

— No. 8. —

COPY of a LETTER from *B. Hawes*, Esq., to *Sir J. H. Pelly*, Bart.

No. 8.

B. Hawes, Esq., to
Sir J. H. Pelly,
Bart.
25 February 1848.

Sir,

Downing-street, 25 February 1848.

I AM desired to remind you of your letter of the 5th March 1847, submitting, for Lord Grey's consideration, an application on the part of the Hudson's Bay Company for a grant of all the territories belonging to the Crown which are situated to the north and west of Rupert's Land.

In an interview which Earl Grey had with you subsequently to that application, you were informed that the proposal you had made was too extensive for Her Majesty's Government to entertain.

I am now directed by his Lordship to state, that if you are prepared to submit another scheme which shall be more limited and definite in its object, and yet embrace a plan for the colonization and government of Vancouver's Island, Her Majesty's Government will be ready to give their immediate and attentive consideration to such proposal. Assuming that in any negotiation which may take place on this subject, the value of the coal at Vancouver's Island will necessarily form a material consideration on the part of the Hudson's Bay Company, Lord Grey directs me to send you the copy of an agreement recently entered into with Mr. Wise, from which you will learn the terms on which the Government have granted a lease to that gentleman of the coal at Labuan, and which may possibly serve as a guide in any proposal which the Company may think proper to make for working the coal at Vancouver's Island.

For copy of agreement
entered into with
Mr. Wise, *vide* Papers
relative to Labuan,
ordered by the House of
Commons to be printed,
3 July 1848, No. 460.

I have, &c.,
(signed) *B. Hawes*.

— No. 9. —

COPY of a LETTER from *Sir J. H. Pelly*, Bart., to *Earl Grey*.

No. 9.

Sir J. H. Pelly,
Bart., to *Earl Grey*.
4 March 1848.

My Lord,

Hudson's Bay House, 4 March 1848.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from Mr. Hawes, dated February 25, acquainting me that he is desired to remind me of my letter of March 5, 1847, in which I submitted for your Lordship's consideration an application, on the part of the Hudson's Bay Company, for a grant of all the territories belonging to the Crown which are situated to the north and west of Rupert's Land.

Mr. Hawes also states, that in an interview which I had with your Lordship, subsequently to that application, I was informed that the proposal I had made was too extensive for Her Majesty's Government to entertain.

In the interview to which allusion is made, your Lordship did not appear to me to express yourself so decidedly as to lead me to believe that Her Majesty's Government had made up their minds on the subject, and, therefore, I did not consider what then fell from your Lordship as an answer to my official letter of the 5th March. I regret this misapprehension, and shall now proceed to the consideration of that part of Mr. Hawes's letter now before me, in which he says that he is directed by your Lordship to state that, if I am prepared to submit another scheme which shall be more limited and definite in its object, and yet embrace a plan for the colonization and government of Vancouver's Island, Her Majesty's Government will be ready to give their attentive and immediate consideration to such proposal.

As far as the Hudson's Bay Company are concerned, all that they would require would be the very limited grant of lands which I had in view in my letter to your Lordship of the 7th September 1846. To such a grant Mr. Hawes informed me, in his letter of 14th December 1846, your Lordship was prepared to assent on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, provided Her Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor-General should be of opinion that the acceptance of it by the Company would be consistent with their charter.

The opinion of the Attorney and Solicitor-General in the affirmative was forwarded to you on the 22d January 1847, and on the 2d February I received a letter from Mr. Hawes, stating that your Lordship was then "ready to receive and consider the draft of such a grant as the Company would
" desire