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NOVA SCOTIA (GOLD DISCOVERIES).

COPIES of DESPATCHES from the Governor of
Nova Scotia, relative to GOLD DISCOVERIES
there.

(*Mr. Caird.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
14 June 1861.

NOVA SCOTIA (GOLD DISCOVERIES).

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RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 5 June 1861;—for,

A "COPY of DESPATCH from the Governor of *Nova Scotia*, relative to GOLD
DISCOVERIES there."

Colonial Office, }
13 June 1861. }

C. FORTESCUE.

(No. 32.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Mulgrave* to his Grace
the Duke of *Newcastle*, K. G.

Government House, Halifax, Nova Scotia,
18 April 1861.

My Lord Duke,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, that some months ago I was informed that a discovery of gold quartz had been made in the eastern district of the county of Halifax, but on sending to the spot for the purpose of investigating the truth of the report, it appeared that, although some minute particles of gold had undoubtedly been found, yet that the quantity was so small as to be scarcely worthy of consideration.

Within the last week, however, it has been reported to me that a fresh discovery, which appears to be of much greater importance, has been made not very far from the same spot.

The place where gold has now been discovered is situated close to Tangier Harbour, about 40 or 50 miles to the eastward of Halifax.

I am informed that already between 20 l. and 30 l. worth of gold has been obtained, and I herewith forward to your Grace a specimen, both of the gold and the quartz rock.

As soon as the information was received, orders were sent by my Government to the Deputy Surveyor of the district, to proceed at once to the spot, with directions as to the course which he was to pursue, a copy of which I enclose.

Should it appear from further investigation that this discovery is likely to prove of importance, I shall myself visit the place, in order that I may ascertain what arrangements may be necessary to maintain order and regularity among those who will soon be induced to resort to the locality for the purpose of searching for gold.

The country about Tangier is rocky and barren, and the population in that district is very small, but being close to the sea-shore, there would be little difficulty in furnishing supplies to any numbers should the amount of gold discovered be such as to induce a large influx of persons.

The thing most to be feared is, that the hopes of large gain will induce many to neglect their ordinary avocations, which, in a country like this, where the population is thin, cannot fail to act injuriously on the colony, especially at this season of the year, when every one engaged in agricultural pursuits ought to be occupied upon his farm.

Whether this discovery may ultimately prove of importance or not it is impossible as yet to say, but sufficient gold has been found already to direct considerable attention to the district, and I doubt not that, before long, many persons

DESPATCHES RELATING TO THE

persons will be induced to proceed there; and as it may be necessary to make further regulations with regard to the workings, I should feel much obliged to your Grace if you would furnish me with copies of such rules and regulations as may have been found most beneficial in Australia or British Columbia.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Mulgrave.*

(Enclosure.)

Provincial Secretary's Office, Halifax,
9 April 1861.

Sir,

REFERRING to your verbal report on the exhibition of gold on the sea-coast to the eastward of Tangier, I am commanded to instruct you to proceed to the spot, and lay off, for the occupants of the soil, a space, 20 feet by 50, to be selected by themselves. They will be permitted to work within this space free of charge. You will then lay off other lots of the same proportions, and intersecting the quartz vein, and execute leases of these lots for one year, on the payment of forty dollars for each lot, it being understood that four dollars will be reserved out of the rent of each lot, to be paid to the occupants of the soil.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Joseph Howe.*

(No. 39.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Mulgrave* to his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, K.G.

Government House, Halifax, Nova Scotia,
15 May 1861.

My Lord Duke,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Grace, that on Monday the 6th instant, I sailed in the revenue schooner "Daring," for Tangier, in order that I might myself inspect the gold diggings at that place.

The harbour of Tangier is safe and commodious, and though the entrance is rather narrow in one place, there is nothing to impede any ship, not drawing more than 18 feet, from making the harbour.

The neighbouring country is very rough and uncultivated, and only inhabited by a few fishermen. The spot where the gold has been found is about half a mile from the shore.

At present, nine different lodes of quartz have been discovered, running about east and west, and I have every reason for believing that they extend for a very considerable distance.

The lodes are narrow, varying from about three inches to three feet; the smaller lodes however being the richest, the gold being generally found on the outsides of the lode.

As yet, only the most primitive mode of searching for gold has been adopted, the quartz being taken out and broken up with a hammer, and the gold picked out by hand. Notwithstanding this, a considerable quantity has been found. As an instance of this, I may mention that two men working in one claim, secured about 30*l.* worth in one week from first breaking ground.

This however was the best yield that I heard of, and I doubt whether, on an average, the parties were doing more than making good wages, even if they were doing that.

Considerable excitement is beginning to be felt on the subject of the diggings, and persons are coming in from all parts of the province, but as yet no great amount of work has been done, many only coming for the purpose of prospecting and taking up a claim with the intention of working it later on in the year after their crops have been sown.

Whether it will eventually pay individuals to work these quartz, is, I think, extremely doubtful; but from what I saw, I have little doubt that the discovery is one of considerable importance, and that these lodes if worked by companies

on

on scientific principles, with all the appliances of machinery, will prove remunerative.

I took Mr. Howe, the Provincial Secretary, with me, and went carefully over the claims which had already been opened, and before leaving, we decided to reduce the price of the claims from 10% to 5%. I, at the same time, authorized the immediate construction of a road to the harbour, to facilitate the carrying up of supplies to the diggings, as I fully anticipate that before many weeks, a very large number of persons will be attracted to the spot.

I am also taking steps to have the land in the neighbourhood surveyed, and also, as far as possible, to trace out the different lodes. This however is a matter of some difficulty, as the ground is extremely rough, and the quartz in many instances is covered by some feet of soil and boulder-stones. I propose returning there in about a month, when I shall hope to be able to speak more positively as to the probable extent of the deposit.

I impressed upon the miners the necessity, even for their own comfort, of maintaining law and order; and assured them of the determination of my Government to act fairly by them. So far I am happy to say, their conduct has been irreproachable, and a very good feeling seemed to prevail among them. There were, at the time of my leaving, over 100 men upon the ground; but many who had been there, after securing their claim, had returned home for the purpose of getting in their crops.

I have to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of two Blue Books on the subject of the Gold Mines in Australia and British Columbia.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Mulgrave.*
