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VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

RETURN made since 1849 by the HUDSON'S
BAY COMPANY to the SECRETARY OF STATE
for the COLONIES, relating to *Vancouver's*
Island.

(*Mr. Forster.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
23 December 1852.

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VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 17 June 1852;—for,

“ RETURN made since 1849 by the HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY to the SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES, in conformity with the Grant of *Vancouver's Island* to the said Company; of the Acres of LAND Sold, and the Number of COLONISTS settled in the said Island, and of all MONIES which have been received by the said Company for the Purchase of such Lands; and also from all PAYMENTS which may have been made to them for or in respect of COAL or other Minerals obtained in the said Island, together with the Amount applied to Colonization and Improvement of the Island.”

Colonial Office, Downing-street, }
20 December 1852.

DESART.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 23 December 1852.

— No. 1. —

COPY of a LETTER from Earl *Desart* to Sir *J. H. Pelly*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 2 July 1852.

REFERRING to the return of land sales and emigration for Vancouver's Island, enclosed in your letter to this office of the 21st June 1851, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to forward, for the information of the Hudson's Bay Company, the copy of an Address to Her Majesty from the House of Commons, dated the 17th ultimo, for information of a somewhat similar kind; and I am to request that you will move the Directors to furnish Sir John Pakington with the information necessary for making a return to this Address, under the several heads therein stated, complete to the latest date.

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

— No. 2. —

COPY of a LETTER from *A. Colvile, Esq.*, to the Right Honourable
Sir *John Pakington, Bart.*

Sir,

Hudson's Bay House, 24 November 1852.

I HAVE the honour to enclose the answer to Lord Desart's letter of the 2d July, addressed to the late Sir John Henry Pelly, enclosing copy of an Address to Her Majesty from the House of Commons, dated 17th June; and I take leave at the same time to enclose for your information a detailed statement of the expenditure of 1,986 l. 4 s. 9 d. incurred for colonization and improvements.

I have, &c.
(signed) *A. Colvile,*
Governor.

Incl. 1, in No. 2.

Enclosure 1, in No. 2.

Sir,
Hudson's Bay House, 24 November 1852.
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge Lord Desart's letter of the 2d July, addressed to the late Sir John Henry Pelly, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, and in compliance therewith, I have to state the following facts as to the transactions of the Company in relation to Vancouver's Island, from the date of the grant thereof, until the 27th April 1852, the date of the latest information received upon the several points.

1st. *Quantity of Land Sold.*

There have been sold 1,478 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land, to 11 persons.

The fur trade branch of the Hudson's Bay Company are in possession, under the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, of 3,094 acres of land, which were occupied by them previous to the date of the Boundary Treaty. They have sold portions of this land to some of their retired servants, who have settled themselves upon it.

Applications have been made by 19 persons for the purchase of land to the extent of 2,355 acres, which are in course of being surveyed, so that titles may be granted and the price paid.

To obviate the difficulty of providing the means of subsistence for settlers on their first arrival, the Puget Sound Company have made arrangements with four competent and experienced agriculturists to cultivate four farms. The Puget Sound Company supply the capital, and give an interest in the profits of cultivation to the persons employed to conduct the farms, with the option of purchasing them at their cost price. The surveys of these farms have not yet been received, but as soon as the number of acres is ascertained, which will probably extend to about 2,500 acres, the same will be paid for at the rate of 20s. per acre.

2d. *The Number of Settlers.*

No return has been received from the island of the number of settlers, further than is to be inferred from what is stated above, by which it appears that 11 persons have purchased lands, and 19 persons have applied for land, besides those who have purchased lands from the fur trade branch of the Company.

The Hudson's Bay Company, and the Puget Sound Company, have, at their own expense, respectively sent out 271 males with 80 females and 84 children belonging to them. These people were chiefly agricultural labourers, the remainder were farm bailiffs, miners, and mechanics. They were sent out at the following periods; viz. :—

	Males.	Females.	Children.
In 1848 - - -	21	5	6
1849 - - -	67	5	-
1850 - - -	99	25	27
1851 - - -	28	2	-
1852 - - -	56	43	51
	<hr/> 271	<hr/> 80	<hr/> 84

In the engagement with the labourers, it is stipulated, that, if they perform their contracts of service in a satisfactory manner, they shall receive a reward of 25*l.* over and above their wages, to be paid to them in land at the price of 20s. per acre, so that it may be expected that many of them will become settlers.

