunate in placer mining will turn their attention to the discovery of hill diggings and quartz lodes; hitherto, no one has prospected on the hills, exploration having followed up the course of the streams, from the necessity of obtaining immediate returns. One statistical proof of the general sentiment lies in the number of mining certificates that have been issued, and which I can safely assert embraces nine-tenths of the population, and would exceed that proportion amongst the whites; but the Chinamen, who are daily arriving, show no disposition to avail themselves of these documents, saying, when pressed to take out mining certificates, that they have only come up to prospect, and have no money. I returned on the 23rd March to Williams Lake, having been absent 25 days, and travelled a distance of about 230 miles. I found the snow had almost entirely disappeared from this valley, and Mr. Davidson had commenced ploughing about a fortnight previously. One train of packed horses arrived at Williams Lake before the end of February, but were compelled to wait some time before being able to proceed to Beaver Lake. Since this, 30 or 40 head of cattle have been driven into the forks of Quesnelle, and many trains have got as far as Beaver Lake, from which place the loads are conveyed into the forks of Quesnelle by Indians, who received 10 dollars per 100 lbs.; and as many of them, even amongst the women, are capable of carrying from 150 to 180 lbs., they are earning at the rate of from seven to nine dollars a day. Indians have been very highly paid for their labour all though the winter, and the Antler Creek excitement has given them plenty of employment; their manufactures too, have rated proportionately high; ordinary mocassins fetching from three to 10 dollars per pair, and snow shoes from 10 dollars to 25. Provisions rose during the winter, although the supply was quite equal to the demand. Flour has been selling here at 37 cents per lb.; beans and rice about the same; and bacon at from 65 to 90; beef, 30 to 37½.

At the forks of Quesnelle, prices have been higher. At Keithley's Creek, flour was at 75; and on Antler Creek, provisions were one dollar a lb. all round. Pack-trains are arriving daily, and afford a contrast to the proceedings of last year: the miners then came in before the provisions, but now the provisions are coming before the miners: this is reducing prices, and will, no doubt, have a good effect on this part of the country.

It will be some time before animals can travel into the forks of Quesnelle; it is with much difficulty that they make the journey from here to Beaver Lake, and they are obliged to carry provender with them. A new trail has been opened from the Little Lake into the forks of Quesnelle, it is better graded than the old one, but I think is rather longer. I found Mr. Adler's new bridge over the south fork of Quesnelle completed on my return, and can speak in terms of high commendation of its workmanlike and substantial appearance. I was informed that its cost had been above 5,000 dollars, and from the high rate of wages, and the labour expended upon it, I do not imagine that a similar structure

BRITISH COLUMBIA. —— could be raised for a less sum. Mr. Adler has shown much enterprise in endeavouring to secure the traffic of the ensuing year to the forks of Quesnelle, as it is by no means certain that travellers will adopt this route to the northern mines.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP HENRY NIND.

The Colonial Secretary.

No. 20.

No. 20.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(Separate.) Lytton, June 4, 1861.
MY LORD DUKE, (Received July 29, 1861.)

SINCE my departure from Victoria, on the 10th May I have visited in succession the towns of New Westminster, Hope, Yale, and Lytton, from whence I have now the honour of addressing your Grace.

2. It is not necessary to trouble your Grace with remarks on the condition of those towns, which all exhibit a satisfactory degree of progress, yet nothing more than was anticipated from the quiet and prosperous state of the Colony.

3. The most interesting feature about New Westminster is the newly formed lines of road through the densely wooded country north of that town, which has induced settlers to turn their attention that way, and will probably lead to the rapid extension of settlement in the direction of Burrards Inlet. A similar result in promoting early settlement is anticipated from another new line of road which is being formed on the left bank of the Fraser, commencing a little below New Westminster, and running in a southerly direction towards the frontier. The forests opposite the town are beginning to yield to the woodman's efforts; and one enterprising proprietor, Mr. Brown, has discovered on his ground a large tract of excellent land, which certainly cannot be surpassed in point of fertility or quality of soil.

4. Many land claims have been taken by settlers along the Fraser, yet in my progress from New Westminster to Hope there was scarcely a trace of improvement or any observable inroad on the forest. The Pre-emption Act is, however, beginning to work its effect, and will, as I confidently believe, ere long make a decided change on the face of the country.

5. Several industrious settlers, probably about eighty in number, have taken land around Hope and Yale, and are toiling assiduously in clearing and preparing the soil for crops. The carriage road from Hope towards Shimilkomeen, of which about 12 miles are now open to travel, is a great accommodation to settlers, who eagerly grasp at every improvable piece of land to which it gives access.

6. Captain Grant, with a detachment of 80 Royal Engineers under his command, and about 80 civilian labourers, is employed in the formation of that road, which we hope to complete before the return of winter, providing always that the public revenue continues in a prosperous state, and our funds do not in the meantime fall short.

7. I am especially anxious for the completion of that highly important work, so valuable as a military road, leading towards the frontier, and as an outlet for the trade of the most fertile agricultural districts of the Colony, and, from discoveries which are being continually made, probably the most auriferous. Every successive discovery indeed tends to confirm the impression that the gold fields which have been struck at Rock Creek and Quesnel River or Caribou, are but two points in a range of auriferous mountains containing incalculable wealth, which, commencing at Rock Creek 49° N. lat., 118° 30′ W. long., run almost due north between Great Okanagan Lake and the Columbia River to lat. 51°, and from thence along the North River in a north by west direction, through the Quesnel and Caribou country to the banks of Fraser River, at 54° N. lat., 123° W. long., a total distance of nearly 330 miles, a theory, which, if correct, opens a magnificent vista of future greatness for the Colony.

8. We saw very little mining between Hope and Yale, the miners having been generally driven from their claims by the high state of the river.

9. Entering the passes of the Fraser beyond Yale we pursued our route over the new road amidst scenery of the grandest description. Mountains rising to the skies on both sides of the narrow pass, and immediately beneath the Fraser frantically tearing its way

in foaming whirls convey a faint idea of the scene. Neither are softer features wanting, every spot of the earth being prolific of vegetation, and the mountains' sides covered with the most beautiful flowers.

10. Settlers, true to their instincts, have followed the new road even into the passes, and are bringing every spot of tillable land into cultivation. At the Great Falls two adventurous Frenchmen have built a kiosk and laid out a pretty little garden for the entertainment of visitors. The traveller has no reason to dread a journey through this part of British Columbia, as at every few miles is to be found a wayside inn, with refreshments of every kind.

11. The new road on Fraser River from "Spuzzem" to "Quayome" runs along the face of frightful precipices, but is, nevertheless, perfectly safe for horse and mule travel.

12. These is a great deal of good mining ground between Yale and Lytton, and the miners of the district have displayed an unusual degree of skill and enterprise in conducting water to their claims, by means of canals and viaducts, from the distant mountains.

13. One of these works, called the "Poor Man's Ditch," the property of Mr. Melodey and three other natives of Ireland, who came to this Colony in the year 1858, entirely without capital, and commenced their career as simple miners, is seven miles long, and has cost them about 15,000 dollars. These persons have another expensive work of the same kind on Van Winkle Flat, which now yields them a very handsome income. This is not a solitary instance of successful enterprise, as almost all their contemporaries who have remained in the Colony since the year 1858 are now possessed of wealth and position, and considering the advantages offered to emigrants one only regrets that a greater number of Her Majesty's subjects have not made British Columbia their home.

14. Much remains to be done for the improvement of this part of the Colony. A carriage road from Quayome to Lytton, is the work that demands our more immediate attention. Its importance is evident, and the people of Lytton have, almost to a man, come forward with a petition praying that it be made without delay, and a further tax levied on goods carried inland to defray its cost, which will probably not fall short o 10,000*l*.

15. I propose leaving this place to day for Cayoosh by the Buonaparte River, the great stock range of the Colony, where I expect to meet with many settlers.

16. I would also inform your Grace, that we are daily receiving the most extraordinary accounts of the almost fabulous wealth of the Antler Creek and Caribou diggings. Mr. Palmer, a respectable merchant, who arrived the other day from that part of the country with nearly 50 pounds weight of gold, which he kindly allowed me to examine, assured me that these accounts are by no means exaggerated. As an example of the extraordinary wealth of the country, he mentioned that four of his friends who are associated in a mining company, were making regularly from 16 ozs. to 37 ozs. of gold a day, being 4 ozs. to 9½ ozs. each; by "fluming" another company of four men washed out with cradles, in his presence, 36 ozs. of gold in one day; and the yield of ordinary mining claims is from 20 to 50 dollars a day for each man employed.

17. The gold in Caribou is not confined to the rivers. It is found in the gulches and table land 300 and 400 yards from the rivers, and much beyond their highest levels. About a foot of gravel overlies the bed rock of light coloured shale extremely soft, or in mining phrase "rotten," where the gold is found in the rents of the shale. He says, there are mountains of quartz, and he is of opinion, that some of the richest quartz leads in the world will be found there.

18. Mr. Barnston, another respectable traveller from Caribou, corroborates Mr. Palmer's testimony, and adds that he never before saw a class of men more elated with their prospects than the miners of Quesnel; they look to a successful season, and expect to leave the country in the autumn with their fortunes made. He feels assured of the almost fabulous wealth of the country; ordinary claims pay 50 dollars a day to the hand, and he knows one company of four men working on Antler Creek, who each receive 1,000 dollars a week from their mining claim.

19. The testimony of other persons is confirmatory of these extraordinary statements; a private note dated 28th May 1861, from Mr. Nind, the Assistant Gold Commissioner for Quesnel River Districts, has the following remarks:—"The news is still good from above.* "We have the right thing at Cariboo." So that all things considered, I see no reason for

* Caribou.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

doubting the correctness of the current reports, and I am sorry, indeed, that so small a portion of that wealth should at present be reaped by Her Majesty's subjects.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G. (Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.
&c &c. &c.

No. 21.

No. 21.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(Separate.) Victoria, Vancouver Island, July 16, 1861.

MY LORD DUKE, (Received September 30, 1861.)

WHEN addressing your Grace from Lytton in my Separate Despatch of the 4th of June last,* I communicated the information and impressions of the state of the country which I had received on my previous journey; I will now in this Despatch continue the subject subsequently to my departure from Lytton.

* Page 52.

2. Leaving that place I travelled for 35 miles along the banks of Thompson's River by a good horse road lately made at a trifling cost, and successively visited the Buonaparte and Hat Rivers, and the Pavilion, where we fell upon the Fraser, and followed it downwards to Cayoosh. The district comprehended within those limits is exceedingly beautiful and picturesque, being composed of a succession of hills and valleys, lakes and rivers, exhibiting to the traveller accustomed to the endless forests of the coast districts, the unusual and grateful spectacle of miles of green hills, curving slopes, and level meadows, almost without a bush or tree to obstruct the view, and even to the very hill tops producing an abundant growth of grass. It is of great value as a grazing district, a circumstance which appears to be thoroughly understood and appreciated by the country packers, who are in the habit of leaving their mules and horses here when the regular work of packing goods to the mines is suspended for the winter.

The animals, even at that season, are said to improve in condition, though left to seek their own food, and to roam at large over the country, a fact which speaks volumes in favour of the climate and of the natural pastures. It has certainly never been my good fortune to visit a country more pleasing to the eye, or possessing a more healthy and agreeable climate, or a greater extent of fine pasture land; and there is no doubt that with a smaller amount of labour and outlay than in almost any other colony, the energetic settler may soon surround himself with all the elements of affluence and comfort.

3. Notwithstanding these advantages, such have hitherto been the difficulties of access, that the course of regular settlement has hardly yet commenced.

4. A good deal of running stock has been brought in for sale; but with the exception of eight or ten persons, there are no farmers in the district. One of those, Mr. McLean, a native of Scotland, and lately of the Hudson's Bay Company's service, has recently settled on a beautiful spot, near the debouch of Hat River, and is rapidly bringing his land into cultivation. He has a great number of horses and cattle of the finest American breeds; and from the appearance of the crops there is every prospect that his labour and outlay will be well rewarded. He is full of courage, and as confident as deserving of success. He entertains no doubt whatever of the capabilities of the soil, which he thinks will, under proper management, produce any kind of grain or root crops. The only evil he seriously apprehends is the want of rain and the consequent droughts of summer, which has induced him to bring a supply of water from a neighbouring stream, by which he can at pleasure irrigate the whole of his fields.

5. I received an equally favourable report from Mr. Reynolds, who commenced a farm at the Pavilion in the year 1859, and he has consequently had the advantage of two years' experience. His last crop, besides a profusion of garden vegetables, consisted of oats, barley, turnips, and potatoes, and the produce was most abundant. The land under potatoes yielded 375 bushels to the acre. The turnip crop was no less prolific; one of the roots weighed 26 lbs.; and swedes of 15 lbs. and 16 lbs. were commonly met with. He could not give the yield of oats and barley, the greater part having been sold in the sheaf for the use of the mule trains passing to and from the mines; but the crop, as was

manifest from the weight and length of the straw, which attained a height of fully four feet, was remarkably good. He generally allows his cattle to run at large, and they seldom require to be housed or fed in winter.

6. The cold is never severe; the greatest depth of snow in 1859 was 12 inches, and the following winter it did not exceed six inches. Ploughing commences about the middle of March. The summers are generally dry, and Mr. Reynolds is of opinion that irrigation will be found an indispensable application in the process of husbandry in this district. In the dry summer of 1859 he kept water almost constantly running through his fields; but applied it only twice during the summer of 1860, when the moisture of the atmosphere proved otherwise sufficient for the crops.

7. The numerous streams which permeate the valleys of this district afford admirable facilities for inexpensive irrigation; so bountiful indeed has nature been in this respect, that it is hardly an exaggeration to say that there is a watercourse or rivulet for every moderate sized farm that will be opened in the district.

8. A few successful experiments in husbandry will give confidence, and add to the number of the farming class, which continues to be in a lamentable minority in every part of the Colony, even in districts where one would suppose mining to be a less profitable pursuit than the cultivation of the soil.

9. The mining districts of Thompson's River, and of the Fraser below the Pavilion, have been almost abandoned by the white miners of the Colony, who have been generally carried away by the prevailing excitement to the Caribou and Antler Creek mines; and their claims are now occupied by Chinamen and native Indians, the latter especially exhibiting an unwonted degree of activity in mining. Their daily earnings sometimes reach the large sum of two pounds sterling, and never, as they assured me, fall short of eight shillings, so that they are becoming exceedingly valuable to the Colony, both as producers and as a tax-paying population. I, in fact, ascertained from the official returns of Yale, that 30 per cent. of the amount of roads' tolls was levied directly on the goods of Indians leaving that place; and from their numbers and habits it may be fairly assumed that 40 per cent. of the whole revenue collectively accruing from tolls and customs falls on them.

10. The mines on Tranquille River have lately attracted much attention, in consequence of quantities of coarse gold having been found in pieces weighing as much as three quarters of an ounce; and the discovery of a stratum of auriferous earth, in mining phrase "pay dirt," from three to four feet in thickness, at a much higher level than the present bed of the river, which until then was suppposed to be the exclusive depository of gold. This circumstance has given a new direction to the industry of the place, the miners having less faith in surface diggings, and being generally impressed with the advantage of deeper sinkings, which may probably reveal, as was the case in the gold fields of Victoria, greater wealth than has yet been found; and this in my opinion is simply a question of time.

11. There are extensive flats or holmes in the valley of the Thompson that give a large return of gold; but being above the river, they cannot be worked to much advantage until water from a higher level that can be applied to sluicing is brought into play. Several smooth water-worn nuggets, weighing as much as two ounces, have been found on the Thompson below Lake Kamloops; and diggings have been lately discovered on three of the affluents of North River (north branch of the Thompson). The streams flowing from the eastward into Okanagan Lake are also reported to be highly productive of gold—facts, which all tend to support the theory alluded to in my Despatch of the 4th of June last, regarding the existence of a vast auriferous ridge or watershed, extending from Rock Creek to Fort George, and dividing the Columbia from the waters of Fraser River.

