

CORRESPONDENCE relative to the DISCOVERY of GOLD in  
*Queen Charlotte's Island.*

— No. 1. —

(No. 1.)

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

No. 1.  
Governor Douglas  
to the Duke of  
Newcastle.  
11 April 1853.

Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 11 April 1853.

My Lord Duke,

(Received, 7 July 1853.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a proclamation which I lately caused to be issued at this place, declaring the rights of the Crown in respect to gold found in its natural place of deposit within the limits of Queen Charlotte's Island, and forbidding all persons to dig or disturb the soil in search of gold until authorised in that behalf by Her Majesty's Colonial Government; and also a copy of the regulations since published, setting forth the terms on which licences will be issued to legalise the search for gold, on payment of a reasonable fee, the conditions being nearly similar to those prescribed by the Governor-general of New South Wales on the discovery of gold in that colony.

26 March.

7 April.

The most important difference is a reduction of 20 s. in the licence fee, which I have fixed at 10 s. a month.

The reasons which led me to consider the expediency of that reduction were, in the first place, the fact that the true beds of gold on Queen Charlotte's Island are yet unknown, and the returns have been consequently small and uncertain, and obtained at much labour and expense; and secondly, because there will be great difficulty in collecting the dues against the feeling of the miners, and it is therefore advisable to make them as moderate in amount and as easy as possible in the mode of payment, at least until mining becomes a remunerative employment, and there is proof of the extent and productiveness of the gold deposits, when the fee may be gradually increased, in such a manner, however, as not to be higher than the persons engaged in mining can readily pay.

I hope that those measures may meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Government, and that I will soon be favoured with your instructions on such points as your Grace may consider necessary.

I have, &c.

(signed) *James Douglas.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 1.

PROCLAMATION

By his Excellency *James Douglas*, Esq., Governor of Vancouver's Island, and Lieutenant-Governor of Queen Charlotte's Island and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c. Encl. 1, in No. 1.

WHEREAS by law all mines of gold, and all gold in its natural place of deposit within the colony of Queen Charlotte's Island, whether on the lands of the Queen or of any of Her Majesty's subjects, belong to the Crown:

And whereas information has been received by the Government that gold exists upon and in the soil of the colony, and that certain persons have commenced, or are about to commence, searching and digging for the same for their own use, without leave or other authority from Her Majesty: Now I, *James Douglas*, esquire, the Governor aforesaid, on behalf of Her Majesty, do hereby publicly notify and declare that all persons who shall take from any lands within the said colony any gold, metal, or ore containing gold, or who shall dig for and disturb the soil in search of such gold, metal, or ore, without having been duly authorised in that behalf by Her Majesty's Colonial Government, will be prosecuted both criminally and