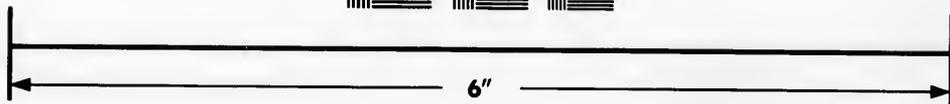
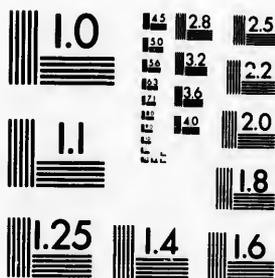


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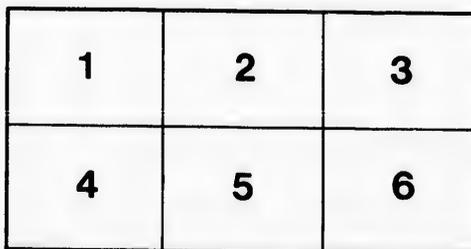
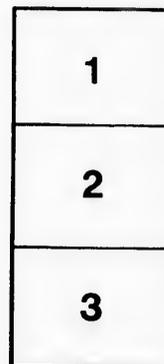
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THE

# CANADA COMPANY.

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FEELING IN THE WEST.

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700,000 ACRES IN WESTERN CANADA

STILL HELD BY THE COMPANY.

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IN 1865 THE COMPANY SOLD LESS THAN 20,000 ACRES  
AND GOT BACK AS FORFEITED 25,000 ACRES.

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NUMEROUSLY SIGNED MEMORIALS PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT  
AGAINST THE COMPANY. THE COUNTY COUNCILS OF  
PERTH, HURON AND BRUCE, REPRESENTING 100,000  
SOULS, PETITION FOR AN INVESTIGATION.

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DAVID GLASS,  
OF THE CITY OF LONDON. C.W., BARRISTER AT LAW.

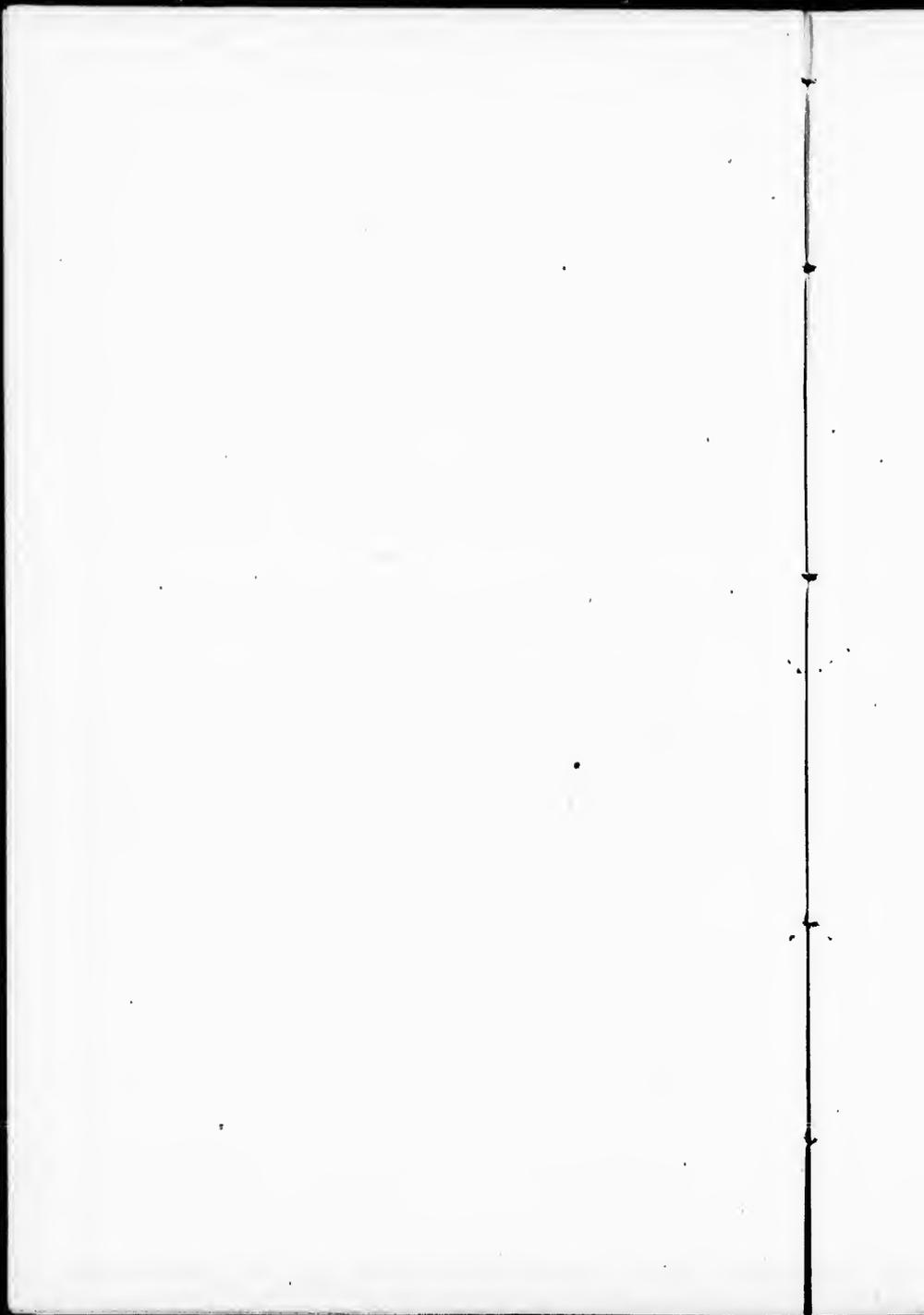
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## P R E F A C E .

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The following sheets contain the substance of most of the Letters, Editorial Remarks, Petitions and Parliamentary Proceedings, in reference to the Canada Company, published during the summer of 1866,—in addition to which are some further remarks on the subject by the author. The object in having this pamphlet printed is to preserve, in a concise form, some record of the very general expression of public opinion on the subject of the Canada Company; and in some degree to constitute an answer to any attempt on behalf of the Company to belittle the movement of last year; and further, that the people's representatives in Parliament may have in their possession, in a compact form, the whole of the proceedings, with a view to some definite action on the subject at the earliest possible moment.



## THE CANADA COMPANY.

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The people are long suffering, and slow to make any united effort for the removal of a public evil. Each man's private affairs so fully engross his attention that great public wrongs may long exist without any one being found willing to enter the arena in opposition to them. Of this the case of the Canada Company furnishes conclusive evidence. For thirty years of the present century this Company, and the operations of it, have been felt by the people of Western Canada to be oppressive, and damaging to the natural growth and prosperity of the country. And yet those who were not backward, when opportunity offered, to give expression to this view, allowed so many years to pass without any general uprising in opposition to this monopoly. It is true that time and again the matter has been mentioned in the House of Parliament, and in some cases urged—not, however, with that success which the people, through the High Court of Parliament, might fairly expect. The history of the Company may be briefly adverted to, as follows:—

About the year 1820 a few men of some means and influence visited this country. They cast their eyes over the land, and saw that it was good; and, as the result soon after proved, they determined to possess themselves of it. They at once returned to England, and entered into a combination with other men of means and political influence, with a view to getting an act of Parliament passed there, under the authority of which they might obtain possession of the most fertile parts of Upper Canada. The success of that combination is familiar to all, and the fruits that it has borne for this country are too well known, and have been too severely felt for the last forty years, to require explanation at this late day. Suffice it to say that the looked for Imperial Act was passed on the 27th June, 1825, by which King George IV. was authorised, under certain safeguards and restrictions, to grant to "the Canada Company" lands as therein specified. The Act recites that, Whereas, large portions of the lands of Upper Canada have been set apart as Clergy Reserves:

“And whereas, the greater part of the said Clergy Reserves in the said Province of Upper Canada have ever since continued and are now

waste and unproductive; and it is expedient that means should be adopted for clearing and cultivating the said land, and for that purpose his Majesty should be authorised to sell and dispose of certain parts thereof to the Company to be established as herein mentioned; and whereas, certain other lands in the said Province of Upper Canada have been reserved for the use of his Majesty, and are known in the said Province by the name of the Crown Reserves; and whereas, divers persons have united together to establish a Company for purchasing improving, settling and disposing of lands in Upper Canada, and especially for purchasing and settling the whole of the before-mentioned lands known by the name of the Crown Reserves, and such parts of the said lands known by the name of the Clergy Reserves, as his Majesty may be so authorised to sell and convey to them, and for such other lawful purposes as his Majesty shall deem meet." And further on, in the same Act, the following words are found (and nothing to the contrary in the whole Act);—"And be it further enacted, That all conveyances which shall be made by the said Canada Company to any individual or individuals, of any part of the lands to be granted to, or purchased, or held by the said Company, in the manner and subject to the restrictions aforesaid, shall and may be made according to the form following, or so near thereto as the circumstances of the case will admit, that is to say:—

"We, the Canada Company, incorporated under and by virtue of an Act made and passed in the sixth year of the reign of His Majesty King George the Fourth, entitled 'An Act to enable His Majesty to grant to a Company, to be incorporated by Charter, to be called the Canada Company, certain lands in the Province of Upper Canada, and to invest the said Company with certain powers and privileges, and for other purposes relating thereto, in consideration of the sum of..... to us paid, do hereby grant and release to.....all.....and all our right, title and interest to and in the same, and every part thereof, to have and to hold, unto the said.....and his heirs forever."

"And every such conveyance shall be valid and effectual in law, to all intents and purposes whatsoever."