12. I feel a deep interest in the exploration and development of that valuable and important division of the Colony, which is now so difficult of access as to be practically closed to the ordinary settler; and there is, moreover, no convenient place where the miner can replenish his exhausted stores. With the view of removing these drawbacks, I propose to lay out a town site, as a mining depôt and centre of trade on Thompson's River, about 10 miles below Lake Kamloops, from whence the navigation is said to be practicable for stern-wheel boats through Lake Kamloops to the distance of 100 miles up North River; and also by the south branch of the Thompson to the further extremity of Shouswap Lake. As another part of the plan I propose that steam boats of the same class should be employed on Okanagan Lake, connecting with the caravans arriving by the way of Hope and Shimilkomeen from Fraser River; and finally, a good road

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

between the two lakes Shouswap and Okanagan, and from the latter lake continued in a southerly direction to the Columbia River, will complete a line of communication connecting the eastern districts with Fraser River, and affording facilities for transport that will render Hope the channel of trade, and prevent it from seeking an outlet by the Columbia River, and which in other respects will be of inestimable advantage to the Colony.

13. The latest accounts from Caribou confirm the former reports of its vast auriferous wealth. About 1,500 men are supposed to be congregated in those mines, and the number is continually augmented by the arrival of fresh bodies of miners. It will be a work of difficulty to keep them supplied with food, a service which now gives employment to about 1,200 transport horses and mules; and I am in hopes that the large profits made in that business will lead to its extension.

14. To facilitate the transport to those mines I authorized a grant of 400*l.* to improve the river trail from Cayoosh to Williams Lake; and 400*l.* to open a trail from Quesnel to Caribou Lake, the charge, in both cases, to be defrayed out of the district revenues.

15. The remoteness of the Caribou mines, and the large assemblage of people there, have rendered it necessary to establish a gold escort for the conveyance of treasure from Quesnel to New Westminster; and more especially with the view of strengthening the hands of the magistrates in those distant localities by the periodical exhibition of a small military force. This will put the colony to much expense, but I conceive it is an indispensable precaution that may prevent much future evil.

16. There is nothing of much importance to communicate respecting the towns of Cayoosh and Douglas, except that they are both progressively improving. I authorised the grant of allotments of land to the Bishop of British Columbia, at those places, as sites for churches, and 200*l.* at each, in aid of private contributions for the erection thereof. The latter measure was adopted at the instance of the inhabitants generally, who represented that they had no building where Divine service could be properly held; that they had contributed liberally towards the fund; and that their own means alone were not adequate to the erection of Churches. In those circumstances, and as no other denomination of Christians were in the field in that part of the colony, I most cordially responded to the wishes of the public.

17. I returned to New Westminster on the 20th of June; and in conclusion it only remains for me to add the gratifying intelligence that peace and good order prevail throughout the Colony.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

P.S.—An explanatory map is transmitted with this Despatch.

J.D.

No. 22.

No. 22.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 55.) Victoria, Vancouver's Island, September 11, 1861.

(Received Nov. 2, 1861.)

MY LORD DUKE,

ADVERTING to my Despatch, No. 50, of the 22nd ultimo, and to previous correspondence upon the subject of returns and accounts required from this Government, I have the honour to forward herewith the return for the year 1860, as described on the other side hereof, and I trust that the same may be found satisfactory.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

ABSTRACT of the actual REVENUE and EXPENDITURE during the Year 1860, divided under the different established heads of service.

ABSTRACT of the REVENUE received during the Year 1860.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CIVIL.		
Customs	30,416 7 0	
Port and Harbour dues	5,435 18 8	
Land sales	11,073 12 1	
Land revenue	283 3 6	
Free Miners' certificates	1,433 0 0	
Mining receipts, general	807 5 4	
Licences, spirit and trading	2,174 12 10	
Rents, exclusive of land	430 0 3	
Postage	121 7 5	
Fines, forfeiture, and fees of court	562 9 4	
Fees of Assay office	226 17 6	
Interest	11 12 10	
Refund	0 8 6	
Miscellaneous receipts	274 14 5	
Special deposits	40 1 9	
Mule tax	30 0 0	
TOTAL COLONIAL REVENUE		53,326 11 5
Creation of bonds in aid of revenue	5,200 0 0	
Loan to Vancouver island colony repaid	1,000 0 0	
Advances to heads of departments, accounted for (Civil)	19,633 6 1	
MILITARY.		
Her Majesty's Government	20,706 0 0	
Do. on regimental pay account	3,810 0 0	
		24,516 0 0
Advances to heads of departments, accounted for	5,950 0 0	
Miscellaneous receipts	0 5 0	
Refund (Transport)	2 0 6	
Total		£109,628 3 0

ABSTRACTS of the PAYMENTS made during the Year 1860.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CIVIL.		
Establishments, Salaries, fixed	5,190 7 11	
Salaries, provisional and temporary	9,179 19 2	
Office contingencies	1,048 19 9	
Allowances	1,018 9 4	
		16,438 16 2
Revenue services, exclusive of establishments	179 1 7	
Administration of justice, exclusive of establishments	194 1 3	
Charitable allowances	200 0 0	
Police and gaols, exclusive of establishments	792 14 0	
Rent	38 0 0	
Transport	1,262 9 4	
Conveyance of mails	41 3 0	
General expenses, exclusive of establishments	359 4 7	
Miscellaneous services	317 0 10	
Surveys and explorations	1,683 15 8	
Refund	135 0 0	
Roads, streets, and bridges	21,076 16 10	
Works and buildings	3,725 19 0	
Redemption of bonds	780 0 0	
TOTAL COLONIAL CIVIL EXPENDITURE		47,171 2 3
Loan to Vancouver island colony	1,000 0 0	
Advances to heads of departments (Civil)	19,133 6 1	
MILITARY.		
Colonial pay	11,929 8 2	
Exchange cashing drafts on Paymaster-General	383 2 0	
Provisions and fuel	6,780 12 1	
Works and buildings	1,468 2 5	
Roads, streets, and bridges	22 7 8	
Stores and materials	160 0 10	
Transport	197 5 5	
Office contingencies	2 19 0	
TOTAL COLONIAL MILITARY EXPENDITURE		20,968 17 7
Advances to heads of departments (Military)	5,950 0 0	
Colonel Moody, R.E., on regimental pay account	4,519 10 8	
Exchange on cashing drafts, on regimental pay account	56 1 7	
Paid on account of Home Government		3,575 11 10
Balance in hands of treasurer, 31st December 1860		143 17 10
Total		£109,628 3 0

Audit Office of British Columbia,
4th September 1861.

(Signed) WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG,
Acting Auditor-General.

No. 23.

No. 23.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(Separate.) Victoria, Vancouver Island, September 16, 1861.
(Received November 2, 1861.)

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE much satisfaction in reporting to your Grace that the Colony of British Columbia continues in a tranquil and progressive state.

2. The Gold Commissioners, in their last monthly reports, represent the continued exodus of the mining population from their respective districts towards the "Cariboo" country; in speaking of which I have adopted the popular and more convenient orthography of the word, though properly it should be written "Caribœuf" or Rein Deer, the country having been so named from its being a favourite haunt of that species of the deer kind.

3. The most extraordinary accounts of the wealth of that gold field are received by every succeeding steamer from British Columbia; and those accounts are confirmed by letters from the merchants and traders of the district, and by fortunate adventurers who have realized, by a few weeks labour, their thousands of dollars. It would in fact appear that Cariboo is at least equal, in point of auriferous wealth, to the best parts of California; and, I believe, the gold deposits of British Columbia will be found to be distributed over a far more extensive space.

4. I am unable to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion as to the average daily earnings of miners in the Cariboo country, but some idea may be formed of the large sums realized, from the fact that 195 ounces of gold were taken in one day out of a single mining claim; while ordinary claims yield as much as forty and fifty dollars a-day to the man: but perhaps the most telling circumstance is the high price of labour, which has attained to the extraordinary sum of ten dollars a-day; and any number of men may find employment at that rate of pay.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

5. The Cariboo gold district was discovered by a fine athletic young man of the name of McDonnell, a native of the island of Cape Breton, of mixed French and Scotch descent, combining in his personal appearance and character the courage, activity, and remarkable powers of endurance of both races. His health has suffered from three years constant exposure and privation, which induced him to repair, with his well-earned wealth, to this Colony for medical assistance.

6. His verbal report to me is interesting, and conveys the idea of an almost exhaustless gold field, extending through the quartz and slate formations, in a northerly direction from Cariboo Lake.

7. The following well attested instances of successful mining at Cariboo may prove interesting, and will probably convey to Her Majesty's Government a more precise idea of the value and real character of this gold field than any mere generalizations, and with that object in view, I will lay the details, as received from the persons themselves, before your Grace.

8. John McArthur and Thomas Phillips arrived here from Cariboo on the 17th of August last, with nine thousand ($9,000) dollars worth of gold dust in their possession, being the fruits of three months residence at the mines. They arrived there on the 1st day of May, and left again on the 1st day of August, having previously sold their mining claim at a high price to other persons. Their largest earnings for one day amounted to five hundred and twenty-five dollars ($525); and no single day's work yielded less than twenty-five dollars ($25). Both those persons have been mining in California, and are acquainted with its resources, yet they give it as their opinion that Cariboo, as a "generally paying" country, surpasses the best days of California.

Mr. Patterson and brother arrived at New Westminster by the steamer of the 14th instant, with ten thousand dollars worth of gold dust, the produce of five weeks work at Cariboo. I personally inspected their treasure, of which they are justly proud, being the well-earned reward of their skill and enterprise. Mr. Patterson's mining claim was on the Lowhee, a tributary of Swift River, and about 16 miles distant from Antler Creek. The ground was composed of gravel and many quartz boulders, and the depth to the bed-rock was from 4 to 6 feet, beyond which he did not attempt to penetrate, though the richest deposit of gold was immediately over the bed-rock. The largest day's return from the claim was 73 ounces of gold, worth about twelve hundred dollars ($1,200); on another occasion he received 70 ounces at the close of a day's work. The gold is in rough jagged pieces, the largest found by Mr. Patterson was over six ounces; but on the next claim to his, a piece of ten ounces was picked up by the lucky proprietor. Mr. Patterson sold his mining claim before his departure from Cariboo, and is now returning to his native country, the United States, with the wealth he has so rapidly acquired in British Columbia, this being one of the evils to which the Colony is exposed through the want of a fixed population.

10. The firm of Messrs. Levi and Boas, of New Westminster, have kindly permitted me to communicate the following extract from a letter, dated 27th August 1861, which they very lately received from Mr. Levi, the managing partner of the firm at Cariboo.

"Hamburger went to Abbott, who used to be at Langley, and borrowed $2,000. I must let you know that Abbott and Jordon have one of the richest claims in the country. The least they take out a-day, three of them, is 120 ounces. They have a flour sack of gold 14 inches high. They will make, till fall, 100,000 dollars a piece. Out of one little crevice, while Hamburger was up there, he, Abbott, took 60 ounces out of it, and gold makes your eyes water, and you will never see a greater excitement as there will be next season.

* * * * * *

"If you can send up such goods as we want, do so: as I will explain to you it is only 5 or 6 weeks more that pack trains can come in here, and then we can get any price for them; besides which, spring, when there is a lot of people rushing in, and we the only ones which have goods. You bet I would soak into them. The country is all right, there is more gold in it as there was in California; don't say nothing to nobody."

11. I will not multiply these details, having said enough to show your Grace the opinion entertained by the public of the newly discovered gold fields, and of the probable influx of population from California and other countries which may be attracted by those discoveries. I need not assure your Grace that every precaution will, in that event, be taken to maintain the peace, order, and good government of the country, and to increase its permanent population: but it is impossible to repress a feeling of profound regret that so few of Her Majesty's British subjects have yet participated in the rich harvests reaped in British Columbia, though there is certainly no country in the world that offers greater inducements to the labouring classes, or for the employment of capital. The settler enjoys the peculiar advantage in British Columbia of an unfettered choice of the public domain; and may, without expense, or official delay, select any part of the Colony he

pleases, as his future home; the ultimate price of country land being in no case over fou shillings and twopence an acre, payable by instalments, spread over several years. In fact the system of no country can offer greater inducements to the settler and miner than the land regulations and mining laws of British Columbia.

12. The miners at Cariboo have, I am glad to inform your Grace, suffered no privation whatever from the want of food. Besides the large importations of bread-stuffs and salt meat packed in from Lillooet and Lytton, large droves of cattle have been sent to Antler Creek, where the native grasses are nutritious and abundant; and fresh beef is now selling by retail at 1*s.* 8*d.* a pound. A mining town of some note has sprung into existence at Antler's Creek, and supplies of all kinds can be readily purchased.

The traveller who is prepared to encounter famine in its gauntest forms on his arrival at Cariboo, is not a little astonished to find himself in the midst of luxury, sitting down every morning to fresh milk and eggs for breakfast, and to as good a dinner as can be seen in Victoria.

13. The great commercial thoroughfares, leading into the interior of the country, from Hope, Yale and Douglas, are in rapid progress, and now exercise a most beneficial effect on the internal commerce of the Colony. I have many other productive public works, indispensable for the development of the Colony, in view, but I cannot undertake their execution until I am made acquainted with your Grace's decision about the proposed loan of money for British Columbia.

14. There is nothing in the condition of the other districts of the Colony with which I need trouble your Grace at present; though it may be necessary soon to draw your Grace's attention to a reported discovery of gold on Stickeen River, latitude 57° within Her Majesty's territories, north of British Columbia, to which some adventurers, trusting to the faith of the native Indians, who brought the tidings, have inconsiderately repaired.

15. Should the report prove correct, it will be necessary to take steps for the government of the country, and to prevent the many disorders that will naturally arise from the absence of any duly constituted authority.

16. I will not fail to exercise that power, should circumstances require it, until your Grace's instructions are received.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G. (Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 24.

No. 24.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(Separate.) Victoria, Vancouver's Island, October 24, 1861.

MY LORD DUKE, (Received December 9, 1861.)

IN my Despatch of the 16th of September last, marked "Separate," * it was mentioned that a report had reached this place of deposits of gold having been found on the banks and flats of the Stikeen River, north latitude 57°, to the eastward of the Russian possessions, and within the limits of Her Majesty's territories on this coast; I, therefore deem it proper on this occasion to inform your Grace, that we have had no confirmation of those reports, nor any arrivals from that quarter.

* Page 57.

2. I have also to communicate to your Grace that the accounts from Cariboo are more than ever satisfactory; and the numbers of returning miners with their rapidly acquired stores of gold, and the extraordinary fact, unusual, I believe, in gold countries, that they have all been eminently successful, offer the strongest confirmation of the almost fabulous wealth of that gold-field. I have not, indeed, up to the present time, met with a single unfortunate miner from that quarter. Of those whom I had occasion to interrogate during my recent visit to British Columbia, I ascertained that none who held mining claims had less than 2,000, and that others had cleared as much as 10,000 dollars during their summer's sojourn at the mines. It may, therefore, be fairly assumed, that their individual earnings range at some point between those figures. I should, however, apprise your Grace, that the large strikes of the season, such as the Jourdan and Abbott claim on Lowhee Creek, and Ned Campbell's claim on Lightning Creek, the latter said to have produced 900 ounces of gold in one day, are not included in this category, as I have had no opportunity of seeing the owners of these claims, who are still in the upper country; but I will inquire into and report upon these special cases hereafter.

3. The following extracts from my travelling note book may not be considered irrelevant at this time, when everything connected with the gold-fields, or tending to illustrate the true character of the colony, possesses an absorbing interest.

"Laurent Bijou, a native of France, left Cariboo on the 1st day of August. He resided about one month at the mines, and has acquired 4,500 dollars worth of gold dust;—says, he has not been so fortunate as many others, who are making as much as 1,000 dollars a day. He has mined in California, but never saw a gold-field so rich as Cariboo."

