

es so situated. You say "the island of San Juan has been in the possession of British subjects for many years, and it is, with the other islands in which I have been, Archipelago de Arro, declared to be within the jurisdiction of the United States, and under the protection of British laws. I have also the honor of her Majesty's ministers to treat those islands as part of British dominions."

Mr. Crampton, the assessor, says, "The acts, before referred to, have declared these islands to be within the jurisdiction formerly of the Territory of Oregon, now of the Territory of Washington; and the general laws of those Territories, so far as they may be applicable, have thereby been extended over them."

The ownership remains now as it did at the execution of the treaty of June 11, 1846, and can in no wise be affected by the alleged possession of British subjects."

The contemporaneous exposition of the treaty, as evinced by the debates in the United States Senate, shows the Canal de Arro to be the boundary line, as understood by the United States at that time, and the doubt of the British government as to any claim beyond that plainly manifested by the note of Mr. Crampton, the British minister, to Mr. Buchanan, Secretary of State of the United States, dated January 13, 1848. Indeed, on Arrowsmith's map of Vancouver's Island and the adjacent coast, published in London, April 11, 1849, the boundary line is laid down as coming through the Canal de Arro. The map is compiled from the surveys of Vancouver, Kellet, Simpson, and others, and would seem to establish that even as late as some years subsequent to the treaty the great English navigators, hydrographers, as well as the American government, considered the Canal de Arro, as in the terms of the treaty, the channel which separates the continent from Vancouver's Island.

I shall take the earliest opportunity to send a copy of your communication and of this reply to the Secretary of State of the United States, and in the meantime I have to reciprocate most earnestly your hope that nothing may occur to interfere with the harmony and good feeling which should characterize the relations of neighboring States.

I have, &c.

ISAAC I. STEVENS,
Governor Washington Territory.

His Excellency J. DOUGLAS, Esq., &c.

FORT VICTORIA, September 28, 1855.

SIR: I have the honor of enclosing, herewith, a statement of the losses incurred by the Hudson's Bay Company, in consequence of the county violent and unlawful intrusion of Sheriff Barnes, with the armed posse of Whatcom county, and the forcible seizure and carrying away from the island of San Juan of certain valuable stock sheep, in payment of taxes levied on behalf and in the name of the United States to the full America.

That unwarrantable act was committed on the 30th day of March