

Sitka, or New Archangel, founded in 1805, is a military station, and the chief post of the Russian Fur Company. The fort mounts sixteen short eighteen, and forty-two long nine pounders, and there are about 300 officers and men. The Company has twelve vessels, varying from 100 to 400 tons each, mounting ten guns of different calibre. There is a Greek bishop, with several priests and deacons, and also a Lutheran minister, and several schools for the children of the European and half-caste population. The whole of the territories is divided into six agencies, each controlled by the governor-general, who resides at Sitka. The trade of Sitka in 1842 was estimated at 10,000 fur seals, 1000 sea-otters, 12,000 beavers, 2500 land-otters, foxes, and martens, and 20,000 sea-horse teeth. The progress of Sitka in commerce is very considerable. A recent traveller states, that in April 1843 he found eleven vessels and two steamers in the harbour—one, a steam-tug, had its machinery cast and manufactured at Sitka. Steam pleasure-boats of two horse-power had also been built there.

The census of 1836 gave the number of Russians in the territories of the Company at 730; of native subjects and creoles, 1442; and 11,000 aborigines of the Kurile, Aleutian, and Kodiak islands. The inhabitants of these islands are regarded as the immediate subjects of the Russian Company, in whose service every man between eighteen and fifty may be required to pass at least three years. The natives of the country adjacent to Cook's Inlet and Prince William's Sound, are also under the control of the Company, and are obliged to pay an annual tax in furs and skins.