"Joseph Patterson and brother, natives of Maine, United States of America, have been mining on Keithley's Creek, and left it about the 10th of September. They have cleared the sum of 6,000 dollars between them, or 3,000 dollars each, in gold dust, which they carry about with them on their persons. They report that as a general thing the miners are making from two to three ounces a day. They are well acquainted with Jourdan and Abbott's claim, and have often seen them weighing out, at the close of their day's work; the yield on one occasion was within a few grains of 195 ounces, the number of working hands being at the time four in all. That was their largest day's return; but 80, 90, and 100 ounces a day were ordinary returns."

"Richard Willoughby, a native of England, discovered a mining claim on Lowhee Creek, and began to work it on the 27th of July last; he continued mining with from four to seven hired men till the 8th of September, when he sold the claim to another person, and returned safely to Yale, where he now resides, with the sum of 12,000 dollars in gold dust. His largest day's return was 84 ounces, and the entire amount of gold taken, during his tenure, from the claim, amounted to 3,037 ounces, valued at 48,600 dollars, and his own share to the sum of 12,000 dollars. His last week's work netted 2,032 dollars, and for two weeks previously he cleared 1,000 dollars a week for each working hand on the claim; and what is extraordinary, is the fact that all this wealth was found immediately at or within four feet of the surface, the extreme of Mr. Willoughby's sinkings. At that depth he encountered the Bed Rock, composed of soft blue slate yielding readily to the pick. He also mentions the discovery of a highly auriferous quartz reef; and he gave me a specimen of galena, containing, as per assay, 67 per cent. of lead, and 37 ounces of silver to the ton. He also mentioned several rich veins of silver ore, which he saw at Cariboo; but the inferior metals attract scarcely any attention in countries where gold is easily acquired."

"Mr. Hodge, an American, settled near Yale, held a mining claim on Lowhee Creek for about six weeks, and lately returned to Yale with a sum exceeding 2,100 dollars. His reports corroborate and confirm in all respects the statements of Richard Willoughby."

"Thomas Brown, an American citizen, claims the honour of having discovered and taken up the first mining claim on Williams' Creek, just one claim below the Jourdan and Abbott claim. Mr. Brown has been fortunate, and has a heavy pouch of gold, but I did not ascertain its money value. He says, that "Ned Campbell," a friend of his, with a company of ten other miners, selected and recorded a claim on a newly discovered stream, called Lightning Creek, a tributary of Swift River, which yielded about two ounces of gold to the panful of earth; and that a report had reached Quesnelle previous to his departure, that the company, almost as soon as they began to work, had realized 1,100 ounces in one day; and he places the greatest confidence in that report. Mr. Brown's statement on all other points respecting Cariboo corroborates the statements of Mr. Willoughby.

4. I am permitted to use the following letter from Major Downie, an old and successful Californian miner, several of whose reports on mining subjects I have had the honour of forwarding to your Grace; it is addressed to—Macdonald, Esquire, banker and assayer, Victoria, and is dated Antler Creek, 25th September 1861.

"I have just been talking to H. M. Steele; he says, he will do all he can for you with his boys; they are taking it out by the mule-load, so you may depend upon getting lots of dust when the boys come down.

"Your friend Mr. Norris is well, and I am writing this in his house. I am prospecting round to get claims for next season for Alex. and Jim Hood.

"California is nowhere in comparison to Williams Creek.

"Keep good courage, and order a mint for next year."

5. I will now quote a few passages from a private communication of the judge, Mr. Begbie, dated Forks of Quesnelle, 25th September 1861, to the Colonial Secretary. In allusion to the amount of gold dust in the hands of the miners at Cariboo, and the quiet, orderly state of the population, he observes:—"I have no doubt that there is little short "of a ton lying at the different Creeks. I hear that Abbott's and Steele's claims are "working better than ever—30 to 40 pounds a day each (they reckon rich claims as "often by pounds as ounces now; it must be a poor claim that is measured by dollars."

* * * * * *

"On many claims the gold is a perfect nuisance, as they have to carry it from their cabins to their claims every morning, and watch it while they work, and carry it back again (sometimes as much as two men can lift) to their cabins at night, and watch it

while they sleep. There is no mistake about the gold. Steele is here; he says, they took out 370 ounces one day.

"I was very glad to see the men so quiet and orderly; old Downie looked really almost aghast. He said, 'they told me it was like California in '49; why, you would 'have seen all these fellows roaring drunk, and pistols and bare knives in every hand. 'I never saw a mining town anything like this.' There were some hundreds in Antler, all sober and quiet. It was Sunday afternoon, only a few of the claims were worked that day. It was as quiet as Victoria."

6. I will lastly submit for your Grace's information the monthly report of Mr. Ball, assistant gold commissioner for the Lytton district, to the Colonial Secretary, dated 1st October 1861, which also bears upon the subject of gold mining, and is otherwise illustrative of the industrial condition of the country:—

"I have the honour to forward for the information of his Excellency the Governor a collectorate account of the revenue of the Lytton district for the month of September.

"The approach of the fall and the little mining going on at present has caused a stagnation of business.

"There are many, however, who are only awaiting the commencement of the proposed waggon roads to locate pre-emption claims, and to make permanent improvements on those already located, with a view of making British Columbia their future home. The rich discoveries made in the Cariboo district, and the proposed line of roads, have established a confidence in the future prospects of the property holders of the Lower Fraser; and all are well pleased with the prospect of the forthcoming season.

"It may be interesting to his Excellency to hear of the almost fabulous amount of gold which was taken out of a claim on Lightning Creek, belonging to a man named 'Ned Campbell.'

"1st day	-	-	-	900 ounces
2nd day	-	-	-	500 "
3rd day	-	-	-	300 "

and other days proportionally rich."

7. The Gold Commissioner for the Hope district states in his last monthly report, that there was a great deal of activity in the southern mining districts about Kamloops, and that the miners there are doing remarkably well. He also mentions the great want of mining supplies, especially flour, of which article not a single pound could, at the time, be purchased; a circumstance which he much regrets on account of its baneful effects on the country.

8. The reports of the other Gold Commissioners contain nothing of unusual interest.

9. The information which I have thus laid before your Grace leaves no room for doubt as to the vast auriferous wealth, and extraordinary productive capabilities of British Columbia; and with scarcely less probability it may be assumed as a natural consequence resulting from the marvellous discoveries at Cariboo, that there will be a rush thither and an enormous increase of population in spring.

10. To provide for the wants of that population becomes one of the paramount duties of Government. I, therefore, propose to push on rapidly with the formation of roads during the coming winter, in order to have the great thoroughfares leading to the remotest mines, now upwards of 500 miles from the sea coast, so improved as to render travel easy, and to reduce the cost of transport, thereby securing the whole trade of the colony for Fraser's River, and defeating all attempts at competition from Oregon.

11. The only insuperable difficulty which I experience is the want of funds:—The revenues of the colony will doubtless, in course of the year, furnish the means, but cannot supply the funds that are immediately wanted to carry on these works.

12. I propose, as soon as those roads are finished, and the cost of transport reduced, to impose an additional road tax as a further means of revenue, a generally popular measure and strongly recommended in the several petitions forwarded with my Despatch "Separate" of the 8th of October instant. I, indeed, acknowledge with gratitude the warm support which I have lately received from the people at large in carrying out measures of development; a significant fact, showing that their feelings and interests are becoming every day more identified with the progress of the colony.

13. I have in these circumstances come to the resolution of meeting the contingency, and raising the necessary funds, by effecting a loan of 15,000*l.* or 20,000*l.* in this country, which will probably be a sufficient sum to meet the demands upon the Treasury on account of these works, until I receive the loan which your Grace gave me hopes of effecting for the colony in England.

14. In taking this decided step, I feel that I am assuming an unusual degree of responsibility; but I trust the urgency of the case will justify the means, and plead my apology with Her Majesty's Government, especially as it is so clearly for the honour and advantage of Her Majesty's service; and the neglect of the measures, which by a stern

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

necessity are thus forced upon me, might prove in the highest degree disastrous to the best interests of the colony.

15. Accustomed to exact obedience within my own official sphere, I know the importance of the rule; but this is one of those exceptional cases which can hardly serve as a precedent,—and as I have always paid implicit attention to instructions, and in no case involved Her Majesty's Government in any dilemma, I trust your Grace will continue to place that degree of confidence in my prudence and discretion which heretofore it has always been my good fortune to experience.

16. I beg to enclose a rough sketch of the Cariboo country, showing its relative position with reference to Arrowsmith's map of North America.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 25.

No. 25. COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 67.) Victoria, Vancouver Island, November 14, 1861.
(Received January 13, 1862.)

MY LORD DUKE,

MUCH inconvenience and loss have, ever since the formation of these Colonies, been occasioned by the want of a circulating medium of fixed and recognized value, equal to the business demands of the country. The scarcity of coin has been so great, and gold dust not being received for duties, that importers of goods have found it difficult at all times to make their Custom House payments, and, as is well known, are frequently compelled to borrow money for that purpose at exorbitant rates of interest, varying from two per cent. per month and upwards. Almost all the business of the country is transacted in gold dust of uncertain value, and it is easy to conceive the difficulty and inconvenience of adjusting payments by such means, when the holder and receiver are both alike subject to loss, and fearful of imposition.

2. The effects of an over restricted monetary circulation are now, however, operating so fatally in both Colonies that it is indispensable to devise a remedy for an evil that is sapping the very foundations of our prosperity. To illustrate this fact, I would inform your Grace that at this moment there is an amount of gold dust in the hands of miners from Cariboo, residing at Victoria, exceeding one quarter of a million sterling; and so great is the present dearth of coin that it brings a premium of five per cent. and over when procurable, which is not generally the case, as men may be seen hawking bars of gold about the streets of Victoria, who cannot raise coin enough, even at the high rates of discount just mentioned, to defray their current expenses. The miners and other holders of gold dust are naturally incensed and refuse to submit to this depreciation on the value of their property, when they know it can be converted into coin for the moderate charge of one-half of one per cent. at the United States Branch Mint in San Francisco; making an important saving to them of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. They are consequently leaving Victoria by every opportunity; and it is most painful to witness a state of things which is rapidly driving population and capital from the country.

3. It has been suggested that an issue of notes of varying values, guaranteed by the Government and payable on demand at the public Treasury would, by providing a cheap and simple medium of exchange, meet the evil; but independently of the general objections to a paper currency, its effect in banishing the precious metals, in producing unhealthy inflation and rash speculation, and the fluctuation in the value of the circulating medium, it appears to me that the ramifications of business are not extensive enough to retain the notes in circulation; they would therefore simply return to the Treasury, and soon exceed our means of payment.

4. This I conceive would be the inevitable result of an issue of paper in the present condition of the Colony, unless the notes were made a legal tender, a measure which I am not prepared to recommend.

5. As a safer remedy and one more suitable to the actual circumstances of the Colonies, I propose to take immediate steps for the manufacture of gold pieces, equal in value to the 10 and 20 dollar American coins, and to bring them into general use as a circulating medium in both Colonies.

This plan does not contemplate refining the gold, as the expense would be greatly increased by that process: it is merely proposed to bring it to a uniform standard of fineness, without separating the natural alloy of silver which to some extent exists in all the gold of British Columbia.

The pieces will be prepared at the Government Assay Office, and will bear the stamp

* The additional information contained in this sketch has been incorporated in the map at page 54.

of unquestionable character; and I am of opinion that by making the gold contained in them of the full current value of the piece, without taking the silver into account, which I propose should go as a bonus, they will not only answer as a cheap and convenient currency within the Colonies, but also have the same exchange value when exported to other countries.

6. It appears from experiments made by Mr. Davidson, a gentleman of large business experience, and agent for the Rothschilds at San Francisco, that the average fineness of Californian gold in its natural state ranges between 880 and 885, that is to say, in valuing the samples brought to him for sale, his calculations have been always based on those figures, and have never proved defective. This shows that some simple process for roughly determining the value of Fraser River gold may also be arrived at; and that knowledge will facilitate its reduction, within 10 or 20 thousandths, to a uniform degree of fineness, in order that the pieces representing the same value may not vary in weight.

7. All the machinery required for this purpose may be procured at San Francisco for the moderate sum of five hundred pounds, and without materially adding to the expense of the present Assay Establishment. Mr. Claudet thinks it will be in his power to manufacture all the pieces wanted for the circulation of the country.

8. I have submitted this plan for the consideration of the principal banking and commercial houses of Victoria, with the object of obtaining their views as to the probable effects of the proposed currency on the general business of the country, and more especially as to its exchange value when exported to pay for supplies: the single point which I think admits of any question, for in that case it would probably be treated as simple bullion.

9. It was clearly proved by the statements of those gentlemen, that the actual cost of importing coin from other countries is rather over 5 per cent., which they believe to be the actual cost of our present metallic currency. Not having had sufficient time for consideration they were not, however, prepared to give a decided opinion on the general measure, but they admitted that it would establish the value of the gold produced in British Columbia in the cheapest manner, and provide a metallic currency for the country at a cost of 4 per cent. less than is paid for imported coin, and offered no objections either to the plan or the basis of the proposed currency.

10. If the principal banking and mercantile houses agree among themselves to receive this currency as a legal tender, no difficulty will be experienced in carrying the measure into effect; and no reason exists why it should not receive their hearty support, as it will surely tend to their advantage, not only by the saving, as before shown, of 4 per cent. on the cost of importing coin, and the complete removal of the cause which is draining the country of wealth and population, but also in the numberless other ways by which the investment of capital serves to promote the general prosperity.

11. I will only further remark that considering the great importance of the object in view, and the advantages expected from the operation of this simple and inexpensive plan of providing a metallic currency of character unsuspected and intrinsically equivalent to its stamped value, and therefore not subject to depreciation nor open to the objections which may be urged against a paper currency, I can hardly doubt that Her Majesty's Government will in these circumstances withhold their approval, or object to my declaring it a legal tender, and causing it to be received at all the public offices within the Colonies in payment of duties and taxes; especially as there is no prospect of this currency being replaced by any preferable circulating medium until the produce of gold, by its abundance, renders the establishment of a branch of the Royal Mint in British Columbia a public necessity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 26.

No. 26.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 74.) Victoria, Vancouver Island, November 30, 1861.

MY LORD DUKE, (Received February 3, 1862.)

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the estimates of the civil expenditure of the Colony of British Columbia for the year ending 31st December 1862, framed as closely in accordance with rule as is practicable under the existing circumstances of the Colony.

2. I have so fully placed before your Grace in other Despatches the exact present condition of the Colony, the recent discoveries of immense auriferous wealth in the newly opened district of Cariboo, the almost certain large increase to the population in

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

consequence, and the general confidence established in the richness and future of the country, that it is not necessary I should revert to the subject here, further than to remark that I trust these circumstances will have their weight with your Grace in leaving me free, as heretofore, to devote the whole revenue of the Colony, after deducting the ordinary expenditure, to the important object of opening up the communications with the distant gold fields, so as to cheapen the transport of provisions—a matter which just now demands all our energies, and absorbs all my attention.

3. The large tract of country embraced in these new gold fields will cause a heavy increase in the civil expenditure in providing for adequate magisterial supervision. Such, however, is indispensable to the order and good government of the country, and I have consequently made provision for the same in the estimates.

* Page 54. 4. In my Despatch of the 16th July last, "Separate," * I mentioned that I had found it necessary to establish a gold escort. In the accompanying estimates provision is consequently made for its maintenance during the year 1862; but as, from the great distance it has to travel, and the nature of the country, it has proved very costly, I propose to abandon the scheme for the present, if I can carry out one part of it, viz., that of periodically strengthening the hands of the magistrates in distant localities, in some equally efficient but less expensive manner.

5. I have also, at the earnest solicitation of some of the subordinate officers in the different departments, made a slight increase to their salaries. The additional charge upon the revenue caused thereby will be comparatively insignificant, some 600*l.* only, and in the end will, I believe, be fully repaid; for the consideration thus shown may, I trust, render the present incumbents contented with their position amidst the many instances before them of suddenly acquired wealth, and will consequently secure to the Government the continuance of their services now that they have, as it were, become remunerative by possessing a knowledge of their particular duties. With scarce an exception, none had any previous experience of public business, and all had to be carefully trained; and here we have no field to select from to fill vacancies with qualified men.

