

“He had always considered the island as one of the greatest importance, and one well worthy of the special attention of the Government. He had more reason than most of their lordships for being of that opinion, for during the whole period of his official life it had occasioned him greater uneasiness than any other subject with respect to the peace of the country.

“The Government of the United States had always contended that the boundary line within the 49th deg. had not stopped on the continent, but extended through Vancouver’s Island to the ocean, by which the most valuable portion of the island would be lost to this country; and the Government of this country had, therefore, contended that the boundary line did not extend to the island, but stopped with the continent. The negotiations, as their lordships knew, were carried on under the most alarming circumstances, and it was thought of the greatest importance to secure the whole of the island. Upon a careful consideration of the subject, he was satisfied with the manner in which the noble Earl had conducted the transfer.”—*Earl of Aberdeen’s Speech in House of Lords, 30th June, 1849.*

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“In the present case, the land was confided to the Hudson’s Bay Company merely as trustees for the sale of it to individuals who wished to settle. They were compelled to sell the land to any one who chose to pay the established price, and comply with the regulations. And with only a very small deduction to repay their outlay and costs of establishments, the Company were to lay out the entire proceeds in aid of the colonisation, and for the benefit of the colonists in the island. He believed his noble friend was mistaken in thinking that colonists would be tempted to go to other places where land was to be had for nothing. He believed that colonists would find it very much cheaper to pay 20s. per acre for land in a colony where they were sure the price would be expended upon the land, than to go where they could get land for nothing, and be obliged to get on as they best could without any assistance. In Western Australia the experiment was tried. The people got the land for nothing, and it was a ruinous bargain. In South Australia they had to pay £1 an acre, and they were well pleased with their bargain. He thought it would be the same with Vancouver’s Island, unless, indeed, as his noble friend suggested,