

Executive Government, for they certainly never had any power to grant it; and further, the Company pretends to be independent of the Canadian Legislature, because of holding their Charter from the Imperial Government; then if they could not bind, they certainly could not release. It could not have been by the Imperial Executive Government, for it had just as little power to grant it; and as no legislation for that purpose has taken place in England or Canada, from whom this release came would be a matter of much interest to the people of Canada. The King had no power to grant the Charter, and the lands with it, without an Act of Parliament. For that reason the Act of 1823 was passed, whereby the King was authorised to grant the lands, but only on such terms and with such restrictions and safeguards as the Act itself pointed out, and the Charter was granted in strict conformity with the Act (as stated in the amendment to the Act passed in 1828). Therefore, it is quite clear that there was no power capable of releasing the Company from the restrictions and safeguards embodied in that Act, and the Charter of the King granted in pursuance of it, except the Imperial Parliament, from which we do not fear so great an injustice. But whatever the release is, surely it will stand the light of day. Thousands of people in Western Canada feel a deep interest in it. About 700,000 acres of the best land in Western Canada are still held in fee by the Company. This being a large portion of the whole original grant, the opinion is gaining ground among all classes that the Company has no intention of diminishing these lands, but to establish an obnoxious leasing system to be perpetuated for many centuries to come. But why all this secrecy? Why this holding back of information? If the Company really wish to dispose of their lands, and to comply with the terms of the Charter, the more publicity they can give to their operations the better for them, but they are not sincere, and it will be found that, behind all this, underlying all these pretensions, one of the reasons for not giving the information is the danger of an exposure of this very bogus release business, in which some of the public men of Canada may be found to be involved. It is to be hoped, however, that better counsels will prevail, and that information may be given at the next session of Parliament, in accordance with the demand made at the last meeting of the House.

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

From the London Free Press, 10th August, 1866.

THE CANADA COMPANY: INVESTIGATION ORDERED.

The letters of Mr. Glass, on the subject of the Canada Company, and the determined efforts of a few members, who had resolved to