

understood that Governor McClelland referred the letter to Mr. Robert B. Campbell for an estimate. A transcript of Mr. Campbell's letter to the Department of the Interior, and of the accompanying estimate, are also herewith transmitted, and I have the honor to request that an appropriation for the purpose may be made at this session of Congress. It is believed that a sum of fifty thousand dollars, in addition to that mentioned in the estimate, will be required for marking under the direction of the Coast Survey, the line from the middle of the channel which separates the continent from Vancouver's island, and thence southerly through the middle of the said channel, and of Fuca's Straits, to the Pacific ocean.

I have, &c.,

W. L. MARCY.

Hon. R. M. T. HUNTER,

*Chairman of the Committee on Finance, Senate.*

WASHINGTON, February 9, 1856.

SIR: I have been instructed by her Majesty's government to call the serious attention of the government of the United States to the unsatisfactory and hazardous state of things which continues to exist on the boundary which divides the Territory of Washington from the British possessions occupied by the Hudson's Bay Company; and her Majesty's government direct me to express their regret that their repeated remonstrances have not led to any measures which seem to have succeeded in restraining the acts of the authorities of that Territory.

I have already had the honor of addressing your department (in a note to Mr. Hunter) on the 27th of July last, respecting the depredations committed on the property of the Hudson's Bay Company in the island of San Juan, by Mr. Ellis Barnes, sheriff of Whatcom county, Washington Territory, in virtue of an alleged claim for taxes due to the authorities of the Territory: and I have now the honor to enclose the copy of a further letter from the governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, together with accompanying documents in regard to the same matter—from which it appears that no reparation whatever has been made to that company for the heavy losses which they incurred on that occasion.

You will at once perceive, sir, that the occurrence in question has arisen out of the conflicting claims of the authorities of Vancouver's Island and of Washington Territory to the jurisdiction of the island of San Juan, as appertaining, under the provisions of the treaty between Great Britain and the United States, of 1846, to the dominions of their respective governments.

San Juan is one of the small islands lying in the gulf of Georgia, between Vancouver's island and the main land, and the question which has arisen between the parties regards the position of the channel through the middle of which, by the provisions of the treaty of 1846, the boundary line is to be run.