

of the land by reason of the actual or contingent location of railroads, or the actual or contingent foundation of cities or towns:—all claims founded thereon are groundless and false: the Company has no claims in this behalf beyond the actual value of its own improvements.

We make the point distinctly, because misapprehension in this respect is the excuse for most of the extravagant estimations of value by witnesses for the Company.

Compare, for example, the opinion of one of the witnesses, (W. H. Farrar,) in H. B. Co.'s Ev., p. 251, with the explanation and contradiction thereof by the same witness, in U. S. Misc. Ev., p. 183.

23. The Company has no equities to set up; it has abused all its rights; it has been guilty of numerous acts of usurpation; it has been, and is, a mere incumbrance and dead-weight on the British Provinces, by reason of its anti-colonization policy; it wrongfully engrossed and monopolized for a series of years the commerce and production of Oregon and Washington, committing strip and waste there at will, pasturing its herds on the public domain, cutting and exporting timber, and otherwise acting as universal owner, greatly to its advantage and to the injury of the United States; and its claims are to be measured by no rules but those of *strictissimum jus*.

24. As full satisfaction of all the just claims of the Company, and as adequate compensation for the transfer of its rights to the United States, including those of the Puget's Sound Company, an ample sum (\$300,000) was proposed by Governor Stevens.

Governor Stevens exhibits in detail the elements of his estimation.

We possess evidence from the Company which strikingly confirms his estimate. It is the enumeration of all the establishments of the Company, which we find appended to the reports of the House of Commons' committee, p. 365.

This document bears unimpeachable testimony to the fraudulent exaggeration of values attached by the Company to its assumed rights in Oregon and Washington.

The total number of all the posts or establishments of the