It will thus be seen that by the form of conveyance which the Statute makes it imperative for the Company to use when parting with their land, it was never intended by the Act, nor had the Company any power to make leases of these lands, nor do I believe the Imperial Government could have been induced to pass an Act to entail on this new country the evils which such a system was sure to produce. Nor was it attempted for many years after the formation of the Com-

pany. It was not until about the year 1840 that the scheme was entered upon, and then, no doubt, with a view to perpetuate the existence of the Company in this country. It was found to meet the case of the emigrant who was poor in money but rich in muscle, which muscle could be exhausted for the enriching of the Company. The passing of the Act, and the granting of the Charter, were in themselves frauds upon the emigrant; but the violation of the Charter itself by the introduction of this pernicious leasing system, and the refusal to make rapid settlement and sales of the lands, is a two-fold wrong, which sooner or later must be put right by the power of Parliament.

That the Charter granted followed closely the words of the Act there can be no doubt, for on the 15th July, 1828, an amendment to the Act was passed, in which power is given to the Company to appoint Commissioners in this country to sign Deeds on behalf of the Company and other minor matters. In this amendment the following words are to be found:—"On the 19th day of August, in the seventh year of his Majesty's reign, His Majesty, *in pursuance of the said Act*, was graciously pleased to give, grant, make, ordain, constitute, declare, and appoint, that Charles Bosanquet, Esquire; William Williams, Esquire; Robert Biddulph, Esquire; Richard Blanshard, Esquire; Robert Downie, Esquire; John Easthope, Esquire; Edward Ellice, Esquire; James William Freshfield, Esquire; John Fullarton, Esquire; John Galt, Esquire; Charles David Gordon, Esquire; William Hibbert, the younger, Esquire; John Hodgson, Esquire; John Hullett, Esquire; Hart Logan, Esquire; Simon McGillivray, Esquire; James McKillop, Esquire; John Masterman, Esquire; Henry Usbourne, Esquire; and Morton Tucker Smith, Esquire; together with such and so many other person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, as had become, or should at any time thereafter become, subscribers or shareholders of or for the capital stock thereafter mentioned, in manner thereafter provided, shall be one body, politic and corporate, in deed and in name, by the name of the "Canada Company."

And further on in the same Act, the following is to be found:—"And Whereas, the said Letters Patent were in all respects in pursuance of, and in conformity with, the provisions of the said Act of Parliament."

In June, 1864, the "Whitewashing Act" was passed in our Parliament—in which may be found the following words:—"All leases made at any time by the said Canada Company, or by their attorneys for the time being, or by one or more of them, for the benefit of the said Company, are hereby confirmed as to the power of the making, and the due execution thereof by the said Company, but to no further or other extent whatsoever.

Why the necessity of passing this Act to confirm the making of these leases, if the Company, prior to that time, had the power to make them? Stronger proof need not be required of the illegality and imposition of the leasing system.

This Act will have the effect of confirming the leases made prior to 1864, but not after; and the sooner the leasing system is put an end to the better for the country.

As to the question of returns: during the early history of the Company they never refused to make returns to our Parliament. In 1829 they gave a statement to the House of the sums stipulated to be paid by them for the lands. This statement was referred to a Committee of the whole House, but from some cause was never acted upon. Again, in 1833, a statement was given to the House, showing the sums they had then expended in public improvements, with an extract from their agreement with the Home Government, showing the authority for such expenditure. In 1836 they made a return of all lands surveyed by them from the first; also, showing the sums expended by the Company in improvements, and a return of the lands purchased by the Company, with the terms of purchase, and a list of the settlers placed upon the lands, before and after 1st October, 1828. Also, in 1837, the number of settlers they had located in that year. And the same in 1839. But from that time forward a determined stand seems to have been taken by the Company, to hold themselves no longer answerable to Parliament or to the people, and to act as a close corporation, quite regardless of the public purposes for which they were created, as is clearly specified in the Act of Parliament and the Charter which brought them into existence. During the session of 1852, a return, embracing a demand for detailed information, was ordered by the House; but the only reply it elicited was a letter from Mr. Commissioner Widder, refusing to supply the required particulars, on the ground that they included matters in which the personal and private interests of the "Proprietors" were concerned; and he refers those requiring information to the Reports sent home to head-quarters in London. No doubt this is what the speakers referred to in the Parliamentary debates during last session. See Parliamentary Proceedings.

During the session of 1854 a Committee on Public Lands was appointed, and the report of that Committee contains a short letter from the same Commissioner, Mr. Widder, but no general information in regard to the Company's affairs. Therefore, this public Company, formed for public purposes, and acting under a Charter granted to them expressly for these purposes, has, up to the session of 1866, succeeded in setting at defiance the Parliament of this country, and, regardless, of the public interests, they have, up to the present,

succeeded in construing that Charter in such a way as may be most for the pecuniary advantage of the "Proprietors." To all such usurpation of power and abuse of privilege an end must come. The dissatisfaction so long felt by the people of the west, seemed to culminate in the movement of last year. Public opinion was so ripe upon the subject, that the legislature was flooded with memorials, numerously signed, from Huron, Perth and Middlesex, demanding an investigation into the workings of the Company, &c., &c. And the County Councils of Perth, Huron and Bruce, representing 100,000 souls, memorialised the Legislature for an abatement of the evil. The journals of the Western Counties, of all political shades, lent their columns and able support in the same direction—so that even the power of the Company could not counteract the tide of public opinion. On the 8th day of August, 1866, Mr. Macfarlane, M.P.P., Hon. John Carling, M.P.P., and others, insisted in their places in the House that the time had now come when it should be shown to the country whether the Parliament of Canada or the Canada Company were the most powerful. The vote then taken—in which only six Upper Canadians were found to vote against the investigation,—shows clearly that not only the people, but their representatives, are no longer to be trifled with on this subject. The question now remains to be solved: Will that solemn act of the Legislature be respected? Will it meet with the response it deserves, or that the people may fairly expect? I regret to say I fear not, without the exercise of the most stringent measures; for during the discussion which preceded the vote, and at the time the vote was taken, I am informed, one of the Commissioners of the Company stood outside the Bar of the House, and when it was over he vauntingly declared that the Company would never make a return to the House, and with a display of some temper boastfully set at defiance the memorials of the people, and their representatives in Parliament. It remains to be seen whether these "Proprietors" with their few office-holders in Toronto, will be permitted to ride "Rough-shod" over the rights and liberties of the people of this country. Let them take warning. Parliament has the power, and that power will be exercised to enforce the making of these returns, to the most minute particulars. The people have spoken, and they must be answered. Let the answer be full, fair and open: then a generous and even liberal construction will be put upon their acts. Ample time will be given them to sell the 700,000 acres they now hold, and to wind up their affairs in this country. But so sure as the full expression of public opinion, and the solemn act of the Legislature last year, continues to be disregarded, the crushing power of Parliament will be brought to bear upon the Company, to put a limit to their practices.

The discussion was commenced by the publication of the following short letter:

LETTER No. 1.

THE CANADA COMPANY.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

SIR,—The name of this Company has been so long prominently before the people of the West, that it is now spoken of more as a thing of the past than a present existing land monopoly. This, however, is not correct; for at no previous period of the Company's history have the baneful influences of it been more severely felt. The original grant to the Company was about two and-a-half million acres of land, much of which is still unoccupied. One has but to glance over the maps of Huron and Perth, to observe that a great injustice has been allowed too long to exist—an injustice to the hardy backwoodsman, who by years of toil has made himself a comfortable home, as well as an injustice to the whole municipalities—in the former greatly diminishing the value of property: and in the latter, greatly reducing the amount of taxation which would be collectable, if all the lands were brought under cultivation in accordance with the term of the charter, upon which they were granted, for, be it remembered, that the grant to this Company was no ordinary one, but was made (as expressed in the Act of Parliament authorising it, and the Charter founded on the Act) with the express view to immediate colonization, and to redeeming them from their "waste and unproductive" condition, and adapting means for "clearing and cultivating" the said lands. The Charter was granted in 1827, by George IV., upon the authority of an Imperial Act passed about the same time, but the laudable purposes for which the Act was passed, and the charter granted, viz., "Redeeming waste and unproductive lands, and clearing and cultivating them," have been totally disregarded by the Company. From year to year—for more than thirty years—those lands, which were the legitimate right of the emigrant have been grudgingly doled out at such prices as to materially impede the natural growth and settlement of many western counties, but more particularly the "Huron Tract" comprising most of the Counties of Huron and Perth, where it will be seen by the last published list of the Company, they still hold on speculation considerably more than two hundred thousand acres of land. In 1864 our Parliament passed a whitewashing Act for the Company, declaring valid a thirty years chain of illegality, since which time I (amongst others) have given some attention to the foundation and general working of the Company through a long course of years—the result is that in my humble opinion, the injuries done to these western counties by this Imperial Company, is beyond any calculation; and I maintain that the time has now come when the Executive Government or Legislature should take measures for the strict fulfilment of the charter, and that the whole of these lands should be brought into market at a fixed price to actual settlers, or be put up to public competition, and sold to the highest bidder.

In my next I will advert more particularly to the general working of the Company, whereby thousands of actual settlers have been pinched, ruined and driven out of the country. In the meantime, I make no

apology for drawing attention to a subject of such interest. I would farther add, that any reply to my letters on this subject, except over the signature of a known person, will not be answered by me

London, May 16, 1866.

DAVID GLASS.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

From the Listowell Banner, June 2, 1866.

THE CANADA COMPANY.