3d. *Monies received for Sales of Land.*

Amount received - - - - -	£.	s.	d.
		1,478	10 -
Of which there falls to the Hudson's Bay Company one-tenth - -		147	17 -
And the remainder - - - - -	£.	1,330	13 -

Is held in trust for colonization purposes.

4th. *Monies received in respect of Coal and other Minerals.*

There have been sold and exported by the Hudson's Bay Company, 1,315 tons of coals, which were collected from the surface seams by the Indians, and traded from them.

The royalty on this quantity, at 2s. 6d., amounts to - - - -	£.	s.	d.
		164	7 6
Of this there falls to the Company one-tenth - - - - -		16	8 9
And the remainder - - - - -	£.	147	18 9

Is held in trust for colonization purposes.

The

The Hudson's Bay Company have incurred very considerable expense in searching for coal, by boring or otherwise, but without success until lately, when promising appearances have been discovered about 80 miles north of Fort Victoria, on the east coast of the island, nearly opposite the mouth of Fraser's River, and measures have been taken to follow out the search, and work the coal if found practicable.

5th. *Expenses incurred for Colonization and Improvement.*

Amount expended - - - - - £. 1,986 4 9.

The high rate of wages in Oregon and California, and the attraction of the gold districts in the latter country, have not only operated to prevent persons of capital settling in Vancouver's Island, but also obstructed the Hudson's Bay Company and the Puget Sound Company in their endeavours to bring land into cultivation, and provide means of subsistence for settlers. Hitherto it has been necessary to import flour for that purpose, and for the use of the Company's establishments on the island.

Should the coal lately discovered prove to be a workable seam, there will be employment for a large number of people, and an extended market for agricultural produce, which will tend to promote the settlement of the island, and attract shipping to its harbours.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir John Pakington,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) A. Colvile, Governor.

Enclosure 2, in No. 2.

Encl. 2, in No. 2.

STATEMENT of Payments applied to the COLONIZATION and IMPROVEMENT of
Vancouver's Island, to the 31st October 1852.

	£.	s.	d.
Peter Smith, Esq., of the Colonial Office, on issue of grant from the Crown, of Vancouver's Island - - - - -	263	11	4
Crowder & Maynard, solicitors, legal expenses connected with the grant of Vancouver's Island - - - - -	51	15	2
Peter Smith, Esq., of the Colonial Office, on issue of commission to Richard Blanshard, Esq., as Governor of Vancouver's Island, and Vice-Admiral Travelling expenses of Richard Blanshard, Esq., to Vancouver's Island <i>via</i> Chagres - - - - -	58	15	9
Stevens & Norton, for law books for Governor Blanshard - - - - -	175	-	-
Peter Smith, Esq., of the Colonial Office, on issue of commission to James Douglas, Esq., as Governor of Vancouver's Island and Vice-Admiral -	51	8	6
Captain Walter C. Grant, surveyor, salary from 25th March 1849 to 25th March 1850, when he resigned, and for extra services - - -	76	16	8
Travelling expenses of Joseph D. Pemberton, surveyor, to Vancouver's Island, <i>via</i> Chagres - - - - -	162	10	-
Passage-money of Benjamin Pearce, surveyor, from London to Vancouver's Island - - - - -	172	3	-
Joseph D. Pemberton and Benjamin Pearce, surveyors, salaries from 25th June 1851 to 1st June 1852 - - - - -	40	-	-
Salaries to Governor Douglas for conducting the sales of land, &c. &c. from 1st June 1850 to 1st June 1852 - - - - -	390	-	6
Advertisements in the English, Scotch, and Irish newspapers respecting the colonization of Vancouver's Island, printing, and other incidental expenses - - - - -	200	-	-
	344	3	10
	£.	1,986	4 9

Hudson's Bay House, London, }
24 November 1852.

Edward Roberts, Accountant.

By order of the Governor, Deputy Governor, and Committee,

A. Barclay, Secretary.

— No. 3. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Douglas* to Earl *Grey* ;
dated Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 15 April 1852.

(Received, 13 July 1852.)

“SEVERAL land sales have been effected since the Report made to your Lordship by the Hudson's Bay Company, to parties residing in this country, who are erecting buildings and bringing the soil into cultivation.

“The Puget Sound Company have commenced a large agricultural establishment west of Esquimalt, and another on a smaller scale near Victoria.

“Several houses have also been erected in town, and on the whole, much progress has been made for the small British population on the island.

“A number of horses and cattle have also been imported during the winter by the Hudson's Bay Company, and by individual settlers.”
