

FRASER'S RIVER DISTRICT, in BRITISH NORTH AMERICA. 9

My authority for issuing that proclamation, seeing that it refers to certain districts of continental America, which are not strictly speaking within the jurisdiction of this Government, may perhaps be called in question; but I trust that the motives which have influenced me on this occasion, and the fact of my being invested with the authority over the premises of the Hudson's Bay Company, and the only authority commissioned by Her Majesty within reach, will plead my excuse. Moreover, should Her Majesty's Government not deem it advisable to enforce the rights of the Crown, as set forth in the proclamation, it may be allowed to fall to the ground, and to become a mere dead letter.

If you think it expedient that I should visit the Couteau Mines in course of the coming spring or summer, for the purpose of enquiring into the state of the country, and authorize me to do so, if I can for a time conveniently leave this Colony, I freely place my services at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government.

Enclosure 1 in No. 6.

Encl. 1 in No. 6.

PROCLAMATION by his Excellency JAMES DOUGLAS, Governor of Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies, &c. &c.

WHEREAS by law all mines of gold, and all gold in its natural place of deposit, within the districts of Fraser's River and of Thompson's River, commonly known as the "Quââtlan," "Couteau," and "Shuswap" countries, 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 said districts, 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, 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 districts any gold, metal, or ore containing gold, or who shall dig for and disturb the soil in search of gold, metal, or ore without having been duly authorized in that behalf by Her Majesty's Colonial Government, will be prosecuted, both criminally and civilly, as the law allows.

And I further notify and declare that such regulations as may be found expedient will be prepared and published, setting forth the terms on which licences will be issued for this purpose on the payment of a reasonable fee.

Given under my hand and seal at Government Office, Victoria, this 28th day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, and in the twenty-first year of Her Majesty's reign.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS, Governor.

By his Excellency's command.

(Signed) RICHARD GOLLEDGE, Secretary.

God save the Queen.

Enclosure 2 in No. 6.

Government House, Victoria, December 29, 1857.

WITH reference to the proclamation issued on the 28th of December, declaring the rights of the Crown in respect to gold found in its natural state of deposit within the districts of Fraser's River and of Thompson's River, commonly known as the Quââtlan, Couteau, and Shuswap countries, his Excellency the Governor, has been pleased to establish the following provisional regulations, under which licences may be obtained to dig, search for, and remove the same.

1st. From and after the first day of February next, no person will be permitted to dig, search for, or remove gold, on or from any lands, public or private, without first taking out and paying for a license in the form annexed.

2nd. For the present, and pending further proof of the extent and productiveness of the gold deposits, the licence fee has been fixed at 10s. per month to be paid in advance; but it is to be understood that the rate is subject to future adjustment as circumstances may render expedient.

3rd. The licences can be obtained at Victoria, Vancouver's Island, until a Commissioner is appointed by his Excellency the Governor to carry those regulations into effect, and who will be authorized to receive the fee payable thereon.

4th. Rules adjusting the extent and position of land, to be covered by each licence, and for the prevention of confusion, and the interference of one licence with another, will be regulated by the said Commissioner.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS, Governor.

By his Excellency's command,

(Signed) RICHARD GOLLEDGE, Secretary.