

The British Government knew of the possession of these posts and particularly of Astoria, or Fort George, and by necessary implication from that knowledge and from official acts, recognized and confirmed it.

2. These establishments were conveyed by the North West Company to the Hudson's Bay Company, by deed (a) dated 26th March, 1821, when the former Company was merged in the latter, which continued to occupy and possess them until long after the date of the Treaty.

3. The merger of the North West Company in the Hudson's Bay Company was in consequence of an examination and discussion had in the parliament of Great Britain, and was brought about at the instance of and by the direct intervention of the Government of that country through one of its Secretaries of State.

4. An Act of Parliament was passed, 2nd Geo. IV. ch. 66 (1821) with a knowledge of the possession of these establishments, and of the trade carried on by the rival Companies, declaring in its preamble that a competition existed between them which for some years had kept the country in a state of continual disturbance, and authorizing the grant of a right of exclusive trade, in order to render competition impossible. This Act was drawn up under the instructions of the late Right Honorable Edward Ellice, a member of Parliament, and then largely interested in and acting for the North West Company.

5. Immediately after the passing of this Act of Parliament on the 5th Dec., 1821, the license of exclusive trade (Doc. Ev. A 4.) was granted, declaring in its preamble that the Hudson's Bay and North West Companies had extended the fur trade over many parts of North America which had not before been explored, and based expressly upon the deed of agreement between the two companies therein specially referred to, and by which the establishments already mentioned and all the rights of the North West Company were conveyed to the Hudson's Bay Company; the Government thus becoming a consenting party, not only to the former possessions of the North West Company, but to the conveyance of them to the present claimants.

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'a) Doc. Ev. A 2, p. 277.