A generation ago, when monopolies were not yet exploded in political economy—and when, without responsible government, it was easy to gain exclusive privileges for the few, at the expense of the interests of the many, a corporation calling itself the "Canada Company," obtained, at a nominal figure, some millions of acres of by far the richest and most beautiful land in Upper Canada. The charter, by which they were empowered to enter upon the possession of a territory which has often and justly been called "the garden of Upper Canada," recited that this was for the purpose of "cultivating and settling waste lands." The lands were surveyed, the chief stockholders of the Company immortalising their names by having them bestowed upon the various townships of the "Huron Tract," as the Company's territory was called; and the work of making money out of their speculation commenced. Emigrants were beset with agents and induced to buy land of the Company. Two or three leading roads were opened into the territory, progress along which was something like the journey of human life—once at the end there was no getting back. Those who had not foresight enough, or lacked faith in their ability to pay, were induced to settle on long leases; which meant that a settler on a hundred acres of the Company's land might live there for ten or fifteen years, pay the taxes and labor on the roads, and after the place was pretty well cleared up, have the privilege of moving off and buying himself a wild lot somewhere in the bush. The "settling and cultivating the waste lands" has, during the forty years of the Company's existence, been done to a large extent—as could scarcely fail to be the case, from the crowding of emigration to the Province, the natural excellence of their lands, and the favorable position of the territory—but a precious little of the credit of this belongs to the Company. They have proved themselves a grasping and obstructive monopoly.

They still hold about two hundred thousand acres in some of the best townships of the province. The settlers in these townships have to make and repair roads through the Company's lands, and bear nearly all the municipal burdens, while the lordly absentees wait patiently till the toil of the actual settlers had rendered their remaining lands so valuable that they can get almost any price for them. Is there any injustice in compelling this monopoly to make a late amend, and bring their lands into the market at a reasonable price, as the only colorable excuse that can now be made toward fulfilling the laudable provisions of their charter, "the settling and cultivating of waste lands." Let Parliament, now about to assemble, compel them to pay some respect to the conditions of their charter, by immediately dispossessing themselves of the remnant of their lands, and allowing them to go into the hands of those who will "settle and cultivate" them. Everyone interested in municipal affairs knows the great injustice done to townships by absentee wild lands in their midst. It is one of the greatest obstacles to the progress of the country.

The principal part of the Company's lands compose a wedge-shaped territory with a blunt point to the east of Stratford, and its larger end abutting on Lake Huron. It includes all the County of Perth, with the exception of

Morington, Elma and Wallace; all the county of Huron, with the exception of the northern tier of townships; and portions of the counties of Middlesex and Lambton. In Huron and Middlesex petitions are being got up, praying Parliament to interfere in this obstructive locking-up of valuable territory. We have not heard that anything has yet been done in Perth; but the matter should be taken up, and a simultaneous effort made to have this matter righted. In this immediate neighborhood we are not specially interested in this matter; it does not exactly strike at us; but we are interested in whatever affects the welfare of the county and the West; and we strongly advise all those within the bounds of the Company's territories to get up petitions at once.

From the Mitchell Advocate, 20th July, 1866.

#### THE CANADA COMPANY AFFAIR.

We are pleased to notice that Mr. Glass' efforts to put a stop to the monopoly of this company have been so far successful. A large number of numerous signed petitions have been forwarded to Parliament from Huron and Perth, which have resulted in Mr. Macfarlane giving notice to move an address for a copy of the charter of the Canada Company, of the agreement entered into in 1826, between the Government and the Company, number of grants made to the Company in Upper Canada and dates, number of acres granted and price paid per acre, with conditions of settlement, roads, bridges, &c. Mr. Carling is to second the motion.

From the Clinton New Era, June 19, 1866.

#### THE CANADA COMPANY IN THE HOUSE.

Recent discussions on the question of the Canada Company, which was set on foot by Mr. David Glass, has had one good effect at least, viz., the introduction of a motion concerning it. Mr. Macfarlane gave notice that on Monday he would move, seconded by Mr. Carling, for an address asking for a copy of the charter of the Canada Company, and the agreement entered into in 1826, between the Government of his Majesty George the Fourth and the said Company, the number of grants of land made to the Company in Upper Canada, and date of the grants, the number of acres granted and the price paid per acre, by whom and to whom the grants were made, and all other conditions connected therewith, such as to reclamation, improving, clearing and cultivating the said lands, and what roads and bridges were to be built, or money appropriated by the grantees for such improvements, together with what amount, if any, of such improvements as have been done by the grantees, and when, where and by whom such improvements have been made; what amount of such improvements remain undone, and how soon the latter are expected to be completed by said Company, together with full and complete returns of what portion of said lands have been conveyed away by the Company, and the names of all persons to whom such conveyances have been made, and a full and detailed account of the price per acre received by the Company, together with a statement of the full amount received by the Company for such lands, and showing whether said Company has ever been in the habit of leasing any portion of said lands, or making conditional sales of the same, or at the time of making the sales, leases, or conditional sales, the company had been in the habit of reserving to itself any reversionary rights in the minerals or other productions which might be found upon said lands, together with the form of lease, or agreement for conditional sales, if any, used by the Company, and the number of years the same have been in use by the Company, the number of acres leased to or parted with by them under any form of conditional sale, and to whom the same have been made, with a number of other particulars.

From the Mitchell Advocate, 1st June, 1866.

A MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

All honor to David Glass, the respected Mayor of London, for calling the attention of the public to the injustice practised by the Canada Company on the hard-working settlers of our backwoods, and the stumbling block which they have set in the way of emigration. Now that the stone has been started, we hope that the press, and every public man in Canada, will take the matter up, and keep the stone in motion till it strikes the very foundation of the Company and brings it to proper terms. Nothing, we contend, has injured this part of the country more than the Canada Company. The exorbitant prices at which they hold their lands have driven the farmer, the mechanic and the speculator from our doors, and hundreds of families, after hewing out a home for themselves in the heart of the wild woods, were so cramped up by this same Company as to be forced to seek a more congenial place to live. We need not go beyond our own village for instances of this conduct. While private parties ask say \$200 for building lots, the Canada Company asks just double that amount. And instead of encouraging the extension of our town, by offering their rough lots, which are now in commons on the outskirts of the village, at about \$60; they actually ask from \$100 to \$300. This state of affairs should not be allowed to go on any longer. It is high time something should be done in the matter. It will be remembered that those lands were granted with the express view to immediate colonization, and to redeeming them from their waste and unproductive condition. Has this been done? No. It has been totally disregarded, and the legitimate rights of the emigrant have been sacrificed to the private interests of this Company. The counties of Perth and Huron are the main sufferers, as there are over two hundred thousand acres of land yet held by the Company in those places. The time has now arrived when something must be done. Let petitions be got up throughout the county, calling on the Executive government, or the Legislature, to take such measures as will secure the strict fulfilment of the charter. Mr. Glass has put the ball in motion, and we have no doubt before long every corner of the Huron Tract will be supplied with blank petitions for signature. As the injuries done to these Western counties by this Imperial Company are beyond calculation, we have no doubt but almost every settler in the district will lend his aid to the object.

LETTER No. II.

THE CANADA COMPANY.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

SIR.—As stated in my last letter, this Company was formed in England, and a Charter granted to it by George the Fourth, in 1827.

The Company received in all about two and a half millions of acres of land—the price paid for the land being about 3s. 6d. per acre; but one-third of this merely nominal price was held back by the Company to be expended in making roads, building bridges, &c., in order to make the lands accessible for immediate colonization, and to induce a rapid emigration and settlement of the same; and to facilitate the “clearing and cultivation” of the said lands. And for another portion of the grant to the Company, for every lot remaining unsold after a certain date (now long passed) the Company was to pay a large sum towards the making of roads, building of bridges, &c., opposite such unsettled lots.

Now I maintain that these wholesome conditions and restrictions (as a whole) have been disregarded by the Company. It is true that a few miserable corduroys were made at an early day in some places, in order that access might be obtained to the lands; but to pretend that the roads have been made, or that the bridges have been built, is the merest mockery, and such a trifling with a public trust as should be held up to condemnation in every part of Upper Canada. The original grants were at best but iniquitous frauds upon the emigrants, but the shameful disregard of the conditions of these grants is three-fold reprehensible.

It is needless at this moment to go into details as to the pretences upon which some subsequent grants of lands were obtained by the Company; how it was represented that large tracts of the original grants were irreclaimable, and other first-class lands were substituted for them; and how, now, those very irreclaimable lands in Huron and Perth, are held by the Company at from \$5 to \$20 per acre. The fact is, the whole proceeding, from first to last, has been a continual outrage upon the public, in order to keep up the wealth and splendor of a foreign Company; and has been protracted, and will be protracted (if not prevented) for the next fifty years, in order to support the Banking House in Toronto, with its extensive staff of clerks, inspectors, commissioners and solicitors, enjoying, as they do, the "sweets" of the Company, while they are far removed from its baneful influences.

This Company, by their Charter, never had the right or power to lease one foot of these lands, and such leasing was never contemplated by their Charter. Yet they have pursued these illegal practises for over thirty years. The very idea of an illiterate emigrant entering into a lease to pay an annual rent for a piece of forest land, and being bound in the most stringent way to clear and fence the same, and then to pay the full price for the land at the end of the lease, is too repulsive to contemplate, and could only have originated in the brains of the most astute speculators. Yet such has been the practice of this Company for so long a time, simply because no one liked the unpleasant task of exposing it. It is true the "whitewashing Act" of 1864 confirmed these leases; but this makes the moral wrong none the less, and serves only to prove that before that time they were entirely illegal.

This is a public company, with the working of which from the first the public have a right to be thoroughly informed. If I mistake not the temper of the people of the west, they will not longer submit to silence on this subject. It is not denied that the Company, originally formed (nearly forty years ago) with the pretended object of "reclaiming waste and unproductive lands," and "clearing, cultivating, improving and settling" the same, has failed in the object intended, and has proved to be a narrow minded speculating monopoly, and up to the present day continues to drag along its weary length, still counting its lands by hundreds of thousands of acres. It now rests with the people to say, through their representatives in Parliament, whether to keep up the wealth of a company across the ocean, and a few hangers-on in Toronto, the natural growth and prosperity of these western counties is longer to be retarded. In any case it is but right to have full returns of the operations of the Company from the first, with the lands they have owned or now hold, how, when, and from whom they procured these lands, and the prices they paid and have received for the

same, with the names of stockholders and the dividends paid to them from the first, made to Parliament and the country.

