

If I say that the evidence of yesterday proves him to be a very little known man, it is the purpose of the Hudson Bay Company to monopolize the whole hide and tallow trade of the coast of California—a trade which now employs more than half a million of American capital.

Even putting the establishment, and have continued engaging in the commerce of the country, with evident designs to monopolize it, and to drive off the Americans who have heretofore been its chief customers and conductors.

"I have been informed by one of the agents of the Hudson Bay Company that the agricultural and commercial operations of the English at Puget's sound, Columbia river, California, and Sandwich Islands, are carried on, not actually by the Hudson Bay Company, but by what may be termed a branch of the company, and who have associated themselves under the firm of Pelly, Simpson, & Co. in London, and with a capital of more than \$15,000,000.

"Seeing these companies, then, marching with iron foot steps to the possession of the most valuable portion of country in the Northern Pacific; and considering, too, the immense amount of their capital, the number, enterprise, and energy of their agents, and the policy pursued by them, great reason is to be found to fear that American commerce in that part of the world must soon lose its life. But sir, it is to be hoped that our Government will soon do something to break up the British settlements in the Oregon Territory, and thereby destroy the source from which now emanate the most dire evils to American interests in the Western world. In the endeavor to bring about that desirable object, you have done much; and every friend to his country, every person interested in the commerce of the Pacific, must feel grateful for the valuable services rendered them by you.

"With great respect, your obedient servant,

"HENRY A. PIERCE"

*FURS.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Register's Office, May 21, 1842.

Sir: I have the honor to enclose the statement of furs exported to Canton. I have the export in the direct trade; and the general trade, as far as returns have been made.

Hon. N. G. PENDLETON.

JAMES McCLERY.

Value of furs exported to Canton on American account, annually, from 1821 to 1840.

Years.	Direct trade.	General trade.	Remarks.
1821	\$142,399	\$340,991	
1822	78,153	490,081	
1823	100,910	319,221	
1824	8,959	569,449	
1825	34,139	270,415	
1826	45,110	258,335	
1827	100,936	255,899	
1828	101,761	-	No return.
1829	89,180	-	Do.
1830	10,396	-	Do.
1831	42,396	-	Do.
1832	129,579	-	Do.
1833	109,635	133,685	
1834	8,283	130,334	
1835	49,504	134,518	
1836	51,888	10,000	Estimated.
1837	561	95,162	
1838	37,394	51,832	
1839	16,794	49,900	Do.
1840	2,568	-	No return.

This table, exhibiting a gradually diminishing trade in furs, from the period that the hunting and trading of British subjects in Oregon was authorized by the convention of 1813, is the best commentary upon the principles and provisions of that convention. Individual disinterestedness or generosity may surrender to general participation the advantages and privileges of an exclusive right; but the wiser, safer, and more general rule of national action, is in every grant to demand an equivalent. The convention of 1813, was a departure from this salutary rule, and consequences we read in the above table—the uncompensated transfer to the Hudson Bay Company of all that trade which our own citizens have lost. This simple statement of a lesson by which we shall do well to profit in time, before that is, for the consequences of inference, forbearance, and neglect shall render ut-

The Senator from Kentucky gave the other day a very striking sketch of the vast and widespread operations of the Hudson Bay Company. They may be yet more visibly traced in a map of their possessions before me. Here Senators may cast their eyes over a territory, stretching from the bay of the north Atlantic which has lent its name to the association, to the Pacific and the borders of Mexico. Over this wide dominion, dotted with their frequent forts, settlements, and factories, and over its many Indian tribes, they hold undisputed rule, as complete as was ever exercised in Hindostan by the great company which was the skilful instrument of England in seizing upon her present empire there. The red spots on this map designate the various forts; the others, the settlements of the company's retired servants.

What landmarks, what signs of dominion or possession, has this Government affixed to the soil? None. How have your claims been vindicated? What care have you had of even the subordinate matter of your trade, usually not slighted by actively commercial nations? Your fur trade, as I have said, is gone; that with the Russian possessions has been suffered to pass into foreign hands; that with the Sandwich Islands lies at the mercy of your watchful rival; and not a step is taken to stay her encroachments upon your soil, or her inroads upon your commerce!

It is not, sir, because I am a Western man, or because my immediate constituents take a deep concern in this matter, that I urge it. I regard it only as a national question. It is as a great and acknowledged interest of the whole Union that I would preserve it, let it directly benefit what section of the country it may. Nothing local, nothing sectional, enters into my feelings, or shall sway my judgment. I view it—and trust that every other Senator will view it—only in its broader relations to the whole country, and have aimed to treat it only in that way.

In regard to the particular interests involved in the question, I could read many documents, with which I will not weary the attention of the Senate. They will permit me, however, to cite from the excellent report of Mr. Pendleton to the other House, the following important letter of Captain Spalding, of the ship Lausanne, of New York, addressed to myself:

"At present, the company cultivate about three thousand acres of land, and raise about eighteen thousand bushels of wheat, fourteen thousand bushels of potatoes, three thousand bushels of peas, and have both flour and saw-mills; they have seven thousand head of cattle, two thousand sheep, hogs, &c., and have engaged to supply the Russians with eight thousand bushels of wheat annually, and I do not know how many thousands of butter or tallow, sterling per pound; they have a large number of men in their employ, four ships, two schooners, and a steamboat; they have several forts on the south side of the Columbia, and take out of the river probably not less than five hundred thousand dollars in value per annum; while our Government remains perfectly passive and unconcerned. I must

terly worthless the object for which we have so long contended. If the successful and beneficial assertion of our right shall ever be made, it must be made now. Further acquiescence in the exclusive possession of the Hudson Bay Company, (for north of the Columbia, it is in fact exclusive,) if not an absolute surrender of our claim, is what is almost equivalent to it—an abandonment of the game, which constitutes its principal value, to the annihilation of fruitless hunting and indiscriminate slaughter.

From six to eight hundred men annually go to the Rocky Mountains, on hunting and trading expeditions who collect a large amount of furs, the value of which, however, the company had no means of ascertaining with any degree of accuracy. This trade would greatly and rapidly increase under the protection which the contemplated post will afford.