6. With the foregoing exceptions the estimates do not differ materially from those submitted for the present year, and I trust that they may meet with your Grace's concurrence and approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

COLONIAL ESTIMATES, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

ABSTRACT of the probable REVENUE of the COLONIAL GOVERNMENT of BRITISH COLUMBIA for the Year 1862; showing also the REVENUE (Approximate) for 1861.

Heads of Revenue.	Estimated Revenue from 1st January to 31st December 1862.			Revenue (Approximate) for the year 1861.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Customs.						
Duties - - -	50,000	0	0			
Tonnage dues - -	6,000	0	0			
Harbour dues - -	750	0	0			
Head money - -	2,000	0	0	41,177	0	0
Inland navigation licences -	100	0	0			
Warehouse fees, &c. -	20	0	0			
Seizures - -	100	0	0			
Roads tolls - -	10,000	0	0	6,676	0	0
Excise duties - -	300	0	0	—		
2. Land sales - -	7,000	0	0	6,966	0	0
3. Land Revenue - -	500	0	0	801	0	0
4. Free miners' certificates -	5,000	0	0	2,339	0	0
5. Mining receipts, general -	1,500	0	0	729	0	0
6. Licences, wine and spirit -	1,800	0	0	2,748	0	0
7. Ditto, trading - -	1,300	0	0			
8. Postal - - -	150	0	0	128	0	0
9. Fines, forfeitures, and fees -	500	0	0	505	0	0
10. Assay fees - - -	500	0	0	285	0	0
11. Rents, exclusive of land -	1,000	0	0	748	0	0
12. Miscellaneous receipts -	100	0	0	158	0	0
13. Gold escort - -	1,000	0	0	60	0	0
14. Registration of deeds -	400	0	0	50	0	0
Creation of bonds -	-	-	-	3,000	0	0
Balance from 1860 -	-	-	-	10,685	0	0
Probable deficit -	-	-	-	2,316	0	0
	£90,030	0	0	£79,369	0	0

WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG,
Acting Auditor.

Audit Office of British Columbia,
28th November 1861.

ABSTRACT of the probable EXPENDITURE of the COLONIAL GOVERNMENT of BRITISH COLUMBIA, for the Year 1862; showing also the EXPENDITURE (Approximate) for 1861.

Heads of Expenditure.	Estimates for the year 1862.			Expenditure (Approximate) for the year 1861.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Establishments.						
Salaries, fixed -	14,476	0	0	7,250	0	0
Salaries, unfixed - -	13,454	0	0	13,000	0	0
Allowances - -	1,000	10	0	550	0	0
Office contingencies -	2,210	0	0	2,000	0	0
2. Revenue services, exclusive of establishments - -	200	0	0	100	0	0
3. Administration of Justice, exclusive of establishments -	1,800	0	0	100	0	0
4. Charitable allowances -	700	0	0	426	0	0
5. Police and gaols, exclusive of establishments - -	4,930	0	0	3,000	0	0
6. Rent - - - -	216	0	0	200	0	0
7. Transport - - -	7,315	0	0	5,000	0	0
8. Conveyance of mails - -	1,500	0	0			
9. Works and buildings - -	7,300	0	0	3,500	0	0
10. Roads, streets, and bridges	31,749	19	9	84,600	0	0
11. Miscellaneous services -	600	0	0	2,029	0	0
12. Redemption of bonds -	1,250	0	0	3,832	0	0
13. Interest - - -	128	10	3	112	0	0
14. Lighthouses - - -	800	0	0	1,350	0	0
	£90,030	0	0	£79,369	0	0

JAMES DOUGLAS.

COLONIAL ESTIMATES, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

SUMMARY of the DETAILED ESTIMATES, showing the charge by DEPARTMENTS of the COLONIAL GOVERNMENT for the Year 1862.

Departments.	Establishments. Salaries. Fixed.	Establishments. Salaries. Unfixed.	Establishments. Allowances.	Establishments. Office Contingencies.	Establishments. Total of Establishments.	Exclusive of Establishments. Revenue Services.	Administration of Justice.	Charitable Allowances.	Police and Gaols.	Rent.	Transport.	Conveyance of Mails.	Works and Buildings.	Roads, Streets, and Bridges.	Miscellaneous Services.	Redemption of Bonds.	Interest.	Lighthouses.	Total.
	£	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
1. Governor	1,550	- -	- -	- -	1,550 0 0	-	-	-	-	120	1,000	- -	3,000	- -	400	- -	-	- -	6,070 0 0
2. Colonial Secretary	1,700	150	- -	450	2,300 0 0	-	-	-	-	-	50	- -	- -	- -	100	- -	-	- -	2,450 0 0
3. Treasurer	1,870	150	- -	100	2,120 0 0	-	-	-	-	-	100	- -	150	- -	80	- -	-	- -	2,450 0 0
4. Auditor General	530	150	- -	30	680 0 0	-	-	-	-	-	30	- -	- -	- -	-	- -	-	- -	710 0 0
5. Assay and Refinery Office	1,650	- -	- -	420	2,070 0 0	-	-	-	-	-	50	- -	50	- -	-	- -	-	- -	2,170 0 0
6. Lands and Works	- -	- -	- -	200	200 0 0	-	-	-	-	-	-	- -	- -	31,749 19 9	-	- -	-	- -	31,949 19 9
7. Customs and Revenue.																			
Customs branch	1,534	1,492	- -	110	3,136 0 0	-	-	-	-	-	100	- -	50	- -	-	- -	-	- -	3,286 0 0
Revenue branch	250	626	328 10 0	- -	1,204 10 0	200	-	-	-	-	-	- -	50	- -	-	- -	-	- -	1,454 10 0
8. Gold Escort	- -	1,110	530 0 0	50	1,460 0 0	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	- -	- -	- -	-	- -	-	- -	6,460 0 0
9. Registrar General	- -	800	- -	100	900 0 0	-	-	-	-	-	100	- -	50	- -	-	- -	-	- -	1,050 0 0
10. Post Office	422	- -	- -	100	522 0 0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500	- -	- -	-	- -	-	- -	2,022 0 0
11. Harbour Master	400	132	- -	20	552 0 0	-	-	-	-	-	75	- -	700	- -	-	- -	-	- -	1,327 0 0
Administration of Justice.																			
12. Supreme Court	1,100	- -	-	50	1,150 0 0	-	1,100	-	-	-	-	- -	- -	- -	-	- -	-	- -	2,250 0 0
13. Attorney General	700	- -	- -	50	750 0 0	-	200	-	-	-	-	- -	- -	- -	-	- -	-	- -	950 0 0
Police and Gaols.																			
14. At New Westminster	650	782	- -	50	1,482 0 0	-	-	-	-	1,080	- -	- -	200	- -	-	- -	-	- -	2,762 0 0
15. Douglas	300	384	- -	40	724 0 0	-	-	-	-	350	- -	20	- -	50	-	- -	-	- -	1,144 0 0
16. Hope	300	432	72 0 0	40	844 0 0	-	-	-	-	250	- -	20	- -	30	-	- -	-	- -	1,164 0 0
17. Rock Creek	400	1,038	- -	100	1,538 0 0	-	-	-	-	250	- -	50	- -	50	-	- -	-	- -	1,858 0 0
18. Yale	550	634	- -	100	1,084 0 0	-	-	-	-	350	- -	30	- -	50	-	20 -	-	- -	1,534 0 0
19. Lytton	400	332	- -	150	882 0 0	-	-	-	-	800	- -	50	- -	50	-	- -	-	- -	1,882 0 0
20. Lillooet	400	432	- -	50	882 0 0	-	-	-	-	550	96	20	- -	500	-	- -	-	- -	2,048 0 0
21. Cariboo	- -	4,740	300 0 0	300	5,340 0 0	-	-	-	-	1,500	- -	200	- -	2,500	-	- -	-	- -	9,540 0 0
22. Inspector of Steam Vessels	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-	-	-	-	400	- -	- -	- -	-	- -	-	- -	400 0 0
23. Redemption of Bonds	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	- -	- -	- -	-	1,650	-	- -	1,650 0 0
24. Interest	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	- -	- -	- -	-	- -	128 10 3	- -	128 10 3
25. Char table Allowances	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-	-	700	-	-	- -	- -	- -	-	- -	-	- -	700 0 0
26. Lighthouses	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	- -	- -	- -	-	- -	-	800	800 0 0
	14,476	13,454	1,000 10 0	2,510	31,440 10 0	200	1,300	700	4,930	216	7,915	1,590	7,550	31,749 19 9	600	1,650	128 10 3	800	90,030 0 0

Audit Office of British Columbia, 28th November 1861.
WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG, Acting Auditor.

JAMES DOUGLAS.

Despatches from the Secretary of State.

No. 1.

No. 1.

COPY of DESPATCH from his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor DOUGLAS, C.B.

(No. 26.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 19, 1860.

* Page 1. I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 24,* of the 17th of February last, on the subject of the grant of endowments in land to the clergymen of the principal Christian communities established in British Columbia.

I approve of the grants of about one acre each which you have already made to the clergy of the Church of England and the Methodist Episcopal Church as sites for a church, school, and dwelling-house, and you will also be at liberty to make similar grants in all towns in the Colony where ordained ministers of the Gospel may take up their residence, and where congregations may be established and require their assistance; but care should be taken that the land shall be appropriated to the purposes for which it was intended, and that it shall be so conveyed as to be secure against the possibility of misapplication in future years.

Your further proposal, that free grants of 100 acres of rural land should be made in aid of every cure established in British Columbia, and not otherwise supported at the public expense, I consider to be open to serious objections.

The experience afforded by other Colonies tends to show that where a clergyman in a new Colony has to depend on his land for his principal means of subsistence, he must, to make it answer, devote to it so much of his time as seriously to interfere with his usefulness; unless he does this, the endowment becomes only an apparent, not a real provision for him. He cannot let it, because land in a new settlement is never, except under very peculiar circumstances, taken on lease, and to employ hired labour would generally be beyond the means of a clergyman so situated.

For these reasons I am unable to sanction the measure which you propose. The practice of making grants of land as endowments to livings in the Colonies has been generally discontinued for many years, and I much doubt whether it is not better for a clergyman to depend entirely on the liberality of his congregation than to be provided with an endowment which, though no substantial assistance to him, may be an excuse to such of his congregation as are disposed to withhold their aid.

I am, &c.

Governor Douglas, C.B. &c. &c. (Signed) NEWCASTLE.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of DESPATCH from his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor DOUGLAS, C.B.

(No. 27.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 25, 1860.

† Page 2. I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 25,† of the 18th of February last, enclosing copies of a correspondence between Mr. Cridge, the District Minister of Victoria, and Mr. Duncan, relative to the formation of a settlement for Indian converts to Christianity, and in order to carry this plan into effect you propose to reserve several hundred acres of land in the neighbourhood of Fort Simpson.

Subject to the stipulations which you suggest, namely, that the land should be conveyed to the Governor of the Colony for the time being, in trust for the use and benefit of the Indians, leaving them no power to alienate or dispose of it, I have to authorize you to take the necessary steps for the conveyance of the lands in question.

I have, &c.

Governor Douglas, C.B. &c. &c. (Signed) NEWCASTLE.

No. 3.

COPY of DESPATCH from his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor DOUGLAS, C.B.

No. 3.

(No. 36.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 26, 1860.

I HAVE received and read with interest your Despatch, No. 42,* of the 23rd of April, containing a general report on the Colony of British Columbia, and on the progress which has been made in opening up the country. * Page 4.

I do not doubt that you cannot apply your attention to an object more important to the Colony than the improvement of its internal communications.

I have, &c.

Governor Douglas, C.B. &c. &c. (Signed) NEWCASTLE.

No. 4.

o. 4.

COPY of DESPATCH from the SECRETARY OF STATE to Governor DOUGLAS, C.B.

(No. 42.)

SIR, Downing Street, July 19, 1860.

I HAVE received, and have perused with much interest, your Despatch of the 23rd May,† reporting the result of your observations during a late visit to British Columbia. There is no subject of greater importance to a new Colony than the establishment of well considered regulations for the disposal of the public lands. I trust, therefore, that with the aid of your personal examination of the country, and of the extensive correspondence in which you have been engaged with Her Majesty's Government, you will soon be enabled to communicate to me those full and matured views on this subject which your Despatch encourages me to expect. † Page 6.

The sketch you have sent of the municipal institutions proposed for New Westminster seem very promising, and I am glad to infer that the town is ready to accept them, which is not always the case in a young Colony.

I have, &c.

Governor Douglas, C.B. &c. &c. (Signed) G. C. LEWIS.

No. 5.

No. 5.

COPY of DESPATCH from C. FORTESCUE, Esq., M.P., to Governor DOUGLAS, C.B.

(No. 56.)

SIR, Downing Street, October 26, 1860.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State to acknowledge your Despatch, No. 72,‡ of the 4th August last, respecting certain grants of land which you were desirous of making to the clergy of the four principal denominations of Christians in British Columbia, *i.e.*, of the English, Roman, Presbyterian, and Methodist Churches. ‡ Page 14.

For the reasons already communicated to you, the Secretary of State cannot sanction the grants of rural land which you still apparently advocate, but he sees no objection to your affording a temporary pecuniary assistance to Ministers of Religion in British Columbia from Colonial funds, if those funds are adequate for the purpose, and if you have sufficient reason for believing that such an appropriation of public money will not be unacceptable to the colonists.

Charged as you are with the task of expending, on your own responsibility, the produce of the taxes, it is peculiarly necessary for you to avoid the appearance of individual preference or partiality. I think therefore that the public aid given to Ministers of Religion should not be confined to any specified denominations, but should, if possible, be determined by a generally intelligible rule, which, while furnishing some security against useless or improper appropriations, will not suggest any distinction between ministers of different persuasions, who may be exerting themselves with equal earnestness for the good of the community. It might be required, for example, as a condition to any grant of money, that a memorial should be presented to the Governor, signed by a certain number or proportion of persons resident within a certain district, and either offering to meet the Government grant by certain immediate or annual contributions of their own, or stating that from some source or other such contributions had been made. This, however, is merely suggested by the Secretary of State as an illustration. He is fully aware that your own knowledge of the exigencies of the Colony, of the temper and wishes of the population, and of the assistance to be derived there from religious

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

persons or societies, will enable you to choose your own course in a matter of detail more appropriately than he can do.

But in any case you will take care to make it clearly understood that any assistance of this kind is temporary, and that if given in the form of an annual payment, all those who receive it must not calculate on retaining it after it has ceased to be sanctioned by the public opinion of the Colony, and consistent with other demands on the revenue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. FORTESCUE.

Governor Douglas, C.B.
&c. &c.

No. 6.

No. 6.

COPY of DESPATCH from his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G., to Governor DOUGLAS, C.B.

(No. 66.)

Downing Street, February 1, 1861.

SIR,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatches, marked "Separate," of the 9th* and the 25th* of October last, giving an account of your recent journey through British Columbia. I have also received your Despatch, No. 95,† of the 9th of November, inclosing a report by Dr. Forbes, of H.M. ship "Topaze," of the proceedings of the exploring party under his charge.

*Pages 22 & 27.
† Page 32.

I have perused these reports with much satisfaction, as containing interesting information on the advance the Colony has made, and as showing, so far as can at present be ascertained, the agricultural and mineral resources of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Governor Douglas, C.B.
&c. &c.

No. 7.

No. 7.

COPY of DESPATCH from his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G , to Governor DOUGLAS, C.B.

(No. 74.)

Downing Street, April 13, 1861.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 7,‡ of the 26th of January, transmitting an approximate statement of the revenue and expenditure of British Columbia. I am glad to receive so favourable an account of the progress of the revenue of the Colony.

‡ Page 43.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Governor Douglas, C.B.
&c. &c.

No. 8.

No. 8.

COPY of DESPATCH from his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G., to Governor DOUGLAS, C.B.

(No. 77.)