It is to be hoped that the approaching session will not be allowed to pass over without this being done. Whichever one of our western members will take the matter in hand, demand the returns, and insist upon their being made--will deserve well of the people, and their efforts will not be overlooked by any class of society.

London, June 5, 1866.

DAVID GLASS.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

From the London Free Press, June 3, 1866.

THE HUGE MONOPOLY. - PETITIONS FOR ITS ABATEMENT.

A letter which Mr. David Glass communicated to this journal a few days since on the subject of the Canada Company, has attracted considerable attention and favorable comment in the section in which the Great Monopoly holds its sway. In our issue of to-day another letter appears on the same subject, which we commend for perusal. The fact seems to be that either by design or necessity the Canada Company no longer performs the functions expected of it, for the due exercise of which it obtained its immense tracts of land, lying chiefly in the counties of Huron and Perth. At present it occupies the position of a huge monopolist, offering lands for sale, it is true, but at such prices that render occupation of them impossible to the settler. Two hundred thousand acres of land are now held by them, in these two specified counties alone, thus retarding occupation, and obstructing the due advancement of the country. When a company holds such a position it becomes a public nuisance, and should be treated as such. It was so held in the case of the Clergy Reserve Lands, which, by lying in large blocks, retarded settlement. Public feeling and general necessity became too strong, and the Reserves were abolished, even though a strong sentiment of a religious kind was arrayed against such action. And the people in Perth and Huron feel that the time has come when some compulsory steps should be adopted in the case of the Canada Company. The Company has degenerated from the position of a useful association, opening up roads, attracting emigration, assisting the settler, and disposing of its land at a fair price, to that of a huge speculation. It no longer is content with a reasonable advance upon its lands, but holds out, after the manner of speculators, for the highest price it can obtain. It fattens upon the improvements going on around its domain, and fills its coffers by means entirely at variance with the objects its charter professes to have in view, viz., the opening up and settlement of the country. The hardships practiced under the irresponsible officers of this corporation would fill volumes, and no more heart-rending tales of settlement, of years unrequited toil and subsequent dispossession of lands, can be found in the annals of Canada, than the history of the operations of the Canada Company affords. It has ceased to improve and now obstructs. It has ceased to assist the settlement of the country, and now bars its progress. It has ceased to be satisfied with a fair return for its capital, but demands usurious prices for its lands, in order that individual shareholders may be benefitted, and a numerous and tyrannical executive in Toronto may be fed and grow rich. It is no wonder, therefore, that the public mind in Huron and Perth is agitated on the subject, and that memorials are about to be presented to Parliament, praying that the Company may be compelled to dispose of its lands, and no longer bar the progress of the country.

From the *Goderich Star*, June 22, 1863.

THE CANADA COMPANY.

Our exchanges in the adjoining County of Perth are loudly complaining of the manner in which this Company are, and have for some time back, been treating those who have become settlers on lands held by the Company as originally granted to them by the Crown in the time of George the Fourth.

No part of the policy of the British Crown, in regard to the early settlement of her Colonies, has been so injudicious as the system of granting large tracts of land either to speculative companies or private individuals; nor has any measures introduced into our own Parliament been more unpopular than those having a tendency to retard the settlement, and as a natural effect, the prosperity of the province.

The evil, however, has not been confined to the management of the lands which the Government still retain control of, and less advantage, has, as a general rule, been taken off the settler in cases where forfeiture had occurred through failure on his part to fulfil the conditions of purchase, than would have been the result in dealing with speculative companies or private individuals; and it is of these we complain, and the Government for encouraging their formation, or permitting them to exist, an iacubus on the welfare of the country, the self-interested speculators into whose bloated coffers has flowed so much of the proceeds of the Canadian settlers elbow grease, simply that a few might meet at their office at London, hear reports from Provincial agents, and declare dividends on their capital, the LANDS OF CANADA. With those who act as the agents we have no cause of umbrage, some who are known to us, are known as REAL gentlemen, upright and affable in the management of the trusts bestowed on them by their employers, but we complain that there are such employers, and, as having more immediate influence on this and the neighboring County of Perth, the Company named above.

As we have said, the system of granting immense tracts of land, whether adapted for agricultural or mining purposes, is in most cases reprehensible, but much more so as regards the former class. In such no immediate or future equivalent is secured, nor can even the paltry excuse be given that they have been aiding in the development of the resources of the country, only in so far as to enhance the value of their own property, and thereby realize an advanced price for the unsold portions of their grants, when the axe of the pioneers has cleared the way for the plough on the "run" of the deer, corduroyed the swamp, before resonant only to the howl of the wolf, and determined by often, dear-bought experiment, that the climate will permit (without the chilling frosts of a late spring, or the early ones of a short summer, blighting), his reaping that which he has sown in hope, and from the sale of which the means are to be raised wherewith to support his family, and meet the demands, whether in the shape of purchase or rent, of those drones who, like the lilies of the valley, toil not, nor spin, who sit in high places and sleep on soft beds, who—

"Eat the fat and drink the sap, nor care nor pain,  
And haply eye the lowly hut with proud disdain."

Although named as a public Company, formed for the purpose of aiding, by invested wealth, the emigrant to create a home for himself by honest and persevering industry, the course pursued has been quite the reverse, and this method of leasing has given back into their hands thousands of acres, after improvements has been made, and buildings erected thereon. It may perhaps be said in their behalf that they are only doing what they like with their own; but though they did purchase from the Crown at a time when little was known of the value of land in Canada, there is no reason why so gross an injury should be continued, when it is well known they have not kept faith with the

settlers. The lands were originally granted at the sum of 3s. 6d. per acre, one third being held back for the purpose of constructing roads and bridges. How much of this has been done? just nothing at all. In townships where they still own one-half, there are five miles in a stretch where there is not a house, and when the County has paid for gravel roads through their wilderness, land in a state of nature is held at five pounds per acre. In the Towns and Village plots it has been full as bad, the only remedy being found when such became incorporated and a non-resident tax could be levied, which has in a measure induced them to hold lots at a more reasonable figure.

We have appended a letter, being the second on this subject from the writer, addressed to the editor of the FREE PRESS, London, and shall endeavor to acquire sufficient data to go fully into the merits or demerits of the claims and position of this Company in a future issue, dealing with the matter as we deem just and for the interests of the public, let the truth cut off whose head it may.

From the London Herald, June 16, 1866.

#### THE CANADA COMPANY A PUBLIC CALAMITY.

Mr. Glass is now writing a series of letters to the FREE PRESS, the second of which we publish in our issue to-day, calling the attention of the public to the gross imposition which is and has been for many years practised by the Canada Company, to settlers in the Counties of Huron and Perth,—where the Company holds immense tracts of land,—which land it offers for sale at prices that effectually prevents settlement, and thus retards and obstructs the advancement of the country. This Company was formed nearly forty years ago, and if it had been carried on according to the tenor of its charter, viz., to attract emigration, to build roads and bridges, to redeem the lands from a waste and unproductive condition, and to make them accessible for immediate colonization—it would have been a most useful association in facilitating the settlement of the country. But this has not been done. From being a useful institution it has degenerated into an obstructive—and the lands which it obtained at a merely nominal price it now holds at rates which effectually bars the progress of that section of the country where its domain is held. It is time this was put a stop to. All monopolies are dangerous, and a huge land monopoly, such as the Canada Company has now become, is doubly dangerous—inasmuch as it not only prevents the occupation and cultivation of the land, but serves to drive from the country many who would otherwise become good citizens.

This monopolising Company has become a public nuisance, and as such it must be abated. Not content with holding its lands at such extortionate prices, it has for many years, in utter defiance of the charter, leased its lands at an annual rent, the parties being bound to cultivate and fence the same, and at the expiration of the lease pay the full price, or lose what they had toiled for so many years. And by this method of forfeiture more land has come back to the Company this year than it has sold. This is a monstrous evil and one that should not be allowed to continue. For years the lessees of these lands have worked for a home; they have cleared and cultivated, and fenced, and built houses, and made every possible improvement; and at the expiration of the lease, after having paid the value of the land twice over, they are summarily dispossessed, and the property reverts to the Company with all its improvements.

It is, therefore, no matter of surprise that the people of Huron and Perth are intensely agitated on this subject; nor that they should petition the Legislature to force the Company to a due fulfilment of the terms of its charter,

and to bring the vast tracts of land held by it into the market, at a fair price to actual settlers.

From the Canadian Freeman, June 14, 1866.

### THE CANADA COMPANY—A HUGE MONOPOLY.

The London FREE PRESS of the 6th inst., in an able article, as we has the second letter of the Mayor of that city, reviewing at great length the huge iniquitous operations performed by this Company. From a personal knowledge of the working of this institution, we certainly agree with our contemporary's remarks. Mr. Glass has also clearly proved so far their scheming operations. It is well that the people of Canada should be made aware of its doings. Already much harm has been done by it, the poor farmers have suffered in consequence of it, and too many to-day, for the advancement and prosperity of the country, are held within its clutches.

From the Perth Herald, 20th June, 1866.

