

CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO THE

DISCOVERY OF GOLD IN THE FRASER'S RIVER
DISTRICT, IN BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

No. 1.

No. 1.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS to the Right Hon. HENRY
LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 10.)

Victoria, Vancouver's Island, April 16, 1856.

(Received June 30, 1856.)

(Answered, No. 14, August 4, 1856.)

SIR,

I HASTEN to communicate for the information of Her Majesty's Government a discovery of much importance, made known to me by Mr. Angus McDonald, Clerk in charge of Fort Colvile, one of the Hudson's Bay Company's Trading Posts on the Upper Columbia District.

That gentleman reports, in a letter dated on the 1st of March last, that gold has been found in considerable quantities within the British territory, on the Upper Columbia, and that he is moreover of opinion that valuable deposits of gold will be found in many other parts of that country; he also states that the *daily earnings* of persons then employed in digging gold were ranging from 2*l.* to 8*l.* for each man. Such is the substance of his report on that subject, and I have requested him to continue his communications in respect to any further discoveries made.

I do not know if Her Majesty's Government will consider it expedient to raise a revenue in that quarter, by taxing all persons engaged in gold digging, but I may remark, that it will be impossible to levy such a tax without the aid of a military force, and the expense in that case would probably exceed the income derived from the mines.

I will not fail to keep you well informed in respect to the extent and value of the gold discoveries made; and circumstances will probably be the best indication of the course which it may be expedient to take, that is, in respect to imposing a tax, or leaving the field free and open to any persons who may choose to dig for gold.

Several interesting experiments in gold washing have been lately made in this colony, with a degree of success that will no doubt lead to further attempts for the discovery of the precious metal. The quantity of gold found is sufficient to prove the existence of the metal, and the parties engaged in the enterprise entertain sanguine hopes of discovering rich and productive beds.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JAMES DOUGLAS,

Governor.

The Right Hon. Henry Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 2.

No. 2.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. HENRY LABOUCHERE to
Governor DOUGLAS.

(No. 14.)

SIR,

Downing Street, August 4, 1856.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 10, of the 16th April last, reporting the discovery of gold within the British territory on the Upper Columbia River district.

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