Downing Street, May 9, 1861.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, herewith, the copy of a Memorandum on the subject of the protection of the Salmon Fisheries of British Columbia, which has been submitted to me by Mr. Ffennell, a member of a late Fishery Commission in this country. I also enclose copies of a subsequent correspondence with that gentleman, and I have to invite your attention to a subject which will probably, ere long, become one of some importance to the Colony. I have requested the Governor of Canada to forward to you the official documents bearing upon the matter mentioned in Mr. Ffennell's letter of the 19th April, and in the meantime I enclose a report of the British Commissioners, which may probably afford you information that will be useful to you in legislating on the Fisheries of British Columbia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Governor Douglas, C.B.
&c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 8.

MEMORANDUM ON SALMON FISHERY, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Encl. 1 in No. 8.

IT is suggested that the Salmon Fisheries should be placed under supervision as well as the land, to give security to private enterprise, and to prevent confusion of rights and waste, and that an area of water producing salmon is likely, as civilization progresses and commerce extends, to become more valuable by one hundred fold and more, than the same area of land.

That the first step towards promoting the objects referred to should be the employment of a person of practical knowledge to review the rivers to an extent sufficient to enable him to report upon their capabilities, and to point out the steps which should be taken to prevent abuses before they have set in, and to suggest the modes by which a system of healthy enterprise may be promoted in the Colony.

By adopting this course many persons from this country might soon be induced to embark in the salmon fishery of British Columbia, by receiving information which they would rely upon, if communicated on the authority of a person of practical knowledge, while at present they can only obtain fragments of information derived from persons in the Colony, whose attention has been attracted to the question by the immense quantities of fish which they see exist, and which a few have communicated, but are unable to offer any opinion upon the practicability of embarking in such an enterprise. The quantity of salmon which at present exist in British Columbia, and the extent of rivers producing them, is so far beyond anything which the waters of Great Britain and Ireland ever produced or could produce, that no idea can be formed at present of their relative value.

The salmon fisheries of that Colony appear to be one of the resources of the country, which might be most readily brought into commercial development if measures were taken to promote it.

Those fisheries are in their present state natural and unimpaired, but as population increases, abuses are certain to follow, as in Canada for instance, where the Government are now obliged to take up the question, and appoint officers to check the evil; whereas if timely measures be taken to prevent encroachments and destruction, much ultimate loss to the country may be prevented.

The Government now possess those fisheries; no real or assumed vested rights by individuals have been established, and it is suggested that now is the proper time to place them under the protection of the State, and that they may be soon profitably disposed of under judicious regulations to enterprising individuals, and thus bring a large revenue into the country, affording increased capital for further and more general operations of industry.

(By W. J. FFENNELL, Esq., Fishery Commissioner, Ireland.)

Enclosure 2 in No. 8.

Encl. 2 in No. 8.

SIR, Downing Street, March 27, 1861.

THE Duke of Newcastle desires me to thank you for the Memorandum which you have been good enough to furnish him on the subject of the protection of the salmon fisheries in the rivers of British Columbia.

His Grace is fully aware of the importance of the object which you propose, and he is prepared to instruct the Governor to take steps for the proper preservation of these fisheries, but before doing so he would be glad to be furnished with the titles of any public documents with which it might be desirable to supply him for his assistance in carrying out the object in view.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. FORTESCUE.

W. J. Ffennell, Esq.

Enclosure 3 in No. 8.

Encl. 3 in No. 8.

SIR, 2, Craven Street, Strand, London, April 19, 1861.

YOUR letter of the 27th of March addressed to me here, with reference to the Fisheries of British Columbia, was not duly forwarded, I have been back and forward to Ireland, and thus the delay in replying to it has occurred.

I would beg to refer to the following documents for the information of his Grace the Duke of Newcastle:—

Fishery Acts, Upper and Lower Canada, printed in Quebec by Queen's Printer.
Report of Commissioners of Crown Lands of Canada for 1857.
Report of Commissioners of Crown Lands of Canada for 1858.
Report of Commissioners of Crown Lands of Canada for 1859.
[I have not yet seen Report, 1860.]

These reports contain much valuable information with respect to the laws enacted for the protection of the fisheries of Canada, the state the fisheries had fallen into, and the means now in operation for their regulation.

I believe the salmon fisheries of British Columbia far exceed in extent and capabilities those of Canada, and that it would be highly expedient to place them under a system of State regulation before abuses creep in, with the view of inducing private enterprise embarking in their commercial development, and at the same time guarding against the establishment of abuses and improvident practices, which must tend ultimately to diminish materially if not totally to destroy a great natural source of wealth.

The state of the Canadian salmon fisheries appears to furnish an example fully supporting this view of the question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM J. FFENNELL.

C. Fortescue, Esq., M.P.
&c. &c.

APPENDIX.

PROCLAMATIONS HAVING THE FORCE OF LAW.

App. No. 1.

Appendix No. 1.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—No. 23.

Proclamation by his Excellency James Douglas, Companion of the most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Columbia, Vice-Admiral of the same.

Whereas, under and by virtue of an Act of Parliament, made and passed in the session of Parliament held in the 21st and 22nd years of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled "An Act to provide for the Government of British Columbia," and by a commission under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, I, James Douglas, have been appointed Governor of the said colony, and have been authorized by proclamation under the public seal of the said Colony, to make laws, institutions, and ordinances for the peace, order, and good government of the same.

And whereas it is expedient in some respects to alter the rates of duties of customs now leviable upon goods and other articles and things imported into British Columbia, and to make further provision for the levying thereof.

Now, therefore, I do hereby declare, proclaim, and enact as follows, viz.:—

1st. That so much of the proclamation dated the 2nd of June one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine as imposes a duty upon the several articles specified in the schedule hereto, shall as to the duty thereby imposed be repealed from the 15th day of October next.

2nd. That the duties specified in the said schedule shall be paid on the articles thereon specified from the said 15th day of October next.

3rd. This proclamation may on all occasions be cited as the "Customs Amendment Act, 1860."

(L.S.) Issued under the public seal of the said Colony, at Victoria, Vancouver Island, this twentieth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and sixty, in the twenty-fourth year of Her Majesty's reign, by me,

JAMES DOUGLAS.

By his Excellency's command,
William A. G. Young,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Schedule.

		£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.
Flour - -	per barrel	0	3	1½	Ale and Porter in Wood -	per gallon	0	0	7
Bacon, Salt and Dried Pork -	per lb.	0	0	1	Wine in Wood an Bottle -	per gallon	0	2	1
Beans - -	per 100 lb.	0	1	3	Bitters - -	per gallon	0	2	1
Barley - -	per 100 lb.	0	1	3	Blankets -	per pair	0	2	1
Butter - -	per lb.	0	0	2½	Cheese -	per lb.	0	0	2½
Candles - -	per lb.	0	0	2½	Opium - -	per lb.	0	2	1
Lard - -	per lb.	0	0	1	Dried Fish -	per lb.	0	0	1
Rice - -	per 100 lb.	0	3	1½	Salt Fish -	per lb.	0	0	0½
Tea - -	per lb.	0	0	2½	Chinese Medicated Wine -	per gallon	0	3	1½
Coffee - -	per lb.	0	0	1½	Dried Vegetables (Chinese) -	per lb.	0	0	1
Sugar - -	per lb.	0	0	1	Salt Vegetables (do.)	per lb.	0	0	0½
Ale and Porter in Bottle -	per dozen	0	1	8					

God save the Queen.

App. No. 2.

Appendix No. 2.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—No. 29.

Proclamation by his Excellency James Douglas, Companion of the most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Colony of British Columbia and its Dependencies.

Whereas, under and by virtue of an Act of Parliament, made and passed in the session of Parliament held in the 21st and 22nd years of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, entitled "An Act to provide for the Government of British Columbia," and by a commission under the Great

Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, I, James Douglas, have been appointed Governor of the said Colony, and have been authorized by proclamation, under the public seal of the said Colony, to make laws, institutions, and ordinances for the peace, order, and good government of the same:

And whereas the port of New Westminster is the only port of entry for goods in British Columbia—

And whereas many persons have imported goods into British Columbia across the southern boundary thereof, contrary to law:

And whereas it is expedient that all persons importing goods into British Columbia across the said boundary should be notified that such importation is contrary to law, and can be permitted only pending the completion of the communications in British Columbia:

And whereas the collection of the customs duties is rendered very expensive by the importation of goods across the southern boundary aforesaid, and it is expedient to impose a fine on such importation, to meet the additional cost of collection:

Now these are to give notice—

1. That no goods, wares, animals, or merchandize shall be imported into British Columbia which shall not have been entered at New Westminster aforesaid, unless the duties, tolls, and fines herein-after specified shall have been first paid to some duly-qualified officer of customs, and such officer shall have first granted to the importer a permit on behalf of such goods.

2. The duties and tolls aforesaid shall be as follows:—

A. The duties at present imposed by virtue of the proclamations of the second day of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, and the twentieth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and sixty.

B. For every fifty pounds weight avoirdupois of such goods, wares, or merchandize (and so in proportion for a greater or less quantity than fifty pounds weight of goods), one shilling; miners' packs, carried by the owners and not exceeding thirty pounds weight avoirdupois, for each man's load, being exempt from such duty as aforesaid.

C. For every ton of such goods, wares, or merchandize, twelve shillings.

3. In addition to the aforesaid duties and tolls, a fine equivalent to three per cent. on the market value of such goods, wares, animals, or merchandize shall be paid to such officer of customs—such market value to be calculated upon the market value of the goods, wares, animals, or merchandize at the place of collection.

4. Any person wilfully evading or attempting to evade the payment of any of the duties, tolls, or fines, aforesaid, shall be fined treble the amount of the duties, tolls, or fines, or any sum not exceeding one hundred pounds, at the discretion of the magistrate.

5. Any penalty under this Act may be recovered and enforced before any magistrate in British Columbia in a summary way.

6. This proclamation may be cited as the "Southern Boundary Act, 1860."

Issued under the public seal of the said Colony at Victoria, Vancouver Island, this twenty-second day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty, and in the twenty-fourth year of Her Majesty's reign, by me,

(L.S.)

By his Excellency's command, JAMES DOUGLAS.

WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

APPENDIX No. 3.

App. No. 3.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—No. 30.

PROCLAMATION.—No. 2, A.D. 1861. By his Excellency JAMES DOUGLAS, Companion of the most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Columbia.

WHEREAS, under and by virtue of an Act of Parliament made and passed in the session of Parliament, held in the 21st and 22nd years of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled "An "Act to provide for the Government of British Columbia," and by a commission under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, I, James Douglas, have been appointed Governor of the said Colony, and have been authorized by Proclamation under the public seal of the said Colony to make laws, institutions, and ordinances for the peace, order, and good government of the same.

And whereas, by a Proclamation issued under the public seal of the said Colony, on the 4th day of January 1860, the price of unsurveyed land acquired by purchase or pre-emption under the provisions of the said Proclamation, was stated to be at such rate as might for the time being be fixed by the Government of British Columbia, not exceeding the sum of ten shillings per acre.

And whereas, by a Proclamation issued under the public seal of the said Colony, on the 20th day of January 1860, the price of agricultural land, surveyed by the Government surveyor, which may or shall have been offered for sale at public auction and remain unsold, was fixed at ten shillings per acre, payable one-half in cash at the time of sale, and the other half at the expiration of two years from the time of sale.

And whereas I have been empowered by Her Majesty's Government to lower the price of country lands in British Columbia, in all cases, to the sum of four shillings and twopence (4*s.* 2*d.*) per acre.

Repeal of so much of the Proclamation of the 20th January, 1860, as fixes the price of land in B. C. at 10s. per acre.

Price of unsurveyed lands to be 4s. 2d. per acre.

Upset price of surveyed lands 4s. 2d. per acre.

Short Title.

Now, therefore, I do hereby declare, proclaim, and enact as follows:—

I. So much of the said Proclamation of the 20th day of January 1860, as fixed the price of surveyed agricultural land at ten shillings per acre is hereby repealed.

II. The price of all unsurveyed country land in British Columbia, whether acquired by pre-emption or purchase under the Proclamation dated the 4th day of January 1860, shall be four shillings and twepence (4*s.* 2*d.*) per acre.

III. The upset price of all country lands in British Columbia exposed for sale at public auction, shall be four shillings and twepence (4*s.* 2*d.*) per acre.

IV. This Proclamation may be cited for all purposes as the "Country Land Act, 1861."

Issued under the public seal of the said Colony at Victoria, Vancouver Island, the nineteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, and in the twenty-fourth year of Her Majesty's reign, by me,

JAMES DOUGLAS.

By command of his Excellency,
WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

App. No. 4.

APPENDIX No. 4.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—No. 31.

No. 31.—"The Pre-emption Amendment Act, 1861."
[Repealed by subsequent Proclamation, No. 38, page 77.]

App. No. 5.

APPENDIX No. 5.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—No. 32.

PROCLAMATION.—No. 3, A.D. 1861. By his Excellency JAMES DOUGLAS, Companion of the most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Columbia and its Dependencies, Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c.

WHEREAS, by virtue of an Act of Parliament, made and passed in the session of Parliament held in the 21st and 22nd years of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, entitled "An Act to provide for the Government of British Columbia," and by a Commission under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, I, James Douglas, have been appointed Governor of the said Colony, and have been authorized by Proclamation issued under the public seal of the said Colony, to make laws, institutions, and ordinances for the peace, order, and good government of the same:

And whereas it is expedient to afford remissions in the purchase money of country lands purchased for actual settlement to certain officers of Her Majesty's Royal Army and Navy in certain cases:

Now, therefore, I, James Douglas, Governor of British Columbia, by virtue of the authority aforesaid, do proclaim, order, and enact as follows, viz.:—

That from and after the date hereof Military and Naval officers in Her Majesty's service, of the rank herein-after specified, who shall purchase country land in British Columbia, shall, subject as herein-after mentioned, and upon production of the certificate herein-after also mentioned, be entitled in paying for such country lands to the remissions following:—

Field officers, of 25 years' service, in the whole	£600
Field officers of 20 years' service and upwards, in the whole	500
Field officers of 15 or less years in the service, in the whole	400
Captains of 20 years' service and upwards, in the whole	400
Captains of 15 years' service or less, in the whole	300
Subalterns of 20 years' service and upwards, in the whole	300
Subalterns of 7 years' service and upwards, in the whole	200

Regimental staff officers and Medical officers of the Army and Navy shall be entitled, but Military chaplains, Commissariat officers, officers of any of the civil departments of the Army, pursers, chaplains, midshipmen, warrant officers of every description, and officers of any of the civil departments of the Navy, shall not be entitled to the remissions aforesaid.

Every person desiring to take advantage of the remissions aforesaid, shall, before obtaining the same, produce to and leave with the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for British Columbia, a certificate from the office of the General Commanding-in-Chief in England, or from the office of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty showing that the settlement of the said person in a British Colony has been duly sanctioned, and showing also the rank, and length of service of such person, but nothing herein contained shall entitle any person to any of the remissions aforesaid, except such person shall at the time of purchasing, be either on half-pay or full-pay, unless the person purchasing shall have quitted the service for the purpose of settling in a British Colony, as herein-after mentioned.

Every person who shall have so quitted the service for the purpose of settling as aforesaid, shall, before obtaining such remission as aforesaid, obtain a statement by the proper authority, to be made in one of the offices aforesaid, upon his certificate aforesaid, of the date of his retirement from the army or navy, for the purpose aforesaid.

The person so having retired as aforesaid, who shall have conformed to the regulations aforesaid, shall present his certificate aforesaid, to the Governor for the time being aforesaid, within one year from the date of his retirement aforesaid, and in default thereof, shall cease to be entitled to any remission.

Provided always that every person obtaining a remission as aforesaid, shall not be entitled to a grant of the land in respect whereof such remission shall have been allowed, until he shall have obtained from the Governor for the time being of British Columbia, a certificate that he has been a *bonâ fide* settler in British Columbia for the space of two years.

Provided, that until such person shall have obtained a grant as aforesaid, he shall be entitled to a location ticket to be issued to him by the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works in British Columbia.

Provided, that unless the person holding such location ticket shall obtain a grant of the land in respect of which such location ticket shall have been granted within twelve months from the expiration of the said term of two years, the land in respect of which such location ticket shall have been granted, shall absolutely revert to the Crown, and be capable of being sold, pre-empted or granted *de novo*.