### THE CANADA COMPANY.

Two letters from the pen of Mr. Glass, on the subject of the Canada Company, in their dealings with the people, have been published in our columns. If our readers have noted their contents they will have learned that the Canada Company have failed to comply with the conditions of their charter, and have become obstructives to that part of the country in which they hold lands. No one that intends to really hold the land will now think of purchasing or leasing from the Company. They ask a price entirely beyond the real value of the property—a price, which, in most cases, the property will not realise after the unfortunate settler, or dupe, has vastly enhanced its value by clearing and improving it. The leasing system is undoubtedly a gross fraud upon the ignorant emigrant. Just think of the idea of leasing wild land, in many cases low and swampy, to an emigrant at the rate of \$15, \$20 and \$25, an acre—the lessee to pay an annual rent, in advance, of six per cent. on the original amount. That is \$130 a year for the privilege of improving the Company's lands; because, as a general thing, the lands revert to the Company,—the lessee being unable to keep up the rent, much more to pay the principal. The Company should be compelled to sell their wild lands at a fair price, and on fair and reasonable terms. Were they to sell their wild lands at a fair price, taking the original cost in regular yearly instalments without interest, unless where the locate failed to meet his payments punctually, then there would be some chance for poor men securing a homestead. And this would not be unfair to the Company; because so long as the land remains wild and unsold, it is no source of revenue to them. Take a wild lot valued at \$20 an acre—it contains 100 acres—that would be \$2000. Say the purchaser is to pay \$100 a-year, free of interest, until the original sum is paid up. That would give him 20 years to redeem his homestead. We contend this would be no injustice to the Company, because they are freed from taxes, and are getting the value of their wild lands in regular yearly payments. But mark their dodge—they lease the land at a yearly rental of six per cent. on the value—that would be \$120 a-year rent for the wild bush farm. Does the gross injustice of their leasing system need to be more than named to be condemned?

From the Listowell Banner, July 16, 1864.

## THE CANADA COMPANY.

Two weeks ago, in an article under this head, we expressed decided disapproval of the manner in which the affairs of the Company are being conducted. Our contemporaries in this county, we notice, have taken up the matter with similar feelings, and in the London FREE PRESS, of last week, we find both an editorial article and a communication from David Glass, Esq., on this subject. The latter we publish in another column, and to which we direct the attention of our readers. The people in these counties have long submitted to the extortions of this monopoly, without making any united and determined effort to obtain relief from the incubus which is bearing them down. But public feeling is now being aroused. It is a matter in which we are all more or less interested. The Company, instead of assisting in the settlement of the country, opening up and repairing roads, and helping the settler in his up-hill struggles, has degenerated into a selfish narrow-minded monopoly—retarding all efforts toward improving and cultivating the lands and roads over which it holds control. Finding moral suasion to be of no avail, the people of Huron and Perth, in the sections in which the monopoly exists, are petitioning the Legislature to take such steps as will compel the Company to a strict fulfilment of the spirit of its charter, thereby forcing it to do that which in all honor should have been freely done years ago.

From the St. Mary's Argus, 14th June, 1866.

## THE CANADA COMPANY.

We give place in this issue to two letters written by Mr. Glass, which will interest most of our readers who have, at one time or another, had something to do with the hard-fisted, speculating land monopolists, against whom Mr. Glass is doing good service in directing his pen and personal influence.

The people of Perth and the adjoining County of Huron are (or ought to be) particularly interested in the attempt to compel a powerful corporation to fulfil their agreement, to act up to the terms of their charter. In this and the adjoining county they hold, on speculation, 250,000 acres of valuable land which is every year improved and made more valuable out of the general taxation. The Stratford Northern gravel road passes fourteen miles through their lands, we believe, and the proposed railroad about ten miles. This immense tract they hold on speculation, neither improving it themselves or selling it at its market value to actual settlers, who would improve the land and benefit the district. The Company—to give it its due—no doubt did originally benefit the counties by opening up roads (such as they were) through their lands, but their general policy has been to enrich themselves out of the settlers by every means a soulless corporation can adopt. The Company has outgrown its usefulness, and has become an incubus upon the progress of these counties. This fact the people who suffer begin to see, and have determined, by every legitimate means, to remove the dead weight upon their progress as speedily as possible. To this end petitions have been drafted and circulated, which will, no doubt, be numerous signed by all classes in the community whose interests are affected more or less by the failure of the Company to act up to the conditions of their charter.

The importance of the subject is such that public meetings have been suggested to discuss the question, and obtain a more direct and powerful expression of public opinion upon the policy and conduct of the Company. The suggestion is a good one, and ought to be adopted, we

From the Clinton New Era, June 14, 1866.

THE CANADA COMPANY.

On our fourth page will be found another letter from Mr. Glass, and an article from the London FREE PRESS, on the subject of the great injustice that has been done to the settlers of Upper Canada through the monopoly in land that the Canada Company has enjoyed. The subject has been so fully gone into and well handled by Mr. Glass, in the two letters that he has given, that it is unnecessary that we should do more than urge upon the people, and their representatives in Parliament, action in the premises. All that is asked by those who are desiring the extinction of the Company is simply justice. Let the Company be compelled to fulfil the conditions of its charter to the letter, and no more will be required of it.

About sixteen or seventeen years ago the Company was offering land at \$1.50 to \$3 per acre, and was purchased at that rate by a great number, but as soon as the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway was finished, and greater facilities for travelling had been made by the poor settlers themselves, the Company raised the price of their lands to \$15 or \$20. Of course this prevented a great many from taking land that would have otherwise done so, and they have gone to the Western States to find cheaper land, and by that means many are lost to Canada.

If the Canada Company will of its own accord put its lands at a reasonable figure, or offer it for sale by auction, without reserve, to actual settlers, no interference with its affairs would be advocated, and a reasonable amount of time would be given to close up its business and leave the country.

It is hoped that now the matter has been brought to the notice of the people, it will not be allowed to rest till such action is taken by Parliament as will bring about a speedy settlement of this matter, to the satisfaction of those most deeply interested in it.

To the Editor London Free Press.

THE CANADA COMPANY AGAIN.

Sir,—Although a stranger to Mr. Glass, I feel it my duty to say something in regard to his letters to the FREE PRESS, headed "The Canada Company." I, as well as a large number of others in the West, feel the force of those letters, I can assure you, sir. We feel proud to find that there is one man in Canada West ready and willing to plead in behalf of the poor settler, and for the advancement of this western section; also in his frowning down upon the actions of the Canada Company.

Within a few miles of Park Hill the Company holds a large tract of land, unoccupied for the very reason Mr. Glass mentions—that is holding them so high. I know lots that are covered with hemlock, which the Company holds at \$12 per acre actually not worth \$1 for farming purposes. Other lots they hold from \$12 to \$18 per acre, which no man can afford to pay. I feel satisfied that were the Company to sell their lands at a reasonable price, this section would become one of the best in Canada—take it from Park Hill to Bayfield. I know a man here who has offered the Company \$1,400 in cash for 100 acres, without an acre cleared upon it; but before purchasing he wanted to read their deed. He was told that the deed was like all their deeds. Being a cautious man, he was determined to know what he was getting for his money: so, after reading it, he found that oils, minerals, &c., were reserved by the Company, when he told them that he could not buy. This confirms Mr. Glass' letters. Not satisfied with an exorbitant price for their lands, but must

reserve oils, &c., &c. I trust that, as Mr. Glass has undertaken the task so manfully, he will not leave a stone unturned until the grand object in view is accomplished. I am glad to see that the FREE PRESS has taken hold, to strengthen his hands in this cause; although it is nothing more than I expected from it, for the reason that I always find it grasping with anything and everything that tends to the advancement and improving of the country.

I merely write to show you that these letters are approved of in this section. I have the honor to be, sir, yours respectfully.

Park Hill, County of Middlesex, June, 1863

JOHN NOBLE.

LETTER No. III

THE CANADA COMPANY.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

SIR.—The whole of the stock of this Company is now and has always been held by a few capitalists in England. They are called the "Proprietors," and the persons in office under them make their annual reports to the "Proprietors." By the last report, made in London, England, in November, 1865, it appears that the Company are the owners in fee simple of over 718,000 acres of land in Western Canada, exclusive of 11,000 acres reported at present to be irreclaimable swamp. This enormous quantity is a portion of the original grant, and constitutes something less than one-third of all the lands then acquired by the Company. These lands are worth vastly more than could have been realised from the whole grants if the terms of the charter had been complied with, and the lands "cleared, cultivated," and brought rapidly into market, at very low prices to actual settlers—say \$1 per acre. This small price would have given them a profit of \$759,000 over the original cost, after allowing for the expense of blazing some lines and laying down some corduroys, claimed to have been done by the Company. Now, the lands at present held by them, viz. 718,000 acres, at say \$5 per acre, would realise \$3,590,000, being \$1,840,000 in excess of the cost of the whole original grants. This, of course, is in addition to the enormous sums received by them for the last forty years out of lands sold, forfeited, sold and sold over and over again, to the great loss and damage of the actual settler. I know that a great deal of manipulation has taken place with Canadian Executive officers, and resolutions passed, whereby the Company may in some degree claim to be exculpated; but they will find this will not relieve them from the strict and due fulfilment of their charter. We, as Canadians, are not going to sit quietly by and allow our lands to be excessively taxed in order to enrich those "Proprietors" rolling in ease and affluence; we are not willing longer to bow ourselves before these monopolists, and tamely submit to their fattening upon the fruits of our industry, simply because, through toadyism, or undue influence, at an early day, they managed to clutch the most beautiful and fertile parts of Upper Canada. If we do, we are not worthy of the free homes we enjoy, or the ancestors of which we boast. Of this the people are now sensible, and they have only to be united in sending forward petitions to the Legislature, and success is certain. Take for example the Huron Tract to prove the loss sustained by the ratepayers; it is supposed that the Company holds at the present nearly one-quarter of all the

