

dollars, by virtue of which persons would be permitted to mine within certain prescribed limits. Early next year he stationed H. M. S. *Satelite* at the mouth of the River Fraser to prevent the entry of persons who did not possess the necessary license. Besides this he taxed the supplies of the miners, and every boat which entered the Fraser paid a toll of from six to twelve dollars. Douglas' expectations were not disappointed. The excitement throughout California was greater than that of '49 and it was confidently asserted on every hand that the deposits in the River Fraser were richer than had ever been found in the Golden State. The excitement, however, was not confined to California. The story of the golden streams had spread from state to state and country to country, and was canvassed in Europe and Australia almost as eagerly as it was in America. Early in 1858 the stream of immigration began to flow. Hundreds of eager fortune seekers came from Europe, thousands from Eastern America, and tens of thousands from California. Sailing vessels and steamers, good, bad and indifferent, daily left San Francisco crowded beyond their capacity with human freight, and stages carried those to Puget Sound who could not get away quickly enough by water. The exodus from California was unprecedented. It was estimated that over thirty-five thousand left San Francisco during the year. Business in California was at a standstill, and the injury done to its commerce was incalculable. The newspapers tried to stem the tide, but without avail, and a baseless rumor had more effect on the public mind than the monitions of reason and experience.

It was on the 25th of April, 1858, that the first contingent of fortune seekers arrived at Victoria on board the steamer *Commodore* from San Francisco, and during the succeeding fortnight two thousand others followed. Steamers and sailing vessels entirely new to these waters daily entered the harbor at Victoria with hundreds of men, attracted from all quarters of the globe. After landing their passengers these vessels returned whence they came to spread exaggerated reports of the country's richness and thereby increase the excitement and the tide of migration. It is estimated that by the twentieth of June fourteen thousand eight hundred men had embarked for the mines. All this volume of immigration flowed through Victoria in consequence of Governor Douglas' refusal to grant permits and mining licenses elsewhere. The result of this was