

lands in Vancouver's Island, or in other parts of the Oregon territory, should be granted to the Hudson's Bay Company; but that before making that grant you would require the production, by the Company, of an opinion from Her Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor-General to the effect that the acceptance by the Company of such a grant would be consistent with the Charter of Incorporation.

On receiving this intimation I directed a case to be drawn up for the opinion of the Attorney and Solicitor-General, which case, with their opinion thereon, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith.

Your Lordship will perceive that the question raised in the case is confined to the single point on which you expressed a wish to receive information, namely, whether the Hudson's Bay Company have power under their Charter to hold lands within Her Majesty's dominions westward of the Rocky Mountains.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. H. Pelly.*

— No. 6. —

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 2 February 1847.

No. 6.

HAVING laid before Earl Grey your letter of the 22d instant, together with the opinion of Her Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor-General upon the question submitted to them as to the power of the Hudson's Bay Company, under their charter, to hold lands in the Queen's dominions westward of the Rocky Mountains in North America, I am directed by his Lordship to inform you that, on the perusal of that opinion, he is now ready to receive and consider the draft of such a grant as the Company would desire to receive of lands belonging to the British Crown in the Oregon territory.

*B. Hawes, Esq., to
Sir J. H. Pelly,
Bart.
2 February 1847.*

I have, &c.

(signed) *B. Hawes.*

— No. 7. —

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

My Lord,

Hudson's Bay House, 5 March 1847.

No. 7.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Under Secretary Hawes' letter of the 2d February, stating that your Lordship, on the perusal of the opinion of Her Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor-General as to the power of the Hudson's Bay Company, under their charter, to hold lands within the Queen's dominions westward of the Rocky Mountains in North America, is ready to receive and consider the draft of such a grant as the Company would desire to receive of lands belonging to the British Crown in the Oregon territory.

*Sir J. H. Pelly,
Bart., to Earl Grey.
5 March 1847.*

In reply to this communication, I beg leave to say, that if Her Majesty's Ministers should be of opinion that the territory in question would be more conveniently governed and colonized (as far as that may be practicable) through the Hudson's Bay Company, the Company are willing to undertake it, and will be ready to receive a grant of all the territories belonging to the Crown which are situated to the north and west of Rupert's Land.

The draft which I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith is framed on the supposition that Her Majesty's Government, after considering the nature and circumstances of those territories, will be of this opinion.

I have, &c.,

(signed) *J. H. Pelly.*
