

permitted private parties to occupy them, hence my estimate of their value.

*Int. 22.*—What effect, if any, did the settlements of the country in Washington and Oregon Territories have on the fur trade with the Indians?

*Ans.*—Undoubtedly it decreased it.

*Int. 23.*—Were or were not the buildings and improvements erected by the Company at Vancouver adapted to the purposes of ordinary trade and commerce with a peaceful people, or were designed principally for protection and defence against tribes of Indians who were liable at times to be hostile?

(Objected to, as leading and directing the witness as to his answer.)

*Ans.*—In that early period the buildings within the stockade were well enough adapted for trade in that country, but the establishment was built as well for defence.

*Int. 24.*—How far, in your judgment, was the whole of these buildings and erections reduced in value by the fact that they were no longer needed for a place of defence?

*Ans.*—I don't know that the value was materially reduced on that account. The establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company finally became of little or no value as a trading post on account of the rapid settlement and prosperity of the country.

*Int. 25.*—How did the rapid settlement and prosperity of the country materially reduce the value of this establishment at Vancouver? Please to explain as fully as you can.

*Ans.*—The settlement of the country brought about many competing trading establishments at various points, with whom the Hudson's Bay Company could hardly succeed. The fur trade of Oregon and Washington Territories was never a prolific source of profit. It gradually fell to nothing. The settlement of the country had reduced the establishment to very narrow limits, and little or no trade.

*Int. 26.*—What was the value of land at Vancouver and its vicinity when you were there in 1860, and how did its value at that time compare with its value in 1849?

*Ans.*—The value of lands at Vancouver in 1860 was greater than in 1849, but its value per acre at either time depended