

great "South Pass" through those mountains had not then been discovered; that distance had not then been annihilated by the application of steam. Sir, that man's pen was employed, even before his entrance into public life, in pointing out the immense value of our possessions on the northwest coast, and the blessings and benefits that would result to our Government and people from its occupancy and settlement. His first speeches on entering the Senate were made in vindication of our title, which, in his masterly manner of argument, he established beyond all doubt. He did

more, sir. Having proved our title to be "clear and unquestionable," he said that we were accountable that republican and not monarchial institutions should be planted upon it; and with that sagacity for which he is so remarkable, he predicted, twenty-five years ago, that unless we acted promptly and efficiently, we would have to fight the British for the mouth of the Columbia. And to show how far he was in advance of the men of that time, both his colleagues [Messrs. Barton and Bates] spoke and voted against Oregon.