

BRITISH
COLUMBIA.

impression I entertained of the auriferous character of the country to the eastward of the Gulf of Georgia, as far north as Johnstone's Straits.

4. Your Lordship will not be surprised to learn that, under these circumstances, the gold excitement throughout this Colony, California, and Oregon continues unabated.

5. Crowds of people are coming in from all quarters. The American steamer "Commodore" arrived on the 13th instant from San Francisco with 450 passengers, and the steamer "Panama" came in yesterday from the same port with 750 passengers, and other vessels are reported to be on the way.

6 Two river steamers, the "Surprise" and "Sea Bird," both owned by American citizens, ply with passengers between this port and Fraser's River, the former having made her way up that stream as far as Fort Hope, one hundred ten miles from the sea. The miners by that means reach their destination with safety and despatch.

7. The quantity of gold collected by the Hudson's Bay Company up to the present time rather exceeds 10,000*l.* in value, and I saw during my recent excursion a large quantity of gold among the miners.

Enclosure.

8. I herewith forward, for your information, a copy of the terms on which it is proposed to allow steam vessels to ply upon Fraser's River, enforcing at once the Revenue laws of the empire, and respecting the trading rights of the Hudson's Bay Company.

9. Those terms are not exclusive, but open to acceptance by any parties, undertaking the performance of the proposed conditions. The object of all those measures is to give facilities to miners, and to secure the trade of the Gold Regions for our own country, as it will otherwise take the direction of the Columbia River into American Oregon.

10. We have commenced levying the duty on mining licences, all parties entering the river by the licensed steam vessels being required to pay one month's licence in advance. We have collected about 420*l.*; a Revenue that I will hold subject to your Instructions.

11. When Fraser's River, now greatly swollen, subsides, and the miners get fairly to work, I propose to appoint a Commissioner and Local Collectors for those dues, as soon as fit and proper persons to fill those offices can be found.

12. Mr. William A. G. Young, at present in Her Majesty's Service as Secretary for the Boundary Commission, is highly qualified in every respect for the office of Gold Commissioner, and I should be glad to obtain your permission to secure the services of that gentleman.

13. I have no doubt that your Lordship will send out a body of troops for the service of this Colony and the Fraser's River District.

14. The miners have applied to me for protection against the natives, and when that is accorded will have no hesitation in paying the licence duty; otherwise it will be paid with reluctance.

15. They have also applied to me for negotiable orders in payment of gold delivered to Government agents in the mines, and for the organization of a Postal System for the transmission of letters.

16. Will you kindly give me Instructions on those subjects herein referred to?

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

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley, M.P.,
&c. &c.

Governor.

Enclosure in
No. 5.

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The AGENTS of the HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY agree to license one or more Steamers to ply from Victoria to and on Fraser's River, on the following terms:—

1st.—To receive and transport no goods to, on, or from Fraser's River except the goods of the Hudson's Bay Company, or such as they may permit to be shipped; and that for the transport of such goods that the freight do not exceed the following rates, viz.:—

Victoria to Langley	-	\$ 10	} per ton of 2,000 lbs. or 40 feet measurement.
Langley to Fort Hope	-	\$ 10	
Fort Hope to Fort Yale	-	\$ 5	

Return rates to be on the same scale.

2d.—To carry no passengers to or on Fraser's River who have not taken out a mining licence and permit from the Government of Vancouver's Island, and paid one month's advance thereon.