taxable lands, which if placed in the possession of thrifty farmers, would soon appear on the assessment roll at a three-fold greater rate, and the value of assessable personal property would be proportionately increased, thereby reducing the rate of taxation at present charged, at least one-fifth. This is a matter of interest to every ratepayer, not only that he should get justice in a pecuniary point of view, but that he should be freed from the continuance of a positive wrong. But perhaps, the greatest injustice is the continuance of the "leasing frauds." When the Charter was granted, it was particularly designated for what purpose the grants were made, and particularly specified, and the very words given, whereby the Company had the power to convey away their right to the lands; but, in violation of that Charter, they have disregarded these specific points, viz., "to grant and convey all their interest in the lands," and have for many years had recourse to giving leases for long terms. The form of lease is considered a model document, avowedly drawn so one-sided as to effectually cut away from the settler any right, title, interest or equitable estate whatever, in the land, or the improvements he may make, in case of failing in the prompt payment of the annual rents or any other of the stringent conditions of the lease; and the startling fact is now revealed by the report of November last, that in the year 1865, no less than 36,000 were forfeited and reverted back to the Company, leaving at least 360 families desolate and homeless, with their cabins unroofed and the fires quenched upon their hearth-stones! Then, if so many were thus driven out in that year of great Canadian prosperity, what must have been the extent of forfeiture and hardships caused in former years through the failure of crops, scarcity of money, and other like causes? In the same year, viz., 1865, the Company, sold in all, less than 20,000 acres of land, so that having received back 36,000 and having disposed of 20,000 acres, they found themselves at the end of the year with 16,000 acres more than at its commencement. At this rate how long will the Company be in winding up its affairs? The answer is simply "never," for their lands are on a rapid annual increase, and their coffers flowing over with gold out of the broken hearts and broken fortunes of the emigrant. Seeing this, is it to be wondered at that the people of these Western Counties should now make a determined effort to cast off forever this incubus, and no longer to submit in silence to its baneful influences. Personally, I can have no deep interest in this matter than any other tax-payer, but feeling that a great wrong has for many years been submitted to, and is likely to be continued, and being possessed of what I believe to be authentic information on the matters in question, I felt that, by withholding that information from the public, I would be lacking in my duty as a citizen.

Upon this ground, I have given these letters to the press; and for the reception of them by western journals generally, I have to return my best thanks. It now remains with the people, by petition or otherwise, to make known to the Legislature their views, in order that redress may be obtained that these leasing frauds may cease to bear such bitter fruit to the poor settler, and that a monstrous evil may be driven from the country. Yours,

London, June 23, 1866,

DAVID GLASS,

## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

From the London Free Press, June 28, 1866.

## THE CANADA COMPANY.

We desire attention to the third letter by David Glass, Esq., on the subject of the "Huge Monopoly,"—the Canada Company. Nearly all the papers published in the West have applauded the efforts of Mr. Glass to put a period to the illegal and extortionate demands of the Company—"a consummation devoutly to be wished" for, and which must come ere long.

From the Mitchell Advocate, 13th July, 1866.

## THE CANADA COMPANY LANDS.

On our first page will be found the third of a series of letters from the able pen of Mr. Glass. Since this gentleman undertook the ventilation of the huge monopoly carried on for years by the Canada Company he has made many friends, especially in this part of the country. No place have people been more oppressed by the iron heel of this Company than in the County of Perth. Hundreds of her settlers have been driven from their homes, and forced to give up their all to add to the coffers of the proprietors of this shameful monopoly. The Canada Company have been most exorbitant in their terms with the settlers, and just as tyrannical in enforcing them. Go into any of our back townships, and you will hear tales related of their oppression sufficient to make the blood run cold through the veins of the most hardened. Homeless families in those townships trace their troubles and ruin to the pitiless and unfeeling policy of this anomalous corporation. If the facts which have brought many of the industrious and hard-working people of the Huron Tract to a desolate condition were made known, the public would be startled, and become indignant at those absentee monopolists, who, by their griping avarice, have brought ruin and desolation upon so many industrious people.—The "scheme" is a high-handed one, and the people and Government should leave no stone unturned until the thing exploded. The country demands it, and will not rest satisfied until the monstrous monopoly is crushed. Without one exception, we believe, the press of Perth, Huron and Bruce unite with Mr. Glass in exposing and endeavoring to wipe out of existence the baneful practices of this company.

From the Canadian Freeman, 6th July, 1866.

## A HUGE AND CRUEL MONOPOLY.

We publish, to-day, on our first page, the third of a series of letters that have appeared in the FREE PRESS, from the pen of David Glass, Esq.—The writer has undertaken to ventilate the transactions of the Canada Land Company, and he has accomplished his task very successfully.—This Company have been an incubus on the country for a number of years. They have derived immense revenues from Canada, and like the absentee landlords of Ireland, they have made no return for the hundreds of thousands of dollars that annually flow into their coffers. They have been as exorbitant in their terms with the settler as they have been tyrannical and oppressive in enforcing them. No Shylock ever exacted his pound of flesh with more unrelenting cruelty than have the Canada Land Company the strict fulfilment of their one-sided arrangements with those who had the misfortune, at any time, to get into their clutches. Many a bruised heart and many a homeless fam-

ily could trace their troubles and their blasted prospects to the pitiless and unfeeling policy of this anomalous corporation. Mr. Glass has brought to light facts which should startle the public, and excite wide-spread indignation and odium against these absentee monopolists, who by their griping avarice, have brought ruin and desolation upon so many industrious and deserving families, and have paralysed, wherever they could, the growth and progress of this fine young country. The system is a monstrous one, and ought to be exploded at once. Indeed we are astonished it should have been so long tolerated. In connection with the settlement of the public lands, in view of Confederation, it were desirable that some enactment be passed that would compel these "Proprietors," so long petted and pampered, to sell the lands which they hold, at a certain fixed price, or to surrender them to the Crown.

From the St. Mary's Argus, July 5, 1866.

THE CANADA COMPANY.

A third letter appears in this issue. Had space permitted we intended to add a few remarks of our own upon the subject; but the exhaustive articles by Mr. Glass render it unnecessary for us to say more than to remind the public that petitions to the Legislature are lying for signature at the Argus Bookstore. It ought to be numerously signed throughout the neighborhood.

From the Listowel Banner, Saturday, July 7, 1866.

THE CANADA COMPANY.

We commend to the serious attention of our readers another letter from the Mayor of London, on the subject of this obstructive monopoly. We should indeed be glad to find that the public attention evoked, and the petitions sent in, on this subject, have determined Parliament to take hold of the matter, and require the "Company" at this late day, to wind up their business and betake themselves out of the country. Their presence has ever been a curse rather than a benefit to the western peninsula. Look at the figures in Mr. Glass' letter; 36,000 acres resumed last year—that is, settlers driven off and their improvements forfeited; and 20,000 acres sold. And, getting back more land than they sell, compelling the forfeiture of all improvements made, or money paid, "how long will they be," Mayor Glass asks, "in winding up their business, if left alone?" We are proud to see that EVERY PAPER in these counties, where their land is situated, is down on this indefensible monopoly. Let Parliament take it in hand; and let full justice be done.

From the Goderich Star, July 6, 1866.

THE CANADA COMPANY.

In our issue of to-day we give the third letter from the pen of Mr. Glass about the way in which the affairs of this Company are conducted. The writer has gone into the marrow of the subject, in so far as it is possible for any one to make himself acquainted with what every effort is made by those interested to keep all relating thereto strictly secret. As the saying is, however, "murder will out." It is the last feather that breaks the camel's back, and this gross monopoly has so long been permitted to override even the rights granted, and neglect the conditions imposed by their charter, in the first place and its amendments by the Canadian Parliament, that they have

grown over bold. Not that some efforts have not been made to procure an investigation into their mal-practices before this present ventilation of their mode of dealing with the helpless and unwary, but their influence with the ruling powers has always been so great that the enquiry has been burked in its infancy. From the very first it was known to some of the more shrewd and intelligent that papers such as the settler or lessee was required to sign left him at the Company's mercy. Fancy the idea of any private individual giving a bond or lease, with the right to purchase, to another, and inserting therein a proviso that the purchaser, or tenant-at-will, for he virtually is no more, should be required to bind himself to submit, not to the conditions which he then is aware of, but any which the grantor MAY SEE FIT TO MAKE IN FUTURE. We have seen but one yet who has had the temerity to attempt to defend the Company, and that only in a left-handed way and over a fictitious signature. We have no wish to strain facts to obtain a desired end. Our opinion is based on documentary information kindly furnished by a gentleman in town, and as for the writer of the letters he is of age and capable of speaking for himself.

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PETITIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE AGAINST THE CANADA COMPANY  
DURING THE SUMMER OF 1866.

The following form of memorial was the one generally used:—

TO THE HONORABLE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF CANADA.

The Petition of the Undersigned, residents and property holders of the Counties of Huron and Perth, humbly sheweth:—

That very large quantities of wild and unproductive lands are now held in the said Counties by the Canada Company, and that the said lands have so remained waste and unproductive ever since the formation of the said Company, contrary to the terms of the Charter upon which the said lands were granted to the said Company, and greatly to the damage of your petitioners, and to the whole of the Counties in which the said lands are situated.

Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray,

That your Honorable House will take such steps in the premises as will force the said Company to a strict fulfilment of the said Charter, and that the said lands may be brought into the market at a fixed price to actual settlers, or be put up to competition and sold to the highest bidder.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By the votes and proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of Canada, at Ottawa, on Monday, 25th June, 1866, it appears that a petition was received and read from James Show and others, of the Counties of Huron and Perth, in the words of the above form. See page 60, Journals Legislative Assembly, 1866.

On Wednesday, the 11th July, 1866, at Ottawa, a memorial was received and read from Thomas Ballyntine and others, of the Counties of Huron and Perth, in the same words. See page 125 Journals Legislative Assembly, 1866.

