

BRITISH
COLUMBIA.

No. 7.

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COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS to the Right Hon. Lord STANLEY, M.P.
(No. 31.)

Victoria, Vancouver's Island, July 26, 1858.

Received September 10, 1858.)

(Answered, No. 20, September 16, 1858, page 65.)

MY LORD,

Enclosure.

1. I HAVE the honour of transmitting herewith copies of correspondence with Captain Prevost of Her Majesty's Ship "Satellite," touching the enforcement of the Revenue laws and licence regulations applicable to Fraser's River.

2. Your Lordship will observe that he has on all occasions cordially responded to my demands, and given such aid and assistance in carrying out the views of this Government in preventing the lawless intrusion of foreign ships and people into Fraser's River as was consistent with the nature of his Instructions from Her Majesty's Government, and the demands upon his time of the special service on which the "Satellite" was detached to this coast.

3. In consequence, however, of the frequent, and, for the reasons before stated, necessary absence of the "Satellite" from Fraser's River, there have been many evasions of the law, by means of canoes and other small craft, which have stealthily entered and ascended Fraser's River without a Customs' permit or the pre-payment of a month's advance on the mining licence of each miner, as required by the existing regulations.

4. I therefore much regret that I have not a permanent force under my control, for the protection of the Revenue laws of the country, as they would in that case produce a return far exceeding the expense of maintaining such a force, besides upholding the moral influence of Her Majesty's Government.

5. The regulations we have established, and which we seek to enforce in the Fraser's River District, are only such as have reference to my Instructions from Her Majesty's Government, and to the rights of the Crown with respect to minerals in their natural place of deposit.

6. I will, for your Lordship's information, concisely enumerate the objects we wish to attain through those regulations:—

In the first place, I have distinctly, and to all applicants for land, refused the grant of any rights of occupation, in accordance with the Instructions from Mr. Secretary Labouchere, as detailed in his Despatch, No. 4. of the 1st February 1858, and also with the view of presenting the confusion and numberless evils that have in all cases grown out of the practice of squatting on Crown lands, or the lawless occupation of a country;

2ndly. I have endeavoured to protect the trading rights of the Hudson's Bay Company as by law established;

3rdly. I have established the system of issuing licences for digging gold, the charge for each mining claim of 25 feet of river frontage, or 20 square feet of river bar or dry diggings, being fixed at 21s. or five dollars a month, the Revenue derived from this source being held for the benefit of the Crown.

There are also regulations respecting the draining of water ponds and working quartz veins which will, I trust, hereafter yield a large amount of Revenue for the Crown.

7. To carry those objects into effect I have appointed the following officers:—

Assistant Commissioners of Crown Lands.

O. T. Travillot	-	-	Thomson's River.
Richard Hicks	-	-	Fort Yale.

Justice of the Peace.

George Perrier	-	-	District of Hill's Bar.
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Revenue Officer.

William Henry Bevis	-	-	Fort Langley.
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And others will be appointed as soon as fit and trusty persons can be found to fill those offices with credit and respectability.

8. I propose to pay those officers out of the Revenue raised in this country.

9. With the exception of the aid received from Her Majesty's Ship "Satellite" operating on the sea coast, I have had no military force whatever to employ in the interior of Fraser's River, which is now occupied by a population little short of 9,000