

EMIGRATION COMMISSION.

TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL REPORT

OF THE

EMIGRATION COMMISSIONERS.

1862.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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Harbour, St. Mary's River, and at Laidlaw's Farm, on the eastern side of Lake Thomas.

The number of claims applied for at Wine Harbour was 30, and the number of people employed about 200. At Isaac's Harbour 23 applications had been made, and there were about 70 persons employed. Both these fields are on the south side of the province, where the metamorphic rocks exist. The geological structure is similar to that near Lunenburg. Quartz veins run in from the sea through the upland, with a general direction from east to west, and at various dips and angles. The gold is found in these quartz veins or in the overlapping soil. At Laidlaw's Farm the saddle-back formation prevails, the gold-bearing quartz being found in successive layers of barrel-shaped rocks, covering large areas. At this place 16 claims had been taken, and about 50 persons were employed. At St. Mary's a similar number were employed, and about 36 claims had been applied for.

We place in the Appendix the papers containing the Gold field regulations which have been framed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for the working of the gold-fields. Appendices, Nos. 39, 40, and 41.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The Commissioners appointed in June 1860 to inquire into and adjust the differences existing in Prince Edward Island, between the proprietors of land and their tenants, made their report on the 18th July 1861, and the question is at present under consideration. Difference between landlord and tenant.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The despatches received from Governor Douglas during the year 1861, on the recent gold discoveries in British Columbia, and the general progress of the colony, have been already laid before Parliament. Of the gold discoveries the most remarkable are the gold-fields in the Quesnel and Caribou country, discovered by a young man of the name of McDonnell, a native of the island of Cape Breton. They are said to be equal to the best parts of California, and to be distributed over a far more extensive area. Some idea of the richness of these mines may be formed from the following extract of Governor Douglas' despatch of the 24th October 1861, written from Vancouver's Richness of the mines.

Island :—"The accounts from Caribou are more than ever
 "satisfactory, and the numbers of returning miners, with
 "their rapidly acquired stores of gold, and the extraordi-
 "nary fact, unusual, I believe, in gold countries, that they
 "have all been eminently successful, offer the strongest
 "confirmation of the almost fabulous wealth of that gold-
 "field. I have not, indeed, up to the present time, met
 "with a single unfortunate miner from that quarter. Of
 "those whom I had occasion to interrogate during my
 "recent visit to British Columbia, I ascertained that none
 "who held mining claims had less than 2,000, and that
 "others had cleared as much as 10,000 dollars during their
 "summer's sojourn at the mines." In these sums the
 large strikes of the season are not included. The amount
 of gold taken out of a claim on Lightning Creek, belonging
 to a man named Ned Campbell, is stated in the Monthly
 Report of Mr. Ball, Assistant Gold Commissioner for the
 Lytton district, to have been the first day, 900 ounces;
 second day, 500 ounces; and third day, 300 ounces, making
 1,700 ounces in three days.

Other cases are mentioned, in which 80, 90, and 100
 ounces a day were ordinary returns.

Want of circu-
 lating medium.

The want of a circulating medium of fixed and recog-
 nized value, equal to the business and demands of the
 country, has been more or less felt since the formation of
 the colony, and latterly had been the cause of much incon-
 venience and loss. Almost all the business of the country
 has been transacted in gold dust, of uncertain value; and
 gold dust not being received for Custom duties, the im-
 porters of goods have frequently been obliged to borrow
 money at exorbitant interest to make those payments. To
 remedy this state of things, Governor Douglas has an-
 nounced his intention, in his despatch of the 14th Novem-
 ber last, to take steps for the manufacture of gold pieces
 equal in value to the 10 and 20 dollar American coins, and
 to bring them into general use as a circulating medium in
 British Columbia and Vancouver's Island.

Proposed issue
 of 10 and 20
 dollar gold
 pieces.

Pre-emption
 consolidation
 Act.
 Appendix,
 No. 42.

We place in the Appendix a copy of a proclamation
 issued on the 27th August last, entitled "The Pre-emption
 Consolidation Act, 1861." The Act, as its title imports, is
 little more than a consolidation of three existing Acts
 relating to the pre-emption of unsurveyed lands. The
 principal alteration consists in allowing the holder of 160
 acre claims to take possession of any contiguous land on
 payment of an instalment at the rate of 2s. 1d. per acre, as
 security that the land is held for the purpose of immediate

settlement. The payment of the remainder of the purchase money is deferred until the land is surveyed.