On Friday, the 13th day of the same month, a memorial from William S. Mercer and others, of the Counties of Huron and Perth, in the same words, was received and read in the House.

On the same day, another memorial from W. McLean and others, of the Counties of Huron and Perth, in the same words, was received and read to the House.

On the same day, another memorial, in the same words, from S. R. Kerr, and others, of same place, was read to the House.

On Wednesday, the 18th day of July, 1866, a numerously signed memorial, in the same words, was received and read, from Isaac Carling and others, of Exeter, Clinton and Trowbridge.

On the same day, another memorial, numerously signed, against the Canada Company, from Alex. Campbell and others, was received and read to the House.

On Friday, the 20th day of July, 1866, a memorial, in the same words, from Alfred Harris and others, of Clinton, was received and read to the House.

On the same day, namely, 20th July, 1866, another memorial, in the same words, from W. Hirshon and others, of Perth, was received and read to the House.

On the same day, another memorial, by Arthur Woodman and others, of Clinton, against the Canada Company, was received and read to the House.

On Monday, the 23rd of July, 1866, a memorial, by John Noble, Esquire, and others, of Middlesex and Huron, against the Canada Company, was received and read.

On Wednesday, the 15th of August, 1866, a memorial against the Canada Company, in the form first given, from H. Young and others, of the Counties of Huron and Perth, was received and read to the House.

In addition to all these memorials, the County Councils of Perth, Huron and Bruce, representing 100,000 souls, sent forward petitions to the Legislature, praying for an investigation into the affairs of the Canada Company. One of the petitions was received and read in Parliament on the 11th, and the other on the 16th day of July, 1866.

The Huron *Signal*, of the 17th July, 1866, says:—The following petition was read in the Legislative Council on the 9th instant: "Of

the Municipal Council of the United Counties of Huron and Bruce, praying that measures be taken to compel the Canada Landed Company to fulfil the terms of their Charter, by putting up for sale their lands in the said County, either at a fixed price or to the highest bidder at auction."

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IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

At Ottawa, on Wednesday, 11th July, 1866,—

Mr. Macfarlane, seconded by Hon. John Carling, gave notice that at an early day they would move that an humble address be presented to his Excellency the Governor General, praying his Excellency to cause to be laid before the House the following return, viz.:—A return of a copy of the Charter of the Canada Company, and of the agreement entered into in 1826 between the Government of his Majesty King George IV. and the said Company; the number of the grants of land made to the Company in Upper Canada: the dates of the grants; the number of acres granted, and the price paid per acre; by whom and to whom the grants were made; and all the conditions connected therewith, such as the reclaiming, improving, clearing and cultivating the said lands; and what roads and bridges were to be built, or money appropriated, by the grantees for such improvements, together with what amount (if any) of such improvements have been done by the grantees, and when, and where, and by whom such improvements have been made; what amount of such improvements remain yet undone, and how soon the latter are expected to be completed by the said Company; together with full and complete returns of what portion of the said lands have been conveyed away by the said Company, and the names of all persons to whom such conveyances have been made; together with the form of conveyance used by the said Company when parting with the said lands; and a full and detailed account of the price per acre received by the said Company for any of the said lands conveyed away by them from the time the original grants were made; together with a statement of the full amount received by the Company for such lands; and whether the said Company has ever been in the habit of leasing any portion of the said lands, or making conditional sales of the same; or at the time of making sales, leases or conditional, the said Company has been in the habit of reserving to itself any reversionary rights in minerals or other valuable productions which might be found upon the said lands; together with the form of lease or agreements for conditional sales (if any) used by the said Company, and the number of years the same has been in use by the said Company; the number of acres leased or parted with by them under any form of conditional

sales; and to whom the same were made, and what quantity of such lands leased or parted with under such conditional sale, has from year to year been forfeited and reverted back to the Company; and the number of years in all cases which such lands remained in the possession of the occupants before such reversion took place; what quantity of such reverted lands have been sold over again, and how often such re-sales have taken place; what amount of money has been received by the said Company out of such forfeited lands: together with the number of acres of land the said Company now hold, and where such lands are located, and the price asked by the Company for the purchase of the same; the number of acres (if any) set down by the Company as irreclaimable swamp; the names of the original, and all subsequent, proprietors or stockholders in the said Company, and the annual dividend paid to them from the first; together with the annual costs of working the said Company for every year from the date of the said Charter to the present time; the number of timber-licenses granted over lands agreed to be sold; the quantity of land given in lieu of lands declared irreclaimable, and the price per acre demanded for those lands so represented to be irreclaimable. The whole of the above to be given with dates, and the lands in all cases to be classified in townships and towns.

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IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

At Ottawa, on Wednesday, the 8th day of August, 1866,—

R. Macfarlane, M. P. P., moved, seconded by M. C. Cameron, M. P. P., that an humble address be presented to his Excellency the Governor General, praying his Excellency to cause to be laid before this House the returns in accordance with the foregoing notice, upon which the following discussion took place, as reported in the *Globe*:—

THE CANADA COMPANY.—RETURN OF THE COMPANY'S AFFAIRS MOVED FOR IN PARLIAMENT.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, Aug. 8, 1866.

Mr. Macfarlane moved for a copy of the Charter of the Canada Company, and sundry returns as to the operations of the Company.

Hon. Mr. Rose commenced speaking amid great noise, banging of desks, and cries of "carried," "dropped." He was understood to complain that the Canada Company had presumed to write to this House they did not feel disposed to make returns respecting their affairs, because they considered they were not responsible to the Colonial Government—holding their charter from the Imperial Legislature—and this, too, after they had made returns to the Provincial Government on former occasions. He condemned the Company for holding large tracts of land locked up from settlement in face of the fact that they had obtained land under condition of promoting settlement. The terms on which

the company insisted were of a nature to obstruct settlement, and the leasing system pursued was particularly objectionable in this respect. When a settler had lived on a farm ten years, purchased from the company, he was liable to be turned out and deprived of all he had advanced, and the value of all his improvements, if the whole purchase money had not been paid. The effect of the bill introduced by the member for Peel, had been to give the company a privilege never contemplated by their charter, namely, the right to lease their lands.

Mr. Macfarlane said that at this moment they held in his (Mr. Macfarlane's) district, 300,000 acres of good land, obtained on the representation of their being irreclaimable.

Hon. Mr. Brown was understood to recommend that further consideration be not now given this matter, but that its settlement be left till after Confederation.

Mr. Macfarlane said he would go on with his motion. He complained that the company, in further violation of their charter, had issued timber licenses for their land.

Hon. Mr. Carling said the returns ought to be brought down, some fifteen petitions from a large number of persons having been presented for the returns. He thought there were some 500,000 or 600,000 acres held by this Company, and we should have returns giving us information respecting these lands and the Company's Charter. (Hear.)

Hon. J. H. Cameron said that the Company did a great deal of good, by paying at this moment to various municipal Corporations in Upper Canada, £3,000 a-year taxes. It was wrong to say the Company was retarding settlement of the country. He contended that the House had no right whatever to ask for information respecting the operations or affairs of this Company, which had been released years ago from any responsibility to Government. No one had any right to interfere with their charter, of which he denied there had been any violation.

Mr. Scatcherd said that the land the Company held in Huron, Perth and Middlesex had been made valuable by the labors of settlers. The Company obtained their land for a trifle, and after keeping it locked up for years, they asked an enormous price for it; as much as \$15 and \$20 an acre.

Hon. J. H. Cameron—Why should they not?

Mr. Scatcherd argued that the House had a right to ask every corporation doing business in the country to furnish returns. The taxes they paid amounted to nothing on the question. It was the large tracts of land they held locked up from settlement that formed the cause of complaint. The Company had got these lands, not to keep them shut up from settlement for 20 or 50 years, but to promote colonization. They now refused to dispose of this land to settlers. (Hear.) He thought that the member for Perth deserved the thanks of the public for bringing this matter before the House.

Mr. Macfarlane stated that in the time of the Draper Administration it was decided that it was impossible for a Government to give a Company release from the obligation of settlement. Only an Imperial Act, sanctioned by a Colonial Act, could release them from the obligation into which they entered at the time their charter was given; and that, so far as any release they might give would have effect, it would simply be available with a view of thereby obtaining the consent of the Colonial Legislature to that release. He challenged the member for Peel to deny it.

Hon. J. H. Cameron said he did not agree with that gentleman in a single particular. The release was an absolute discharge on the part of the Government, which had a right to discharge the Company from any obligation imposed on it. There was nothing in the

charter to prevent its having that effect. Government had a right to grant that release and having done so, had nothing further to say in the matter. (Hear.)

Mr. Macfarlane again rose to explain, but was greeted with loud noise. After it subsided, he stated that it was decided that Government might use its power for any purpose in relation to the Company.

Mr. Dickson said the question was one of great importance. He was acquainted with a great many cases of hardships rising out of the management of the Canada Company, and their system of selling lands. This, however, was not the proper time to bring up the question, but that time would be when the Local Governments were established. (Hear.)

After several cries of "dropped," "carried," &c., Mr. Macfarlane insisted on taking the vote.

