

4 CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO THE DISCOVERY

and civilly, as the law allows. And I further notify and declare, that such regulations as may be found expedient will be prepared and published, setting forth the terms on which licences will be issued for this purpose, on the payment of a reasonable fee.

Given under my hand and seal at the Government Office, Victoria, this 26th day of March, in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and Fifty-three, and in the seventeenth year of Her Majesty's reign.

By his Excellency's command.

*James Douglas, Secretary.*

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

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Enclosure 2, in No. 1.

Encl. 2, in No. 1.

Government House, Victoria, 7 April 1853.

WITH reference to the proclamation issued on the 26th March, declaring the rights of the Crown in respect to gold found in its natural state of deposit within the Islands of Queen Charlotte, his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor has been pleased to establish the following provisional regulations, under which licences may be obtained to dig, search for, and remove the same:—

1. From and after the first day of April no person will be permitted to dig, search for, or remove gold on or from any lands, public or private, without first taking out and paying for a licence in the form annexed.

2. For the present, and pending further proof of the extent and productiveness of the gold deposits, the licence fee has been fixed at 10 s. per month, to be paid in advance; but it is to be understood that the rate is subject to future adjustment as circumstances may render expedient.

3. The licences can be obtained at Victoria, Vancouver's Island, until a commissioner is appointed by his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor to carry those regulations into effect, and who will be authorised to receive the fee payable thereon.

4. Rules adjusting the extent and position of land to be covered by each licence, and for the prevention of confusion, and the interference of one licence with another, will be regulated by the said commissioner.

*James Douglas.*

By his Excellency's command.

*Richard Colledge.*

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— No. 2. —

(No. 5.)

No. 2.  
The Duke of  
Newcastle to  
Governor Douglas.  
16 July 1853.

COPY of a DESPATCH from His Grace the Duke of Newcastle to Governor  
*Douglas.*

Downing-street, 16 July 1853.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch (No. 1.) of the 11th April, transmitting the copy of a proclamation which had been issued by you, declaring the rights of the Crown with respect to gold found in Queen Charlotte's Islands; and also copy of the regulations afterwards published, setting forth the terms and conditions on which licences would be granted by the local government to search and dig for gold in those islands.

I have to signify to you my approval of the terms of this proclamation, and of the regulations you have issued on this subject.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *Newcastle.*

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— No. 3. —

No. 3.  
F. Peel, Esq. to  
Rich. Taylor, Esq.  
20 July 1853.

COPY of a LETTER from *F. Peel, Esq.*, to *Richard Taylor, Esq.*

Sir,

Downing-street, 20 July 1853.

I AM directed by the Duke of Newcastle to inform you, that your application for a lease of mining land in Queen Charlotte's Island, on the part of Mr. A. Easterby, and certain gentlemen associated with him, has been a long time under his consideration, because he felt bound not to decide upon it without taking into view the general questions raised for the decision of Her Majesty's Government by the gold discoveries in that quarter.

2. I am,