

show sufficiently the fertility and mineral value of those regions, and the vast consequence of opening this great Overland route, but that they also clearly demonstrate that the whole of these Territories, both for civil and criminal purposes, are, by Act of Parliament, exclusively placed under the Queen's Courts of England and Canada; and that the present Hudson's Bay Company simply started on the footing of a Licensed* Firm of Trade; which last expired in 1859; and as that Charter or License has not been renewed, the name of the Company exists now without even that footing, as an unlicensed firm; and I also believe Unregistered; and, therefore, it may be without due legal security to innocent shareholders, a state of things which is regarded by those who fully comprehend this startling position to be one of great public moment.

And from the investigation, I have made, Your Grace will allow me further to express my belief that, the Hudson's Bay Company could not establish a claim to any proprietary rights in the Soil on the old Charter before a competent tribunal, not so much as

*In the Times of November 2nd. 1867, a notice appeared for "a General Court of the Hudson's Bay Company to be held in London on the 19th. inst. to elect a Governor and Deputy Governor for the ensuing year, in pursuance of the provisions of the Charter"; but there is no Charter in force, the only legal one having expired in 1859, and there has been no fresh renewal since.