Provided, that no location ticket shall be granted, and no remission claimed unless such remission shall be claimed in respect of some specific land within two years from the date of such certificate from the offices aforesaid.

Provided, that the land in respect of which such remission shall have been claimed, shall not be transferable until a grant thereof as aforesaid shall have been made thereof.

Provided, that the Governor for the time being of British Columbia may, in case of the death of the person entitled to the remission aforesaid, before a grant of the land aforesaid, by any writing under his hand, confer the benefit of the remission aforesaid to such child or children or other relative of the person entitled to such remission as he may think proper.

Provided, that such child, children, or other relative shall enjoy the right to such remission to the same extent, and subject to the same conditions as the person so dying would have done had he lived.

Issued under the public seal of the said Colony, at Victoria, Vancouver Island, this
(L.S.) eighteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, and in the twenty-fourth year of Her Majesty's reign, by me,

JAMES DOUGLAS.

By his Excellency's command,
WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG,
Colonial Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

APPENDIX No. 6.

App. No. 6.

No. 35.—"The Pre-emption Purchase Act, 1861."
[Repealed by subsequent Proclamation, No. 38, page 77.]

APPENDIX No. 7.

App. No. 7.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—No. 37.

PROCLAMATION.—No. 8, A.D. 1861. By his Excellency JAMES DOUGLAS, Companion of the most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Columbia and its Dependencies, Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c.

WHEREAS, under and by virtue of an Act of Parliament made and passed in the Session of Parliament held in the 21st and 22nd years of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, entitled "An Act to provide for the Government of British Columbia," and by a commission under the Great Seal of the United Kingom of Great Britain and Ireland, I, James Douglas, have been appointed Governor of the said Colony, and have been authorized by Proclamation under the public seal of the said Colony to make laws, institutions, and ordinances for the peace, order, and good government of the same.

And whereas, for the more effectually securing the title to and facilitating the transfer of real property in the Colony of British Columbia, it is expedient to provide the means of registering matters affecting the same.

Now, therefore, I do hereby declare, proclaim, and enact as follows:

Offices in New Westminster and other districts in British Columbia.

I. There shall be established in New Westminster and in such other districts in British Columbia as may from time to time be nominated by the Governor by proclamation under his hand and the public seal of the Colony, offices for the registration of instruments, in writing, affecting real estate in the Colony, and the office at New Westminster shall be styled "The Land Registry Office," and the other offices shall be styled the "District Land Registry Offices," with the addition of the names of the districts wherein the same are established.

Appointment of Registrar General and Registrars for Districts.

2. It shall be lawful for his Excellency the Governor to appoint by Commission under the public seal of the Colony, proper persons to perform the duties of the said offices, who shall be styled the "registrars," and also upon any vacancy in the said offices to appoint from time to time in like manner other proper persons to be the registrars.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The registrar appointed at New Westminster shall be styled "Registrar General of British Columbia," and shall have the superintendence of all the said offices.

Magistrates may be appointed District Registrars.

3. The magistrates in British Columbia may be appointed registrars pro tempore.

Places of business. Seals of Office to be kept and impressions thereof to be taken judicial notice of.

4. There shall be provided at the public expense, houses or other places convenient for carrying on the business of the said offices, with all proper means for making and preserving the records and registers herein-after directed to be made and kept, and also seals of offices with suitable devices, whereon shall be inscribed "Land Registry Office," with the addition of the name of the district wherein the same is situate; the said seals shall be in the custody of the registrars for the time being, to be used in their official capacity only, and they shall be responsible for the safety and the use thereof, and judicial notice shall be taken in all courts of the impressions thereof without any evidence of such seal having been impressed, or any other evidence in relation thereto.

Deputy Registrar.

5. The "registrar general" shall from time to time by writing under his hand and official seal appoint a deputy who may perform the duties of the office, but all the official acts of the said deputy shall be in the name of the registrar-general, who shall be responsible for the same. The instrument under which such deputy shall be appointed shall be deposited among the records of the office for public reference. And in case of a vacancy in the office of registrar-general, the deputy shall during such vacancy perform the duties of the office as the registrar-general and until a successor be appointed.

Registrar's bonds and oaths.

6. Before entering upon the duties of their offices, the registrars and deputy-registrar shall find good and sufficient bonds conditioned for the faithful performance of their duties, and shall take the oaths of allegiance and supremacy, and shall be sworn to the faithful performance of their duties before entering thereon.

Salaries.

7. There shall be paid to the "registrar general" an annual salary not to exceed the sum of 500*l.*, to the deputy and registrars an annual salary not to exceed 300*l.*, and an adequate remuneration to each of the magistrates appointed registrars.

Date of opening office at New Westminster and in the other districts.

8. The office at New Westminster shall be opened on the 1st day of November 1861, and the other offices shall be opened on the 28th day next after the proclamations of nomination respectively, and until the opening of the district offices, the registration of all instruments affecting real estate in British Columbia shall be effected at the Land Registry Office at New Westminster.

All instruments affecting real estate in a district are to be registered in the district office when nominated.

9. From and after the nomination of a district and the opening of an office therein as aforesaid, all instruments affecting any real estate in the said district, shall be registered in the office of such district, and in none other.

Office hours.

10. The place of business of the said offices shall be kept open every day in the year, except Saturdays, Sundays, Good Friday, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and such other public holidays and fast days as are or may by law or proclamation from time to time be declared in the Colony, from the hour of 10 o'clock in the morning to the hour of 4 o'clock p.m.

Registration of instruments affecting real estate.

11. It shall be the duty of the registrars, when requested, and upon the payment of the proper fees, to register or cause to be registered all instruments in any manner affecting real estate situate within their respective districts or the title thereto which shall be certified as hereinafter required by correctly transcribing or copying the same with the certificates endorsed thereon or attached thereto, word for word, letter for letter, figure for figure, sign for sign, and erasure for erasure, in books appropriate to the titles respectively endorsed on such instruments.

Upon the opening of a district office a transcript of registrations in that district to be sent to the district Registrar.

12. Upon the opening of a district office, a transcript of the registrations affecting real estate in such district prior to such opening shall be sent to the registrar of such district from the registrar general's office, and shall be kept in such district office as part of the records of such office.

Custody and preservation of records.

13. The registrars shall have the custody of and shall safely keep and preserve all the records, the furniture and seal of their offices, but shall not be responsible if the same are lost, or destroyed by fire or other inevitable accident.

To entitle instruments to be registered.

14. Before any instrument other than a decree, judgment, or order of a Court of Civil Jurisdiction, is registered, and to entitle the same to be registered in the said office, the execution thereof shall first have been acknowledged or proved in the manner hereinafter provided, such fact of acknowledgment or proof shall appear by a certificate under the hand and seal of the proper officer or other person authorized to take such acknowledgments endorsed upon or attached to such conveyance, deed, or other instrument.

Acknowledgments of proofs of execution to whom to be made within the Colony, and within the British dominions. If acknowledged without the British dominions.

15. The acknowledgment or proof of execution of all instruments hereby authorized to be registered, if acknowledged or proved within the Colony, may be made to any registrar or to any person commissioned in that behalf by the Judge of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice of British Columbia, and if acknowledged or proved without the Colony and within the British dominions, may be made to any judge of a court, or clerk or registrar of any court having a seal, or to any notary public, or to any magistrate of any town or district within the said dominions, and if acknowledged or proved without the British dominions may be made to any British ambassador, chargé d'affaires, or minister, consul, or consular agent appointed to reside in the country where such acknowledgment or proof is made, or to any judge of any Court of Record having a seal, or to any notary public practising in such country.

Judge of Supreme Court to appoint officers to take acknowledgments.

16. The Judge of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice for the time being may appoint by commission such and as many competent persons other than the persons before mentioned as may be necessary for the accommodation of the public, to take the acknowledgment and proof of the execution of all instruments in writing within the Colony which may by law be registered.

Party acknowledging must either be known to officer taking acknowledg-

17. No acknowledgment of the execution of any instrument affecting any real estate within this Colony shall be taken unless the party offering to make such acknowledgment shall appear before the officer taking the same, and unless such party shall either be personally known to the officer, or his identity be proven by the oath or affirmation of a competent witness, and no certificate of acknow-

ledgment shall be valid unless it recites in substance and legal effect the facts required by this section.

ment or identity proven.

18. Acknowledgments and proofs of the execution of instruments entitled to be registered may for the purposes of this Act be made by—

Who may make acknowledgments, what facts to be acknowledged, and forms and contents of certificates.

1. The party executing in person such instrument.
2. The attorney in fact when such instrument is executed by an attorney in fact.
3. The secretary of any corporation when such instrument is executed by such secretary.
4. A subscribing witness to such instrument.

Provided always, that no acknowledgment of any party executing in person such conveyance, deed, or other instrument shall be taken, unless in addition to what is required by Section 17 of this Act, such party acknowledge that he is the person mentioned in such instrument as the maker thereof, and whose name is subscribed thereto as a party, that he knows the contents thereof, and that he executed the same voluntarily, and no certificate of acknowledgment shall be valid unless in addition to what is required by Section 17 to be recited, it recites in substance and legal effect the facts required by this proviso. And provided also, that no acknowledgment by an attorney in fact shall be taken unless in addition to what is required by Section 17 of this Act, such attorney in fact shall acknowledge that he is the person who subscribed the name of (naming the maker) to the instrument, that said (naming the maker) is the same person mentioned in the instrument as the maker thereof, that (naming the attorney in fact) knows the contents of the instrument and subscribed the name of (naming the maker) thereto voluntarily as the free act and deed of the said (naming the maker), and no certificate of such acknowledgment shall be valid unless in addition to what is required by Section 17 to be recited, it shall recite in substance and legal effect the facts required by this proviso.

And provided also, that no acknowledgment by the secretary of any corporation shall be taken unless in addition to what is required by Section 17 of this Act, such secretary acknowledge that he is the person who subscribed his name and affixed the seal of such corporation as the secretary to such instrument, and that he was first duly authorized to subscribe and to affix the said seal to the same, and no certificate of such acknowledgment shall be valid unless in addition to what is required by Section 17 to be recited, it recites in substance and legal effect the facts required by this proviso. And provided also, that no acknowledgment by a married woman shall be taken unless in addition to what is required by Section 17, such married woman shall be first made acquainted with the contents of the instrument and the nature and effect thereof, and shall acknowledge on examination apart from and out of hearing of her husband that she knows the contents of the instrument and understands the nature and effect thereof, that she executed the same voluntarily without fear or compulsion or undue influence of her husband, that she is of full age and competent understanding, and does not wish to retract the execution of the same, and no certificate of such acknowledgment shall be valid unless in addition to what is required by Section 17 to be recited, it recites in substance and legal effect the facts required by this proviso. And provided also, that no acknowledgment or proof by a subscribing witness shall be taken unless in addition to what is required by Section 17 of this Act, such subscribing witness shall acknowledge that he is the person whose name is subscribed to the instrument as a witness, and shall prove that (naming the maker) whose name is subscribed thereto as the maker did execute the same, and no certificate of such acknowledgment or proof shall be valid unless in addition to what is required by Section 17 to be recited, it recites in substance and legal effect the facts required by this proviso.

Registrar-General may subpœna party or witness to testify.

19. That upon the application of any person taking any grant, lease, mortgage or charge, under or by virtue of any instrument entitled under this Act to be registered, or of any person claiming under such last mentioned person, verified under the oath of the applicant, that any party or witness to such instrument residing or being within twenty miles of any office refuses to appear and acknowledge or testify touching the execution thereof, and that such instrument cannot be registered without such acknowledgment or testimony, the registrar may issue a notice in writing requiring such party or witness to appear before him, and to acknowledge or testify.

Penalty for refusing to obey subpœna or to acknowledge or testify. When not bound to obey subpœna.

20. That every person who, after having been served with such notice as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect to appear without reasonable cause assigned, or appearing shall refuse to acknowledge or answer upon oath or affirmation touching the matter aforesaid, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding 20*l.* sterling, which may be recovered before any justice of the peace in a summary way, and for such damages as may be sustained by such party on account of such neglect or refusal; but no person shall be required to attend unless his reasonable expenses shall have been first tendered to him, together with a reasonable sum for his loss of time.

Commission may issue to take deposition.

21. That it shall be competent for the Supreme Court of Civil Justice aforesaid to issue a commission for taking the deposition of any subscribing witness to any instrument entitled under this Act to be registered, in the same manner as for taking the testimony of any witness in a cause pending before it; and that all the costs of such commission, and all directions for executing the same, shall be at the discretion of the said Court, regard being had to the general provisions of this Act.

Registrar's duty on receipt of instruments.

22. When any instrument authorized by law to be registered shall be deposited in the registrar's office for registration, the registrar, or in the case of the Registrar General, the Registrar General or his deputy shall endorse upon the same the exact time when it was so deposited, noting the year, month, day, hour and minute of its reception, which shall be considered the date of registration, and when the same shall have been registered, shall also note at the foot of the register or record thereof, the year, month, day, hour, and minute when it was deposited for registration, and shall sign the record thereof, and shall also note under his signature and seal upon each instrument registered the book and pages of the book in which, and the time when, it is registered, before it is returned to the party entitled to the same.

Registration to impart notice.

23. From the time any instrument affecting real estate, acknowledged and certified as required by

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Unregistered conveyance, &c not to impart notice to third parties.

this Act, shall be delivered to a registrar, or in case of the registrar-general to him or his deputy registrar for registration, all persons shall be deemed to have notice of the contents and legal effect of such instrument.

24. No person, other than the actual parties thereto, shall be deemed to have notice of any instrument affecting real estate in the said Colony executed after the said 1st day of November 1861, unless the same be acknowledged or proved and certified, and registered pursuant to this Act, and every instrument hereafter made which shall not be acknowledged or proved, certified and registered pursuant to this Act, shall be void as against any subsequent purchaser or incumbrance of the same real estate who shall have registered the instrument under which his title as purchaser or incumbrance arises previously, provided always that nothing herein contained shall be construed to impair the power of the Court of Chancery to grant relief upon bill filed charging actual fraud or conspiracy.

Lien, &c., when released to be satisfied of record.

25. Whenever any lien or incumbrance registered as aforesaid affecting any real estate shall be released, satisfied, or discharged, it shall be the duty of the person from whom such release, satisfaction, or discharge moves, to give to the person in whose favour the same is made an instrument in writing acknowledging the same to have been made, and such instrument shall be acknowledged or proved and certified as herein-before required.

And if any person whose duty it is to give such release, satisfaction, or discharge, refuses or neglects for the space of ten days after being thereto requested by the party entitled to the same to execute and acknowledge such instrument, he shall be liable to a like penalty of £20 as aforesaid to be levied in manner aforesaid, and also for all actual damages occasioned by such neglect or refusal.

Power not to be revoked until revocation is registered.

26. No power of attorney when registered as required by this Act, shall be deemed to be revoked by any Act of the grantor thereof until the instrument containing such revocation acknowledged or proved and certified in the manner required by this Act shall be delivered for registration.

Revocation by death, insanity, &c., not to revoke until registration of an affidavit.

27. The death, insanity, bankruptcy, or insolvency of any maker of a power of attorney, or the marriage of any female maker of a power of attorney, shall not be deemed to revoke such power of attorney as far as any real estate in any district in British Columbia is concerned until an affidavit of such death, insanity, bankruptcy, or marriage shall have been served upon the Registrar-General or his deputy, and the Registrar of each district in which such real estate is situate.

Registrar to register affidavit accordingly.

28. It shall be the duty of every registrar or deputy registrar served with such affidavit, as last aforesaid, immediately to register the same in an affidavit book to be kept for that purpose, and to write on the pages of the register on which such power of attorney is registered, a note to the effect following "alleged to be revoked by" (death, insanity, &c., &c.), see registered affidavit (page affidavit book volume)

Original deed duly acknowledged may be read in evidence.

29. Every instrument which shall be acknowledged or proved and certified as in this Act prescribed may, together with the certificate of acknowledgment or proof, be read in evidence in all courts of law and equity without further proof of execution.