The long outstanding claims of the Hudson's Bay Company to land in British Columbia have been again brought under your Grace's consideration, and an arrangement has been agreed to which we trust will form the basis of a permanent settlement of the question. A short review of the facts will explain the nature of the proposed arrangement.

Settlement of
claims of
Hudson's Bay
Company.

Before British Columbia was constituted a colony, the Hudson's Bay Company had occupied many tracts of land for the erection of forts or trading establishments, as well as for purposes of cultivation. To this land they had no title, beyond that of occupation, confirmed (as they conceived) by the stipulations in the Oregon treaty of 1846, nor was there any definition of their boundaries. So long as the country was uninhabited no inconvenience was felt from the uncertainty of their tenure, but after the erection of the colony, and the resort to it of settlers, it became important that the extent of their claims should be ascertained, and their validity recognized. Considerable correspondence ensued, and several reports on the subject were received from the colonial authorities. Eventually, in May of last year, Governor Douglas suggested, as a basis of settlement, that the places occupied by the Company as existing forts or posts, which are necessary for carrying on their business, should be transferred to them in fee, together with any fields or gardens actually enclosed by fences and under cultivation, provided that no such grant should exceed 100 acres of country land at any one place, except at New Langley and Kamloops, where the Company have a number of cattle and horses. In those places the grants he suggested might be increased to 500 acres. In the towns Governor Douglas proposed that the grants should be restricted to building lots actually occupied by the Company's business houses. These proposals, with some modifications, suggested by Mr. Dallas, on behalf of the Company, form the basis of the arrangement which has now been agreed upon.

Under the proposed arrangement the whole quantity of land to be conveyed in fee to the Company in satisfaction of all their claims will not exceed 2,913 acres; but the Company are to have the liberty of purchasing, within six months, at the farm near New Langley, but not in any other locality, an additional quantity of country land not exceeding 1,500 acres, at 4s. 2d. per acre, the minimum upset price of lands in the colony. It is further proposed

What land to
be conveyed
to Company.

that in case of any differences as to the site, shape of blocks boundaries, quantities, or value of land, or as to what are to be deemed improvements, enclosures, or occupation, or matters otherwise connected with the present arrangement, such differences are to be determined by two arbitrators appointed beforehand, one by the Government and the other by the Company, with an umpire, to be chosen also beforehand by the arbitrators. The decision of these arbitrators is in all cases to be final and binding.

Wheresituated. The following is a list of the places in which the lands to be conveyed to the Company are situated, and the number of acres which they are to receive in each locality:—

Langley Fort	-	-	not exceeding	200	acres.
Do. Farm	-	-	"	500	"
Fort Hope	-	-	"	5	"
Do. Suburban Lot	-	-	"	5	"
Fort Yale	-	-	"	1	"
Old Langley	-	-	"	2	"
Kamloops	-	-	"	600	"
Fort Dallas	-	-	"	50	"
Fort Berens	-	-	"	50	"
Fort Shepherd	-	-	"	100	"
Fort Simpson	-	-	"	100	"
Fort Alexandria and 12 other Ports in the north, not exceeding	-	-	-	1,300	"
Total	-	-	-	2,913	

VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

Settlement of Hudson's Bay Company's land claims. We are also glad to be able to state that in the last few months a settlement has been effected of the Hudson's Bay Company's land claims in Vancouver's Island, which the events of the last few years had rendered not a little complicated. We place in the Appendix a copy of the agreement on this point concluded with the Company under your Grace's direction and authority.

Appendix, No. 43. Upset price of country lands. By two proclamations issued by Governor Douglas in February 1861, the upset price of country land is fixed at 4s. 2d. per acre, as in British Columbia, and settlers are allowed, under certain restrictions, and as a provisional arrangement pending the legal difficulties which at present impede the issue of Crown grants, to occupy country lands before survey with a right of pre-emption. This measure, Governor Douglas states, has given great satisfaction in the colony.