

Island of Vancouver, the climate is healthy, and the soil, in many parts which have been explored, good, and capable of producing large crops of grain; but the great distance from the mother country, and from any regular trading track, the savage races which have possession of the interior of the island, and the greater attractions of other settlements with fewer drawbacks and greater advantages, present obstacles to its rapid colonization. The neighbourhood of California, and the Gold Regions, offering such attraction to the emigrant has seriously interfered with the exertions made by the Company to promote this end.

1690 The Charter of the Company has from time to time, come under the cognizance of the Legislature. In 1690 the Company having been annoyed by constant question as to their powers of seizure and punishment of interlopers, and of their right to exclusive trade, petitioned Parliament for an Act to confirm the privileges contained in their Charter. An Act was passed for that purpose, but its duration was limited to seven years. The present rights of the Company are, therefore, those conferred by their original Charter, repeatedly recognized since the Act of 1690, by other Acts of the Legislature.

1708 In 1708, an Act of Parliament (6th Anne, cap. 37,) was passed, for the encouragement of the trade to America, declaring that it should be lawful for all Her Majesty's subjects to trade into any part of America where they might lawfully have traded before the passing of the Act, and not otherwise. On the petition of the Company, supported before a select Committee by counsel, a Clause was added, providing that nothing in the Act should extend to take away or prejudice any of the Estates, Rights, and Privileges of the Hudson's Bay Company.

1744 In 1744, when an Act was passed (18th Geo. II., cap. 17,) granting a reward for the discovery of a North-west passage through Hudson's Straits, it was expressly provided that nothing therein contained should extend, or be construed to take away or prejudice, any of the Estates, Rights or Privileges of or belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company.

1774 In 1774, an Act of Parliament (14th Geo. III., cap. 83), in describing the boundaries of Canada, says that they lie "northward" to the Southern boundary of the territories granted to the Merchant
1794 Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay. In 1794 the Treaty of Peace, Commerce, and Navigation concluded between Great Britain and the United States, gives the free right of passage