Certified copies of deeds to have the force of originals in certain cases.

30. Copies of all instruments duly deposited for registration or registered in a registrar's office certified by the registrar, or in case of the Registrar-General's office by him or the Registrar-General's deputy to be full, true, and correct copies, may, in the absence of the original, and if produced by a party not having the control of the original, be read in evidence in all courts of law and equity without further proof.

Certificate of acknowledgment to be primâ facie evidence.

31. The certificate of any officer authorized to take acknowledgments pursuant to this Act shall be primâ facie evidence of the facts therein recited, but shall not be conclusive.

Indices to be kept.

32. Each registrar shall form and keep indices in separate volumes, in such manner as to afford correct and easy reference to the several records of his office.

Registrar to make searches and to furnish certificates thereof.

33. It shall be the duty of registrars, upon the application of any person set forth in distinct and specific terms in writing, to make searches for all instruments deposited and registered in his office, touching or affecting the real estate specified in such application, and to furnish a certificate of every such search, stating the names of the parties to such instruments, the dates thereof, the year, month, day, hour, and minute they were deposited or registered, and the book and page where they are registered.

Fees of office.

34. For the official services rendered by the registrars they are hereby authorized and empowered to charge the following fees, viz.:—

For taking the acknowledgment or proof of any instrument which may by law be registered, for each signature of a party if more than one, four shillings, if only one signature eight shillings, including a certificate of acknowledgment of execution in both cases; for administering an oath, four shillings; for endorsing the time of depositing any instrument, and for noting the same in the record, and for endorsing the registration thereof upon every such instrument, two shillings; for registering any instrument, for every folio of one hundred words and figures therein, each and every figure to count as a word, three shillings, fractions of a folio to count as a folio; for making in the indices the several entries of instruments registered, required by law to be indiced, for every such instrument, two shillings and sixpence; for the use of the records for inspection and examination by persons desiring to inspect the same, for every such inspection and examination at one time, one shilling; for making certified copies of all instruments, matters, and things deposited, and of record in the office, the same fees as for registering instruments; for every subpœna, four shillings; for every official certificate, four shillings; for registering plans, maps, charts, surveys, diagrams, schedules, drawings, and other writings, matters, and things not herein enumerated and mentioned, and for making certified copies of any such, and for making searches, and for all other services not herein specified to be rendered by the registrars, such fees to be charged as may be agreed upon between them and the party requiring the performance of the same, and in case of difference the fees to be determined under the direction of the Judge of the Supreme Court, whose decision shall be final; for persons not connected with the office making for themselves transcripts or extracts from the records, no charge, but

the making of such transcripts and extracts to be allowed only subject to such rules as shall be established by the Registrar General as aforesaid, and which shall be suspended in the office for the information of the public. BRITISH COLUMBIA.

35. It shall be lawful for the Registrar-General from time to time as he shall see fit, with the sanction of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice, to change the amount of any of the aforesaid fees, and to establish such other and reduced or additional fees as may be deemed expedient, provided that a list of all such changes and additions shall, when made and sanctioned, be laid before the Governor within a fortnight; and provided also that a similar list shall be suspended in a conspicuous place in the Registrar-General's office for one calendar month at least before the same shall come into operation, after which period it shall be lawful for the registrars to charge and recover such altered fees. Authority to alter fees under certain conditions.

36. The registrars shall not be bound to receive or register any instrument or furnish any copies, or make any search, or render any service connected with their offices until the fees for the same, as prescribed by law, are first paid or tendered. Fees to be pre-paid.

The registrars shall keep a strict account of all fees received in their offices, and shall quarterly pay over all such fees to the colonial treasurer, whose receipt in writing will be a sufficient discharge for the same.

And such fees when so received by the said treasurer shall form part of the public monies belonging to the Colony.

37. In the construction of this Act the following words used therein shall have the following meanings, unless there be something repugnant or contradictory in the context, viz.: "real estate" shall include lands, tenements, and hereditaments, whether corporeal or incorporeal. "Instrument" shall include every deed or agreement in writing, and every judgment, decree, or order of any Court of Civil Jurisdiction in British Columbia. Meaning of certain words, expressions, and terms in this Act.

38. Nothing herein-before contained shall be deemed to apply to any instrument of whatever nature made before the said 1st day of November 1861, but any instrument made prior to the said 1st of November 1861, although not acknowledged or proved and certified as provided in this Act, may be registered in the offices of the said registrars, and all such last-mentioned records shall be made and kept in a manner as nearly as may be the same as herein appointed for instruments of a like nature dated subsequently to the said first day of November 1861. Exceptions as to conveyances made.

And indices shall also be kept thereof as nearly as may be similar to those herein appointed for instruments dated subsequently to the said 1st day of November 1861, but all such records and indices shall be kept separate and distinct from the records and indices relating to instruments made subsequently to the said first day of November 1861.

And all persons shall be deemed to have notice of any instrument executed prior to the said 1st day of November 1861, which shall be registered pursuant to this section, from the time the same shall be delivered to the Registrar-General for registration.

39. This Act may be cited as the "British Columbia Land Registry Act, 1861." Short title.

Issued under the public seal of the said Colony at Victoria, Vancouver Island, the twenty-sixth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, and in the twenty-fifth year of Her Majesty's reign, by me,

(L.S.)

By his Excellency's command,

WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG. JAMES DOUGLAS.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

APPENDIX No. 8. App. No. 8.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—No. 38.

PROCLAMATION.—No. 9, A.D., 1861. By his Excellency JAMES DOUGLAS, Companion of the most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Columbia and its Dependencies, Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c.

WHEREAS, under and by virtue of an Act of Parliament made and passed in the Session of Parliament held in the 21st and 22nd years of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, entitled "An Act to provide for the Government of British Columbia," and by a Commission under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, I James Douglas, have been appointed Governor of the said Colony, and have been authorized by proclamation under the public seal of the said Colony to make laws, institutions, and ordinances for the peace, order, and good government of the same:

And whereas it is expedient to amend and consolidate the laws affecting the settlement of unsurveyed crown lands in British Columbia:

Now, therefore, I do hereby declare, proclaim, and enact as follows:

I. The proclamation issued by me, under the public seal of the said Colony, dated the 4th day of January 1860, and the Pre-emption Amendment Act, 1861, and the Pre-emption Purchase Act, 1861, are hereby repealed. Repeal of former Proclamations.

II. All purchasers of unsurveyed land in British Columbia, who shall have made their purchases subsequently to the 20th day of June 1861, and previously to the 27th day of August 1861, shall hold the land purchased under precisely the same terms and conditions of occupation and improvement Purchasers since the 20th June to hold on the ordinary terms of pre-emption.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

as are mentioned in the said proclamation of the 4th day of January 1860, with regard to lands pre-empted without purchase.

British subjects, and aliens who shall take the oath of allegiance, may acquire the right to hold land, and to purchase it in fee simple, under certain conditions.

III. That from and after the date hereof, British subjects and aliens who shall take the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty and her successors, may acquire the right to hold and purchase in fee simple, unoccupied and unsurveyed and unreserved crown lands in British Columbia, not being the site of an existent or proposed town, or auriferous land available for mining purposes, or an Indian reserve or settlement, under the following conditions.

The settler shall enter into possession and record his claim to any quantity not exceeding 160 acres.

IV. The person desiring to acquire any particular plot of land of the character aforesaid, shall enter into possession thereof, and shall record his claim to any quantity not exceeding 160 acres thereof, with the magistrate residing nearest thereto; paying to the said magistrate the sum of eight shillings for recording such claim.

A holder of land may acquire additional land contiguous to the 160 acres, by paying an instalment of the purchase money.

V. Any person in possession of 160 acres of land as aforesaid may acquire the right to hold and purchase any further tract of unsurveyed and unoccupied land aforesaid, over and above the quantity of 160 acres aforesaid, and contiguous thereto, upon payment to the nearest magistrate of the sum of 2*s.* 1*d.* per acre for the same, as and by way of instalment of the purchase money to be ultimately paid to the Government upon the survey of the same land.

Proposing purchaser shall hold and record.

VI. Any person so paying such deposit shall enter into possession and record his claim to such last-mentioned tract of land, in manner herein-before prescribed.

Description of the land, how to be stated.

VII. The claimant shall in all cases give the best possible description of the land to the magistrate with whom his claim is recorded, together with a rough plan thereof, and identify the plot in question by placing at the corners of the land four posts, and by stating in his description any other land marks of a noticeable character.

Rectangular shape or as nearly as possible proportion of the lines.

VIII. Every piece of land sought to be acquired under the provisions of this proclamation, shall, save as herein-after mentioned, be of a rectangular shape, and the shortest line thereof shall be at least two-thirds the length of the longest line.

Natural boundaries may be adopted in certain cases.

IX. Where the land sought to be acquired is in whole or in part bounded by mountains, rocks, lakes, swamps, or the margin of a river, or by other natural boundaries, then such natural boundaries may be adopted as the boundaries of the land sought to be acquired, and in such case it shall be sufficient for the claimant to show to the satisfaction of the magistrate that the said form conforms as nearly as circumstances permit to the provisions of this proclamation.

Lines of adjacent claims may be adopted.

X. If the land sought to be acquired be bounded by a claim, the line of such claim may be adopted by the person so seeking to acquire, notwithstanding any irregularity in such line which may have been occasioned by the adoption of a natural boundary by the claimant of the adjacent claim.

Enclosed spaces may be adopted, notwithstanding any irregularity of shape.

XI. Where a piece of land is partially or entirely enclosed between two or more claims, the claimant may acquire such enclosed piece notwithstanding any irregularity of form, or disproportion in length of any of the sides.

Boundaries to run as nearly as possible according to the points of the compass.

XII. The boundaries shall run as nearly as possible by the cardinal points of the compass.

Purchase on survey.

XIII. When the Government survey shall extend to the land claimed, the claimant who has recorded his claim as aforesaid, or his heirs or devisees, or in the case of the grant of a certificate of improvement herein-after mentioned, the assigns of such claimant shall, if he or they shall have been in continuous occupation of the same land from the date of the record aforesaid, be entitled to purchase the land so acquired, or in respect of which such deposit shall have been paid as aforesaid, at such rate as may for the time being be fixed by the Government of British Columbia, not exceeding the sum of 4*s.* 2*d.* per acre.

Certificate of improvement to be issued when improvements have been made to the extent of 10*s.* per acre.

XIV. When the claimant, his heirs or devisees, shall prove to the nearest magistrate by the evidence of himself and of third parties, that he or they has or have continued in permanent occupation of the claim from the date of record, and has or have made permanent improvements thereon to the value of 10*s.* per acre, the said magistrate shall grant to the said claimant, his heirs or devisees, a certificate of improvement in the form marked A., in the Schedule hereto.

When certificate of improvement has been issued, the holder may sell or deal with the land.

XV. Upon the grant of the cetificate of improvement aforesaid, the person to whom the same is issued may, subject to any unpaid instalments, sell, mortgage, or lease the land in respect of which such certificate has been issued, but no interest in any plot of land acquired in either of the methods aforesaid, shall, before payment of the purchase money, be capable of passing to a purchaser, unless the vendor shall have obtained such certificate of improvement as aforesaid.

Conveyance on payment of the purchase money.

XVI. Upon payment of the purchase money a conveyance of the land purchased shall be executed in favour of the purchaser, reserving the precious minerals, with a right to enter and work the same in favour of the Crown, its assignees, and licensees.

Compensation to owner whose land may be taken or injured in certain cases.

XVII. In the event of the Crown, its assignees, or licensees availing itself or themselves of the privileges (other than the taking of land required for roads) mentioned in clauses 25 and 26, a reasonable compensation for the land taken, wasted, or damaged shall be paid to the person whose land shall be taken, wasted, or damaged as aforesaid, and in case of dispute the same shall be settled by a jury of six men, to be summoned by the nearest magistrate.

Priority of title.

XVIII. Priority of title shall be obtained by the person who, being in possession, shall first record his claim in manner aforesaid

XIX. Whenever any person shall permanently cease to occupy land acquired in either of the methods aforesaid, the magistrate resident nearest to the land in question may, in a summary way, on being satisfied of such permanent cessation, cancel the claim of the person so permanently ceasing to occupy the same, and record the claim thereto of any other person satisfying the requisition aforesaid. Cancellation of claim on permanent cessation of occupation.

XX. All deposits paid in respect of such forfeited claims, and all improvements, buildings, and erections thereon, shall, (subject to the appeal herein-after mentioned,) on such cancellation, be absolutely forfeited; and such claims, improvements, building and erections shall, subject to the appeal herein-after mentioned, be open to settlement by any other person. Deposits and improvements forfeited on cancellation.

XXI. The decision of the magistrate may be appealed by either party to the decision of the Judge of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice of British Columbia. Appeal.

XXII. Any person desirous of appealing in manner aforesaid may be required, before such appeal be heard, to find such security as may be hereafter pointed out by the rules or orders hereinafter directed to be published. Security on appeal.

XXIII. The procedure before the magistrate and judge respectively shall be according to such rules and orders as shall be published by such judge, with the appropriation of the Governor for the time being of British Columbia. Procedure.

XXIV. Whenever a person in occupation at the time of record aforesaid shall have recorded as aforesaid, and he, his heirs, or (in the case of a certificate of improvement) his assigns shall have continued in permanent occupation of the same land since the date of such record, he or they may, save as herein-before mentioned, bring ejectment, or trespass, against any intruder upon the same land, to the same extent as if he or they were seised of the legal estate in possession in the same land. Ejectment or trespass by holder.

XXV. Nothing herein contained shall be construed as giving a right to any claimant to exclude free miners from searching for any of the precious minerals or working the same, upon the conditions aforesaid. Saving of right to search and get gold in favour of free miners.

XXVI. The Government shall notwithstanding any claim, record, or conveyance aforesaid, be entitled to enter and take such portion of the land acquired in either of the methods aforesaid, as may be required for roads or other public purposes. Power to Government to re-take land for public purposes.

XXVII. Water privileges, and the right of carrying water for mining purposes, may, notwithstanding any claim recorded, be claimed and taken upon, under, or over the sa d land, so pre-empted or purchased as aforesaid, by free miners requiring the same, and obtaining a grant or licence from the Gold Commissioner, and paying a compensation for waste or damage to the person whose land may be wasted or damaged by such water privilege or carriage of water, to be ascertained in case of dispute in manner aforesaid. Water for mining purposes may be taken.

XXVIII. If any person, being already registered as a claimant, register a claim to any other land not being contiguous thereto, the land so previously claimed shall, *ipso facto*, be forfeited, and shall, with all improvements made thereon, be open to settlement by any other person. If new claim taken up the old claim is lost.

XXIX. In case any dispute shall arise between persons with regard to any land so acquired as aforesaid, any one of the parties in difference may, before ejectment or action of trespass brought, refer the question in difference to the nearest magistrate, who is hereby authorized to proceed in a summary way to restore the possession of any land in dispute to the person whom he shall deem entitled to the same, and to abate all intrusions, and award and levy such costs and damages as he may think fit. Arbitrament of Magistrate.

XXX. This proclamation may be cited as the "Pre-emption Consolidation Act, 1861." Short title.

(L.S.) Issued under the public seal of the said Colony, at Victoria, Vancouver Island, this 27th day of August, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, and in the twenty-fifth year of Her Majesty's reign, by me,

JAMES DOUGLAS.

By his Excellency's command,

WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

SCHEDULE A.

I hereby certify that has satisfied me by evidence of (naming the witnesses, and detailing any other evidence upon which the magistrate has come to his judgment) that of has made improvements to the extent of 10*s.* an acre on acres of land, situated at .

Signed,

this day of

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

App. No. 9.

APPENDIX No. 9.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—No. 40.

PROCLAMATION.—No. 11, A.D. 1861. By his Excellency JAMES DOUGLAS, Companion of the most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Columbia and its Dependencies, Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c.

WHEREAS, under and by virtue of an Act of Parliament made and passed in the session of Parliament held in the 21st and 22nd years of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled "An "Act to provide for the Government of British Columbia," and by a Commission under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, I, James Douglas, have been appointed Governor of the said Colony, and have been authorized by proclamation under the public seal of the said Colony to make laws, institutions, and ordinances for the peace, order, and good government of the same.

