

26. I propose to form a large and efficient corps of surveying officers, to be placed under the management of the Surveyor-General, and to authorize him, after due application to this Government, to establish branch offices wherever required, which will report all proceedings to the general office at this place, superintended by the Surveyor-General, who will be held responsible for the proper management of the department.

27. In consequence of the unceasing demands upon my time by the crowds of people who are flocking to this place, and the want of assistants, my secretary, Mr. Gollidge, being greatly overworked, I have been compelled to prepare this report in the midst of numberless interruptions, and I beg that its inaccuracies may be overlooked and that I may receive your instructions by return of post, as the case is urgent, and calls for rapid and decisive measures in the outset, for in the course of a few months there may be one hundred thousand people in the country.

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

(Signed)

I have &c.

JAMES DOUGLAS,  
Governor.

BRITISH  
COLUMBIA.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS to the Right Hon. Lord STANLEY, M.P.  
(No. 25.)

Victoria, Vancouver's Island, June 15, 1858.

(Received August 9, 1858.)

(Answered No. 8, August 14, 1858, page 47.)

MY LORD,

1. I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith copy of an address presented to me in the 12th instant by a committee appointed for that purpose at a public meeting lately held at this place.

Enclosure.

2. I informed the committee, in reply to their address, that I had lately returned from the mines of Fraser's River, and that there was really no actual distress for want of provisions among the mining population in all the accessible parts of the country, and that care would be taken to provide for all their wants.

3. That I had no authority to throw open the trade of Fraser's River, which was secured by Statute to the Hudson's Bay Company; but that I had addressed Her Majesty's Government on that subject, recommending the opening of the Fraser's River district for settlement, and I was of opinion that course would be taken, and compensation be made to the Hudson's Bay Company for any sacrifice of interest they may be called upon to make.

4. I also informed them that the progress of this Colony occupied my careful attention, and that its growing interests would be carefully protected.

5. I also promised to forward their address.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JAMES DOUGLAS,  
Governor.

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

Enclosure in No. 3.

Enclosure in  
No. 3.

To His Excellency JAMES DOUGLAS, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c. &c. &c.

SIR,

At a public meeting held on the 5th instant the following resolution was unanimously adopted, viz.:—

"That a committee be appointed to draw up an address to His Excellency James Douglas, Governor of Vancouver's Island, and chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, for the purpose of obtaining free trade with the mining population on Fraser's River; and also that steamers and other vessels be allowed to run between Victoria and the head of navigation on Fraser's River and its tributaries."

We, the undersigned, having been named to carry out the above resolution, beg respectively to solicit your Excellency's earnest attention to the following important points:—

1st.—It is notorious that the stock of provisions in the mining districts is utterly inadequate for the supply even of the present population, many individuals having been compelled to abandon their labours, and return to this and other ports, to obtain the common necessities of life. Many settlers on this island are most anxious to carry supplies to their countrymen at the mines, but are prevented by the obstacles interposed by the Hudson's Bay Company, who have already seized goods to a considerable amount on their way up the river.