Upon the question being put, the house divided, and the names being called for, were then taken down as follows :

## YEAS.—Messieurs.

Abbott,	Cowan,	Macdonald,	Robitaille,
Ault,	Dickson,	Macfarlane,	Ross, (Dundas),
Blaicher,	Dorion,	Mackenzie,	Ross, (P. Edwards),
Bourassa,	Dorion,	Magill,	Rymal,
Bowman,	Fortier,	McConkey,	Scatcherd,
Bown,	Gaynon,	McDougall,	Seoble,
Brousseau,	Geoffrion,	McGee,	Stirton,
Brown,	Gibbs,	McKellar,	Thompson,
Burwell,	Holton,	Munroe,	Walthridge,
Cameron(N. Ontario),	Houde,	McMonies,	Walsh,
Carling,	Jackson,	Olivor,	Wells,
Caron,	Jones,	Perrault,	White,
Cauchon,	Knight,	Powell,	Wilson, and
Chambers,	Leframbois,	Rankin,	Wright, (E. York),

—56

## NAYS.—Messieurs.

Allen,	Cookburn,	Higginson,	Shanley,
Archambeault,	De Boucherville,	Langevin,	Somerville,
Beaubien,	Dockett,	Macdonald (A.Gen.),	Street,
Cameron (Peel),	Dufresne,	Pinsonneault,	Taschereau, and
Cartier,	Ferguson,	Pouliot,	Tremblay,
Chapais,	Gaudet,	Ross (Chatplain),	

—23

So it was resolved in the affirmative. Ordered that the said address be presented to his Excellency the Governor General by such members of this House as are the Honourable the Executive Council of this Province.

The splendid majority by which these returns were demanded is the best evidence the people can have of the certainty with which they will be enforced. It will be seen that the Hon. J. H. Cameron was the only member of the House who spoke against the justice of the demand. He contended that "the House had no right whatever to ask for information respecting the operations or affairs of this Company, which had been released years ago from any responsibility to Government."

But Mr. Cameron failed to say how, when, or from whom, that release was procured. It could not have been from the Canadian

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

have the matter rooted up, have already worked to a useful end. In the House, on the 8th instant, Mr. Macfarlane, the member for Perth, moved for a copy of the charter of the Company, and sundry returns as to its operations. On a vote of 56 to 23, the House ordered these returns to be prepared and presented. The debate published in another column will show that there is ample ground for a searching investigation. The Hon. Mr. Rose, Mr. Macfarlane, Mr. Scatcherd and Hon. John Carling all took strong ground against the continued abuse practiced by the Canada Company, of their oppressions, of the vast tracts of land which they hold in an undeveloped state, and refusal to grant to settlers. It is high time as we have on several occasions asserted that the affairs of this Company were investigated and made public, and if the allegations made are fully proven that the Home and Colonial Governments should be petitioned either to declare the charter forfeited, or that some guarantee should be given that better faith with the public should in future be kept. It would be well if Parliament insisted on the lands of the Canada Company being thrown open for public sale, in the same way as the Crown Lands are now offered to the public. In the debate in question, the Hon. J. H. Cameron, the Solicitor to the Company, in vain came to its aid. He endeavored by special pleadings and "bamboozling" to divert the attention of the House from the consideration of the evils complained of; but it would not do. Mr. Macfarlane stuck to his motion, and carried it by a majority of 33. We congratulate those gentlemen who have given their time and attention to this matter on their first success, and trust they will persevere until they get justice done the thousands of poor settlers at present in the grip of the Canada Company and who are scattered over the vast tracts of land held in Huron, Perth and Middlesex. All our local members were in favor of the called-for investigation, and, as will be seen from the report, Mr. Scatcherd, Mr. Carling, and Mr. Macfarlane took part in the debate. Our Mayor especially deserves credit for the manner in which he has ferretted out this business, and brought the subject so prominently before the attention of members of the Legislature.

From the Goderich Star, August 17, 1866.

#### THE CANADA COMPANY.

The agitation of the subject by the Mayor of London has at least produced one beneficial result—the appointment of a Parliamentary Commission to enquire into the manner in which the conditions of their charter have been complied with. This object was once before sought, but owing to the influence brought to bear by the Commissioners of the Company, many of whom were members of the Executive, the question was for a time staved off. Mr. Glass deserves the thanks of every settler on lands once held by this Company for his manly course in coming forward as the advocate for their rights.

From the Clinton New Era, August 23rd, 1866.

#### GOOD NEWS FOR HURON AND PERTH.

#### THE CANADA COMPANY.

It is with some degree of satisfaction that we give insertion to the two following extracts, not only because they announce the reduction of \$4 per acre by the Canada Company on their lands, but also that they give expres-

sion to sentiments towards Mr. David Glass which he is well worthy of.

Some one who is well acquainted with the affairs and workings of the Company will be needed to follow up the matter in the House, and we know of no one so well qualified as Mr. Glass, and we hope the first opportunity will not be let slip in returning him as one of our members.

We really cannot see wherein the Company can be called generous; the reduction has not been submitted to willingly, but it is made because there is a likelihood if they do not soon dispose of their lands they will have to submit to a far heavier reduction, as it is evident, by the large majority that voted for the returns being made, that they will soon be compelled to wind up their affairs and leave the country.

Those desirous of settling will find no better place in Canada wherein to take up their abode than in the County of Huron; its climate being salubrious and its soil exceedingly fertile, and there is no county in Canada that is better, if equally as well, supplied with good roads. There is no part of the county that is far distant from a good gravel road, so that there is no difficulty of access.

From the Mitchell Advocate.

We are informed upon reliable authority that the Canada Company have made a uniform reduction of four dollars per acre on the whole of their lands; this will make a difference of about a million dollars to these two counties alone. This generous act speaks well for the Company, and shows an earnest disposition to bring their matters to a close in this country. If the information proves correct; and the Company, even at this late day, throw their lands into the market, at low prices, it will be a great blessing to Canada. We cannot, however, close these few remarks without returning thanks to Mr. David Glass for the noble stand he has taken in this matter, and trust that the bold work so nobly and ably commenced by him may be pressed until, like the above-named, other good results may flow from his exertions.

From the Stratford Herald.

The report has gained currency, and we believe upon the very best authority that the Canada Company has made a reduction of \$4 an acre upon their land. This will benefit the Huron Tract over \$800,000. To do justice to the Company, we must say they deserve credit for this step, but it is to be hoped they will not stop short here, and that if it is found that the lands are not quickly taken up at the reduced prices, that still further reductions will be made in order that the business of the company in this country may be soon brought to a final close. We have no desire to shut our eyes to the fact that this great benefit has been brought about through the skill and perseverance of Mr. David Glass; he deserves the thanks of the people for the efforts he has put forth to bring about these good results. It has been suggested that some tangible proof of public approbation should be awarded him, but before taking such a step would it not be much better to ascertain whether it would be acceptable. In any case, all classes of the community join in giving him credit for the good already effected.

From the London Evening Advertiser, August 9, 1866.

As will be seen by our Parliamentary summary, the attention of the House was occupied for some time yesterday in consideration of the monopoly of the Canada Company. Mr. Macfarlane moved for a return of the Charter

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and operations of the Company, which was carried by a large majority. When the papers are brought in we may expect a thorough ventilation of the subject. We observe that Mr. Carling has taken a firm and decided stand against the great landed monopoly. It must be gratifying to Mr. David Glass that he has been instrumental in awakening the attention of the press and Parliament of Canada to this vitally important subject. For his able and disinterested efforts he certainly deserves the thanks of the public.

From the Clinton Era. Aug. 16, 1866.

#### THE CANADA COMPANY.

On our fourth page will be found a report of the debate in the Lower House on the motion of Mr. Macfarlane for a copy of the charter of the Canada Company, and sundry returns as to the operations of the Company. It will be seen that a strong opposition was given to the motion by a few members, especially by the Hon. J. H. Cameron, and it was only by the determined efforts of Mr. Macfarlane that a vote was obtained, which resulted in the motion being carried by a majority of 53 to 23. It will be seen by the debate that there is good ground for all the charges that D. Glass, Esq., of London, has in his able letters, brought against the Company, and that now there is a prospect of a thorough investigation being made. Owing to the late period in the session in which the motion has been made, it is not possible that any thing further can be done this session, but the Company will see that the feeling of the country is against them, and they will act accordingly. If they hold as much as 600,000 acres of land, which Mr. Carling says they do, it is time they were compelled to throw it open for settlement in the same way as the Crown Lands are now offered to the public.

It appears by what Mr. Rose said that the Company had written to the House, informing it that they did not feel disposed to make returns respecting their affairs. This was certainly a very strange move on their part. What right had they to address the House refusing to do a thing they had not been asked to do. It certainly evinced a fear that if they were compelled to make returns a state of things would be revealed that would work against them.

From the Farmers' Advocate. Feb., 1867.

#### LAND MONOPOLY.

We have noticed with pleasure a series of letters that have appeared in various papers of the Province, edited by David Glass, Esq., in regard to the monopoly and retention of lands held by the Canada Company. We hope the result of the exposition will be the means of allowing these lands to be occupied by settlers, as it is greatly to the detriment and welfare of the settlers that are near these lands, and retard the improvements that would otherwise take place, by retaining these and others in the hands of grasping speculators. Our exports are not what they otherwise would be, and thousands of our inhabitants are thus driven away to the States, on account of exorbitant prices asked by the Canada Company, and other large land speculating individuals or Companies. We would like to see an act passed taxing all unsettled lands at double the rate that settlers are charged. It would be right, as settlers enhance the value of wild lands around them by their improvements. We have ourselves paid to that Company four times the real value of a piece of land that we required, and fifteen times as much as we could procure equally as good land for in Michigan.

We know of lands that they have sold at exorbitant prices, that the owners would gladly give up and receive the money they have paid, and lose their improvements.

There are in this county alone 12,000 acres belonging to the Canada Company. Land within two and half miles of our residence they have refused to set a price on. We see by some of the papers that they have already reduced the price \$4 per acre from what they have been asking. This we suppose is due to the agitation that Mr. Glas has caused. We require the lands in this country to be unlocked to us.

From the Porth Herald, 29th Aug., 1866.

#### THE CANADA COMPANY

We are glad to find that the Canada Company is reducing the price of their "Town Lots." Mr. Corcoran bought a lot at the rear of his present residence for \$150. The price asked until lately has been \$200. We hope the whole of the Company's property will be sold at a fair price, so as to enable poor people to secure homesteads.