And whereas it is expedient to increase the limits of the municipality, and the number of councillors of New Westminster, and to extend the operation of the New Westminster Municipal Council Act, 1860, accordingly:

Now, therefore, I do hereby declare, proclaim, and enact as follows:—

From and after the date of this proclamation,

Adds block 36 to No. I. ward.

1. All that tract of land, which includes the piece of land described on the official maps of the said city as Block XXXVI. shall be included in the second part of the schedule of the said Act, and be deemed and taken for all the purposes of this Act as an integral portion of number One Ward.

Adds block 35 to No. III. ward.

2. All that tract of land, which includes the piece of land described on the official maps of the said city as Block XXXV. shall be included in the second part of the schedule of the said Act, and be deemed and taken for all the purposes of this Act as an integral portion of number Three Ward.

Adds block 34 to No. IV. ward.

3. All that tract of land which includes the piece of land described on the official maps of the said city as Block XXXIV. shall be included in the fifth part of the schedule to the said Act, and be deemed and be taken for all the purposes of this Act as an integral portion of number Four Ward.

Creates two additional councillors, one for No. I. and one, No. IV. ward.

4. In addition to the councillors already provided by the said Act, there shall be elected, in the same manner and with the same qualifications as at present, one additional councillor for number One Ward, and one additional councillor for number Four Ward.

Extends the provisions of the "New Westminster Municipal Council Act, 1860," to the additional limits and councillors.

5. The "New Westminster Municipal Council Act, 1860," shall be deemed and taken, and is hereby declared to extend and apply in all respects to the additional limits and councillors hereby created for the said city, as if the same had been originally included in the said Act.

Short title.

6. This Act shall be cited as the "New Westminster Municipal Council Extension Act, 1861."

Issued under the public seal of the said Colony at Victoria, Vancouver Island, this Twenty-second day of October, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, and in the twenty-fifth year of Her Majesty's reign, by me,

(L.S.)

JAMES DOUGLAS.

By his Excellency's command,

WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

LONDON:
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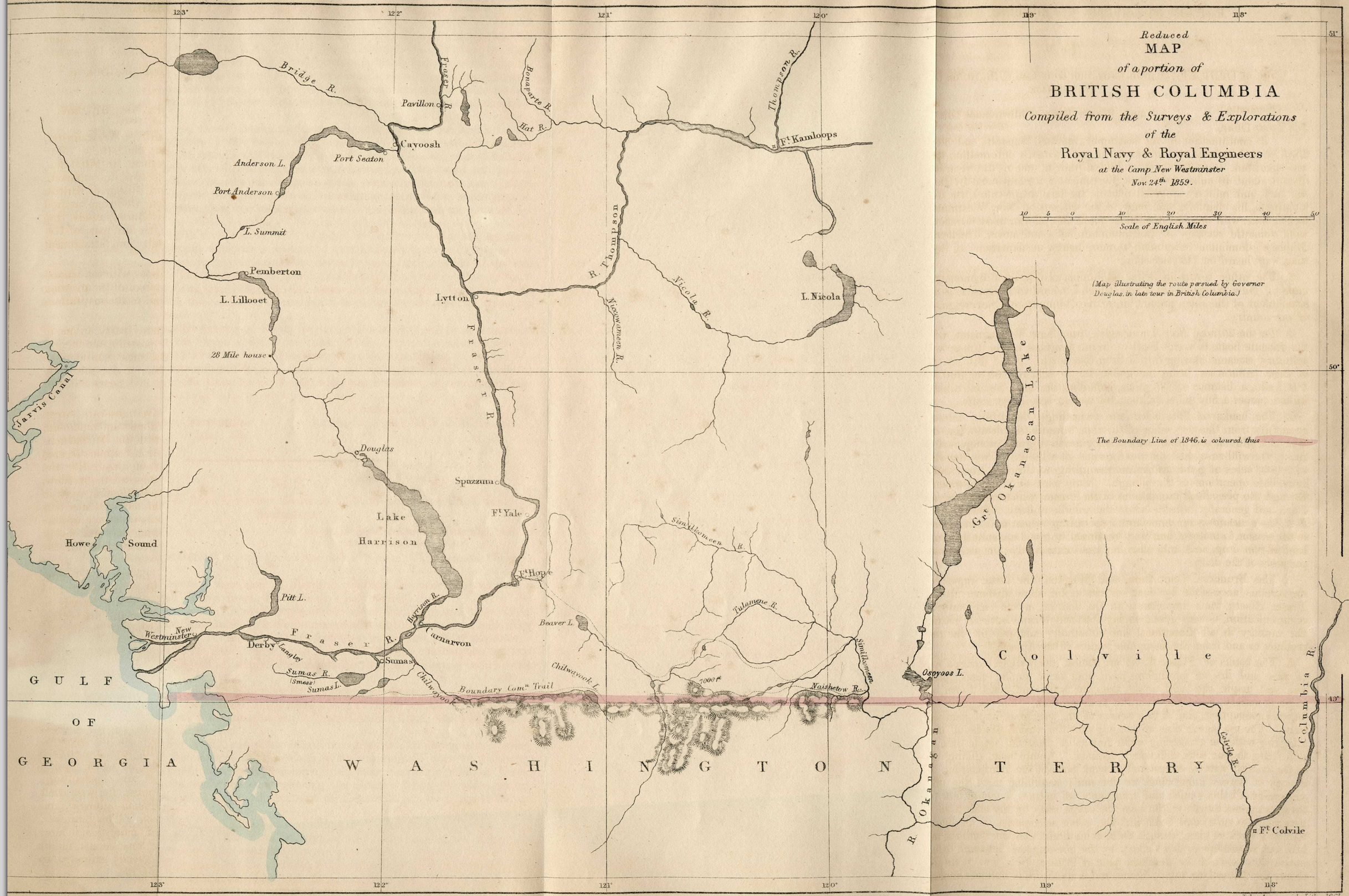
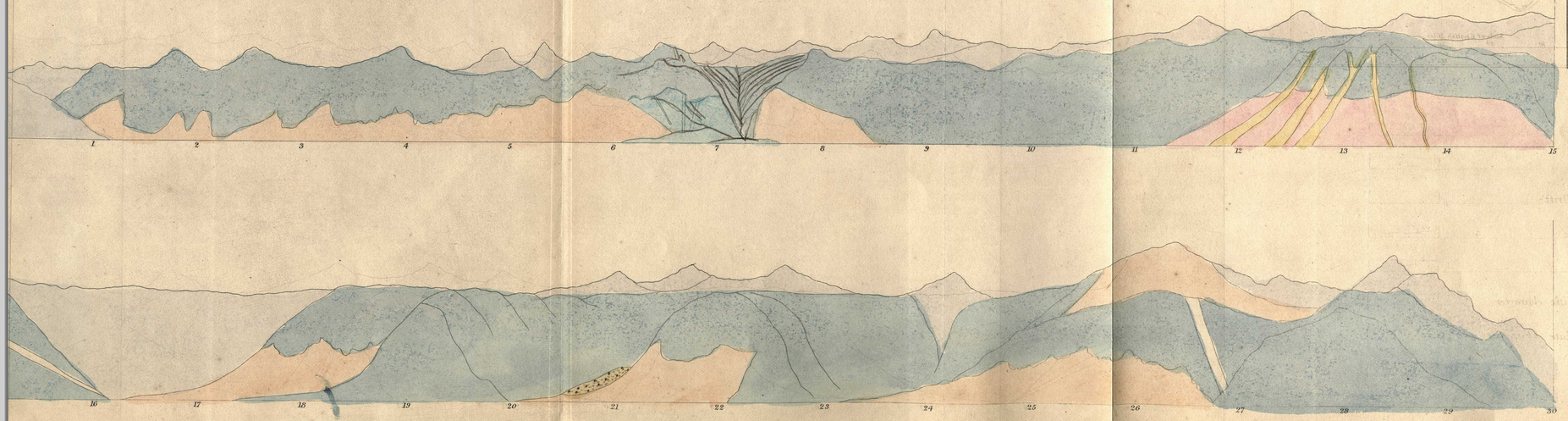
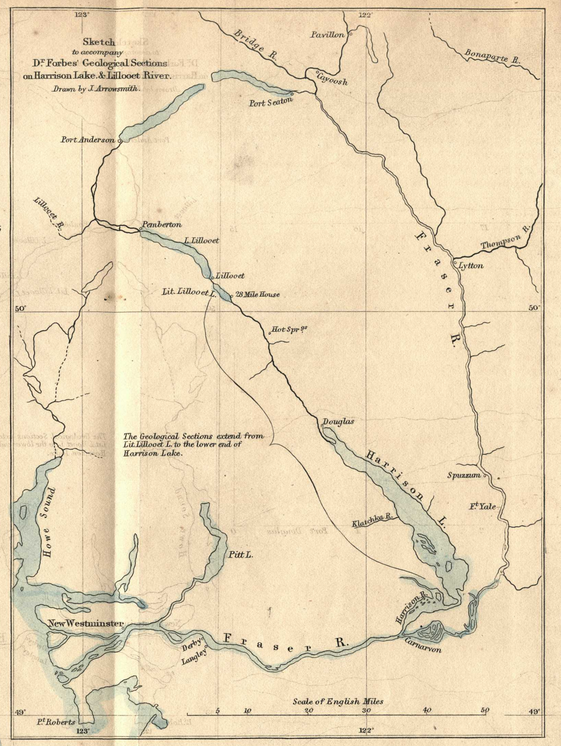

Reduced
MAP
of a portion of
BRITISH COLUMBIA
Compiled from the Surveys & Explorations
of the
Royal Navy & Royal Engineers
at the Camp New Westminster
Nov. 24th 1859.
10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50
Scale of English Miles
(Map illustrating the route persued by Governor Douglas, in late tour in British Columbia.)
The Boundary Line of 1846, is coloured, thus
123° 122° 121° 120° 119° 118°
51° 50° 49°
Bridge R.
Fraser R.
Bonaparte R.
Hat R.
Thompson R.
Pavillon
Cayoosh
Ft Kamloops
Anderson L.
Port Seaton
Port Anderson
L. Summit
Pemberton
L. Lillooet
28 Mile house
Lytton
R. Thompson
Nicola R.
Nicomeen R.
L. Nicola
Jarvis Canal
Douglas
Spuzzum
Ft Yale
Lake Harrison
Howe Sound
Ft Hope
Pitt L.
Harrison R.
Carnarvon
Beaver L.
Tulameen R.
Similkameen R.
New Westminster
Derby
Langley
Fraser R.
Sumas
Sumas R.
(Smess)
Sumas L.
Chilwayook
Chilwayook L.
Boundary Com.n Trail
7000 ft
Naishelow R.
Osoyoos L.
Gr.t Okanagan Lake
Colville
GULF OF GEORGIA
WASHINGTON TERRY.
Okanagan R.
Colville R.
Columbia R.
Ft Colvile
John Arrowsmith Lith. 1861

SECTION Nº 2 HARRISON LILLOOET ROAD

SECTION Nº 1 HARRISON LAKE





Trap Rock

Trachyte

Boulder or Northern Drift

Red Metamorphic Rock

Ferruginous Rock

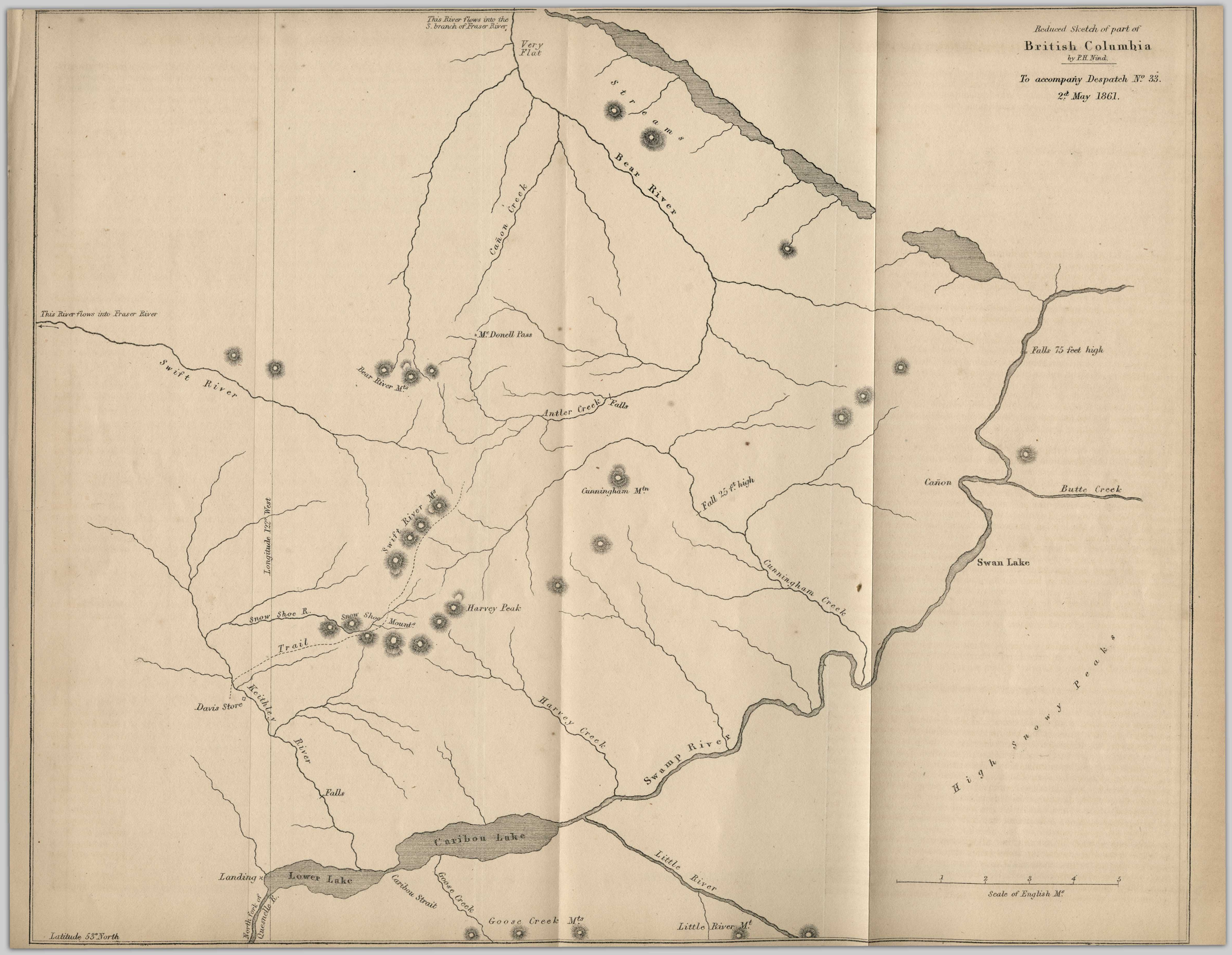
Plutonic Rock of Granitic character

Metamorphic Clay Slate

Auriferous Gravel

Silver Veins

John Arrowsmith Litho 1861.


Reduced Sketch of part of
British Columbia
by P.H. Nind.
To accompany Despatch No. 33.
2d May 1861.
This River flows into the S. branch of Fraser River,
Very Flat
Streams
Bear River
Cañon Creek
This River flows into Fraser River
Swift River
Mc Donell Pass
Bear River Mts
Antler Creek Falls
Falls 75 feet high
Cañon
Butte Creek
Cunningham Mtn
Fall 25 ft high
Swift River Ms
Longitude 120° West
Cunningham Creek
Swan Lake
Harvey Peak
Snow Shoe R.
Snow Shoe Mounts
Trail
Keithley
Davis Store
Harvey Creek
Swamp River
High Snowy Peaks
River
Falls
Caribou Lake
Little River
Landing
Lower Lake
Caribou Strait
Goose Creek
Goose Creek Mts
Little River Mt
North fork of Quesnelle R.
Latitude 53° North
1 2 3 4 5
Scale of English Mc